

The Voice of the Maltese

(We are for the Greater Malta)

Issue 283

September 13, 2022

A fortnightly print and digital magazine

One of the beautiful narrow streets of Gozo's capital, Victoria

Readers, please note that we will now be taking a short break for summer, but will be back more energised with issue No. 284 on October 4

VisitMalta

Alex Vella, the Maltese Falcon exiled in Malta

The police war against bikies gangs is ongoing; it seems that nothing better makes the headlines for the news media in Australia. Maltese-born Alex Vella, now 69 years old, has been national president of the Rebels Outlaw Motorcycle Club for four decades. He is at present exiled in Malta.

Alex was born in 1953 in the village of Manikata and currently lives in the village of Mosta, a town in the northern region of this historical island, where he leads a normal life, at least from the outside.

He is enjoying his bikes and organising occasional rides with friends. He could also be seen at shopping centres and socialising with friends at the town's various cafeterias.

According to a report in a NSW newspaper, Alex celebrated his 50th year in the Rebels with a party with mates flying from all over the world. It's said that his forced exile had damaged the Rebels.

Police in Malta are adamant that since residing on the island they have no evidence that Alex has been involved in any illegal activity.

Although he had lived in Australia for 46 years, the millionaire businessman known as the Maltese Falcon, had never taken out Australian citizenship.

Alessio Emmanuel Vella, better known as Alex, immigrated to Sydney with his parents in 1967 at age of 14 and built his empire through hard work. He lived on two hectares in Horsley Park, 40km southwest of the Sydney CBD. He was a one-time light-heavyweight boxer. His older brother Joe was an Australian boxing champion. He even fought in Malta in the late seventies against then Maltese popular boxer Bertu Camilleri at the Gzira Stadium. in a match that attracted thousands of fans. He won that fight. Another of his brothers, Paul, was a Queensland champion.



Alex Vella in relaxing mood in Malta

Alex's nationality brought him many problems. The Liberal Government made an example of him by applying sections 501C and 503 3 of the Migration Act 1958.

Then minister Scott Morrison and later Peter Dutton did so by citing grounds that Vella did not pass the character test by virtue of his association with a group suspected of criminal conduct.

On the 13th of June 2014 while he was travelling overseas, and visiting Malta, his visa enabling him to return to Australia was cancelled and he was stranded at his birthplace, Malta.

The Australian Federal Court rejected his application to overturn the decision, and finally, last October, the High Court of Australia refused him leave to appeal.

Legally, it was the end of the road for Vella. His chosen country had effectively banished him forever, but his wife Heather and their four sons will not give up without a fight.

He recently lost his brother Gino, but since he is not allowed in Australia he could not make the funeral to mourn the loss.

His wife, Heather said: "He's an Australian, has worked hard all his life. He's paid millions of dollars in taxes, and he's given back to this country. He arrived here in 1967, and he loves this country.

"I'm an indigenous Australian, my family is from the Wiradjuri people around Dubbo in central western NSW, and I cannot go and live in Malta. This is our home.

"Just because there are club members who have done things illegal, that doesn't mean Alex has anything to do with it," she said.

His family says that Alex is a God-fearing, law-abiding family man who likes riding motorcyles with his mates.

In the eyes of the Australian Government Alex Vella is guilty by association. However, it is not natural justice to kick a person after having established roots in a country for 46 years and having raised a family there. If found guilty of acts committed in Australia, he should be judged in person in the country then exile could be considered.



Alex seen leaving court with his son Alex Jr (rear) **after winning a multi-million dollar lawsuit against the ANZ Bank in 2008**

Another service offered by The Voice of the Maltese providing legal information to our readers

When the contents of a will are challenged

'There is no possibility of mistaking midnight for noon; but at what precise moment twilight becomes darkness is hard to determine' - Lord Cranworth, 1857

by Paul**SANT**

Justice Hallen referenced the above citation in the opening paragraphs of his judgment on 6 May 2021 in *Starr v Miller*. Nancy Starr passed away at 72 years of age in May 2018, leaving four adult daughters who bitterly fought over her Estate, which was about $8,600,000. Two hearings were conducted over six days in relation to her Estate.

Nancy's final Will was made in 2012, and probate was granted expeditiously after her death in October 2018.

Background

Susan Starr (adult daughter of the deceased) commenced proceedings, putting forward a 2006 Will of her mother, seeking the court revoke the grant of probate made for the 2012 Will and issue a grant of probate on the 2006 Will.

Susan also filed a family provision claim in relation to the 2012 Will, in case her application for revocation of the 2012 Will was unsuccessful.

As the contents of the 2006 and 2012 Wills were different, Margo Miller (adult daughter of the deceased) filed a cross-claim for family provision, in the event that the 2012 Will was revoked. Belinda Atlee and Emma Buckley (adult daughters of the deceased) also filed a family provision claim.

An agreement was reached between all of the daughters, the morning that hearing was to commence.

Essentially, the 2006 Will left Nancy's Estate equally between her four daughters. Nancy later made her 2012 Will as she was desirous of upholding her late husband's wishes that the farm would remain a viable area.

The 2012 Will provided that Margo would retain the farm, being two properties worth just under $7,000,000, whilst her other assets would go between Susan, Belinda and Emma.

Decisions

Justice Hallen was required to decide whether Nancy had testamentary capacity at the time she made the 2012 Will, and if she knew and approved of the contents of the 2012 Will. Susan led evidence that the deceased had Alzheimer's disease.

The solicitor who prepared both the 2006 and 2012 Wills gave evidence. The witnesses to Nancy signing both Wills provided affidavits that satisfied the court both had been duly executed before two witnesses, as required by the *Succession Act 2006 (NSW)*.

Evidence was also provided by Nancy's accountant; a nurse who attended upon Nancy; and an Agricultural Consultant who had prepared a financial report for the farming operations run through Nancy's Trust.

A number of documents regarding Nancy's medical condition were filed in evidence. Both Nancy's accountant and lawyer filed supporting documents, going to the events that lead up to Nancy ultimately executing the 2012 Will.

Nancy advised her lawyer that she had been diagnosed with early-stage dementia at the time she called to make an appointment to update her Will. Her lawyer subsequently wrote to Nancy's GP of 12 years, requesting his opinion as to whether Nancy has sufficient capacity, to which the reply was affirmative.

The solicitor also recorded the meeting during which he read out the Will, and a transcript of that recording was filed forming evidence in these proceedings.

After consideration of all the evidence, Justice Hallen found that the deceased had capacity, and did know and approve the contents of her Will.

Margo's evidence contended that Nancy loved the rural way of life. Susan's evidence contended that Nancy was depressed for many years and had been a victim of domestic violence (perpetrated by her deceased husband).

He was also required to decide whether a family provision order from the deceased's estate should be made for Susan, and for Margo. As he found that the 2012 Will was upheld, it was unnecessary to determine Margo's cross-claim for provision that was to be in relation to the 2006 Will only.

He found that provision of $750,000 should be made for Susan, on the basis of her needs, current assets and financial resources, and that a wise and just will-maker would have made greater provision for an adult child when considering that adult child's own property is nominal.

In reaching that decision, Justice Hallen considered the deceased's wish for the two farming properties to be bequeathed to Margo, despite this providing an even greater share of her estate to Margo, noting that Nancy was entitled to provide different shares of her Estate between her children.

Subject to appeal

Susan was not satisfied with Justice Hallen's decision and lodged an appeal. She maintained that the 2012 Will should not be valid and that the court erred in finding that Nancy had capacity. She submitted five grounds of appeal, all of which were rejected by the three appellate court Judges. On 29 March 2022, Susan's appeal was dismissed and she was ordered to pay costs of the appeal.

We have provided you with an overview of the topic above but you should consult a professional for advice specific to your circumstances.

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Maltese Spoken

Stanley Melbourne Bruce – Australia's 8th Prime Minister

Resembled a silent movies star

Gentleman was the word most used to refer to The Right Honourable Stanley Melbourne Bruce (1st Viscount Bruce of Melbourne, CH, MC, PC, FRS) who served for six years as Prime Minister of Australia while he was the leader of the Nationalist Party.

With his smoothly brushed back hair and with the fashionable good looks he looked like a silent movie star. His contrast with his predecessor, Billy Hughes, could not be greater.



In office: 19th February 1923 to 22nd October 1929

Researched by Lawence***DIMECH***

Stanley Bruce was born into a briefly wealthy Melbourne family on 15 April 1883 in St Kilda, Victoria, a suburb of Melbourne, and was the youngest of five children. He disliked his given name and, throughout his life, preferred to be known by his initials "SM", even among close friends.

His wife Ethel called him simply "S". When he became prime minister, he issued a note to the press asking newspapers to use his initials and not his given name.

