Carnival time
Malta sticks to five centuries of traditions
(See report on page 12)

Photo - DOI - Jeremy Wonnacott
CHILD MIGRANTS OF MALTA (CMOM)

The untold story

Paul Calleja

On Sunday March 1, 2002, I witnessed the unveiling of the child migrant monument that now adorns the Pinto Wharf in Malta’s Grand Harbour. I was there with the late Profs. Plowman and two other members of the Child Migrants of Malta (CMOM) courtesy of the government of Malta. The unveiling marked the end of six years’ endeavour by CMOM’s committee to achieve important outcomes for the former Maltese child migrants.

Many within Malta and its Diaspora then, and still probably do, believed they had the complete body of knowledge of Malta’s child migrant narrative. Those still believing this are mistaken. In reality what they have is just the skeletal component, which, on its own, projects a distorted image of the true story.

A skeleton needs the fleshy bits to clad it before the accurate image can emerge. Unfortunately, for those who want the complete picture, much of the fleshy bits can only be found in the Maltese child migrant’s digital archive that I retrieved recently from my computer.

The archive is important for Malta to establish a correct and complete collection of historical material on this significant and unique chapter of its history and equally important to those who write this history for much the same reasons.

The archive contains material from a broad variety of sources under an extensive range of headings including – documents and correspondence from the Australian and Maltese governments, High Commissioners of Malta, the Christian Brothers and a host of other Religious Orders, Perth’s Archbishop, Geraldton’s Bishop, the Catholic Bishops’ Committee for Migrants & Refugees, the International Association of Former Child Migrants, the Battye Library of Western Australia’s Migrant Communities Archives, Malta’s Migrant Commission, Senator Andrew Murray and the Chief Justice, David Malcolm, to name but a few.

The archive also holds newspaper articles from the now defunct, Maltese Herald, Times of Malta, Sunday Independent, l-Orizzont, Free Xpress Sion and more.

Newsletters of CMOM and Christian Brothers ex residents and Student Services (C-Berss) plus Oral histories C-Berss produced featuring ten former Maltese child migrants in addition to CMOM’s photos collection and information of a host of other topics further enhance the archive.

Two sections can be identified in the archive. The first covers the period from 1990 to 2002 and the second from 2002 to 2008.

Material of the first section – 1990 to 2002 – originate from research I conducted for a book I was writing on the history of Maltese settlement in Western Australia. The book was entitled the Maltese of the Western Third.

The Western Third of the title refers to Western Australia. This state occupies one third of the entire Australian continent and is so large that it can accommodate seven countries the size of the UK or five the size of France.

Material of the second section – 2002 to 2008 – commences with my light bulb moment that resulted in the formation of the Child Migrants of Malta.

It’s subject matters are broad and abundant including – the contrasting level of support by three Malta High Commissioners of CMOM between 2002 and 2008, the magnitude of support from Church, State and community, CMOM’s origin, CMOM’s committee and their individual contribution to the cause, CMOM’s influence in the Australian Senate child migrant inquiry and finally the catastrophic Clontarf bus tragedy that killed one Irish child migrant and severely injured six Maltese – one of which lost one leg, the other two.

The archive has always been in my possession because I built it during an 18-year period from researching a book from 1990 to 2002 and as CMOM’s secretary from 2002 to 2008.

Now I feel obligated to make this archive available to migrant organisations and institutions working for migrants and preserving migrant records and other forms of information. To that end I will forward the archive to Directorate for Consular Services and Maltese Living Abroad, Malta Emigrants’ Commission and the University of Malta.

It is my genuine hope that at one point in the future a Maltese historian or PhD student would write a complete account of Malta’s child migrant era and publish the results in a book. I believe there would be strong interest in Malta, Australia, Britain, New Zealand and the USA to purchase the book.
As a child I spent warm, summer holidays’ afternoons dressing my clover stick “doll” with scrap material and remnants donated by dressmakers across the road, in return for running errands to the local haberdashery shop. Eventually, when my mother bought me my first little doll, I learned easy knitting stitches to make some Cinderella style dresses, with some yarn we had at home.

That love of sewing, knitting and other needle craft lasted for many long years throughout my life; sometimes out of necessity, to have the best possible garment with the least fiscal outlay. Once at High School, life became more hectic. When not at school, all siblings were too busy doing homework or helping with house chores. However, I did manage to convince my mother to buy me roller skates. Thus I could join the lunchtime group.

In spite of all the academic work taking so much of our teenage years, my school friend and I managed to spend a couple of hours at the local cinema on Sunday afternoon.

Having completed my Senior High School education, Teacher Training College beckoned. For all the assignments, and rigorous teaching practices, table tennis and gigantic jigsaw puzzles would also be part of my college life. But then I discovered the political history and philosophy section of the library. I lost myself reading “The Confessions of Saint Augustine” over a number of evenings, after dinner, as well as other texts that interested me greatly, though not prescribed.

Over the ten years of teaching in Malta, as well as in years of teaching in Australia, I could observe how passionate some of my colleagues had become in their respective choices of pastimes and hobbies; be they the very expensive philately or the creative and performing arts.

In a way, it was a good outlet for one’s energy; a reprieve from the humdrum of every day life; an expression of one’s talents other than what could be achieved in one’s job or career. That is, until such interests became obsessions and addictions leading, in some instances, to relationships and family breakdowns.

Travel and photography soon became great interests, if not obsessions. But on a Maltese salary, it had to be curtailed. I could only take a trip once every so many years. However, photography took quite a bit of my spare time, including membership of a photography club for some years.

The long School holidays afforded me the time to do more needle crafts and learn to play the guitar as a beginner. Nonetheless, the latter gave me much joy and sense of accomplishment, so I never felt really lonely when I was single and not dating.

For about three years I joined the evening pottery class with the late John Bonnici, at the Secondary School at Paola. Those weekly sessions did wonders for my creative needs. Also, having missed out on learning French at school, so that I could do more Science, I enrolled at the Alliance for three years.

Learning more languages is an excellent way of working the grey matter. It was also useful when I travelled. And here I strongly urge the older members of our community to encourage their younger family members to enrol in Maltese classes, wherever they’re held.

Throughout my years as a migrant, between jobs and child rearing, I continued to have pastimes, and also observe how some people ended up making a living, or supplementing an income, from what may have been a tentative try at something new. I love gardening, although I have not been very successful with indoor plants, I have to be satisfied with a limited success at growing herbs and ornamentals.

Spending time outside the house, albeit not on the smokey days, is very important for our wellbeing. And if we’re not able to do gardening for whatever the reason, we can always enjoy other gardens as we walk around the neighbourhood, or visit botanical gardens. Here’s to the saying, “Stop and smell the roses”.

