Due to COVID-19 restrictions, this year’s Carnival, one of the oldest and most popular historical festivals in Malta was different from all others. It was static and lifeless. (see report and other pictures on pages, 11, 18 and 19)
The newly appointed High Commissioner for the Republic of Malta to Australia and New Zealand, His Excellency Mario Farrugia Borg, last Wednesday (February 17) presented his credentials to His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia.

During the ceremony which was held at Governor General House in Canberra, H.E. Farrugia Borg discussed the strengthening of Malta-Australia bilateral relations and seeking to keep the interests of Maltese living in Australia at the core of the mandate of the High Commission in Canberra, and the Consulates General in Melbourne and Sydney.

The ceremony included the High Commissioner for Malta handing the Governor-General the formal documents identifying him as Malta’s representative in Australia, a private meeting and a ceremonial welcome by Australia’s Federation Guard.

Mr Farrugia Borg said that given the opportunity to serve his country in this role was a privilege and an honour beyond words. “I want to thank Prime Minister the Hon. Dr Robert Abela and Minister for Foreign and European Affairs the Hon. Evarist Bartolo for the faith shown in me, and assure them that I will give this role my total commitment and dedication,” he said.

Two days before the presentation, the new HC held a video call with H.E. Dr George Vella, President of the Republic of Malta. They discussed Malta and Australia’s excellent bilateral relations and how these can be improved further.
Two spouses at the time of death – it’s more common than you might think, and could even apply to you

by Paul Sant

As stigma of leaving a marriage has not existed for some time, it is not uncommon for a person to re-partner, after a long-term marriage, and be living in a long-term de facto relationship at the time of death.

Another not rare occurrence is that a person, at the time of their death, technically has two spouses: they are in a de facto relationship, and they are married. This occurs if, after leaving a marriage, neither the husband nor wife formally obtains a divorce.

After divorce became more readily acceptable of divorce. Though it was acceptable for someone to leave a bad marriage, being ‘divorced’ was a stainable to be divorced, where in others divorce is associated with shame. Or it may be personal preference not to get divorced.

In this article we explain unexpected legal consequences that may result, and create unintended difficulties for those you leave behind.

I have been separated from my wife/husband for decades. Why does divorce matter?

Even though you may not, physically and emotionally, be in both relationships at the same time, in the words of the law, if not divorced, the Succession Act 2006 NSW defines a ‘spouse’ (where you do not have a Will) as a person who was:

- (a) Married to the intestate immediately before the intestate’s death, or
- (b) A party to a domestic partnership (e.g. de facto relationship) with the intestate immediately before the intestate’s death.

Divorce is an important legal step

Obtaining a divorce Order not only allows you to get re-married, but more importantly, changes the status of your previous husband or wife in the legal world from spouse to former spouse.

Not doing so can have consequences for your current partner, as referred to above, if you die without divorcing and without a will.

This problem can apply to your superannuation as well

In a previous article we discussed how superannuation often does not form part of your estate.

Super funds are generally bound to follow Binding Death Benefit Nominations, but where you do not have a nomination, or it has lapsed, there can also be ramifications in relation to payment of your superannuation entitlements, and any attached death insurance, where you technically die with two spouses.

Like the Succession Act, under superannuation legislation, a spouse is defined as another person who:

- (a) Is legally married to you, or
- (b) You live with on a genuine domestic basis in a relationship as a couple (de facto);
- (c) You are in a relationship with that is registered with an Australian State or Territory.

Simple solution

It is common in our day to day lives to be so busy that, when thinking about taking care of important paperwork, such as divorce and Wills, you think “I’ll get around to it, when I have some time.”

There is no time like the present. If something happens to you, before you make time to address your legal affairs, your loved ones may not only suffer the heartbreak of losing you, but also suffer headaches in dealing with your estate.

A divorce may also revoke aspects of a Will that was made when you were married, under section 13 of the Succession Act. However, it is safer to make a new Will.

Divorce is generally a straightforward process

Where both husband and wife make a joint application for divorce, neither of you are required to attend court. You will need your marriage certificate (or a certified copy).

If your marriage certificate is not in English, you will need a translation of the marriage certificate (by a qualified translator). If you were married in NSW, and are unable to locate your marriage certificate, you can apply for a marriage certificate through Service NSW.

Where you are making a sole application, you will only be required to attend court where there are children under the age of 18. The whole process is still relatively smooth, where you know where your former husband or wife resides.

In both sole and joint applications, where there are children under the age of 18, the divorce application must address children’s live with and spend time with (or ‘custody’) arrangements, the children’s education, and financial support.

Wills, and effect of marriage on wills

Whether you have or have not been married, wills are an important way to record your wishes of what you wish to happen to your assets when you pass away.

If you have made a will, but have since married, the law at section 12 of the Succession Act will revoke your Will, and you will need to make a new one.
Volunteering is Marlene’s life

Our Personality for February is synonymous with volunteering. In 2001, The International Year of Volunteering, Marlene was nominated for the Victorian Multicultural Commission’s Volunteers Award. The award ceremony and reception were held at Government House, Melbourne. Fifteen years later, in 2016 she was awarded a Certificate of Community Award, for services to the community.

Marlene Xerri

Marlene (Caruana) Xerri was born to Carmelo (Charles) Caruana and Antionette Muscat, both from Hamrun, Malta. Marlene is the eldest of four daughters.

After the war the Caruana family moved from Hamrun to St. Julian’s and Marlene started her education at St Julian’s Primary School. Later she attended St Louis Girls Grammar School in Sliema, and in January 1964, that is a year after she sat for her Oxford Level Certificate, GCE in 1963, the family migrated to Australia.

Marlene enrolled as a Mature Age student at RMIT in 1990 and having completed an approved course in Multicultural Studies, in 1994 she graduated Bachelor of Arts. A year later Marlene received NAATI accreditation as a Paraprofessional Translator in the Maltese language.

Once in Australia, her family settled in Thornbury, and later that year moved to Thomastown both in Victoria. While living in Thornbury, her family was invited to a family wedding where Marlene met Andrew Xerri. They were married in 1967. They have three daughters and two grandchildren.

Marlene started her working career at the Government Printing Mint in Brunswick, Melbourne. However, after six months, she changed jobs and joined Unilever Australia to work as an Invoice clerk. In 1968, she left work to stay home to raise a family.

Once her children started school, she got involved in the school’s mother club and helped with the children’s reading and excursions.

In the late 1970s, Marlene joined the Maltese Community Council of Victoria Inc (MCCV Inc), as a volunteer. She actively provided assistance to welfare clients by filling the Department of Social Security (DSS) forms, writing letters to clients’ relatives and Maltese interpreting. Her involvement as a volunteer and Social Worker Aide was paramount in the increased profile, growth and expansion of welfare programmes for the Maltese community.

Marlene also extended her efforts in assisting in many of the social aspects of the Maltese community. Each year, the MCCV Inc held several social activities to increase community awareness of the Maltese culture. She identified the importance of cultural awareness to the greater community and with the various committees and auxiliaries to enhance this cultural awareness.

The MCCV Ladies Auxiliary was another way to help the community at large, and in 1981 Marlene became a committee member of the Ladies Auxiliary. Initially, the Auxiliary raised money for the building fund and later for the Council’s welfare programme and for the maintenance of the Centre.

Several activities were identified to raise funds, namely, bingo sessions, coach trips to different country areas, catering for functions, restaurant day trips and overseas trips. The Ladies Auxiliary also sponsored young ladies in the Miss Maltese Community Charity Queen Quest that was run by the Maltese Community Council.

Other donations were made to Bishop Joe Grech Scholarship Fund, the Maltese Olympiad participants and the Museum of Maltese and Gozitan Migration to name but a few. The Ladies Auxiliary also provided catering for the annual fete.

Marlene enjoys several hobbies that include knitting, sewing, reading, cooking, travelling and walking. She also has an interest in the arts and as a committee member of the Maltese Cultural Festival, she organised catering for the annual Cocktail Party celebrating the opening of the Cultural Festivals.