He studied at the University of Cambridge and spent his early life tending to the importing and exporting business of his late father.

Stanley Bruce served on the front lines of the Gallipoli Campaign in World War I and returned wounded to Australia in 1917, becoming a spokesperson for government recruitment efforts.

He gained the attention of the Nationalist Party and Prime Minister Billy Hughes, who encouraged him to embark on a political career. He was elected to the House of Representatives in 1918, becoming a member of parliament (MP) for the seat of Flinders.

Bruce was appointed as treasurer in 1921 before replacing Hughes as prime minister in 1923, at the head of a coalition with the Country Party.



A portrait of Stanley M Bruce ... resembling a silent movie star

His appointment as Prime Minister marked an important turning point in Australian political history. He was the first prime minister who had not been involved in the movement for the Federation, who had not been a member of a colonial or state parliament, and who had not been a member of the original 1901 federal parliament.

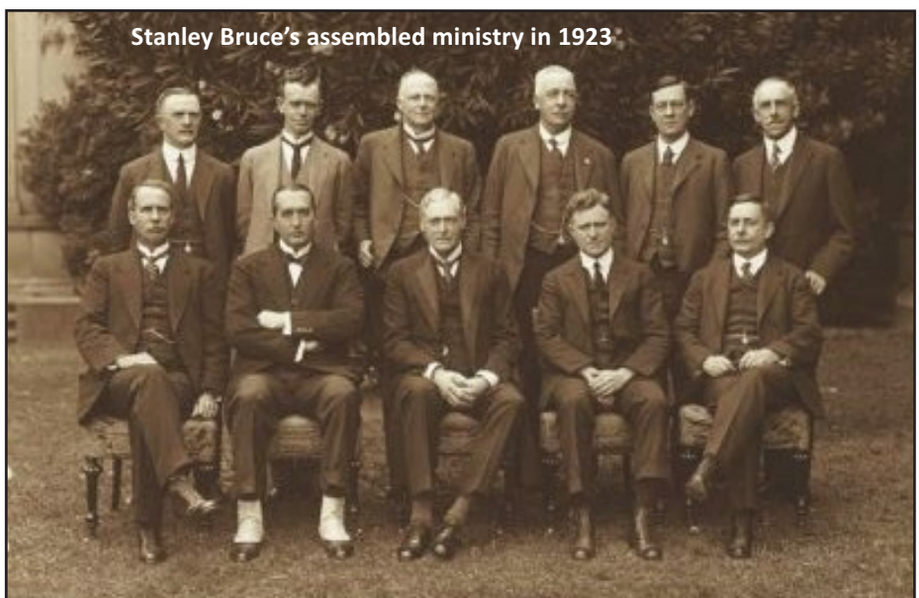
In addition, he was, the first prime minister to head a cabinet consisting entirely of Australian-born ministers. Yet Bruce himself was frequently caricatured in public as "an Englishman who happened to have been born in Australia".

He drove a Rolls Royce, wore white spats, and was often seen as distant and lacking the common touch: characteristics that did little to personally endear him to the Australian public.

In office, Bruce pursued an energetic and diverse agenda. He comprehensively overhauled the federal governing administration and oversaw its transfer to the new capital city of Canberra.

He also implemented various reforms to the Australian federal system to strengthen the role of the Commonwealth and helped develop the forerunners of the Australian Federal Police and the CSIRO.

Stanley M. Bruce's "men, money and markets" scheme was an ambitious attempt to rapidly expand Australia's population and economic potential through massive government investment and closer ties with Great Britain and the rest of the British Empire.



Stanley Bruce's assembled ministry in 1923

*Continued on page 5

The first sitting Prime Minister to lose his seat

**Continued on page 4*

However, his endeavours to overhaul Australia's industrial relations system brought his government into frequent conflict with the labour movement.

His radical proposal to abolish the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration in 1929 prompted members of his own party into crossing the floor to defeat the government.

In the resounding loss at the 1929 election, Bruce lost his own seat, making him the first sitting prime minister to lose his seat until John Howard's defeat in the 2007 election.

Although he returned to parliament in 1931, Bruce's service in the Lyons government was brief. Instead, he pursued an international career, accepting an appointment as High Commissioner to the United Kingdom in 1933.

He became an influential figure in British government circles and at the League of Nations, emerging as a tireless advocate for international cooperation on economic and social problems, especially those facing the developing world.

Particularly passionate on improving global nutrition, Bruce was one of the key figures in the establishment of the Food and Agriculture Organisation, serving as the first chairman of its governing council.

He was also the first Australian to sit in the House of Lords, as well as the first Chancellor of the Australian National University.

His diplomatic career went largely unnoticed in Australia, however, Bruce continued throughout his life in London to vociferously advocate for Australian interests (particularly during World War II) and asked that when he died his remains be scattered over Canberra.

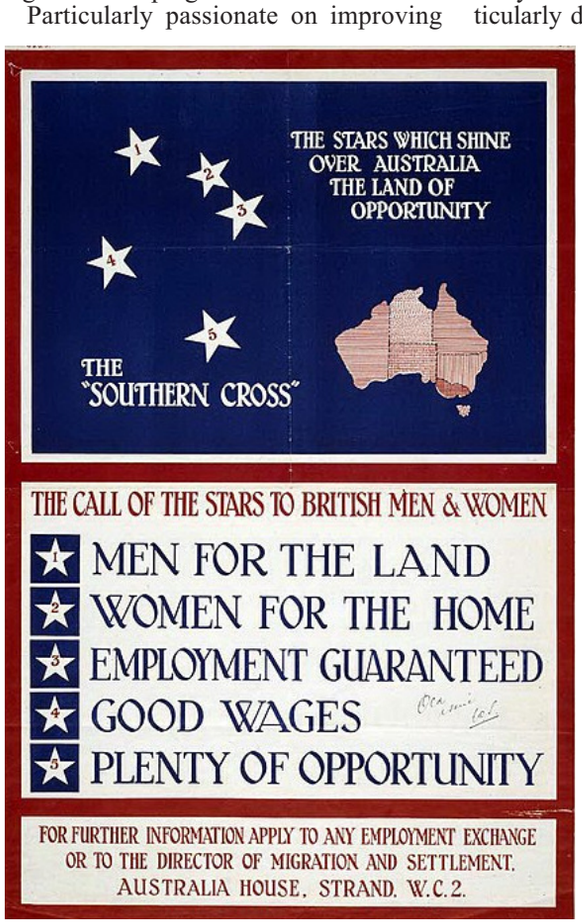
Although Stanley Bruce was an average student, he was extremely active in the sporting life of the school, captain of its Australian football team, and then of the school itself in 1901.



Stanley Bruce (left) **with John Latham, his Attorney-General and eventual successor as leader of the Nationalist Party**

Today, the school honours him with his own house, Bruce House, the colours of which are scarlet and white. The house's mascot is a lion, symbolising Bruce's bravery.

**In the next issue, we feature John Joseph Curtin. He served as Labour PM from 1941 to 1945. His honesty of purpose, strength of character, power of oratory and political acumen all mark him out as a great leader. He was from the state of Victoria.*



◀ **A Bruce Poster 1928**

Vale Louis Sacco 1931-2022

It is with great sadness to announce the death of Louis Sacco that occurred in Melbourne on the 13th August 2022.

Louis was born on the 13th March 1931. He arrived in Melbourne in 1954.

He played footall with Sliema Wanderers in Malta and with George Cross in Melbourne. His stepbrother Gejtu Sacco (il-Gaga), was an even more prominent member in the Wanderers' team. In Australia the Gaga brothers were both in the same team of George Cross.

His funeral was held at The Good Shepard Parish in Gladstone Park.



by Ron**Borg**

Malta's Fort Campbell: the last built by the British prior to World War II

I recently happened to come across a very interesting documentary on TV, titled *"World War II by drone – The Siege of Malta"* by Tony Robinson. I had seen several programmes in the past depicting the Siege of Malta in World War II, but this one was so well presented and informative that it captivated me.

It showed vividly the intricate underground tunnel network built by the Maltese people to shelter from the intense bombing, and also the incredible story of the Santa Maria convoy that saved the island from starvation when the fate of Malta hung by a thread.

Using aerial and underwater drones, experts explored the defences of Malta to describe how the island managed to survive. Most of it was not new to me. It was so explicitly presented, thanks to the contribution of Maltese archaeologist Prof. Timmy Gambin, and others.

Maltese history is so rich that every so often something new is always unravelled. One such was "Fort Campbell, a place with a British name that I hardly knew existed in Malta! It was the last of the British forts to be built on the island prior to the commencement of World War II.