Whether it’s something we do on our own, such as reading, gardening, listening to our favourite music, trying out a new recipe or something we do in a group, having time out from the grind of every day life is not only beneficial, but essential for our wellbeing. We can all take advantage of what’s available in our circle, our community and the wider world.
A. For a single person your financial assets are quite significant. Depending on what income you need to retire on, you may have sufficient funds to do so. If your health is deteriorating than looking after yourself is very important. Your superannuation fund should be able to provide you with around $20,000 of tax-free income per annum in retirement.

You may find that this income plus the rental income are sufficient for your daily needs. You should work out a list of all your expenses and if you find you need help to make a budget you should visit a financial planner who would be happy to help you with this.

Q. I am 43 years old and my wife is 39 years old. We both work full time. Her mother passed away and we came into an inheritance of around $280,000. We have a mortgage on our house of around $450,000. Our superannuation funds are very small. Mine is around $63,000 and my wife’s super is around $50,000. Should we pay this inheritance on our mortgage or should we put half of it in our super funds to give them a boost?

A. You are both quite young and with a reasonably large mortgage on your home. You should consider using a large portion of these funds to pay down your mortgage. You are both young enough to have time to build up your superannuation funds in future years.

However, the quicker you pay off your mortgage the quicker you can start working on your superannuation funds. Given the low interest rates, and potential for super to earn more than the mortgage costs, you could look at using some of the funds to contribute to superannuation.

You cannot touch money in your superannuation until you are 60 years of age and that is still a long way off. It would be beneficial to meet with a financial planner to discuss your situation in more detail.

Q. I am a 68-year-old self-funded retiree, and have been retired for just over three years. I have been offered a job that I am happy to accept. I will be working four days a week and my salary will be around $60,000 per annum.

I have been running an account-based pension since I retired and this was providing me with the income I needed. Now that I will be working again I will no longer require this income. Is it better for me to stop this income stream or should I continue it?

A. You have two options; you can roll over this income stream back into accumulation and let it grow or you can continue to receive the payments. If you rolled the funds back into accumulation the earnings in the super fund will pay 15% tax.

If you continued with the account based pension, payments from the account-based pension are tax-free and earnings within the account-based pension are not taxed. Another option for you is that while you are working you could make non-concessional contributions into superannuation with any surplus income that you may have. No tax will be paid on these contributions.

Q. I am a grandmother of three all of which are under the age of five. I am planning to open an investment for them so that when they are old enough to go to University this money can go towards this expense. I plan to invest a small amount of money into this account every month. Should I apply for a tax file number for these children or should I open the account in their parents’ name?

A. I believe you should open this account in your name in trust for the grandchildren. If it were in their names they would have to pay significant high tax on any earnings above $406 per annum. If it was in their parents’ name they may at some stage need the money and use it on themselves. My recommendation would be to open the account in your name in trust for your grandchildren.
A creative and talented man

The Voice of the Maltese’s selection for the Personality of the Month is a man that has dedicated over forty years of service to the community in the field of it-Teatru Malli fl-Australja (Maltese theatre in Australia) as well as in the welfare sector. Eddie Busuttil is the producer/director of four excellent productions that can be classified as “classical” for the Maltese stage in Australia.

Eddie Busuttil

Eddie Busuttil was born in Birkirkara in 1959. As a young boy, he attended il-MUSEUM, ic-Cirklu (Youth Centre) and the Oratory. He enjoyed playing football and other sporting activities. After primary school, he attended St Joseph Secondary Technical School at Paola.

In March 1964, at age 15, he emigrated to Sydney with his family on the MV Roma.

He started life in Sydney as an apprentice fitter and machinist with the NSW Railways, working on steam and diesel engines. In 1978, he joined The Health Department as a health care interpreter (Maltese) working in various Area Health Centres and hospitals throughout Sydney.

Five years later, in 1983, Eddie gained an Associate Diploma in Welfare Work at TAFE and joined the NSW Public Service where he worked as a Senior Child Protection Caseworker. For some time, he also worked as well as a Maltese Development Worker at La Valette Social Centre, Blacktown.

He married Monica nee Mamo (deceased) from Mosta, who was a great support to him in his contribution to the Maltese community in Sydney. They have three children, Mark, Marija and Angela, and seven grand children.

In the early 70s, Eddie became involved in the Maltese community as a member of the Maltese Welfare (NSW) and also as delegate to the Maltese Community Council of NSW.

With the Maltese Welfare (NSW), he prepared and presented a number of seminar papers. In 1981, he assisted in the publication of the second edition of “The Maltese Community Directory”, and in 1988, he was co-founder of the Maltese Cultural Association.

He was at the forefront with the formation of the MCA Singing Choir which is still performing.

In 1976, when the Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish Band was formed, Eddie was one of the first to join. Prior of this, he was a member with the First Royal NSW Lancers Military Band based in Parramatta, where he played the cornet.

As an actor, in the early 70’s, he was involved with Theatre of Maltese Migrants (TOMM) and directed and took part in a Maltese historical feature when singers Joe Grech and Mary Spiteri visited from Malta and performed at the Sydney Opera House.

Eddie Busuttil joined the Cittadini Theatre Company, acting various roles such as in the musical Qalb ta’ Kampanjol or in the drama passion play Tigi Saltinak playing the role of Jesus; as the blind man in the play about the life of Dun Gorg Preca.

He also featured in other comedy plays such as Islifni l-Mara Ghan-Nofs Siegha, It-Tieq ta’ Karrenja Abdilla, L-Imhabba fil-Gnien with id-Dulli, L-Ghira, In-Neputi jrid jizzewweq, Qron-fol u Friefet, and L-Agenzija taż-Zwieq to name but a few.

Over the years, he also formed folk-style groups singing Maltese songs and in the 1990’s developed a singing duo with Vince Bezzina, 1x-Xlendi Brothers.

Over the years Eddie has been involved with Maltese associations holding various committee positions, or with producing and directing shows and concerts. His involvement with the Maltese community in Australia spans well over the last 40 years. Eddie is the current Vice President of the La Valette Centre at Blacktown NSW.

In short, Eddie is a man of many talents who has contributed so much to many aspects of Maltese culture in NSW.

PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH

Eddie Busuttil

A summary of some of the musical productions credited to Eddie Busuttil:

1976: Assisted with the first fund-raising show for the MSSP, the Fr David Azzopardi Concert.
1977: Wrote and produced a socio-religious musical play “Kulhadd Ghall-Genna”.
1978: First of a series of musicals, Il-Passioni, “Ikun Li Trid Int”, Three were performed at the Sydney Opera House. 1983: Co-authored the first Ghanja in English with Joe Galea “The Centenary Song”.
1988: Directed the music of Il-Ballata tal-Maltin ta’ New Caledonia.
1988: Formed part of the MCC NSW Bi-Centennial Sub-Committee, that built the Maltese Monument at Pendle Hill, NSW.
1989: Initiated the project to have a Folk Mass “Il-Qudiesa bi-Ghana Malti”.
2000: Produced and directed the Musical for the Maltese Cultural Association “Malta 1919” and in 2001 “Gensna” a rock opera.
2004: Produced and directed the Musical for the MCA, Manwel - Il-Bandiera tal-Maltin.
Malta-born Clifford makes a name for himself as a jouster

Clifford Formosa is a professional equestrian in Australia who keeps gaining popularity for himself and for his spectacular ‘sport’, jousting. The 42-year-old who goes by his professional name of Sir Clifford Marisma was born in Malta. He moved to Australia over 30 years ago. Sir Clifford has studied classical horsemanship and competed as a rodeo bull rider and has now also become a rider and trainer of national renown.

For the past 12 years he has indulged his passion for vaquero methods of training at his stud in Ballarat. His skill has resulted in clients from all over the country seeking him out to train their prized mounts.

In his first appearance at the Abbey medieval tournament he was named 2015 champion of the joust. In 2015 Clifford won that year’s “Timeline Festival” joust, and the next year also won the Keith Ryall” memorial tournament and “St Ives Medieval Faire”.

His professionalism and skills have earned him a reputation and popularity around Australia and also abroad. He reached a high standard in 2018 when he competed in France and won the Tournament of St Michel by overcoming a field of international jousters.

Clifford is also a member of the “Order of the Star” an elite group of knights whose mission is to inspire and aid others to excel. During his jousting the Maltese ‘knight’ who seems to pride himself by putting an apparel or costume on his horse with the eight-pointed Maltese cross, wears a 15th century Italian weighing 36kg. He goes by the motto of, Stand and go forth.

Jousting is a martial game between two horsemen wielding lances with blunted tips, often as part of a tournament. The primary aim was to replicate a clash of heavy cavalry, with each participant trying hard to strike the opponent while riding towards him at high speed, breaking the lance on the opponent’s shield or jousting armour if possible, or unhorsing him. The joust became an iconic characteristic of the knight in Romantic medievalism. The participants experience close to three and a quarter times their body weight in G-forces when the lances collide with their armour.
Il-funtana li dari kienet iżżejjen Pjazza San Gorg fil-belt Valletta


Il-Kavallieri hallewla wkoll belt b’ghadd kbir ta’ palazzi sbieħ u knejjes sbieħ, bl-aqwa fothom il-Kon-katidal ta’ San Gwann (wahda mill-isbaħ knejjes fl-Ewropa kollha), bereg u entratura m massa biex verament tilqghek xin tidhol fiha.

Illum li kbirt naqra fl-età ngħid li tassew jiddispjani nistqarr li dak li seħħ fil-belt Valletta wara l-Kavallieri, l-eewwel mill-Inglizi u mibgħad komplejna ahna stess il-Maltin, ma narahx li xeraq lill-belt kapitali tagħna.

Illum qed nikteb dwar funtana li kien hemm li Pjazza San Gorg, dik il-pjazza tant sabiha quddiem il-Palazz, illum il-Palazz tal-President. Ghedt kien hemm, ghax din il-funtana illum tinsab fi Ġnien San Filippu l-Furjana, dak il-gnien ta’ taht l-Argotti.

Din il-funtana mill-isbaħ li kienet iżżejjen il-pjazza ewlenija fil-belt, f’Misrah San Gorg tinsab kważi mohija. Harsa lejn ir-ritratt tal-pjazza malajr tintebaħ kemm din il-

Il-funtana li tinsab fi Ġnien San Filippu, il-Furjana pjazza mimija storja kienet tassew sabiha u dinijtża. Dik il-kolonna twila bl-iljun fuqħa li kienet man-naha tal-ġenb ta’ Triq l-Arcisqof, u dik il-funtana sabiha fiċ-centru tal-misraħ, kienu tassew jagħtu dehra ta’ eleganza kif titlob il-belt Barokka tagħna.

Din il-funtana f’nots din il-pjazza nehewha l-Inglizi halli jagħmhu wisa’ biex jagħmlu l-parati militari. Huma affarijiet li bilkemm jitwemmnu!

Inħeġġeġ lil min qed jaqra dan l-artiklu biex jagħti titwila lejn din il-funtana. Wieħed jista’ jasal għaliha mid-daħla xejn centrali ghal Ġnien San Filippu, teqgha ta’ gebla bogħod minn ħdejn il-Knisja tal-Metodisti, illum sala tal-kunċerti.

Dan il-gnien hu wkoll maqruf bħala «Il-Gnien tal-Central» Jekk forsi wieħed ja’ta’ qalbu li jasal sa ħdejn, allura nissuggeri li jagħmilha titwila min-naha ta’ Ġnien l-Argotti.

Din il-funtanta għandha tassew dehra spettakulari ... u tikkonsisti f’hwat kbir tond isfel bi hwat oħra fuqu f’forma ta’ arzelli tal-bahar, kull wieħed izgħar minn dak ta’ tahtu.


Dan il-gnien hu wkoll maqruf bħala «Il-Gnien tal-Central» Jekk forsi wieħed ja’ta’ qalbu li jasal sa ħdejn, allura nissuggeri li jagħmilha titwila min-naha ta’ Ġnien l-Argotti.

Il-funtana meta kienet is-sebba Misrah San Gorg qabel nehewha minn hemm l-Inglizi

Il-funtana li tinsab fi Ġnien San Filippu, il-Furjana
Australian generosity

Mark Bailey from Tamworth, NSW writes:

Australia has always had a fire season, with naturally occurring blazes sparked during the dry summer, but this year’s has been unprecedented in the scale and intensity of the fires. The fires have killed at least 33 people and destroyed thousands of homes. But I dare say that something good has come out of the devastation of the Australian bushfires this year. It has generated an outpouring of generosity amongst Australians. The response from the huge benefit concert special in Sydney is a case in point.

The money generated from this 10-hour fundraising event that was organised to raise A$10m for communities devastated by bushfires in New South Wales, the worst-hit state, has shown that we do care for each other.

Profits from the concert are to be passed on to rural fire services, communities affected by bushfires and animal welfare groups.

I must say that the fact that so many of us have been reaching into our pockets during this difficult time is not surprising as according to the World Giving Index Australia is the fourth most generous nation in the world.