In 1994 Marlene became President of the Ladies Auxiliary, and in 2019 the MCCV Inc approached the Ladies Auxiliary to provide their logo to be a part of the MCCV mural which is now displayed at the Centre. As the Ladies Auxiliary did not have a formal logo, the members created an image that symbolises the values of Ladies Auxiliary (right).

Marlene is involved in her local Council as a member of the carer’s group that provides information to seniors and carers, during monthly meetings. She is also a member of the Heart Foundation Walking group that meets once a week to walk and socialise over a cup of coffee.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Maltese Community Centre has been closed until further notice, but Marlene has continued to contact the group on a regular basis to assure them that once it is safe again, the Tuesday bingo sessions would restart.

Marlene values and appreciates the support of her family, the Ladies Auxiliary committee members, the MCCV Council members and numerous volunteers, and is looking forward to the current year to continue her volunteer work.

PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH

OF THE MONTH

FRIENDSHIP

Marlene Xerri

MCCV LADIES AUXILIARY
EST 1969

Tuesday, February 23, 2021
F ebruary 10th, 2021, marked the 50th anniversary of the laying of the Foundation Stone of Dar l-Emigrant, Castile Place, Valletta.

The building was erected as a permanent symbol of Maltese tribute to Maltese emigrants and a monument witnessing Malta’s bond with them. Its foundation stone was laid by Prime Minister Dr George Borg Olivier, and blessed by Archbishop Mgr Michael Gonzi.

This special anniversary is a timely opportunity to express appreciation to all those who have always had the best interests of Maltese emigrants and their families at heart, primarily Mgr Philip Calleja, the indefatigable former leader of the Emigrants’ Commission.

Mgr Calleja dedicated his life to up-rooted people, first as the champion of post-war Maltese migrants and their families and then as the leading pioneer defender of refugees seeking protection and help in Malta.

Up to March 2020, at the venerable age of 91, Mgr Calleja was still regularly making himself available at Dar l-Emigrant to help whoever knocks on his door seeking his advice or assistance. It was only the COVID-19 pandemic and the indispensable precautions that had to be taken, that kept him away from Dar l-Emigrant and what is most dear to him: helping others.

On the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Emigrants’ Commission, the late researcher and historian Fr Lawrence Attard OP wrote in the Times of Malta (24 June 1975):

“The history of migration from these islands, especially post-war migration, is now to a great extent the history of the Emigrants’ Commission. That Commission was providentially fortunate in that since 1953 it has had as its driving force, Mgr Philip Calleja, who since then has dedicated his priestly life to migrants and to all people whose life has been affected by emigration.

“The enthusiasm of Mgr Calleja has inspired a dedicated group of people who willingly offer their services to prospective migrants, to their dependants and to Maltese abroad. These services are given to all who seek the help of the Commission; no fees are charged, no irrelevant questions asked and the whole procedure is conducted by experienced priests and lay people in total privacy.”

Mgr Calleja enjoys various international and local recognition for his lifelong sterling work for Maltese emigrants and asylum seekers reaching Malta.

On March, 16, 2010, Dr Stephen Gatt, president of the Federation of Maltese Abroad presented Mgr Calleja with a plaque with the following inscription: “In recognition of a life time of service, labour and travall well in excess of the call of duty in the interests of Maltese Migrants across the diaspora.”

On September 23, 2004, Mgr Calleja was also granted a certification by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), “in appreciation for years of dedicated service and close collaboration”.

The Emigrants’ Commission was UNHCR’s Operational Partner in Malta from 1987 to 2004, when UNHCR’s role in the island had taken a new form considering Malta’s Refugees Act.

On November 1, 2019, Mgr Calleja was also honoured by the University of Malta, acclaiming him “a meritorious candidate for the Degree of Master of Letters (Honoris Causa) of this Alma Mater.”

In its motivation, the University recognised “the significant contribution made by Philip Calleja to the social wellbeing of our communities, especially through his persevering commitment to the welfare of migrants and his contribution to the process of relocation; through his role as a founder of the Emigrants’ Commission and of Dar l-Emigrant to serve as a hub to meet the holistic needs of migrants; and a person who had the foresight to act in favour of immigrants and to create services out of sheer altruism and love for humanity.”

Dar l-Emigrant, which today also houses a digital Migration Museum that was intended to be officially opened in 2020. However, the opening had to be postponed because of the pandemic. It is a fitting tribute not only to Maltese emigrants, but also to its founder: Mgr Philip Calleja, who became known as “The Emigrants’ Priest” and “The Refugees’ Samaritan”.

Charles Buttigieg
As the Sixties started their momentous 10-year reign, I was just over 23 years of age but had begun interesting myself in the political, social and sporting worlds not only around me in Malta but also around the world.

During this period there were significant milestones in my personal life. There was my marriage, the death of my father and the birth of my son. There was also an important milestone for my little island, which from a dominated colony became an independent nation.

After the austerity of the Fifties after the war, the eventful years of the Sixties brought a marked change in people’s attitudes and behaviour. They were known as the ‘Swinging Sixties’ as people worldwide, including Malta, indulged in a frenzy of social activities and abundance.

My Marriage

I was married to my Liz on a scorching Sunday morning on 28 August 1960 at the little church of St. Paul in Bormla after which a reception was held at the St. George’s Band Club.

The church of St. Paul holds an important tradition in the history of Bormla. It is held that while the Apostle St. Paul was shipwrecked in St. Paul’s bay in AD 60, he left the Island six months later from the sheltered inlet of Bormla, where the little church now stands.

Goodbye to my Father

My 56-year-old father died after a short illness on February 13, in 1961. I had a special pass to visit him in hospital in the mornings as my work precluded me from visiting during the official afternoon visits.

After a week, a grim-faced sister at reception barred me from making any more visits. “You will not be allowed to make further visits in the morning. This is your last,” she told me.

As I was entering the ward, the nurse approached me and told me that my father was to be given the last rites. I froze. To this day, over 60 years later, the memory of this shattering moment brings tears to my eyes. I prayed with the priest with more devotion than ever. Episodes of his life as I knew it, passed through my mind like a slide show.

The hospital was an ugly place. Death stalks the wards and corridors. And to make matters worse, in the silence and dim lights of the evenings, the voice of an old monk was heard reciting the rosary. In reply, you could hear the voice of long-suffering patients in the large ward. They were like cries of dying men - “Mercy on us! Mercy on us!” To the patients struggling for dear life, it killed them before their time.

In such demoralised circumstances, my father went to meet the Maker with his family by his side.

The 1962 General Election

According to local political analysts, the 1962 general election was until then, the fiercest and hardest fought in Malta. The protagonists were George Borg Olivier, leader of the Nationalist Party; Dom. Mintoff, leader of the Malta Labour Party; and Mons. Michael Gonzi, the Archbishop of Malta.

Mintoff and Gonzi hailed from my district.

I was married to my Lis on a scorching Sun -

The Prime Minister Dr George Borg Olivier waves to the crowd after signing the Independence Day documents on September 21, 1964

The 1962 G eneral E lection

According to local political analysts, the 1962 general election was until then, the fiercest and hardest fought in Malta. The protagonists were George Borg Olivier, leader of the Nationalist Party; Dom. Mintoff, leader of the Malta Labour Party; and Mons. Michael Gonzi, the Archbishop of Malta. The maternity scheme for Maltese civilian women was introduced in the late fifties and continued to function until 1967. It was run on the traditional British model of discipline, efficiency and cheerfulness. A tramp and a genius

He looked like a tramp, like the down- and-outs one meets on the London Under-grounds. He was an old and tired man - a battered hat on his head, trousers too short and shoes too big for him.

Kelinu had spent his working life as a boilermaker at HM Dockyard but long after retirement he still trudged and roamed the streets near his old work place like a lost man. I grew to know him.

Under this façade of a humble and common man, was one of the most intelligent persons I have ever met, a treasure chest of knowledge on all subjects. He was also likeable and charming with a heart of gold. While still at the dockyard, he spent his Saturday mornings at the National Library in Valletta delving into books and documents.

I used to accompany him from Gavino Gulia Square to St. Paul’s where he lived, and during these walks, he would impart his knowledge to me, generally history but also on several other subjects. I would ask questions and he would reply with facts, figures and anecdotes.