Fort Campbell, known locally as *Il-Fortizza ta' Selmun*, is located on the Selmun peninsula, roughly halfway between Mistra Battery and the ruins of Għajn Ħadid Tower, facing St Paul's Islands. It was built to protect the approach to the bays of Mellieħa and St Paul's. It also protected British seaplanes that landed at Mistra Bay. The fort took over the role of Wardija Battery, which had been built in 1915. The British built it between 1937 and 1938.

Until World War 1, the main threat to the Maltese Islands came from the sea, therefore the fortifications built in the nineteenth century, and earlier, were constructed to resist and repel a naval invasion and bombardment.

By World War II, the major preoccupation facing the military authorities was still the sea, however, now fixed defences also had to counter the threat posed by aircraft. Seen from above, the formal outlines of major works of fortifications, with their polygon shape and ditches, thick parapets, and fixed emplacements, became obvious and vulnerable targets. Therefore, the modern fort now had to shield itself from aerial bombardment and be hidden from view to avoid detection.



Remains of Fort Campbell what used to be Gun emplacement and gun crew accommodation

Work on Fort Campbell probably began in December 1937; work was hurried after the Munich Agreement of September 1938. The British military engineers departed from the rigid manner of fortress construction employed in all the other forts in Malta and created a work of fortification that sought to integrate itself, rather than impose itself, on the landscape.

Like many of the others, this fort's main function was to protect the island from the sea, and its specific purpose was that of an 'Examination Battery, which meant, that it was designed to challenge enemy ships approaching the Grand Harbour from the north. To do this it was equipped with two 6-inch breech-loading coastal guns.

The novelty at Fort Campbell lies not in its armament or function, but in its design. It was very different from earlier fortifications in Malta, such as the bastioned forts built by the Knights of St. John and the Polygon-shaped forts built by the British in the 19th century.

Due to the new threat of aerial attacks, the manner in which both the defensive perimeter and the interior elements of the fort were laid out to blend in with the natural surroundings to escape the attention from the air.

The perimeter defences were constructed in the manner of a high boundary wall that was built in such a way as to mimic the surrounding rubble walls *(ħitan tas-sejjieħ)* that characterise most of Mellieħa's countryside. The perimeter wall was planned out in a large irregular enclosure and was laid out to blend into the surrounding terrain.

To defend the perimeter against assault, Fort Campbell had several fixed perimeter defence posts, some of which were concrete bunkers similar to the concrete pillboxes that began to appear around the bays and beaches at the time.

The concrete machine gun bunkers were incorporated within the perimeter wall at irregular intervals dictated by the change in direction of the trace of walls. The entrance to most of them was through a small, thick metal, two-flap door. Inside them were the machine gun tables on which the defensive armament was mounted.

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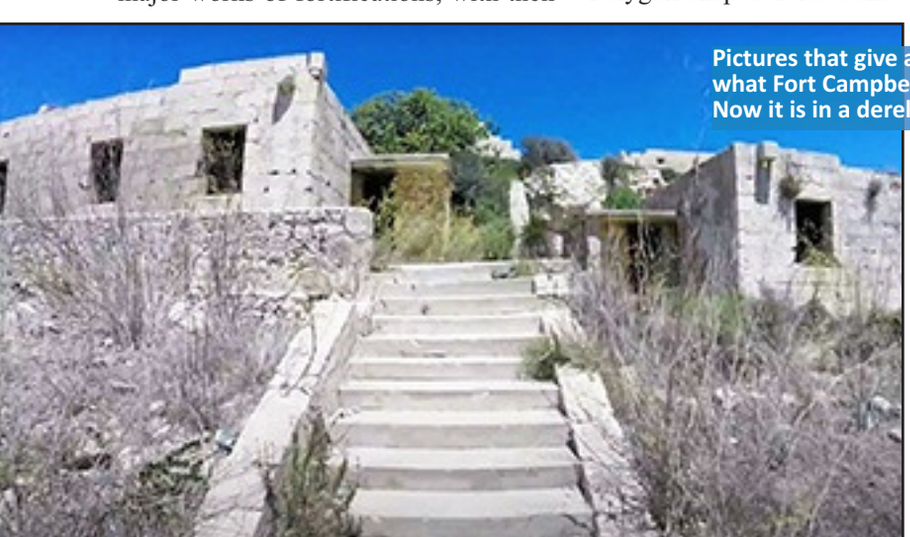

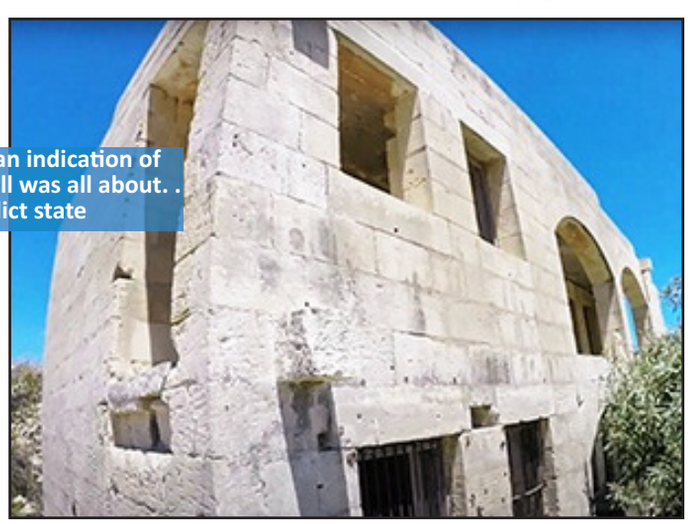

Pictures that give an indication of what Fort Campbell was all about. . Now it is in a derelict state



Now in a state of neglect but retains original features

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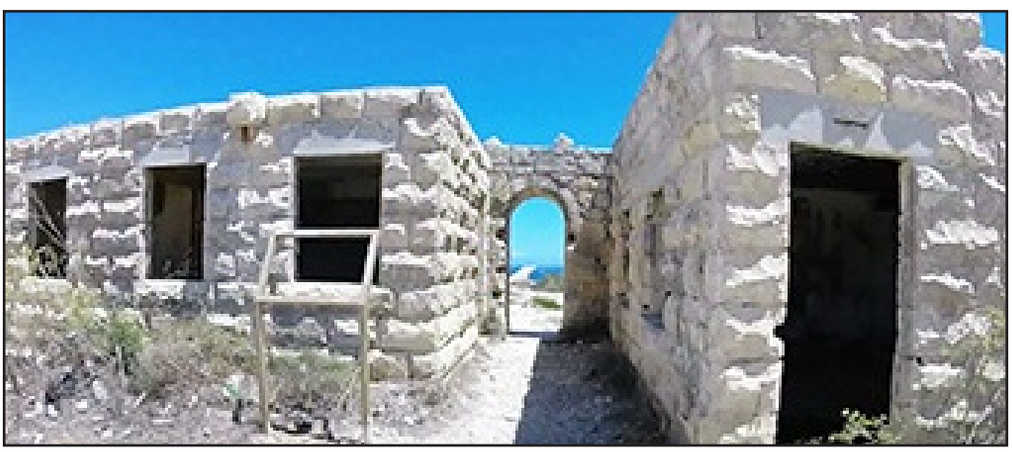


Its battery of two 6-inch coastal guns housed in two concrete barbette gun emplacements provided the offensive element of Fort Campbell. Its main advantage was that it provided them with wider fields of fire. It gave the gunners the advantage to be more exposed and thus more vulnerable to enemy fire. To counter this, most guns were fitted with protective metal turrets or overhead covers.

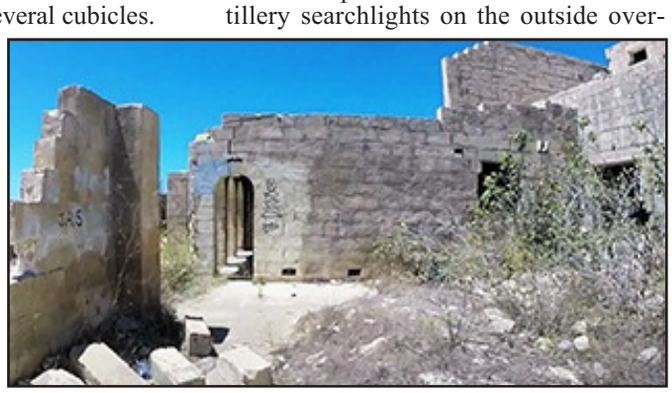
Just behind the gun pit each of the two concrete emplacements had a covered loading chamber, an underground magazine, and a partially underground accommodation for the gun crew. The loading chamber basically consisted of a single large room hugging the shallow gun pit, while the loading chamber contained various cubicles so shells and cartridges could be stored separately.