I did some research and found that Australians have been giving directly to charities such as the Red Cross, the Salvation Army and others working on the ground to support survivors. Previously, many of us contributed to appeals such as Celeste Barber’s, for the NSW Rural Fire Service.

Qaddisin imperrċa

Alfred Borg minn Stanmore NSW jikteb:

Minn xi daqqiet nithasseb ghax fil-ko-munità Maltija nsib hu wkoll dawk ta’ twe:mmin lemnim estrem li miniflokk johorgu fil-beraħ jinhbew l’ixxix sottili anke kon-tra l-istess art twelidhom.


Illum ma tistax tinħeba iżjed għax il-midja soċjali tesponik. Ma fiha xejn li tiddikjar li int Laburist jew Nazzjonalist, l-agharr ikun meta tkun mgħaffeġ fit-tajn politiku u tipprova turi li int qaddis, u li int pur.

Grazzi ta’ rivista utli u ferm interessanti

Mario Griscti minn Ta’ Xbiex, Malta jikteb:

Grazzi hafina tal-harga Nru 221 ta’ The Voice of the Maltese, li bhall-hargiet kollha ta’ qabel toffir qari tajjeb ta’ abbarji jiet kontemporanji, artikli ta’ tagħrif u taghlim li jkomplju jahmlju din ir-rivista bilingwi interessanti u li toffir mogħdija ta’ hin ta’ utlita.

Bis-salha taghhom ghalija din ir-rivista saret appuntament ta’ interess qawwi.
The Maltese Government has managed to acquire the 17th century monumental oil on canvas painting by Mattia Preti, a Calabrian, titled *Boethius and Philosophy* for the sum of €1,323,000. The artist painted it in around 1680 or just after that date.

The National Development and Social Fund who will own the asset and contemporaneously lend the masterpiece for an indefinite period to Heritage Malta for the benefit of present and future generations have financed the acquisition.

The work is considered as “one of the masterpieces of Preti’s last years, and indeed of Mattia Preti’s entire career”. Professor Keith Sciberras also considers it as a “major and sophisticated example of Preti’s themes of a philosophical imprint depicted in Malta”.

Minister for National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government José Herrera, said that this acquisition is proof of the government’s commitment to continue to protect and enrich the cultural and artistic heritage of our country.

Beyond the inherent prestige of such works of art, *Boethius and Philosophy*, like the artist himself, has strong links with the country. The painting is believed to have been commissioned by Andrea di Giovanni, Knight of the Order of Malta.

Preti (pictured) was born in Taverna, in Calabria, and became known as ‘Il Cavalier Calabrese’. He spent some 30 years in Malta, during which time he was admitted to the Order of St John.

Preti was more than an artist, and besides transforming the interior of St. John’s Co-Cathedral in Valletta with a huge series of paintings on the life and martyrdom of St. John the Baptist (1661–1666), he was also responsible for the magnificent baroque interior of St. John’s.

The intricate stone-carved walls are made up of Maltese crosses, coats of arms, gilded flowers and other insignia and symbols.

In Malta one also can find many paintings of Preti in private collections and in parish churches. His increased reputation led to an expanded circle of patrons, and he received commissions from all over Europe.

He also painted several of the altarpieces in the side chapels.
Quo vadis, PN?

Bjal ma tafu, recentement kien hemm terremot politiku f’Malta ikkawża mir-rizżenza tal-Prim Ministru ta’ dakin- 
har Joseph Muscat, konsegwenza ta’ deċiżjonijiet politiċi li kienu tieħdu waqt l-investigazzjonijiet dwar il-qtil brutali ta’ 
Daphne Caruana Galizia (DCG).

Ħafna Maltni għadhom iseġwu minuta b’minuta x-xieħda li qiegħda toħrog fil-Qrati Maltni, u jidher li l-investigazzjonijiet 
għadhom għaddejjin. Il-konsegwenzi ta’ dak li qed jinghad għad- 
hom isehu, bħar-rizżenza tal-Prim Ministru għal Gawdex Justyne 
Caruana.

Issa li l-kawżi legali jidher li qabdu ċertu ritmu, xi ftit jew wisq 
l-attenzjoni daret fuq il-Parlament Nazzjonali (PN), li kellu hafna 
x’jiggwadan mal-qtil.

Dan il-vantaggi politiku jidher li ma mmażjeriluzzax, u hafna a-
ntenzi li qed tieħtu mal-kunċillieri fl-PL għadhom li ġejja fl- 
2022 terġa’ tirriżulta fi tkaxkira oħra bħat-tnejn li għad- 
qiegħda toħroġ fil-Qrati Maltin, u jidher li l-investigazzjonijiet 
hom iseħħu, bħar-riżenja tal-Ministru għal Għawdex Justyne 
Caruana.

Dan s’issa jidher li hemm 
lanqas riħa fil-bogħod 
tagħha.

Hwuva veru li Adrian Delia rebah il-voti inter- 
turni fil-partit, imma 
u u l-partit li jirrap-
preżenta li jridu jirbħu 
l-kap tal-PN li ġew injorati s-sinjali kollha li dehru?

Digħa kbitx darb’ ohra darx ix-xbika ta’ Messija li hafna partitarji 
jidher li jattribwixxi għall-kap tal-partit taghhom, ta’ kull lew. 
Hija xbiha ottimista li tinftiehem, imma hija wkoll perkoluża.

Fitt ilu ikkritika lil dawk li jopponuh fil-PN bil-kumment li l- 
partit mhux taghhom. Jien inżid li b’dan ir-raġunament il-partit 
mhux tiegħu lanqas, u nistaqsi x’se jljejji jekk l-elezzjonijiet 
generali li gejja fl-2022 terga’ ttrriżulta fl-tkaxkira oħra bħat-tnejn li gha-
dew? Li ġew injorati s-sinjali kollha li dehru?

Il-kap tal-PL, Adrian Delia

Hija xbiha ottimista li tinftiehem, imma hija wkoll perkoluża. 
Fuż il-xogħol tal-kap tal-partit 
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Ahbar ta’ mewt: Alfred Buħaġiar

Alfred Buħaġiar, il-Konslu General ta’ Malta fi NSW, li minħabba il-mewt ta’ missieru kollha jinżel Malta. Se jkun lura f’Sydney għall-ewwel ġimgħa ta’ Marzu.