Kelinu was also a genius with mathematics and would solve a complex problem mentally, explaining intricate problems in simple language. An unbelievable man!

Baptism as a Civil Servant

I entered the Civil Service in 1960. Ten of us newly-recruited clerical officers were assigned to the Department of Social Services. The Head of the Department explained to us the work being assigned to us. As the Department had about 12 area offices where we were to start work, he asked each one of us what areas we preferred.

When my turn came I said, “I work anywhere however, if possible, I prefer not to be stationed in my home town of Bormla”. “I understand Joe,” he said with a smile on his face, “I’ll see what I can do”.

*Continued on page 7
The Friends of Malta GC in the UK

A brief history

It was formerly known as The Association of Maltese Communities of Egypt, that traces its origin to 1854. The title name of THE FRIENDS OF MALTA GC was incorporated within the name of the Association in June 1992, and since January 2007 became the main title. It knows its beginning when a small number of Maltese workers grouped themselves around their local Church in Alexandria, Egypt and formed the KONFRATERNITÀ TAL MADONNA TAL KARMNU (The Confraternity of Our Lady of Mount Carmel). Through the years the association expanded its activities to Mutual Help, Benevolent Societies, Clubs, Philodramatic and Philharmonic Groups, Ladies Unions, Scouts, Guides, Football teams, etc. in the four main cities of Egypt: Alexandria, Cairo, Port Said and Suez.

In the 1920s all these independent Associations were grouped into four Community Councils (one for each town) and in the 1930s in turn came under the umbrella of the Central Council of the Maltese Communities of Egypt.

When in 1956 as British subjects the Maltese, were ejected from Egypt, they transferred their social and welfare activities to England joining them together into the “Association of Maltese Communities of Egypt” which, in effect, took over the function previously discharged by the Central Council.

Like all other Europeans living in Egypt, Maltese, were not subject to Egyptian Laws. As British subjects they came under the Law of England, and therefore never lost their identity. During WWII they were also subject to conscription, and several even joined the three Services.

By living in England, the Association prides itself not only of being the oldest Association of Maltese origin established overseas, but also by being the only one having continuously kept an uninterrupted link with the British Monarchy following the pledge taken by the original Members of their own free will in the early 1800s.

The Association administers a Welfare Fund, organises social events, cooperates fully with other Malta connected associations, and publishes a Newsletter bimannually which is read in several countries where members of the Association have settled down since the end of WW2. The Friends of Malta GC is open to all, irrespective of nationality or origin, who have a love of the Maltese Islands and its people. It continues with the traditions created by the original members of the Konfraternita in 1854.

Invitation to Young Maltese Living Abroad - Roots & Routes

Through its youth policy by the name of Roots & Routes, the National Youth Agency of Malta (Agenzija Żghażagħ) is seeking to reach out to the young Maltese Living Abroad aged between 16-30 years to give them a voice by podcasting a series of interviews to discuss their specific concerns with their roots and to explore their identity, nationality, migration and global mobility.

The project seeks to encourage the creation of a wider community that is sensitive to the needs and concerns of young people, particularly in relation to the narrative of young migrants.

It is open for first, second third and fourth generation migrants (Maltese young people 16-30 year-olds).

Recollections: The Sixties years ....

*from page 6

When the postings of the new recruits were pinned on the Head Office notice board I found that out that I was assigned to Bormla! The nickname of the Head of Department at the time was ‘Il-Gedidu’ because he was all amicable, pats and smiles when talking to you but, behind your back, he was anything but.

An Embarrassing Incident

When I was at the Bormla office I was told of an incident that occurred only two years earlier by a witness of the incident, the messenger of the office. It was a Tuesday and the corridor was full of people waiting for their monthly pension.

The office manager in his little room at the back of the corridor heard an unusual commotion and noise that disturbed him no end. He hurried out of the office in an angry mood and saw a man in khaki shorts at the centre of the commotion as if he was the cause of the entire disturbance.

Pointing a finger at him, he told him angrily: “You, get behind the queue or I’ll call the Police to throw you out”. Then he told the messenger to sort things out and hurried back to his office slamming the door behind him.

However, the noise increased. The messenger, understanding the reason for the commotion, hurried to the manager’s office and, for the first time, opened the door without even knocking. “Sir”, he blurted out agitated, “that man you just berated is Dem Mintoff the Prime Minister of Malta”.

In the meantime, the office staff held the angry people in the corridor from going en masse threateningly into the manager’s office all the while explaining the genuine mistake of identity. The manager held his head in his hands for a full minute, then his briefcase and was out of the office from the back door. He did not return to the branch ever again.

(to be continued in the next issue)
Jalla l-qażba ċċaqdaq ghal xejn

Carmel Muscat jikteb minn Bathurst NSW:

Muxx biss ghax jien Ghawdxi, u bhal hafna fl-istati ta’ NSW u Victoria jiena wkoll mix-Xaghra, imma l-aktar ghax ghadni nghożż r-religtjon Nisranija. 

Hu ghalhek li ninsab iddisipsjażiet bir-rapporti li hergin dwar l-allegazzjonijiet ta’ abbuzzi minn ċerti saċerdoti fid-djoeżesi Ghawdxiu u li ghamiltu tajeb li wkoll it-trattajtuhom fl-ahhar ħarfia ta’ The Voice of the Maltese.

Innoss dieqa nisma’ u naqra dwar dawn l-allegazzjonijiet, ghax anke jekk wara kol-lox dawk mixlija ma jinstabux ħatja, imma xi tebgha żgur li se tibqa’ fuq ir-reliġjużi.

Niftakar meta xi 12-il sena ilu habib tieghi fi Brisbane kien baghatli kopja ta’ pagna ta’ gazzettita li kienet jiffaċċja akkużi simili fil-Qorti Għawdxiu.

Tghid kemm konna hadnihwa bi kbira, kien permezz tal-ahjarriji fil-Voice li għaddiet li sirt naf li wara dawn is-sinijiet kollha, l-Isqof Foley kien għarraf lill-Isqof Mario Grech (illum Kardinal) li ma kienux instabux provi kontra l-qassis... 

Qid nitlob mill-qalb u fl-istess waqt nittama li din id-darba wkoll, il-qażba tkun ċaċqaċet ghal xejn għax inkella ħsara kbira tkompli ssir lir-reliġjon f’żmien meta ż-żgħażagh ġonollhom li xi ħaġa ħażima bhal dik ikunu jridu biex ikomplu jittiebSexxgħirmut:ninja.

Letters for publication in The Voice magazine, either in Maltese or English should include name, e-mail address and residence of the writer, and be e-mailed to: maltesevoice@gmail.com.

Now you can also join us on facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/thevoiceofthemaltese

Have your say/

Your letters/ L-itttri taqhkom ...

Hallelin jiġri fosta

Joe Mizzi minn Sunshine Victoria jikteb:

Fost il-komunità Maltija tafċew hallelin bla skuplu, u l man ghandhom zejn f’wieżhom. Jisirqu propjeti intelleltvali tal-kitteba li tkun imxandra jew juppulikata u jisirquha biex tidher f’naħat oħra mingħajr l-approvazzjoni tagħhom.

Mank ikun hemm nitfa ta’ ringrazjament. Dan hu serq sfaċċat li qed idejjaq lil kumunija li twall dawk mixlija jew ħafna fl-istati ta’ NSW u biss għax jien Għawdxi, u xi tebgha żgur li se tibqa’ fuq ir-reliġjużi. 

Le, il-komunità ma għadhex injuranta kif hawn min jahsibba. Dan serq, u min jsiraq, ikun xi jkun, huwa halleli tal-prima klassi

Victor Borg’s portrait

John Vella from Box Hill Victoria writes:

Thank you for The Voice of the Maltese (who else?) for bringing to light through your Melbourne correspondent the story of the new portrait of the late Victor Borg.

Victor was one of the most prominent Maltese in the State of Victoria and also a former president of the MCC of that state.

Let us always remember Maltese who have worked so hard for our community. However, this story left us somewhat perturbed, as we were not told where this portrait is to be hung.