On the left-hand side of the loading chamber was a passageway leading to the underground accommodation consisting of three separate rooms each with its own doorway and one or two windows. On the right, stood the opening to the large underground magazine that was connected to several underground passages leading to the surface via vertical channels fitted with metal rungs.

The gun emplacement had two entrances. A third gun emplacement (No.3) housed another 6-inch breach-loading gun possibly for a heavy anti-aircraft gun, surrounded at the rear by a small ammunition magazine containing several cubicles.

Immediately to the rear of the gun emplacements was the nerve centre or command post, the Battery Observation Post (BOP). In 1943, the BOP was modified to support a roof-mounted Coastal Artillery Number 1 Mark 2 Radar.

The downward slope also led to an underground rock-hewn shelter that provided some protection during air raids. The fort was also equipped with an underground shallow concrete chamber capable of storing 10,000 gallons of water.



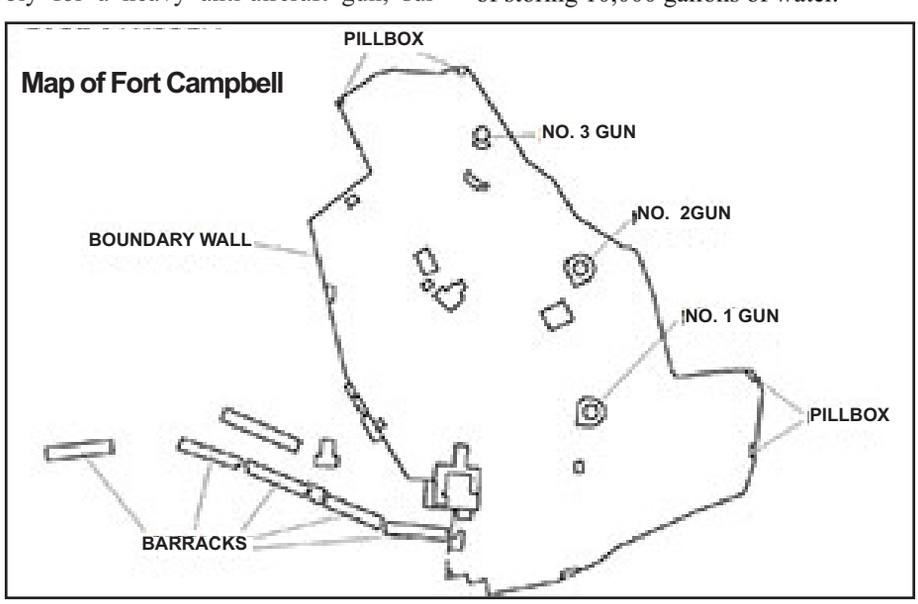
Fort Campbell also had three coastal artillery searchlights on the outside overlooking the St Paul's islands. They were scattered throughout the fort in such a way as to prevent clusters and identify patterns that could be picked up by enemy aircraft.

It also had several underground passages and chambers that helped to protect the troops from enemy fire and helped to reduce the concentration of buildings inside the fort, thus making Fort Campbell more invisible from the skies.

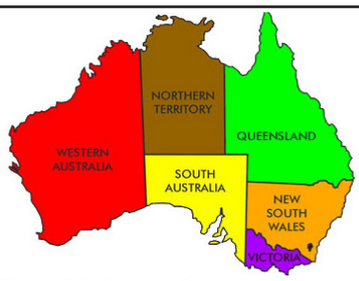
Barrack accommodation for the garrison constructed at a later stage during the war was located immediately outside the fort. It contained the barrack blocks, dining room, cookhouse, officer's mess, and other services.

Coastal artillery searchlights served to light up the entrance to Mellieħa Bay, St. Paul's Bay and the channel between Selmun and St. Paul's Isles. They were sheltered inside special concrete emplacements. When not in use, the apertures were closed off by steel shutters to protect them inside.

Since Fort Campbell was decommissioned, it has fallen into a state of neglect and disrepair, but it still retains most of its original features.



Have your say/Xi trid tgħid?



The Voice of the Maltese

Print & Digital magazine

This is a bi-lingual (in English and Maltese) fortnightly magazine that specifically targets all Maltese living abroad with emphasis on the Australian and Maltese scenes.

The magazine can be read in flip-book or PDF format online. A pdf copy is sent via email on request. Hard copy subscription is also available at a cost.

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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/thevoice-ofthemaltese

Your letters/ L-ittri tagħkom ...

With a Maltese Passport but not automatically a Maltese citizen

Marisa Previtera (CMLA) from NSW writes:

In answer to Joe C. Caruana's letter to the Editor (*The Voice* issue 282), I too am finding it difficult to accept that even though I was born in Malta to Maltese parents and have a current Maltese Passport; I am not automatically a Maltese citizen.

I am advised by the Consulate office that when the time comes for me to renew my passport, I have to fill out yet another form requesting the Government of Malta to confirm that I am indeed Maltese! This to me is bureaucracy gone mad!

What is the value of my Maltese Passport I ask, if I have to get a letter of confirmation that I am a Maltese citizen?

This "added requirement" is only causing unnecessary duplication of documents that are already held by the Maltese Government.

I will continue to challenge this unnecessary requirement until someone in the Government can simplify the renewal process.

Emigrants or migrants?

M. Spiteri from Cecil Park, NSW writes:

With reference to your splendid article, in the last issue, about Mons Philip Calleja, recently deceased, I think that the heading was a misnomer.

As you have kindly called him, Dun Philip was in fact the founder of the Emigrants Commission in 1950 when emigration from Malta was regarded as the safety valve.

In recent years, when refugees discovered Malta, the Emigrants Commission saw the pressing need and took that role as well. They became known as the Migrants Commission. Their head office is still aptly named as Dar l-Emigrant.

Ninsabu fl-istess ilma

Joe Dingli minn San Giljan, Malta jikteb:

Dejjem naqra b'interess *The Voice*. Ninnota dak li jingħad dwar il-BOV. Ara xi ħadd jaħseb li d-diffikultajiet u l-problemi qegħdin biss mal-Maltin li jgħixu barra. F'Malta ninsabu fl-istess ilma.

Minħabba li l-banek (mhux il-BOV biss hekk) waqqfu l-*fixed accounts* kollha, ħafna ma kienux jafu x'se jagħmlu bi flushom u spiċċaw poġġew flushom f'*unsecure bonds,* etc.

Din inqisha ħadma tal-banek biex in-nies titfa' flusha f'din il-kwalita' ta' *bonds* eċċ.

Nifhem xi jħossu l-Maltin ta' barra.

I love Australia but miss Malta

Peter Mallia from Smithfield NSW writes:

Don't get me wrong I dearly love Australia. When my family moved from Malta in the early sixties because my father found himself struggling and without a job, Australia proved to be the safety valve.

At the time I was only 11 and found it difficult to understand why the family had to uproot and deprive my two brothers, a sister and myself of all our friends to emigrate.

Later on I figured out the reasons and understood that the sacrifice that the family made was for the good of all of us.

Although at the outset we found it hard going, I never regretted it. We managed to survive and life has been good to us since.

We were given a chance in life and thanks to our parents we grabbed it with both hands. We are all doing well although my sister married a guy from Malta and returned to the island.

My wife and I are currently on holiday in Malta. This is our third visit. The last was six years ago. The island may be small but it must be the envy of much larger countries. Its inhabitants are not wanting for anything and they should be proud of their way of life.

Jobless are almost unheard of and unemployment is non-existent. When it comes to social services I doubt if there's any better country looking after its people.

I miss Malta and if I could I would return to live the rest of my life on this lovely island. What holds me back is my three kids and their five children living comfortably in Australia. I can't bear to be away from them.



Dr Hugh McDermott MP
State Member for Prospect

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BOV clarifies position in dealing with clients from the diaspora

After the Bank of Valletta managed to win the trust of the Maltese living in the diaspora, in recent times it mismanaged its relations with its clients in Australia, Canada and the rest of the diaspora, causing concerns and, at other times, even hardships.

For the last year, the Maltese communities have tried to intervene to rectify a situation that was mainly caused by the BOV bank in Malta when it established its forward branches in Melbourne (closed 2017) and Sydney (closed 2000).

The Maltese Community Councils of both NSW and Victoria had various discussions with the bank hierarchy to find a solution that would appease the anger of the diaspora's clients as they came forward with hundreds of complaints.

Finally, the aggressive efforts of the Maltese Councils supported wholeheartedly by The Voice of the Maltese managed to get positive results. The position as it stands right now is that:

To maintain a bank account with BOV, Maltese living abroad need to have a valid Maltese citizenship. If the passport is the only document that evidences this then it does need to be a current one.

If the accounts are blocked, once remediated, they will be reactivated. If the accounts are closed and the client still wishes to open a bank account with the Bank, it will need to open a new one.