“Ġabu ruħhom magħna bi ħlewwa liema bħalha”

Il-festa tan-nafrąju ta’ San Pawl ġiefer għal qalb l-Maltin minħabba li dik l-okkażjoni hija meqjusa bħala t-twēlid tal-fidli kattolika f’Malta. Anke l-Maltin li jgħixu barra jħossu l-ħtiegħa li jfakkru din il-ɡraja, u mhux biss f’dawk il-pajjiż bħall-Awstralia, ir-Renju Unit, il-Kanada u l-İstat Uniti fejn hemm konċentrazzjoni qawwija ta’ Maltin.


Ahbar ta’ mewt: Alfred Buħaġiar
The Voice of the Maltese

Roundup of News About Malta

€200m foreign investment projects (800 jobs) to be completed this year

The Minister for the Economy, Investment and Small Businesses Silvio Schembri said that Malta’s economy is about to enter an interesting phase shifting the emphasis on the quality of growth with 19 expansion projects that will lead to the creation of 800 new jobs and an injection of €200 million into the island’s economy.

Minister Schembri made the announcement at a press conference during which he gave a detailed presentation on current economic results and the way forward, in view of the five economic reports published in January and February, by DBRS Morning Star, International Monetary Fund, Fitch, Moody’s and the European Commission.

He pointed out that these expansion projects, pertaining to key companies operating from Malta are a show of confidence and sustainability of the country’s economy. The expansion projects are related to pharmaceuticals, software and cloud computing, video and game development, and aviation.

He added that local companies would also continue expanding with the completion of 102 projects.

Minister Schembri explained that, these investments would translate into the creation of quality jobs and better standard of living.

“Most importantly, companies that have been operating in Malta for years shall continue to operate for a great number of years, meaning that what we’re experiencing is sustainable growth with a long-term effect,” the Minister said.

The economic assessment reports stated that between 2013 and 2019, Malta experienced a growth of 7%.

Malta supports arms embargo on Libya at AFC

Attending his first Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) meeting, the new Minister for Foreign and European Affairs Evarist Bartolo supported and praised, in the spirit of cooperation, the measures proposed for a newly mandated arms embargo monitoring operation in Libya.

At the meeting in Brussels Libya again featured prominently on the agenda, including the re-modification of the mandate of Operation Sophia, with a re-focused mandate and operational rules of engagement, geared towards the effective and efficient implementation of the arms embargo.

While underlining that this operation is just one measure to approach the problem – an important one nonetheless – Minister Bartolo urged member states “to tackle Libya holistically”.

Noting the acutely severe situation affecting a high percentage of the Libyan population, he emphasised the need for stability in the country and in the wider region.

“Whether we acknowledged it or not, the unique geo-political position of Malta cannot be ignored”, he said.

Govt. to relinquish power to appoint country’s Police Commissioner

If a legal amendment currently being discussed in Parliament were accepted, for the first time since Independence in 1964, the Government would relinquish its right to appoint the Police Commissioner.

The amendment moved by the Minister for Internal Affairs, Byron Camilleri would introduce a transparent and competitive process that would be managed by the Public Service Commission made up of members agreed upon by the Government and the Opposition.

The Opposition is opposing the amendment and advocating for the appointment to be made through a two-thirds vote by the House of Representatives.

For the past 56 years the Prime Minister had the right to nominate the Police Commissioner himself.

It’s Carnival time when Malta sticks to the traditions of merriment

Since last Friday - and until this Tuesday - Malta has been enjoying the spirit of Carnival as hundreds, if not thousands of people, adults as well as kids, have been revelling with enthusiasm to commemorate this so-called reign of foolishness that has had an important place on the Maltese cultural calendar for around five centuries.

It is that time of year when many let their hair down and for five days join together to make merry and help others to join in the fun.

This year has been no exception. As always, Valletta was the centre of attraction mostly due to the parade of the artistic Carnival floats in the main streets of the city and the dancing competitions. Floriana and Hamrun have also become part of the festivities. One had the chance to admire the fancy dress costumes donned by the dancers, and grotesque masks. They were of the highest calibre.

Many villages in Malta and Gozo have organised their own spontaneous carnivals, in particular in Ghaxaq, Malta, and Nadur in Gozo.

But wherever activities are being held, the crowds have been responding and even school children have been given the chance to be part of this colourful feast.
**Finance Minister: Malta is on the road to implementing a meaningful reform**

In his opening speech at the Anti Money Laundering and Financial Crime Conference organised jointly by ARQ and MBA and entitled ‘The Road to Meaningful Reform’, Minister for Finance and Financial Services Edward Scicluna said he was confident that Malta is on the road to implementing a meaningful reform.

The Minister stated: “I cannot stop my mind going back to the past in order to answer a fundamental question: ‘Who are we – really? Us Maltese?’ Because we really need to understand the driver, who is expected to drive up the road to meaningful reform – and that is us. At stake there is our credibility – the rest is detail.”

Minister Scicluna highlighted the journey so far; “We committed some foolish mistakes, like going for an offshore financial centre in 1989, the same year the G7 set up the FATF and the OECD started work on defining ‘harmful tax competition’. But we were very quick to correct that mistake, as 1994 saw our switch to ‘onshore’ legislation with the set-up of the National Statistics Office, NSO, has revealed.

Benjamin Braun, Chief Marketing Officer of Samsung Europe, said, “We are here with thousands of people from Europe, Middle East, Latin America and Russia, to show them 316 Samsung products. The reason we are here on Malta is because we looked for something that is nice and warm, with friendly people and amazing food, and that for us is Malta. “The Samsung Forum enables us to demonstrate to our partners our commitment to pioneering the technology of tomorrow, today,” Mr Braun said.

“Having 3,000 delegates from various countries for eleven consecutive days on such an international project is an honour. We have already started talks to see how we can strengthen this emerging relationship”, Minister Farrugia Portelli also referred to technology as another crucial factor in the tourism industry as technology is connecting tourists worldwide and is one crucial tool by which our country can be promoted”.

“The Samsung Forum enables us to demonstrate to our partners our commitment to pioneering the technology of tomorrow, today,” explained Mr Benjamin Braun, Chief Marketing Officer of Samsung Europe. Mr Braun said that the collaboration that is possible at the forum enables them to adapt, to innovate, and to continue offering the products that consumers truly want; products that last, are future-ready, and unique. “These partnerships are vital for us to stay at the forefront of innovation in this new experience-led age,” said Mr Braun.

**14% increase in trips abroad in 2019**

In 2019 residents in Malta made almost 707,000 trips abroad, an increase of almost 40,000 on the previous year the National Statistics Office, NSO, has revealed. This is an increase of 6% over 2018. Expenditure increased by 7.6% to just over £606 million. Half of the travellers made use of low cost airlines, a 14% increase.