Let’s have a Republican Day

Joe Busuttil from Kellyville NSW writes:

I enjoy reading Joseph Buttigieg’s letters. I do not agree with him all the time but then again, why having a newspaper if you cannot express your opinion? It is a historical fact that the white race, Capt Cook, his crew and the convicts were not the first settlers. The aboriginals go back some 60,000 years. They were the first arrivals.

Therefore celebrating Australia Day on the anniversary of the arrival of sailor Cook is not appropriate. If not, what is a good occasion to unite the nation? Australia should become a republic with our national day to be on that memorable day in our history.
Interviewing about migration (Part 2)

Recording the memories

In this second instalment, I am providing some questions that focus on family history, birth and infancy, school days and childhood and home life.

1. Family history
- Do you have memories of your grandparents?
  - What were your grandparents' names and birthplaces?
  - Please tell me about your grandparents' (i) occupations, (ii) level of income/wealth, (iii) political views, (iv) religious beliefs, (v) recreational and social activities, (vi) appearance and (vii) personalities.
  - When and where did your grandparents pass away?
  - Now I'll ask you about your parents.
  - Can you tell me about your parents? For instance what were their (i) names, (ii) places of birth, (iii) education levels, (iv) occupations, (v) standard of living at the time of your birth, (vi) political views, (vii) religious beliefs, (viii) appearance and (ix) personalities.
  - Did your parents have nicknames?
  - Did your parents or grandparents have any particular sayings or favourite proverbs?
  - Did they ever talk about their achievements and disappointments in their lives?
  - Did they tell you about any special experiences or interests?
  - What were their ages at the time of your birth?
  - How did your parents meet?
  - Would you say they were well matched?
  - How would you describe their personalities and interests?
  - Do you recall any habits or mannerisms of either parent?
  - Were your parents happy?

2. Birth and Infancy
- When and where were you born?
  - What is your full name?
  - Why were you given those names?
  - Are there any family stories about your birth?
  - What was your parents' attitude to your birth?
  - Where did you rank in the family?
  - Were you a healthy child?
- Did your birth have any marked effect on your mother's health?
- Do you have any memories of yourself as a baby?
- Who nursed and cared for you as a child?
- Who trained you to do simple tasks?
- Did you have any memories of learning to speak? To read?
- Any memories of early play experiences?
- Did you have favourite toys?
- Any memories of pets?
- Do you remember nursery rhymes or other songs from your childhood?
- What degree of material comfort did you have?
- Do you have any childhood memories of difficult or disturbing or traumatic experiences (accidents, diseases, death, etc)?
- Before you went to school, did you have any special friends?
- How old were you when you commenced and completed school?
- Do you have any memories of early learning experiences (good and bad)?
- Do you have special memories of any teachers?
- Do you remember any students in particular?
- What were the methods of punishment and encouragement at your school?
- What subjects did you study?
- Did school teach you any values? If so, which ones?
- Did you have a childhood best friend?
- Did anyone in the home play a musical instrument?
- Did you sing songs or learn a musical instrument?
- What were the sporting and recreational activities?
- How did you travel to school and with whom?
- What was the school from your home?
- What was the daily routine at school?
- Was it a co-educational school?
- Was it a co-educational school?
- What did you study?
- Who did you like?
- How old were you when you commenced and completed school?
- Did you help around the house?
- Did you have a radio and/or a gramophone?
- Did anyone in the home play a musical instrument?
- Did you have a childhood best friend?
- Would you say that you had a happy childhood?
- What are your fondest childhood memories?
X'hemm komuni bejn il-vodka u l-ġebel?

B


R


Referenz
2. 2. https://www.blueplanet-ltd.com/, retrieved 17/2/2021

High Commission & Consulates of Malta in Australia

High Commission of Malta - Canberra

H.E. Mr. Mario Farrugia Borg
High Commissioner for Malta to Australia
38 Culgoa Circuit, O’Malley, ACT 2606

(02) 6290 1724 / 1426 / 1573
www.foreignandeu.gov.mt

0433 799 947
mario.farrugia-borg@gov.mt

Consulate General - Sydney

Mr. Lawrence Buhagiar (Consul General)
St. Martins Tower, Suite 10.04, Level 10, 31 Market St, Sydney NSW 2000

(02) 9262 9500
0430 402 177
maltaconsulate.sydney@gov.mt
lawrence.c.buhagiar@gov.mt

Consulate General - Melbourne

Vacant
Suite 613, 6th Floor, 343 Little Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

(03) 9670 8427
0413 621 177
maltaconsulate.melbourne@gov.mt
Central Bank forecasts a 5% increase in GDP

Following the decrease of 8.2% in GDP last year, the Central Bank of Malta is anticipating that in the coming year, the country’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will grow by 5%, by 5.5% in the following year and then by 4.7% in the year to follow, in 2023.

In forecasting economic development over the next three years, the Bank said its forecasts last December are being revised when a decline in GDP was being forecast because of the pandemic situation. However, the Bank revised its forecast for the next two years and is predicting that GDP will attain the same level as last December’s GDP.

Salesians to promote spiritual tourism niche

The Ministry of Tourism and Consumer Protection and the Salesians of the National Federation of Past Pupils and Friends of Don Bosco have signed an agreement through which cooperation between them would be strengthened with the aim of attracting a new tourist niche, that of religious tourism.

Through this agreement, the Government will hand to the Salesians a sum of €200,000 for them to perform infrastructural works in a building used to unite young Catholics who choose Malta as their primary destination for their spiritual journey.

The Salesians will be given another €60,000 over five years with the aim of advertising Malta to the 230 countries where the Salesians of Don Bosco are represented.

Malta endorses Declaration Against the Use of Arbitration Detention

Malta is among the endorsers of the Canadian-Drafted “Declaration Against the Use of Arbitrary Detention in State-to-State Relations”. The Minister for Foreign and European Affairs, Evarist Bartolo (right) made the endorsement on behalf of Malta when he participated in the virtual official launch of the Declaration.

The Declaration brings together 58 countries as a coalition of international partners that denounce the use of arbitrary detention of foreign nationals to exercise leverage in state-to-state relations; that is contrary to international law.

The Canadian Minister of Foreign Affairs hosted the event. Other participants included Amal Clooney, representative of the Internatio nal Bar Association’s Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI) and Barrister at Doughty Street Chambers, London (UK) and Kenneth Roth, Executive Director, Human Rights Watch.

In his address, Minister Bartolo stressed that arbitrarily detaining people, one’s own citizens and nationals of other countries; depriving them of any of their rights and subjecting them to ill treatment or punishment; can never be justified.

“From time to time differences are bound to arise in our relations with each other as states, but we need to patiently persevere to resolve them peacefully through dialogue within the framework of the rule of law. Let us not use our citizens as bargaining chips or political tools in our negotiations,” Minister Bartolo said.

He reiterated that every citizen must be afforded the dignity and rights all humans deserve the right to equality, freedom from discrimination, the right to life, liberty, personal security, freedom from slavery and freedom from torture and degrading treatment, and re called that these rights were formulated by persons coming from different political systems, cultures and religions to apply to everyone in the world.

“Promoting them should not be seen as interfering in the internal affairs of our countries,” Minister Bartolo said.

He added, “Let us not weaponise human rights by invoking them selectively and only when and where it is politically convenient for us.”

These rights were enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human rights after the catastrophe of the Second World War, and are as relevant as ever.

He concluded by saying that “They are not only our past but also our future”.

Maltese entrepreneurs are optimistic

Half of the Maltese entrepreneurs believe that their business will start recovering in the next six months. However they would need a year to start seeing an increase in their revenue once again, a survey carried out by Vistage has found.

This survey the first of a new index to be carried out every three months among entrepreneurs, shows the Maltese are more cautious about their financial prospects compared to their foreign counterparts.

Vistage Malta said that the survey shows that more than 50% of the participants are predicting a good recovery in the next six months; and 34% believe that within 12 months they will have a positive recovery.

Meanwhile, the President of the Chamber of Commerce, David Xuereb said that through this exercise, the situation in Malta can be compared with what is happening in other countries.