If the account is closed and the money is held in suspense pending transmission instructions, the Bank will require details of the accounts where the money will be transferred out.

If a previous account holders wish to reopen an account with the BOV, it is suggested that they initiate the request with the Bank so that they will be assigned to a Universal Banker to handle their request.

It is our view that these latest arrangements achieved after so many negotiations are a better deal for the Maltese citizens in Australia and elsewhere.

The Maltese community is grateful to the Maltese Community Councils of NSW and Victoria for their interventions in this matter that had caused so much anxiety and concern.



High Commission & Consulates of Malta in Australia

High Commission of Malta - Canberra

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The Queen (Elizabeth II) is dead ... Long live the King (Charles III)

Tributes from world leaders poured in paying tribute to the UK monarch and the other Commonwealth realms, Queen Elizabeth II on her death on Thursday 8th September at the age of 96. The longest-living and longest-reigning monarch in Britain's history died – 1952-2022 – at Balmoral Castle in Scotland, following medical supervision by her doctors.

Although less active in her final years, especially after the death of husband Prince Philip in April last year, the Queen, who was officially the Head of State, among others, of Australia and New Zealand still commanded great respect. She was also the Queen of Malta until 13 December 1974 when Malta became a republic within the Commonwealth with the President as head of state.

Besides her funeral, Britain has set 19 days of mourning for the woman described as the Rock on which the modern Britain was built. Her funeral will take place on 19th September

Immediately after the announcement of her death, her eldest of four siblings, Charles, succeeded her to the throne as Charles III.

Queen Elizabeth, who got married in 1947 had a lot of love for both, Australia, which she visited on 16 occasions, and New Zealand. However, she reserved a special place for Malta in her heart where she lived her first two years of married life (in Gwardamanġa), in 1949 and 1951 with her husband the Duke of Edinburgh. She later confessed that those were the happiest days of her married life. She visited Malta on five other occasions, the last in 2015.

So much has been written about Queen Elizabeth since her death that it is very difficult to unearth anything new about her.

While Charles III has been conferred as the new monarch with all the responsibilities it entails, we believe it is interesting to focus on something that might have gone unnoticed, OPERATION LONDON BRIDGE, Britain's plan for when the Queen dies. Codenamed Operation LONDON BRIDGE and long shrouded in secrecy it was revealed after the Queen's death.

Snippets had trickled out over the years, from suggestions that the prime minister would be alerted by a phone call from a civil servant telling him or her *"London Bridge is down,"* to reports the death will be announced via a newsflash on the Press Association wire.

They reveal plans drawn by the Cabinet Office for the prime minister and his Cabinet to meet the queen's coffin at St. Pancras station, and for the new King Charles to embark on a tour of the UK in the days before the funeral.

They include details of Operation LONDON BRIDGE and Operation SPRING TIDE — the plan for Charles' accession to the throne, and the schedule for the 10 days between the queen's death and her funeral, some of them even considered banal.

There is so much details. Hereunder are the details for 'D-Day' the day of the Queen's death.

In the hours after the queen's death, a "call cascade" will take place informing the prime minister, the cabinet secretary (Britain's highest-ranking civil servant) and a number of the most senior ministers and officials.

The PM will be informed by the queen's private secretary, who will also tell the Privy Council Office, which coordinates government work on behalf of the monarch.



Queen Elizabeth II and Duke of Edinburgh relaxing at their Villa Guardamanġa in the early fifties

Internally, the day of the Queen's death to be referred to as "D-Day." Each following day leading up to the funeral will be referred to as "D+1," "D+2" and so on.

The royal household will issue an "official notification" delivering the news to the public.

The royal family will announce plans for the queen's funeral to be held 10 days following her death.

The prime minister will be the first member of the government to make a statement. All other members of the government will be instructed not to comment until after the PM has spoken.

The Ministry of Defence to arrange for gun salutes at all saluting stations. A national minute's silence will be announced.

The prime minister will then hold an audience with the new king, and at 6 pm, King Charles will deliver a broadcast to the nation.

At the same time, there will be a service of remembrance at St. Paul's Cathedral in the heart of London. The prime minister and a small number of senior ministers will attend.

A call script for departmental permanent secretaries outlining how to break the news to their ministers instructs them to say: "We have just been informed of the death of Her Majesty The Queen." Ministers will be told, "discretion is required."

Ministers and senior civil servants will also receive an email from the cabinet secretary, a draft of which reads: "Dear colleagues, it is with sadness that I write to inform you of the death of Her Majesty The Queen."

Upon receipt of this email, flags across Whitehall will be lowered to half-mast. The aim is that this can be done within 10 minutes.

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Tal-Lampuki hawn!

Bħalissa f'Malta ninsabu fl-istaġun tal-lampuki, bla dubju l-aktar ħuta għall-ikel popolari f'dawn iż-żmienijiet tas-sena fost il-Maltin u li saret ukoll imfittxija ħafna mit-turisti li għalkemm jistgħu jsibuha bl-Ingliż bħala pilot fish jew dolphin fish, ġeneralment fir-ristoranti Maltin jitolbu għaliha bl-isem proprju tagħha bil-Malti.

Skont it-tradizzjoni fil-festa ta' San Lawrenz fl-10 ta' Awwissu l-kappillan tar-raħal tas-sajjieda l-aktar magħruf f'Malta, Marsaxlokk, jitla' fuq luzzu u jittieħed idur il-bajja jbierek id-dgħajjes/luzzijiet u lill-istess sajjieda li jkunu se joħorġu għas-sajda tal-lampuki.

Ġeneralment, l-għada, min kmieni fil-għodu jibda x-xogħol tas-sajjied, l-aktar dak li ħobżu hu minn dan ix-xogħol iebes li jagħmel is-sena kollha.

Fl-ibħra Maltin il-lampuka tpassi bejn Mejju u Diċembru meta jkunu majnaw il-maltempati tax-xitwa u t-temperaturi ta' wiċċ il-baħar ikunu bdew jogħlew.

F'dan ż-żmien tas-sena is-sajjieda Maltin primarjament joħorġu għas-sajda tal-lampuki li bejn Ġunju u Ottubru dawk maturi jkunu bdew jirrilaxxaw il-bajd. Jistgħu jipproduċu sa 195,000 bajda.

Fl-ewwel jum tas-sajda għal-lampuki s-sajjieda joħorġu mill-port minn kminei fil-għodu biex tibda l-ħidma proprja, bl-istess tħejjijiet li jagħmlu ta' kull sena.

Kuntrarju għal kif jaħsbu ħafna l-lampuka mhix biss ħuta li jistadu għaliha l-Malti jew li tinstab biss fil-Baħar Mediterran.

Hi ħuta li tfeġġ qrib wiċċ tal-ilma u hi meqjusa bħala ħuta migratorja li tpassi mal-kurrenti ta' temperaturi sħan u tinstab f'ibħra tropikali u subtropikali madwar id-dinja, fosthom fl-Oċean Paċifiku, fl-Atlantiku, u dak Indjan.



Il-lampuki jiġu mqiegħda fil-kavetti biex jinbigħu fil-ħwienet u fit-toroq Maltin

Is-sajd għal-lampuki jsir b'żewġ modi. Fil-bdu tal-istaġun, għal dawk kbar isir bil-konzijiet tal-qiegħ bħala qabda aċċidentali fis-sajda tat-tonn u l-pixxispad, imbagħad bejn Awwissu u Diċembru jsir bil-mod tradizzjonali tal-kannizzata.

Il-kannizzata tkun magħmula minn lenza twila li tkun marbuta ma' kantun tal-franka f'qiegħ il-baħar, li jservi ta' ankra biex tibqa' fil-post, u ma' sufra fil-wiċċ tal-ilma, marbutin flimkien ma' weraq tal-palm li jipprovdu kenn għal diversi speċi ta' ħut, fosthom għal-lampuki li jinġabru fi gruppi kbar taħt il-kannizzati ħalli mhux biss jistkennu mix-xemx imma wkoll jieklu l-ħut iż-żgħir.

Bil-ħut taħt il-kannizzati s-sajjieda jitfgħu rixa qrib il-kannizzata. Meta l-lampuka tinqabad, teħel mar-rixa u tinġibed ftit 'il barra mill-kannizzata ħalli l-ħut l-ieħor joħroġ warajha.

Dan isir biex is-sajjieda jkunu jistgħu jikkalkulaw kemm ikunu nġabru lampuki madwar dik il-kannizzata, u jiddeċiedu jekk ikalawx ix-xibka jew imorrux fuq il-kannizzata li jmiss. Il-lampuki jinqabdu billi jiġu mdawwra b'xibka li tingħalaq mill-qiegħ ħalli ma jkunux jistgħu joħorġu.