In the last quarter of 2019 (October-December) trips abroad by Maltese residents amounted to around 194,000. Italy and the UK were the most popular destinations. But there was also an increase in travel to non-European destinations.
Protesti fuq protesti

W ara li f’dawn l-ahhar ġimgħat forsi kibt aktar milli xi whud jixtieq dwar il-politika Maltija, illum se nipporra kemm jista’ jkan inhall dan is-sugqett fil-gen. Nagħmel dan mhux ghax m’hemmx dwar xiex tikkummera... anzi tant inkiteb u nqal fil-miżqa lokali dwar is-sitwazzjoni, prinċipalment tal-Partit Nazzjonalist, li fl-ispazju li għandi diffiċli tkun fidil ma’ dak li nqal u nqita.


Mhux biss mina imma wkoll metro

I l-Kamra tal-Kummerċ u l-Intraprizi f’Għawdex, u prinċipalment tal-Partit Nazzjonalist, li fl-ispazju li għandi diffiċli tkun fidil ma’ dak li nqal u nqita.


Il-Coronavirus: Kull min jidħol Malta se jibda jigi čękkjat

M

inn din il-ġimgha se jibda jsehh l'Malta pjan ta' azzjoni mill-Awtoritajiet tas-Saħħa biex jiġi evitat il-periklu tal-virus COVID19 li kompla jin-firex barra ċ-Cina u sa anke lahaq pajjiżi Ewropej, l-aktar l-Italija. Issa, l-passissijeri kollha li se jaslu fl-Ajruport Internazzjonali ta' Malta, u wkoll fil-portijiet permezz ta' cruise liners jew il-Katamaran se jibda jsir-lihom l-hekk imsejjaħ thermal screening.

Permezz ta' dan li screening gruppi ta' nis jiġu analizzati u jekk xi hadd minnhom jiġi identifikat li għandu d-deni, jittwaqqaf u jiġi eżaminat f'iktar dettal."
Dying before they receive redress

Abuse survivors who were supposed to benefit from the National Redress Scheme have labelled it “appalling”; with some saying that people are dying before receiving compensation. It has been more than 18 months since the National Redress Scheme was introduced to help compensate survivors of child sexual abuse.

According to ABC News, Roy Janetzki, 74 (pictured right), said he spent his teenage years in three orphanages, where he endured physical, mental, and sexual abuse at the hands of four Catholic clergy men. After applying for redress, he waited four months for his claim to be assessed.

“That’s a long time to be on tenterhooks and not knowing if you’re going to get anything,” Mr Janetzki said. He then received a cash amount as part of his compensation. “It will pay for my funeral,” Mr Janetzki said. “People are dying before they receive the redress, or just after they receive the redress.”

Federal Social Services Minister, Anne Ruston, conceded the scheme, which now has 162 non-government institutions participating, needed improvement.

“Very few have been able to access redress. It’s been a much more complex and complicated scheme to stand up than I think anybody ever imagined. We are currently in the process of making some quite significant improvements to the scheme so that we are able to process claims much more quickly,” she said.

Meanwhile, the High Court of Australia has set a date to hear Cardinal George Pell’s 78 years appeal against his convictions for abusing two choirboys in 1996 while he was Archbishop of Melbourne. The case will be heard in Canberra on the 11 and 12 of March 2020.

High Court rules Aboriginals are not aliens and cannot be deported

The Australian High Court has ruled Aboriginal Australians cannot be considered “aliens” under the constitution, presenting a significant hurdle to the deportation of two men.

The four-three majority decision of the High Court is a big victory for indigenous people. The two men in front of the court did not hold Australian citizenship, but both identify as Indigenous, and each has one Australian parent.

Each had an Australian visa until it was cancelled in 2018 - after the two men were jailed for serious crimes. Claire Gibbs, a lawyer, acting on behalf of the men, addressed the media following the landmark decision, stating: "This case isn’t about citizenship, it is about who belongs here."

“What this means, the real significance of this case is that Aboriginal people, regardless of where they are born, will have protection from deportation,” she said.

In a statement, acting Immigration Minister Alan Tudge said the Department of Home Affairs is considering methods to review other cases which may be impacted. "On the face of it, it has created a new category of persons; neither an Australian citizen under the Australian Citizenship Act nor a non-citizen.

The Government is currently reviewing the decision and its implications. "This may have implications for both the operation of the Australian Citizenship Act and the Migration Act."

You cannot blame the Whites

Senator Pauline Henson, the leader of One Nation Party, said in Federal parliament that “The biggest problem facing Australian and Aboriginal Australians today is their own lack of commitment and responsibility to helping themselves.”

Henson attacked Indigenous mums and dads for being behind poor school attendances, noting one school with 400 children enrolled often had a 50 per cent attendance rate.

“Whose fault is that? Lazy parents. You can’t blame the whites when it’s your own negligence,” the senator said.

Labor and Greens senators slammed her for racism after the Senator branded Closing the Gap “complete rubbish” and a “joke”.

They are now coming by plane not by boats

They do not come by boat anymore but they still come by plane. Migration law experts have cautioned against fast-tracking the deportation of people who arrive in Australia by plane and have their asylum claims rejected, warning it will become an “unmitigated disaster”.

The number of people who had their claims rejected after arriving by air increased to nearly 50,000 at the end of January, according to government figures.

Another 37,913 plane arrivals were also waiting for their refugee status to be determined.

There are now 46,391 people still awaiting deportation, up from 46,142 in November 2019, with fewer than two dozen deportations last month.

The number of people waiting for their refugee status to be considered has increased by 2,468 people since November last year and 1,136 people since December.
More than 70,000 people poured into ANZ Stadium in Sydney that raised $9.5 million for Australia’s bushfire recovery. Hosted by comedian Celeste Barber, who has raised more than $50 million for bushfire relief became emotional when she thanked the volunteer firefighters.

The entire stadium then erupted into a standing ovation and deafening cheer for many of the volunteers who were given tickets to the benefit.

Barber also wore a T-shirt late in the night with a picture of PM Scott Mr Morrison in a Hawaiian shirt saying “Merry Crisis” in reference to the backlash to the PM being on holiday in Hawaii when the fires ripped through the nation.

Meanwhile, The bushfire crisis impacted three out of four Australians either directly or indirectly. The Australian National University survey also found Prime Minister Scott Morrison’s approval rating has taken a beating since the crisis, with less than one-third of Australians confident in the Morrison government.

The survey estimated more than 75 per cent of Australians were affected either directly or indirectly by the fires. This included the estimated 14 per cent of Australians directly impacted by lost, damaged or threatened property, or who were advised to evacuate.