Gozo property registers highest price increase

Statistic published by Djar (homes), in collaboration with EY, shows that properties in Gozo have registered the highest price increase of 2.2%. The survey finds that Cotton - Madliena (2.9%), Mtarfa (2.5%) and Valletta (2.2%). The statistic published by Djar (homes), in other countries experienced price decreases.

Comparing to the previous year 2020 compared to the same Quarter in the same year, the statistic published by Djar (homes), in

Drop in road accidents

Figures released by the National Statistics Office, indicate a drop in the number of traffic accidents last year. In 2020, 11,950 traffic accidents were reported, which is nearly 3,900 less than for the previous year.

Injuries for last year slightly exceeded one thousand in number, and twelve persons lost their lives because of traffic accidents.

Call for reforms in EU

Survey commissioned by the European Commission found that 44% of European citizens believe that a change is needed on the way the European Union and its institutions are run and have called for great reforms so that it will remain relevant for today’s circumstances.
Mediterranean youths have much to offer for the Mediterranean region

The President of Malta, Dr George Vella believes that Mediterranean youths have much to offer for the Mediterranean region to become a mosaic of opportunities.

The President was speaking at the end of a week-long regional seminar organised by the Mediterranean Academy for Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC) and the Anna Licdh Foundation and financed by the EU about leadership skills considering Young Mediterranean Voices.

Twenty-seven youth youth leaders from 18 countries, participated in the virtual meeting that included also included youths from Algeria, Austria, Libya, Syria, Finland and Malta.

President George Vella presented several proposals, including the setting up of a Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, consisting of youths to debate themes that can translate into a policy of cooperation between the countries.

The seminar, that put the youths in touch with international leaders, including European members of Parliament, journalists and teachers, offered them the opportunity to suggest opportunities that can be adopted by countries.

Equity in the provision of education

Minister for Education Justyne Caruana emphasised the importance of further mainstreaming the notion of equity in the provision of education, both in compulsory schooling and in higher education when she actively participated in the informal video-conference of the Ministers for Education of the European Union.

The conference discussed the concept of equity in education and training, an important topic that merits greater attention, particularly considering the difficulties brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Minister Justyne Caruana said that “Malta prides itself on distinguishing, both in policy and in practice, between equal education and providing equitable access to education for all children and students throughout their educational paths”.

She added that fostering the notion of equitable access to education would provide one with a better understanding of the needs of the students, and that by using equity as a yardstick, gaps in education and training can be more easily identified and therefore provided for.

“An equitable and inclusive education promises to prepare a cohort of students ready to fully engage and succeed in emerging market economies, and resilient to arising challenges,” Minister Caruana said.

She pointed out that in this regard, Malta prioritises equity in both compulsory schooling and further education and additionally, Autism Friendly Guidelines have been launched to improve the school environment for all.

The conference also discussed the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training toward the European Education Area and beyond (2021–2030).

Minister Caruana said that Malta has exceeded the Europe 2020 national target by 5.1 percentage points. Malta’s tertiary education attainment has also registered a gradual year-on-year increase since 2015 and now stands at 38.1%.

The Minister reiterated Malta's commitment to be an example of good practice, for the promotion and provision of an educational system that can truly cater for the needs of all its students.

Malta’s underwater heritage exhibited

Malta’s Blue Wonders is the title of an exhibition set up by the Environment and Resources Authority (ERA) at the Malta National Aquarium, featuring Malta’s underwater heritage through photography.

It exhibition, featuring several new habitats and species around the Maltese islands discovered through the LIFE BaĦar Project, is intended to raise awareness of local marine habitats and the importance of their collective protection.

ERA has designated over 35% of Malta’s waters as Marine Protected Areas that have also been added to the European network of Natura 2000 sites.
Il-Kera – bieċċa wgiegh ta’ ras

ghal kemn Malta hi wiehed mill-pajjiż fejn l-aktar ghandna familji li ghandhom id-dar jew fejn joqoqhom qorta ghad hail li jikru fejn jghixxu. Maż-żmien, il-kera beda joghla fl-ahhar snin, fost konnok bil-miġża ta’ ghadd ta’ barranin li bdew jikru fejn joqoqhudu f’Malta, dawn il-kirjet tel-ghu mas-smewwiet. Hekk min seta’ beda jibni appartenenti u jikrihom.


Peress li dawn il-kirjet huma protetti s-sidien ma jistgħu jghollu l-prezz tal-kera kif iridu anke jikkika dan ma jirriflettix il-prezz tas-suq. Apparti minn hekk, dawn il-kirjet jistgħu jintirtu minn ġewwa jew iħallashom il-jetà tagħhom u tathom kumpens ta’ eluf ta’ tikkis id-dritt tas-sidien li jgawdu il-propjetarji ta’ Gvern.

Sintendi, għal snin twal il-propjetarji ta’ dawn id-dar u appartenenti, kienu u għadhom sal-lum jpprotestaw u jekkhe daħlu kontra din il-liġi għax isostgu li mhux talli ma jistgħu jghixxu fil-proprjetetajiet miżrija meta tiġi nieqsa l-per-suna (f’omm jem il-missier).

Sintendi, ghadd kbir ta’ aktar minn xi membri tal-arba l-istorja tal-abbużi pajjiżi fejn l-aktar għandna familji li għandhom id-dar jew fejn jidħol ma jididha ma jikrhom. Wara stħarriġ, il-pulizija u rrapurtaw dak li jaqsmu mat-tifel marru għand żewġ prostituti li kellhom x’ –hekk kien jitfgħu fl-istitut. Lit-tifel li jekk jit kellem dwar tifel. Fl-istess ħin kien jhedded beda jieħdu għand prostituta u jiegħla jkollha x’taqsam ma’ snin u beda beda jiżviluppa, hekk meta t-tifel kellu seba’ tibda tiżdied kull tliet snin b’mod proprorz li skont l-indiċi tal-inflazzjoni.


X’kull waħda wkoll! Mix-Xena tal-Covid-19


Mill-kampjun meħud għall-istudju jirriżulta li l-għadd ta’ uffiċjali Ewropej li attendew din l-Università kien ta’ 1.8%, li jpoġġi lill-Università fis-disa’ post fost l-aqwa 25 universitajiet.


Il-Wage Suppliment taffa t-tbatija

Ftit tal-jiem ilu l-Prim Ministru Robert Abela ħabbar li l-Gvern għandu pjan biex il-wage supplement bħala miżura biexitta t-tbatija tal-haddiema u ta’ min ħaddem li kienet mistennija li tiġi fi tmiemha f’Marzu, tista’ wara kolloth tiġi es-tiża anke sa wara Marzu.


Gay conversion therapy has been banned in the State of Victoria, despite concerns about the legislation from psychiatrists, religious organisations and lawyers. The law, which could mean up to a decade in jail or fines of almost $10,000 for anyone found trying to suppress or change another person’s sexuality or gender identity, passed the Legislative Council 27 votes to nine.

Liberal MPs Bev McArthur and Bernie Finn crossed the floor and defied Opposition Leader Michael O’Brien to vote against the Government legislation.

The vote came after the Law Institute of Victoria expressed concern about the bill, joining a long list of organisations that have urged the government to amend the legislation. Those organisations included the Australian Medical Association, Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, Islamic Council of Victoria, Melbourne Catholic Archdiocese and Victorian Women’s Guild.

In a letter to the Government, Law Institute president Tania Wolff said their members were concerned that the bill “may impose limitations on conversations between children and their parents or other family or caregivers on the issue of gender identity or sexual orientation”.

Some faith leaders are telling parishioners they can request which COVID-19 vaccine they receive, but the Commonwealth Government is saying most people won’t have a choice. Catholic and Anglican archbishops told The Sun-Herald and The Sunday Age while it was ethical for people with concerns to take the AstraZeneca vaccine if necessary, they should be entitled to request a different jab.

A spokesman for Sydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP said the Archbishop was a strong advocate of vaccinations but “like any medicine, they must be safe and ethically obtained.”

Religious concerns about the AstraZeneca vaccine arise from its use of decades-old aborted foetal cells in the development process, which is a common scientific practise that some Christians find objectionable.