Wara li s-sajjieda jidħlu lura max-xatt, bil-lampuki ppustjati fil-kavetti, id-Dipartment tas-Sajd u l-Akkwakultura jiġbor it-tagħrif bijoloġiku u soċjo-ekonomiku dwar il-qabda ta' din l-ispeċi u wara jgħaddih lill-Kummisjoni Ewropeja biex hekk jintlaħaq l-għan tal-immaniġġjar sostenibbli bejn l-Istati Membri u sajjieda tal-Mediterran li jistadu għal din l-ispeċi b'mod kummerċjali.

Sadanittant, is-sajjieda jkunu jistgħu jbiegħu huma stess linnies, inkella lil bejjiegħa oħra tal-ħut li jixtruh mill-pixkerij. Fost dawn ikun hemm lukandi u sidien ta' ristoranti. Fil-waqt li Maltin oħra jistennew bil-ħerqa lill-bejjiegħa tat-triq, ħerqana li jisimgħu l-għajta ta' *TAL-LAMPUKI HAWN, FRISKI ĦAJJIN!*

Wara jeħduhom id-dar għas-sajran kemm jekk imżejna fuq platt, inkella ġo xi torta.



Ir-ritwal ta' kull sena fir-raħal tas-sajjieda, Marsaxlokk: it-tberik tradizzjonali tad-dgħajjes qabel is-sajda

Roundup of News About Malta


Malta's Finance Minister Clyde Caruana

Again no taxes; energy subsidies will continue

The government has tried to keep the cost of living down in the past months by introducing energy subsidies and other measures to alleviate the economic effects caused by the Ukraine war. He also promised not to burden the people, the commercial community on the consumer with any new taxes when it presents the next budget for the coming year in October.

This was stated by Finance Minister Clyde Caruana at the start of a meeting of the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development, MCESD. He also stated that the Government would not be placing any direct shocks on the economy in order to make up for the cost of living caused mainly by the economic effects caused by the Ukraine war.

Minister Caruana pointed out that, for the coming budget, the obligatory compensation (COLA) is expected to be between €9 and €10 a week. He added that if it weren't for the Government energy subsidies that it has introduced, the COLA compensation would reach €25 a week.

He said that Malta's financial situation can confront the challenges and rebutted claims that national debt would increase.

He added that despite the assistance the Government gave to the people during the pandemic the country's debt is still under 60%, which compares favourably with other countries members of the EU, and in fact, debt is expected to remain around the same percentage.

The Government would continue to subsidize energy, and Dr Caruana said that now, the European community will be adopting a similar policy

The government aims to keep the deficit at the level of 5.5% and 5.8% of GDP and that the next Budget would again be a social one protecting the vulnerable.

InvestEU funds for small, medium-sized businesses

Minister for the Economy, European Funds and Lands Silvio Schembri said following the unprecedented adverse effects on the global economy resulting from COVID-19 and the more recent political turmoil between Ukraine and Russia, he believed that the InvestEU programme is an important instrument to help in Europe's economic recovery.

Launching the InvestEU programme in Malta, making EU funding simpler to access and more effective, EIB Vice President Gelsomina Vigliotti said it was an instrument that serves for all EU countries, regardless of the size of their economy, and boosts the vibrant start-up ecosystem both in Malta and in Europe.

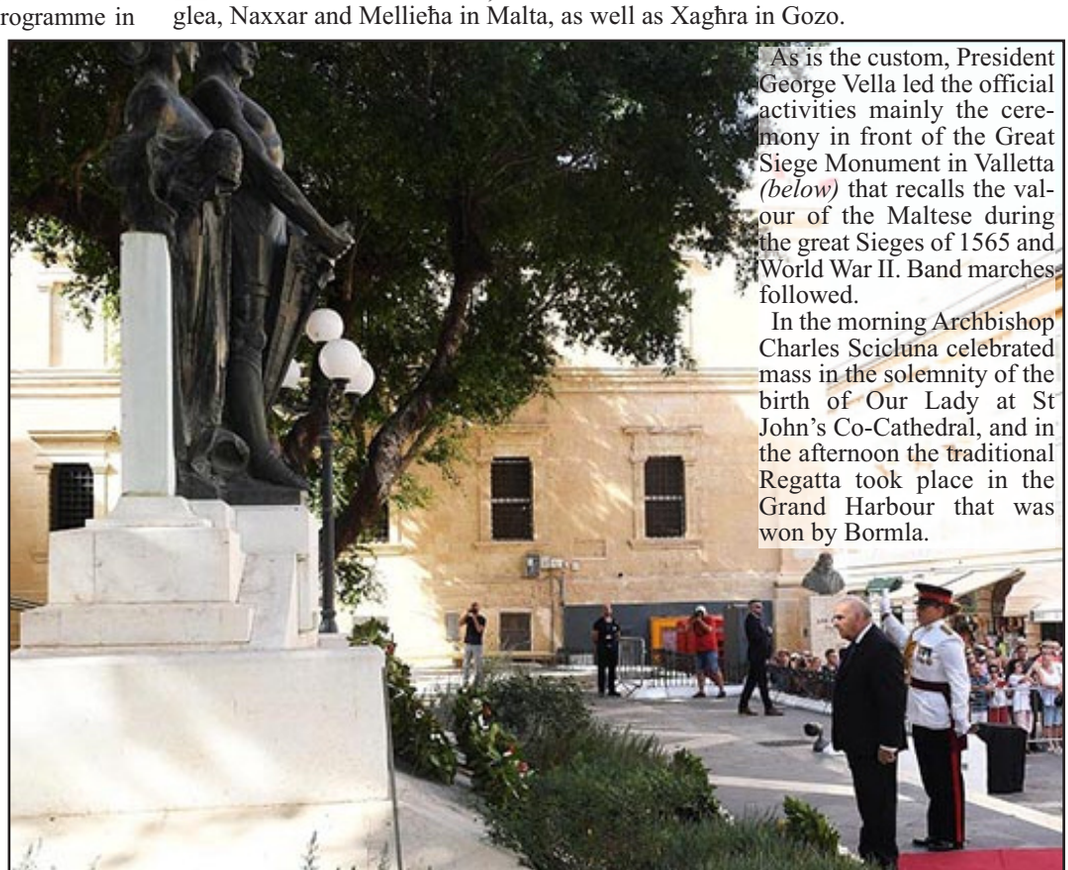
Minister Schembri said, "We have strived to bolster financing of projects that deal in sustainable energy, launched numerous initiatives and provided tangible aid that encourages connectivity, the digitisation of industry, and laid the groundwork for AI and Blockchain, and emergent technologies.

"we have not only sought to instil peace of mind within our business community during such adverse circumstances, but have worked and planned for a strong and rapid recovery".

He urged businesses to continue to utilise such funds for further resilience and to build solid foundations for future investments.

Commemorating Victory Day (8th September)

Last Thursday Malta commemorated Victory Day (8th September), a national feast also known as il-Bambina, a titular feast that is celebrated in four localities: Senglea, Naxxar and Mellieħa in Malta, as well as Xagħra in Gozo.



As is the custom, President George Vella led the official activities mainly the ceremony in front of the Great Siege Monument in Valletta *(below)* that recalls the valour of the Maltese during the great Sieges of 1565 and World War II. Band marches followed.

In the morning Archbishop Charles Scicluna celebrated mass in the solemnity of the birth of Our Lady at St John's Co-Cathedral, and in the afternoon the traditional Regatta took place in the Grand Harbour that was won by Bormla.

Roundup of News About Malta

Ensuring the protection of people and businesses



At an urgent meeting of European Union Energy Ministers in Brussels to address energy crisis and to continue to discuss possible measures that could mitigate the effects of this situation, Malta's Minister for the Environment, Energy and Enterprise Miriam Dalli pointed out the importance of ensuring the protection of our people and businesses.

She said that any EU measures implemented should be beneficial for all Member States and do not burden people and businesses with additional costs

Minister Dalli advocated for the introduction of a price cap on gas that is used for electricity generation. As this could be the most successful proposal if complemented with measures that can ensure that there will be no further gas shortages.

She said that this is seen as a measure that can actually mitigate the wholesale price of electricity, and reiterated that any proposal suggesting a mandatory electricity demand reduction that hurts both people and European economies should be avoided.

This was in particular the case for a country like Malta that is dependent on electricity for its activities.

Malta has already started rolling out measures to ensure energy saving in public buildings and entities, and work is currently underway for such measures to be adopted by the private sector whilst public campaigns will be addressing households too.

In the face of this crisis, Minister Dalli told her European counterparts that it was time to accelerate the much-needed investment in clean energy infrastructure across Europe and called on to the European Commission to invest in the transition to green energy as much as it did during the financial crisis, where €3.2 trillion were invested to inject liquidity in European banks over an 8-year period.