Those not directly impacted included people who were exposed to smoke, forced to change travel plans or felt worried by fires.

More money for bushfire recovery

Pop singer Montaigne (above) has won the opportunity to travel to the Netherlands for a chance at Eurovision glory. She will join Malta’s representative 17-years old Destiny Chukunyere born in Birkirkara of Nigerian descent.

Montaigne will head to the Netherlands in May to represent Australia at the 2020 Eurovision Song Contest after being declared the winner of SBS’ Eurovision – Australia Decides. The singer, whose real name is Jessica Cerro, beat nine other contenders for the right to represent Australia at the competition with her original song, "Don't Break Me”.

All ten contestants performed before a live studio audience on the Gold Coast with the contest broadcast to the rest of the country on SBS.

Off to Eurovision 2020

The Holden car brand will be no more, with General Motors opting to dump the name synonymous with Australian motoring by 2021.

Holden interim chairman and managing director Kristian Aquilina said that given the significance of Holden through its history, it was critical the company worked with all stakeholders to deliver a dignified and respectful wind-down.

"Holden will always have a special place in the development of our countries. As Australia and New Zealand grew, Holden was a part of the engine room fuelling that development," he said.

"Today's announcement will be felt deeply by the many people who love Holdens, drive Holdens and feel connected to our company which has been with us for 160 years and is almost ubiquitous in our lives.

"Unfortunately, all the hard work and talent of the Holden family, the support of our parent company GM and the passion of our loyal supporters have not been enough to overcome our challenges."
Kliem Malti antik: Xi jfisser?

Čurniena


Fisqija

D rapp li fih kienet tiż-żewġ ħafna minn l-Isien Malti, jkoll kitab meta tal-Malti. Ħal ħafna snin Mejju Ġie bil-Ward u ż-Żahar (c. 1672) kienet meqjusa bħala l-eqdem poezija bil-Malti. Ġhal kemm hemm min jgħid li fil-fatt kienet it-tieni l-eqdem.


Fil-fehma ta’ ħafna, dawn iż-żewġ volumi flimkien jikkostitwixxu, l-ahjar grammatika ta’ lsienna li qatt ġiet ikkompilata.


Serduk jew serduq?


Il-tagħrif dwar il-kittieba Maltin jissokta fil-harġa li jmiss.


L-organizzaturi rrangaw biex il-vara ma tkunx merfghuha fuq l-idjejn iżda tiġi mbut-tata fuq ir-roti, innovazzjoni sensibbli u ħerm aktar sigura minħabba li ħafna mir-reffiegha huma mdahlin fis-żmien.

Il-President tal-għaqda, Mark Caruana OAM ta ħajr lil dawk kollha li mhux biss attendew iżda wkoll ħadu parti wkoll fir-riċeviment li sar wara fil-Marion Hall.

L-istess maltemp qalil ħakem lin-naħat ta’ Blacktown fejn kellha ssir il-festa tan-nawfraġju ta’ San Pawl li t’Malta hija festa kmandata.

Il-quddiesa fiċ-Ċentru La Valette tqaddset minn Fr P. Gambin li ġie apposta minn Melbourne ghal din l-okkazjoni iżda l-festi ta’ barra ma sarux minħabba l-maltemp.

Lemin: Il-vara mdawra mal-knisja

Uhud minn dawk li attendew ghall-festa quddiem l-altar maġġur tal-knisja parrokkjali ta’ Horsley Park NSW
Minn Malta – fenkata ma’ Ċavett


Lawrence Dimech

Parti mill-folla li attendiet għall-ikla fil-LVSC
A temporary exhibition entitled ‘An Italian Artist in Malta’ was inaugurated at Il-Ħaġar museum in Victoria. The exhibition is about Filippo Venuti, who also worked for some time in the Maltese islands. Charles Azzopardi from Bank of Valletta inaugurated the exhibition, part sponsors of the project. The exhibition forms part of a restoration project on five of Venuti’s paintings by Sara Mattioli at the museum, (below seen restoring one of the paintings).

To mark the feast of St John Bosco, whose motto was ‘Give me souls, take away the rest’, Mgr George Tabone blessed pets at St Augustine Square, Victoria (above), while Mayor Josef Schembri presented tokens to pet owners.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

They showed us unusual kindness was the theme of an ecumenical service held at the St Paul’s Shipwreck Church in Munxar as part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The service was organised by the Legion of Mary (Gozo), in collaboration with the Gozitan Diocese and the Anglican community. It included readings, prayers and hymns. Mgr Joseph Attard, Canon Simon Godfrey, and the Chancellor of St Paul’s Anglican Pro-Cathedral, Valletta, delivered messages.

Don Bosco members commemorate feast

Past and present members of the Don Bosco Oratory pose for a group photo on the occasion of the feast of St John Bosco. Bishop Mario Grech and Gozo Minister Clint Camilleri were also present.

The Voice of the Maltese 21
Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc.

L-MCCV qed jilqa’ applikazzjoni-jiet ghall-pożizzjoni ta’ ghalliem/a part-time tal-ilien Malti fil-binja taghom F’14 Watt Street, Sunshine, Victoria.

L-applikanti ghandu jkollhom għarifen sew tal-Malti kemm miktub kif ukoll mitkellem. Lbghat applikazzjoni bid-dettalji akkademiċi lill: admin@mccv.org.au


MALTESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL OF NSW
A division of the Maltese Community Council of NSW Inc.
Established in 1999

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 6 yrs to adults 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.

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

Please Note: If interested in advertising in the Maltese magazine in order to reach the widest audience possible, particularly among the Maltese diaspora is requested to write for details to: Maltesevoice@gmail.com

Ghall-attenzjoni tal-qarrejja
Qarrejja li jixtiequ juru l-fehmiet taghom dwar xi sugġett imħegġa jagħmu dan b’email li jindirizzaw lil maltesevoice@gmail.com

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

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: - Ghana 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)

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

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
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 p.m. Presenter: Emmanuel Brincat.

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

On SBS Radio
Day Time Analogue and Digital Saturdays and Fridays: 12:00-13:00

Il-Ħadd 11.00 am: l-aħħar aħbarijiet fuq l-Internet: www.893fm.com.au

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 minn fuq l-Internet: www.893fm.com.au

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.

Merrylands Maltese Seniors Social Welfare Day Group
Meet 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 month at the Llandilo Community Hall, Seventh Avenue, from 11am to 1 pm.