Cultural and linguistically appropriate

The Australian Federal Government wants to ensure that people from multicultural communities are vaccinated against COVID-19, with the first doses of the Pfizer jab that has arrived in Australia. Health Minister Greg Hunt released the government’s plan to ensure that targeted vaccine information reaches culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities in appropriate languages and formats.

“The government recognises that people from multicultural communities are a significant part of the health, aged care, child care and disability workforce and will be among the first people in Australia to receive vaccinations,” he said.

The government has allocated $1.3 million, as part of its now $31 million COVID-19 vaccine rollout campaign, that will include translating materials into over 60 languages, Mr Hunt said. Hopefully, this will include the Maltese, often forgotten by the Government.

Objection to the vaccine

Some faith leaders are telling parishioners they can request which COVID-19 vaccine they receive, but the Commonwealth Government is saying most people won’t have a choice.

Catholic and Anglican archbishops told The Sun-Herald and The Sunday Age while it was ethical for people with concerns to take the AstraZeneca vaccine if necessary, they should be entitled to request a different jab.

A spokesman for Sydney Archbishop Anthony Fisher OP said the Archbishop was a strong advocate of vaccinations but “like any medicine, they must be safe and ethically obtained.”

Religious concerns about the AstraZeneca vaccine arise from its use of decades-old aborted foetal cells in the development process, which is a common scientific practise that some Christians find objectionable.

Mass on Sundays

Sydney Catholic Archdiocese has relaxed rules across the Greater Sydney region including Wollongong, Central Coast and Blue Mountains; an unlimited number of people can attend Mass, provided that a one person per two metres square rule is observed.

Mask wearing in church is no longer mandatory but “encouraged” where social distancing is not possible. Congregational singing is still not permitted for indoor Masses and choirs are limited to five people. Now that the two metres square rule has been reinstated, Archbishop Anthony Fisher has lifted the dispensation from our Sunday Mass obligation.”

“The Catholic faithful are once again obliged to attend Mass on Sunday.
More than 20 government aged care reviews in 20 years have failed to adequately address the growing problem of an inadequate care system for older Australians. Understaffing, underfunding, a lack of choice and long waiting lists are just some of the ongoing problems to plague the sector.

“We can no longer afford to leave the aged care system the way it is. For too long as a nation, we have failed to prioritise the needs of our older Australians. That has to change,” Catholic Health Australia chief executive Pat Garcia said.

“It has taken a royal commission to bring the inadequacies of the aged care into sharp focus, laying bare the problems that have been left unaddressed for two decades.

More than 1000 organisations are behind the “It’s Time to Care” campaign.

An interim report described the aged care system as a tale of neglect which is failing to meet the needs of older and often very vulnerable people. The commissioners said aged care services were underfunded and did not deliver uniformly safe and quality care.

An alliance of more than 1000 organisations that deliver the bulk of government-subsidised care, including Catholic Health Australia, urged the Morrison Government to increase sector funding.

A new executive for the MCC of NSW

During its Annual General Meeting at the La Valette Social Centre at Blacktown in the presence of all its affiliated members, the Maltese Community Council of NSW elected a new executive for 2021. The MCC meeting was held at La Valette SC and not at the MCC HQ because it is a covid free venue.

Miriam Friggieri who had occupied the role of secretary for the last couple of years was elected as the new president replacing Emanuel Camilleri who did not seek re-election.

The role of secretary is now occupied by Frances Montesin, while George Bartolo remains as the treasurer. Antoine Mangion is the v/president, and Patrick Barolo is the assistant treasurer. All were elected uncontested. The position of ass/secretary is to be filled later.

Sandra Grech was appointed PRO. Jim Borg acted as returning officer.

The assembly unanimously gave Emanuel Camilleri a vote of thanks for his services to the MCC, to Maria DeCarlo for her services to the Language School, and also expressed its gratitude to The Voice of the Maltese for its co-operation and assistance.

The MCC nominated the President of Malta as patron together with Chris Bowen MP (Federal) and Dr G. Lee (State)

The MCC of NSW operates from its HQ at Parramatta West, which is currently closed due to the pandemic. However, the new President said it would soon be operational once again.

Pictured above is the new MCC Executive. Standing (from left): Patrick Bartolo and Sandra Grech. Sitting: George Bartolo, Miriam Friggieri, Antoine Mangion and Frances Montesin.

About Aged Care
Il-Karnival t’Għawdex 2021: mill-mitluf tiehu li tista’

Minħabba l-pandemija, din is-sena, bħal f’Malta, l-karnival f’Għawdex kien differenti ghall-alhar mis- snin mhod-diija. Minbarra hekk, anke dak spontanju fir-raħal tan-Nadur u li ssollut jkaxkar wararj eluf ta’ nies baqa’ ma sarx.

B’danakollu, fir-Rabat, matul Triq ir-Repubblika kif ukoll f’Pjazza Indipendenza (It-Tokk) wiehed seta’ jnnota ghadd ta’ karrijiet u maskri grotteski b’tema Karnivaleska, biex wiehed seta’ jgawdi fiti minn dak li normalment joffri l-Karnival Għawdexi. Tfaċċaw ukoll diversi tfal akkumpanjati mill-ġenituri tagħhom lebsin xi xorta ta’ kostum biex din il-“festa” ma tintnesiex ghal kollox. Donnu kienet okkażjoni li mill-mitluf tiehu li tista’. Fost id-diversi ġemgħat li ħadu sehem kien hemm il-Gozo Vi-}

usal and Performing Arts School, li hadet ħsieb li tibni l-karroj trijofali r-Rel K-Jarnival, b’hidma sfiqa tal-ghalliem ta’arti Denis Mompalao, Rudoph Cauchi, Brian Borg u dak tad-drama Jamie Camilleri, li hadnu taht it-tmexxija tal-Kap tal-iskola Vince Caruana.

Kien hemm ukoll il-gruppi ta’ George Vella, Silvan Grima u George Zammit, li hadnu numru ta’ karrijiet, is-Sezzjoni Żghazagh Pawlim Munxarin u l-Għaqda Armar Xewkija, b’al-ahhar taht id-direzzjoni ta’ Shaun Parnis u Giovanni Buttigieg, rispettivament li kellhom ghall-wiri maskri grotteski kif ukoll trakk tat-tfal li ħadu ħsiebu Clyde Cauchi u Joe Mifsud minn San Lawrenz.

Ghal ftit tal-kiem insejna d-dieqa tal-pandemija

Karrijiet Karnivaleski ipparkjati fi Triq ir-Republica, l-ewlenija fir-Rabat f’Għawdex fejn in-nies setgħu mhux biss igawdu xi ftit mill-atmosfera ferm imnaqqsa ta’ din is-sena ta’ din l-okkazjoni ikulurita, imma wkoll jammiraw ħilet dawk li bnew il-karrijiet
‘Luzzu’ Review: A Maltese Neorealist Fishing Drama

A rare locally-produced film that is also about Malta itself, and features actual Maltese, “Luzzu” marks the debut of director Alex Camilleri with a vérité fishing drama populated by non-professional actors.

A neorealist telling in the tradition of the Dardenne brothers, who also work with locals on their films, “Luzzu” is beautifully shot, if at times emotionally restrained, in its centering around a man who’s occasionally difficult to read. However, it boasts a true discovery in the casting of Jesmark Scicluna, a real fisherman who plays a version of himself, and here playing a struggling parent trying to eke out a living along the docks.

A luzzu is a traditional Maltese fishing boat, and a veritable 20th-century relic compared to the more advanced trawlers of today. Jesmark’s luzzu, an old wooden thing with more charm than functionality he calls Ta Palma, has a leak.

That puts him at a great disadvantage in a competitive fishing market plagued by diminishing harvests. Barely scraping by, Jesmark also has a baby and a girlfriend, Denise (Michela Farrugia), to care for.

When he comes home empty-handed after an especially unlucky day at sea, Denise’s disappointment is less nonplussed than a shrug, and she decides to move out of their bare-bones apartment and into her mother’s place. Making matters worse is the baby’s stunted growth, and the ensuing pile-up of medical bills.