Malta Business Awards set for October 28

Malta Enterprise, in collaboration with the Chamber for Small and Medium Enterprises is organising the first edition of the Malta Business Awards on 28th of October at the Mediterranean Conference Centre in Valletta.

The Awards, honouring businesses in various categories, would be divided into: the social impact of enterprises, green initiatives, Best in Business and innovation, and digitalisation.

Over 20 awards will be given to enterprises from various sectors including tourism, whilst also incorporating different elements such as start-ups, female entrepreneurship, apprenticeship, and solutions targeted at climate change as well as sustainable processes.

Keywords setting operations in Malta

International technical services provider to the global video games industry, Keywords Studios, is seting up operations in Malta.

Established in 1998, it employs 11,000 people with over 70 facilities in 24 countries, Keywords Studios is strategically located in Asia, Australia, the Americas, and Europe. Its first earmarked studios for Malta expansion will be USA-based Sperasoft followed by the UK-based Electric Square.

Minister for the Economy, European Funds and Lands Silvio Schembri said that Malta's vision to position Malta as home of gaming excellence across the multiple gaming verticals is bearing fruit.

The island's investment in education, a start-up incubator space, and an international drive to promote the Malta jurisdiction as a video game and esports hub spearheaded by the GamingMalta Foundation is resulting in blue-chip organisations.

Keywords' CEO said they were impressed with the government's investment in the video gaming sector and customer-centric approach spearheaded by the GamingMalta Foundation and feel the island is a natural fit for strategic vision and a welcoming home to their talented game development teams.

The return of Notte Bianca this October 1

After a two-year hiatus, on Saturday 1st October, the popular activity, *Notte Bianca* will be making a grand return with an exciting programme that contains various art forms and performances of the highest calibre by 584 local and international artists and more than 50 artistic events.

Underlining the importance of N*otte Bianca* for the cultural sector, Minister for the National Heritage, the Arts and Local Government Owen Bonnici *(right)* described the event as "a continuous, direct investment in the cultural sector, which continues to evolve this platform in a way that makes it more accessible to artists and our society."

He pointed out that the aim of this festival centres around nurturing awareness and appreciation for the identity and culture of Malta and Valletta, whilst embracing the cultural value in people's lives.

The programme will also offer the opportunity for both local and international artists to showcase their talents.

Festivals Malta Chairman Aaron Zahra said that now that *Notte Bianca* will return it would continue to offer opportunities to various local artists and offer entertainment, as well as educational and artistic value

Festivals Malta CEO Annabelle Stivala explained that during *Notte Bianca* Valletta would have something going on in every corner.



Connecting with the Universe

From the next issue of The Voice, medium, psychic and mentor Tracey Dimech will start revealing how to connect with the universe when it's trying to tell you something.



Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri



Sussidju jew le?



Meta konna qed nieħdu ftit tar-ruħ wara sentejn tal-epidemija tal-Covid-19 u konna qed inħarsu lejn ħajja aktar "normali", inqala' saram ġdid: l-invażjoni tar-Russja fl-Ukranja.

Kif jaf kulħadd din l-aggressjoni ġabet magħha mhux biss kundanni, imma wkoll sanzjonijiet minn kważi n-naħat kollha tal-Ewropa, li għamlithom għax ġie rraġunat li b'hekk jistgħu jwasslu lir-Russja li tmur fuq il-mejda għal diskussjonijiet biex tieqaf din l-invażjoni.

Dan ma seħħx biss għax ir-Russja mhux biss baqgħet għaddejja bl-invażjoni, iżda biex fin fin tibda tnaqqas l-ammont ta' gas li bdiet tforni bih lill-Ewropa.

Il-pass spiċċa biex kompla mal-għoli tal-ħajja li kien diġà qed jaħkem lill-pajjiżi Ewropej minħabba din il-gwerra. U l-prezz tal-gass beda jiżdied kuljum, bir-riżultat li l-kontijiet tal-enerġija għall-Ewropej tela' mas-smewwiet. Fl-Ingilterra il-kontijiet mistennija jogħlew bi 80%

Agħar minn hekk il-fatt li d-dipendenza tal-Ewropa fuq il-gass Russu tant hi kbira, li hemm il-biża' li l-Ewropa tista' tispiċċa mingħajr provvista' ta' gass biżżejjed, u hemm min qed ibassar li f'ċerti postijiet lanqas se jkollhom enerġija biżżejjed biex issaħħnu d-djar tagħhom fil-jiem tax-xitwa li resqin għalihom. Uħud mill-pajjiżi saħansitra diġà bdew jippruvaw jikkontrollaw il-konsum tal-enerġija biex jiffrankaw il-gass.

Biss anke jekk se jkun hemm l-enerġija meħtieġa, xi familji xorta mhux se jkun jistgħu jsaħħnu d-djar tagħhom kemm jixtiequ minħabba li l-prezz tal-enerġija żdiex u qed jissokta jiżdied bil-kbir.

Is-sitwazzjoni f'Malta hija xi ftit differenti minn tal-bqija tal-Ewropa, mhux għax Malta mhix qed tiġi milquta' mill-għoli fil-prezzijiet tal-gass u fjuwil ieħor, imma għax il-Gvern indaħal biex iżomm il-prezzijiet baxxi.

Infatti f'Malta t-tariffi tal-enerġija u tal-fjuwil għall-karozzi għadhom l-istess bħal ma kien qabel ma faqqgħet din il-gwerra. Din xi ħaġa li setgħet issir minħabba li l-Gvern qed jagħmel tajjeb għal-għoli tal-gass u l-fjuwil (fosthom tal-elettriku u l-petrol tal-karozzi) hu.

Dan il-gvern qed jagħmlu billi d-differenza tal-ispiża jħallasha hu f'sussidji lill-EneMalta u b'hekk il-prezz jibqa' kif kien qabel il-kriżi.

Fl-ewwel sena s-sussidju tela' għal €200miljun, filwaqt li dis-sena mistenni jilħaq €250 miljun u qed jiġi mbassar li jekk il-gwerra tkompli n-nefqa f'sussidji saħansitra tlaħħaq l-€400 miljun fis-sena.

Filwaqt li, probabbilment il-maġġoranza tal-poplu taqbel ma' din is-sistema, hemm min isostni li l-Gvern ma jistax ikompli b'din is-sistema bla ma joħloq dejn kbir. Jgħidu wkoll li mhux sewwa li dawk li jifilħu jħallsu huma wkoll qed jiġu ssussidjati mill-poplu, għalhekk jinsistu li l-Gvern għandu jsib sistemi biex min jiflaħ iħallas, iħallas.

Waħda mis-sistemi li qed jiġu suġġeriti hija dik li l-Gvern jagħmel faxxa kemm għall-individwi, familji u anke industriji fejn it-tariffi jibqgħu kif inhuma, imma min jaqbeż dil-faxxa jibda jħallas b'tariffa ferm ogħla, it-tariffa tas-suq, jiġifieri kemm propju qed tiswa l-enerġija.

Min-naħa tiegħu l-Gvern jinsistni li kieku ma kienx għas-sussidju l-ekonomija Maltija setgħet tmur il-baħar, in-nies kien ikollhom inqas flus fil-but x'jonfqu, jikber sew il-faqar u l-qagħad, u l-industrija tmur lura.

Allura min għandu raġun?

Tariffi l-orħos fl-Ewropa

Permezz tas-sussidju li l-Gvern qed jagħti lill-EneMalta biex tibqa żżomm it-tariffi u l-prezzijiet tal-enerġija l-istess tariffi u prezzijiet għall-enerġija u l-fjuwil, wassal biex skont l-aħħar stħarriġ, f'dan is-settur Malta għandna l-inqas prezzijiet fl-Ewropa. Infatti dawn huma daqs nofs tal-medja tal-Ewropa.

L-intervent tal-Gvern wassal biex filwaqt li fil-pajjiżi Ewropej il-poplu qed kulma jmur ikollu jħallas prezzijiet dejjem għolja għall-enerġija, f'Malta l-poplu baqa' jħallas l-istess tariffi u prezzijiet ta' qabel "il-kriżi".

Qed anzi jiġi kkalkulat li kieku l-poplu kellu jħallas il-prezz propju, kien ifisser li ras għal ras, il-familji kien ikollhom joħorġu mill-inqas elf u seba' mitt Ewro aktar fis-sena.

Ta' min jgħid li l-Gvern Malti rnexxielu wkoll jinnegozja b'suċċess deroga minn regolament obbligatorju tal-Kummissjoni Ewropea biex l-Istati membri tal-Unjoni Ewropea jnaqqsu sostanzjalment l-użu tagħhom tal-gass bi ħmistax fil-mija.