The Voice of the Maltese
nfakku lill-qarrejja li The Voice of the Maltese, mhux biss magazine online, izda wkoll l-unik tax-xorta tiegħu fl-Awstralja li wkoll jiġi ippubblikat.
Fil-fatt huma ħafna dawk li ilhom li bdew japprofittaw ruħhom minn dan u abbonaw halli anke jibdew jirċevu kopja pprentjata bil-posta d-dar bi hlas.
Biex dan isir wiehed ghandu l-ewwel jikkomunikaw b’email halli jaggħmil it-talba lil maltesevoice@gmail.com fejn jitlob tagħrif dwar il-ħlas ta’ abbonament għal sena fl-istat fejn jgħix. Im-bagħad jekk ikun irid jissieħeb ma’ dawk kolla li mhumiex kunsenti biss li jaqraw il-magazine online, imma wkoll li jkollhom kopja tiegħu, jgharrafna.
With less than two thirds of Football’s Premier League in Malta played, four clubs have decided to change their head coaches. Few were surprised that Gżira, Ħamrun Spartans and Sliema Wanderers sacked their men - tors for failing to live up to expectations. The sur - prise was Valletta’s parting with Darren Abdilla. After a disappointing start Abdilla had managed to take Valletta to the top where they started sharing the position with Floriana. But on Day 18, when they had the chance to take sole command of the league ladder, after Floriana had surpris - ingly lost to Gudja, Valletta were soundly beaten by Birkirkara by 4-1.

Nobody saw it com - ing, and Abdilla him - self was shocked and clearly expressed his amazement with the sacking. He had joined them in the summer and led them to victory over F91 Dudelange of Luxembourg to reach the third round of the UEFA Europa League. No other Maltese team had managed it before then. Valletta also won the BOV Super Cup after de - feating Balzan and though despite their poor start to the league campaign, in Round 17 joined Floriana as front-runners in the Premier League. After Floriana’s unexpected loss against lowly Gudja, Valletta were everybody’s favourites to beat Birkirkara to claim sole command of the lad - der. But in a strange weekend of results, they were thrashed.

In that round Hibernians came with - ing a point of the leaders, but last weekend came a cropper against a much improved Birkirkara who keep improving after a slow start and man - aged to claimed their second high level scalp after that of Valletta the previous week.

Top placings: 38 pts: Floriana, Valletta; 35: Sirens; 34: Hibernians; 32:Gżira; 30: Birkirkara; 25 Balzan, Ħamrun

RESULTS - Day 19
Valletta v Gżira U 1-0
Floriana v Tarxien 4-0
B’kara v Hibernians 2-1
Sirens v Śliema W 0-0
Mosta v Hamrun 2-1
Balzan v Gudja 2-0
Sta Lucia v Senglea 2-2

Day 18
Gudja U v Floriana 1-0
Birkirkara v Valletta 4-1
Hibernians v Mosta 3-1
Sirens v Sta Lucia 2-0
Gżira U v Balzan 3-1
Hamrun S c Senglea 3-1
Śliema W Tarxien 1-0

Valletta v Gżira U
Floriana v Tarxien
Birkirkara v Hibernians
Sirens v Mosta
Gżira U v Balzan
Hamrun S c Senglea
Śliema W Tarxien

Sportsmen from two disciplines, Athletics and Waterpolo claimed the top honours in the 60th edition of the SportMalta Awards -Ghażliet Sportivi Nazzjonali (2019).

Jordan Guzman, won the Sportman of the Year award and Lisa Marie Bezzina was voted as the Sportwoman of the Year. For the second year running, Karl Izzo won the award for the Coach of the Year after leading the Malta team to the finals of the LEN Championships. ISA president Joe Caruana (waterpolo) was named as the Of - ficial of the Year. Jordan Guzman is an Australian of Maltese descent. He was born in Australia and even became Australian 5000m champion but last year he relinquished his right to represent Australia and chose to run for Malta. He won two gold medals for Malta in the Small Nations Games of Europe in Montenegro.

The Voice of the Maltese will run a special feature about Gordon in the next issue. He was not present to receive the award, as he is currently training in the US.

Lisa Marie Bezzina was the top athlete during 2019. She was very emotional at winning the award.

The awards, were announced at a ceremony at the Hilton Malta organised by SportMalta and the Sports Journalists’ As - sociation who was celebrating its 50th year since its founda - tion.

NSW NPL4 kicks off March 7

The new NSW NPL4 league season for 2020 kicks off on Saturday, March 7. Fresh from their success in the Maltese Cultural Cup, Parramatta Eagles FC are raring to go. Their first commitment will be in Lithgow to play Western NSW FC at the Marjorie Jackson Field. The Under 18’s will play at 12pm, the Under 20’s at 2pm, and the 1st Grade at 4pm.

Floriana, Valletta still top despite disappointments

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Sta Lucia v Senglea 2-2

Day 18
Gudja U v Floriana 1-0
Birkirkara v Valletta 4-1
Hibernians v Mosta 3-1
Sirens v Sta Lucia 2-0
Gżira U v Balzan 3-1
Hamrun S c Senglea 3-1
Śliema W Tarxien 1-0

Valletta v Gżira U
Floriana v Tarxien
Birkirkara v Hibernians
Sirens v Mosta
Gżira U v Balzan
Hamrun S c Senglea
Śliema W Tarxien

Sportsmen from two disciplines, Athletics and Waterpolo claimed the top honours in the 60th edition of the SportMalta Awards -Ghażliet Sportivi Nazzjonali (2019).

Jordan Guzman, won the Sportman of the Year award and Lisa Marie Bezzina was voted as the Sportwoman of the Year. For the second year running, Karl Izzo won the award for the Coach of the Year after leading the Malta team to the finals of the LEN Championships. ISA president Joe Caruana (waterpolo) was named as the Of - ficial of the Year. Jordan Guzman is an Australian of Maltese descent. He was born in Australia and even became Australian 5000m champion but last year he relinquished his right to represent Australia and chose to run for Malta. He won two gold medals for Malta in the Small Nations Games of Europe in Montenegro.

The Voice of the Maltese will run a special feature about Gordon in the next issue. He was not present to receive the award, as he is currently training in the US.

Lisa Marie Bezzina was the top athlete during 2019. She was very emotional at winning the award.

The awards, were announced at a ceremony at the Hilton Malta organised by SportMalta and the Sports Journalists’ As - sociation who was celebrating its 50th year since its founda - tion.

NSW NPL4 kicks off March 7

The new NSW NPL4 league season for 2020 kicks off on Saturday, March 7. Fresh from their success in the Maltese Cultural Cup, Parramatta Eagles FC are raring to go. Their first commitment will be in Lithgow to play Western NSW FC at the Marjorie Jackson Field. The Under 18’s will play at 12pm, the Under 20’s at 2pm, and the 1st Grade at 4pm.