Jesmark, whose skillset is limited to the family tradition of fishing he’s been carrying out all his life, is running out of options, and people who believe in him. Neither his mother-in-law, with whom he has a visibly strained relationship made apparent when he tries visiting his child when Denise is out of town, nor Denise are especially supportive of his trade.

“Fishing is a nice way to spend the summer,” his spiteful mother-in-law tells him. Meanwhile, most of his fellow fisherman have sold out to an EU-backed programme transitioning them into other industries — a course that, as the film progresses, looks inevitable for Jesmark.

Everyone’s chagrin over Jesmark tightens like a noose. Unable to sell the fish he’s laboured over catching at the local market – a chaotic scene of scrabbling buyers and sellers – Jesmark finds himself roped into a black-market operation the equivalent of Maltese gangsters peddling fish in the shadows, along with other surreptitious acts of smuggling and sabotage.

At one point, Jesmark tries to sell off gas he’s ciphoned at a lower price to enraged, tonier locals who, probably due to the darkness of his skin, all but laugh in his face.

As he descends deeper into a life of criminality, Jesmark meets plenty of colourful locals who Camilleri, a documentary filmmaker making his narrative feature debut here, plucked from the Maltese scene.

They provide for charming banter, especially during one late-night fishing expedition on a trawl hurtling through the moon-dappled Mediterranean Sea, that give us a window into who Jesmark is, a hard worker who just wants to care for his family, but with an allegiance to tradition, passed down from his father and his father’s father and so on, that makes it difficult to move forward.

Scicluna plays Jesmark as a sun-stained monument of stoicism, and having spent his whole life on the docks, he can’t really navigate the emotional world outside them. The dramatic arc of “Luzzu” is slight, with Camilleri more interested in people and place than telling a captivating story.

However, Jesmark Scicluna makes the film compelling nonetheless, and it’s clearly that he could be guiding Camilleri and his camera, and not the other way around. Léo Lefèvre’s granular cinematography, meanwhile, provides a dreamy complement, casting the coast in rich blues and the city with an almost dusty, world-worn quality.

Finally, while Jesmark might be at odds with the world and how it wants to force him to grow up, it’s his relationship with his boat that towers over all, and the tenderness with which he cares for it is deeply touching.

When he finally has to confront his future, which could mean saying goodbye to Ta Palma, it’s a crushing final note.

Director Alex Camilleri

“Luzzu” is Maltese American filmmaker Alex Camilleri’s most recent feature-length directorial debut that offers a rare glimpse into Malta’s fishing industry. Before winning him acclaim at the Sundance Film Festival, it also won national funding in Malta and was chosen for the prestigious Les Arcs Works-In-Progress screening.

Camilleri’s short film and documentary work has screened globally, winning such awards as “Best Student Documentary” at the Emerging Filmmaker Showcase at the 63rd Cannes Film Festival. As an editor, his work has screened at Venice, Telluride, and Toronto.

Credits include “Keep The Change” (Best Film & Best Director, Tribeca 2017) and “Blood Kin” (Venice 2018, Sconfini), and as an Associate Editor on HBO’s “Fahrenheit 451.”

Ryan Lattanzio
Although nowadays, large blocks of apartments have taken over the Sliema seafront replacing several architectural gems inherited from the British that used to dot the Sliema landscape, one can still find majestic remnants of Malta’s British past. Balluta Buildings overlooking Balluta Bay in St Julians is one such icon. After years of neglect, it is set to get a sensitive restoration that should respect the building’s natural beauty.

When the British landed on Malta in 1800, they were not much interested in asserting their power through any architecture, at least not until late 1814, when they added the colonnaded portico to Valletta’s Main Guard (guard house), nowadays the Office of the Attorney General. With time, their interest in making a more permanent foothold in Malta grew, and as colonial trade and sea traffic increased, along with a growing navy, Malta became an important part of the British colonial fist.

The building’s site originally consisted of terraced fields, which were incorporated into the garden of the nearby Villa St Ignatius in the early 19th century. Then, in the 1920s, the villa and its grounds were divided and sold off. The impressively enormous enigmatic Balluta Buildings, with its weird yet alluring mixture of styles, Art Nouveau, Neo-Gothic and Neo-Baroque was built in 1928 for the Marquis John Scicluna. It was constructed to designs of Maltese architect Giuseppe Psaila, (1891–1960), and is also regarded as Psaila’s masterpiece.

It was possibly the largest building in Malta in its heyday and it is still considered to be among the finest of the few surviving Art Nouveau architecture in Malta. The building’s name is derived from the oak trees (Maltese: ballut), which grew in the area in front of it, that also gave the bay its name.

The building originally contained some of the largest and most luxurious apartments in Europe, and it became a prestigious address in Malta. Due to rental laws, many tenants and their heirs kept the apartments for a small nominal rent. Out of the twenty apartments, sixteen remain in the hands of the tenants’ heirs, three have returned into the possession of the owners, and one was sold to a third party.

**Listed as a Grade 1 monument**

The building, constructed out of local limestone remains intact and in relatively good condition, although over the years, it suffered deterioration and is in need of restoration. It enjoys the highest level of protection as a Grade 1 monument and is listed on the National Inventory of the Cultural Property of the Maltese Islands.

The main façade of the building consists of a massive block of three connected blocks of flats, with three vertical structures having long vertical arched openings protruding from the rest of the building topped with keystones decorated with a carved putto. The blocks are joined together with verdandas on the lower floors and a plain façade on the upper levels.

The openings are flanked with a row of double windows and pilasters joined by floral decorated architrave and framed by decorative surrounds on either side. The three main blocks are joined together by a plain façade with two upper floors and verdandas on the lower floors.

The architraves below each have these inscriptions BALLUTA (left block) BUILD-INGS (right block) and A.D. MCMXXVIII (central block). The windows, pilasters and other parts of the building display intricate floral and geometric decorations.

A structure that contains several shops buttresses the entire building at street level, contributing to its three-dimensional quality. According to reports, the dark crust layer that has accumulated beneath cornices and other decorative elements of this majestic building is to be removed. The restoration works that envisage the subdivision of some apartments to ensure that they meet the requirements of contemporary living, are foreseen in a planning application submitted by the Marquis Marcus Marshall’s The Vintage Company.
New 2021 executive for the FMLS

On its first newsletter for 2021, the Federation of Maltese Language Schools in Australia announced the formation of the new FMLS Executive that was elected uncontested in its AGM on December 6 through ZOOM. It is made up of: President: Edwidge Borg (VIC); V/President: Miriam Friggieri (NSW); Treasurer: Fred Flask, (ACT), and Secretary: Patricia Grech (QLD).

The FMLS Executive said it is always looking for fresh team members with experience in teaching Maltese in Australia, to assist it in its endeavours to support the Maltese Language maintenance in Australia.

Regarding the new scholastic year it states in its report that COVID-19 made the 2020 year a hectic and disruptive year, and that face-to-face classes required extra resources to comply with State COVID guidelines. Now all the schools are once again busy advertising the Maltese Language Classes in their community.

Some schools in NSW have embraced classes online combined with face-to-face classes where permitted, while in Victoria classes had to be made online using various software. The MCCV Maltese Language classes used ZOOM. Two licences were acquired to cater to all classes.

Meanwhile, The Council of Maltese Living Abroad (CMLA), has forwarded the following links https://malti.skola.edu.mt/:
malti-barranin/il-malti-ghall-barranin-primarja/smigh-mlb-primarja/

More material for the learning of Maltese can be downloaded from: malti.skola.edu.mt and on youtube at Agenzija Nazzjonali tal-Litterżmu.

Another interesting segment about the Maltese Language is, malti-il-bierah-illum-u-ghada https://www.tvm.com.mt/mt/tvmi/programmes/il-malti-il-bierah-illum-u-ghada/ which will be available only for a few days.

MALTESE LANGUAGE CERTIFICATE

The VCE/HSC Maltese is now not offered at Year 11, and it is the last year for Year 12 examination for Maltese. Work is being undertaken to study the viability of replacing this certificate with another recognised academic achievement.

On February 15 representatives from the various FMLS affiliated schools held virtual meeting and discussed several proposals. The meeting agreed to research the option available within the Education Department and the resources needed to sustainably offer this qualification to students wishing to achieve an academic qualification in Maltese.

A look back: Carnival of old in NSW

Carnival in Malta conjures many memories among members of the Maltese community in Australia. Before emigrating from Malta, several of them used to take an active part in the traditional celebrations and even participated in the decorated floats, companies in costume, dancing and other celebrations.

One of our avid readers sent us this photograph to remind us that way back in the sixties the Maltese community in NSW also celebrated Carnival in some form or another. The group in the photo were supporters of the Melita Eagles FC. The Beauty on the Beach participants toured various suburban halls, including a function at Leichhardt where they had to compete against a group wearing the traditional Maltese costume. The final decision as to the best carnival costume was not that well received.

Moreover, our reader remembers the commotion that the Beauty and the Beach costume caused at Kings Cross when the cars carrying the participants “stalled” and the guys and dolls had to push the car down the road with a police escort. We were unable to identify all the participants in this photo. Some are still with us today, such as Charles and Tessie Agius, Eddie and Mary Calleja, Lawrence and Marlene Dimch, Paul and Rose Mamo, the Frendo and Misud brothers and Carmen Meli-Cachia.

Can you name others? If so, get in touch with us at maltesevoice@gmail.com.
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 - 7.00pm. and Mondays 7.00 to 8.00 pm. Presenter: Emmanuel Brincat.

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

On SBS Radio
On Demand: Ethnic Maltese Council (11am)
Il-Hadd 11.00 am: l-ahbar ahbarijiet minn Malta, muzika, taghrift, kultura, avviz u suqgjet ta’ interessa.

SBS Radio 2 on Channel 38. Programmes can be accessed online (live/catch up) at: sbs.com.au/maltese (mobile), using the SBS Radio app.

For television news from Malta - SBS2 TV 32 (Viceland) on Thursdays every fortnight from 6 pm - 7 pm. Presenter: Nathalie Gatt.

Web streaming:

www.893fm.com.au
On Demand: Ethnic Maltese Council (11am)
Il-Hadd 11.00 am: l-ahbar ahbarijiet minn Malta, muzika, taghrift, kultura, avviz u suqgjet ta’ interessa.

SBS Radio 2 on Channel 38. Programmes can be accessed online (live/catch up) at: sbs.com.au/maltese (mobile), using the SBS Radio app.

For television news from Malta - SBS2 TV 32 (Viceland) 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 SBSTV Viceland HD Channel 32 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 Community Radio Adelaide: Maltese Programmes on SEBI 103.1 fm: Sunday: 7.30am; Monday: 8.00 am; Monday: 6.00 pm.

Contact: Bernadette Buhagiar: 0420 944 205. Email bernadettebuhagiar@gmail.com Ron Borg: 0418 843 850. Email ronborg@mac.com

97.9 FM Melton: Tuesday Meltese Programme: 6.00 To 8.00 pm Presenter Miriam Vella

Programmes on 89.3 Fm 2GLF
A Solid Gold: music programme with English and Italian timeless favourites Fridays 11.00am to 1.00 pm.

Maltese voices: One hour of Maltese talent, songs from Maltese artists. Sundays @ 12.00 pm to 1.00 pm. Also listen on “Tune in” by downloading app and search for the station 2GLF ~ 89.3 Fm - by Martheese Caruana

MALTESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL OF NSW

A division of the Maltese Community Council of NSW Inc.
Established in 1999

Learn Maltese
All age students are welcome to enrol in our classes held on Saturday mornings at Horsley Park, NSW.

Online classes are also available on Tuesday evenings and Saturday afternoons.

Applications are also welcome for paid positions from people to assist in language teaching and/or administration.

For more information, call 0419 476 924.

Email: malteselanguageschoolnsw@hotmail.com

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

Family law is our specialty.

• wills, powers of attorney,

• manage deceased estates, and provide purchase and sell property

• purchase and sell businesses.

• divorce, children, property,

• child support, intervention orders.

• Maltese Wills, Powers of Attorney

• Maltese Property matters.

Marlene Ebejer (speaks Maltese) is an accredited family law specialist.

Phone: 03 9741 1722

email reception@ebejerlawyers.com.au

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

La Valette Social Centre

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

The Centre is now open again two days a week, Thursdays, Saturdays

The Centre is a registered Covid-Safe Venue and all special requirements are in force including social distancing, restricted numbers, temperature taking, patron register and Covid-Marshal.

Flexible Respite is operating normally but Centre-Based Respite is restricted due to low numbers that can be transported.

Charlie’s Family Restaurant is open Thursdays and Saturdays for lunch and dinner.

Bocci pitches are operating again with some restrictions.

Bingo: Saturdays only at 8.00pm preceded by short Maltese movie at 7.30pm.

MASS: Thursday: 10.15am; Saturday: 5.30 p.m. (subject to availability of a priest.)

L-ahbarijiet tal-PBS (Malta)
Malta FA launches first-ever strategy for Maltese football

The Malta Football Association has launched its first ever strategy plan covering the period 2020–2024 intended to serve as the basis for its commitment to raise the standard of the game of football across all levels.

The plan, which is based on the ratification by the Association’s Executive Committee of the MFA president Bjorn Vassallo’s 2019 document Vision 2027 was also presented to Prime Minister Dr Robert Abela and later also to the Minister for Education Justyn Caruana.

Malta on the move

Parramatta Melita Eagles Sports Club Ltd, celebrating 65 years since its foundation in 1956 has its annual general meeting at their club-rooms at the Melita Stadium in South Granville on Sunday, March 14 at 10 am.

Mr Vassallo thanked the Government for its support, for football to maintain and strengthen its positive impact on society.

The Malta FA President Bjorn Vassallo (right) presenting the 2020–2024 Strategy plan to Prime Minister Dr Robert Abela

Malta Premier League 2020/21

Hamrun Spartans and Hibernians keep following each other at the top of the league ladder. However now have to contend with another challenger, Gzira United, who added two more points to their tally after being awarded a 3-0 win over Gudja United.

All three won their matches on the last two match-days, therefore Hamrun stay top with 50 points, two ahead of Hibernians, while Gzira are two points further behind on 46. An interesting situation!

The table toppers obtained a similar 2-0 result on Day 20, then in the weekend Hamrun had to work hard to beat Balzan 3-2 while Hibernians had a narrow 1-0 victory over Lija. The Spartans ahave won their last six matches, while Hibernians and Gzira are unbeaten in eight.

On the same day, after four consecutive defeats, Gudja, who had earlier been on the wrong end of a protest by Gzira, managed a 1-1 draw with Siema.

The Wanderers and Birkaikara dropped further points in their 2-2 draw on Saturday, which almost completely rules them out of a title challenge.

After only managing one point from their last previous four games, Valletta finally registered their first win under coach Antonio Jose Cardoso Mendes, then lost again against Birkirkara and again recovered with a 1-0 win over Sta Lucia.

After five draws from their previous six outings, Sta Lucia registered an impressive 7-0 win over Tarxien. Enzo Potenza was reappointed.

FA Trophy: End of the road for holders Balzan

Holders Balzan, League champions Floriana and Siema Wanderers were all knocked out of the FA Trophy. Their challenge was halted in the Round of 32.

Balzan lost 1-3 to Mosta; Floriana were eliminated by the same score by Sta Lucia, while Siema suggested a 1-0 loss to St Andrews from the Challenge League.

Gzira U. strengthen challenge to top two

After only managing one point from their last previous four games, Valletta finally registered their first win under coach Antonio Jose Cardoso Mendes, then lost again against Birkirkara and again recovered with a 1-0 win over Sta Lucia.

Struggling Floriana returned to winning ways after two months by defeating bottom team Senglea and then Gudja. The win against Senglea came after their elimination from the FA Trophy and the resignation of coach John Buttigieg who failed to register a win. Enzo Potenza was reappointed.

After five draws from their previous six outings, Sta Lucia registered an impressive 7-0 win over Tarxien. Enzo Potenza was reappointed.

The latter bounced back with a win after coach Steve D’Amato who took over from Winston Muscat.