Din il-kriżi tal-enerġija qed twassal biex filgħaxijiet u mal-lejl, bliet madwar l-Ewropa qed jintfew kompletament ħalli jnaqqsu l-konsum tal-elettriku.

Min-naħa l-oħra ma jfissirx li l-poplu Malti m'għandux xorta jagħmel sforz biex ma jaħlix elettriku u juża' inqas fjuwil ħalli dan kollu jgħin biex is-sussidju li joħroġ il-Gvern, li fuq kollox fil-biċċa l-kbira ġej mit-taxxi li nħallsu l-Maltin, jinżamm f'livell aċċettabbli.

Il-Gvern diġà qed jagħti eżempju billi ħareġ struzzjonijiet ċari lill-entitajiet statali li permezz tagħhom mistenni li jkun hemm inqas konsum tal-elettriku. Imma baqa' lura milli jimponi dawn ukoll fuq il-poplu u s-settur privat.



Deċiżjonijiet mir-Russja se jwasslu għal kirżi tal-enerġija, l-aktar fl-Ewropa

Mix-xena tal-ħajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri



Isir l-ewwel *Pride March* f'Għawdex

Għad hawn ħafna li għandhom l-impressjoni li l-poplu Għawdxi għadu aktar konservattiv minn dak Malti u allura għadu joffri ċerta reżistenza għal xi bidliet, l-aktar u l-aktar dawk li direttament jew indirettament għandhom x'jaqsmu mar-reliġjon.

Għalhekk, il-fatt li għall-ewwel darba ftit tal-jiem ilu f'Għawdex sar l-Pride March,organizzat mill-LGBT+GOZO kien meqjus bħala avveniment storiku u ta' suċċess kbir.

Saħansitra,'xi ġurnali sostnew li "Il-jum tas-Sibt 3 ta' Settembru 2022 se jitniżżel fl-istorja bħala jum importanti għaliex f'Għawdex ittella' l-ewwel Pride March"

Saħansitra, il-kelliema għad-Drittijiet Ċivili, Claudette Buttigieg, il-kelliem għal Għawdex, Alex Borg, u l-President tal-FOIPN, Jamie Vella f'isem il-Partit Nazzjonalista ferrħu lill-LGBTI+ Gozo u lill-parteċipanti kollha u awguraw li l-messaġġ #LiveYourTruth ma jkunx biss slogan imma t-twettieq ta' realtà.

Dan juri li jekk kien hemm bidla f'partit politiku (PN) li, sa ċertu żmien ma tantx kien favur ċerti bidliet li għamel il-Gvern f'dan il-qasam, kif jista' jkun li ma jkunx hemm bidla wkoll fil-poplu Għawdxi... jew aħjar dawk li jgħixu f'Għawdex, għax illum l-għadd ta' Maltin (fuq kollox anke l-Għawdxin huma Maltin) u barranin li jgħixu Għawdex kiber sew.

Iż-żminijiet inbidlu u magħhom inbidlu wkoll xi kulturi. Huma biss il-ftit li għad għandhom rashom marbuta u ma mxewx maż-żmijiet... għalkemm dan fih it-tajjeb tiegħu u kultant ukoll il-ħażin.

Il-Maltin sodisfatti ħafna aktar mill-Ewropej

Taqra ċerti kummenti f'xi gazzetti jew midja soċjali lokali li jippruvaw jagħtu l-impressjoni li l-affarijiet ma' tantx sejrin tajjeb f'Malta. Imma mbagħad meta joħorġu r-riżultati ta' xi stħarriġ tibda tgħid, imma wħud minn dawk li jikkummentaw f'xi gazzetti u midja soċjali, posibbli qed jgħixu fl-istess pajjiż li fih sar l-istħarriġ?

Eżempju ċar ir-riżulta tal-isħarriġ tal-Ewrobarometru (tal-Unjoni Ewropeja), li sar bejn Ġunju u Lulju li għaddew, fl-eqqel tal-isfidi internazzjonali minħabba l-gwerra fl-Ukrajna u l-kriżi tal-enerġija li ġabet magħha.

Skont dan l-istħarriġ 78 fil-mija tal-Maltin huma sodisfatti bil-miżuri li ħa l-Gvern Malti. Imqabbel ma' dan, dejjem skont l-istess stħarriġ, is-sitwazzjoni fil-pajjiżi Ewropej l-oħrajn hija waħda differenti. Tant li nstab li huma biss 55 fil-mija ta iċ-ċittadini ta' dawn il-pajjiżi li huma sodisfatti bil-miżuri tal-Gvernijiet ta' pajjiżhom.

Filwaqt li wħud mill-kummenti fil-midja lokali qed ibassru diżastru ekonomiku, mhux hekk jaħsbuha dawk il-Maltin li ġew intervistati dwar dan. Infatti mill-istħarriġ ħareġ li skont kważi 80 fil-mija tal-Maltin is-sitwazzjoni ekonomika tal-pajjiż tinsab tajba.

Din ir-rata ta' pajjiżna tisboq sewwa lil dik tal-medja tal-pajjiżi kollha tal-Unjoni Ewropea, li hi biss ta' 34 fil-mija.

Minn dan l-istħarriġ ħareġ ukoll li s-sitwazzjoni finanzjarja fil-familji Maltin hija waħda b'saħħitha. Fil-fatt, 86 fil-mija tal-Maltin wieġbu li s-sitwazzjoni finanzjarja tagħhom hija tajba.

Jirriżulta li minkejja l-isfidi internazzjonali li għaddejjin minnhom bħalissa, l-Maltin huma l-aktar ottimisti minn fost il-popli tas-27 Stat membru tal-Unjoni Ewropea. Insab ukoll li 46 fil-mija tal-Maltin li ħadu sehem fl-istħarriġ wieġbu li jemmnu li fi żmien sena se jkunu f'sitwazzjoni aħjar. Dan ukoll isboq sewwa l-perċentwal tal-Ewropej li jaħsbuha l-istess. Fl-Ewropa dan hu biss ta' 33 fil-mija.

CHRIS BOWEN MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MCMAHON
If you require assistance with Federal Government matters, including:
- Immigration
- Centrelink
- NDIS
- Communications
Please contact my office on (02) 9604 0710 or via Chris.Bowen.MP@aph.gov.au
Chrisbowenmp @bowenchris
Shops 3 & 4, 398 Hamilton Road, Fairfield West, NSW, 2165
Labor





A quick glimpse at Australia

Increase in welfare largest in 30 years

More than 4.7 million Australians struggling to cope with cost of living pressures are in line for a helping hand. Social Services Minister Amanda Rishworth says an indexation increase to welfare payments set to kick in on 20 September will be the largest in more than 30 years for allowances and 12 years for pensions.

"We want to ensure Australia has a strong social security safety net to protect our most disadvantaged," she said.

"Our guiding principles as a Labour government are ensuring no one is left behind, and no one is held back, and this indexation increase will help those on government payments keep up with the cost of living."

Increases will apply to the following payments:

* Age Pension, Disability Support Pension and Carer Payment will all rise $38.90 a fortnight for singles and $58.80 a fortnight for couples.
* The maximum rate of pension will increase to $1,026.50 a fortnight for singles and $773.80 for each member of a pensioner couple or $1,547.60 per couple.
* JobSeeker for singles without children will increase $25.70 a fortnight to $677.20, while Parenting Payment Single will rise $35.20 a fortnight to $927.40.
* The rate for partnered JobSeeker Payment and Parenting Payment recipients will increase $23.40 a fortnight to $616.60.

The pension raise was driven by increases in the Consumer Price Index, which exceeded the increase in the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index.

Flagging the move in July, Treasurer Jim Chalmers said at the time, that the government understood pensioners were doing it "incredibly tough when it comes to their costs of essentials like groceries, electricity and petrol and in other parts of the household budget".



Minister Amanda Rishworth

PM Albanese leads tributes to former Queen of Australia



Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, former prime ministers and the opposition leader have led Australian tributes to the late Queen Elizabeth II.

Around the country, people laid flowers and signed condolence books after hearing the seven-decade reign of the Queen had ended following her death in the early hours of Friday morning.

To mark her passing, Australia's Federation Guard fired a Gun Salute from the forecourt of Parliament House, using six Howitzer Ceremonial Guns firing one round for each year of the Queen's life at 10-second intervals.

Under constitutional law, when his mother died in Scotland, King Charles III immediately became king.

Flags flew at half-mast across Australia and while the country is not expected to observe an official mourning period, a national memorial is expected.

The Governor-General David Hurley, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and other members of parliament laid a wreath at the Queen's Terrace.

Parliament will be suspended for 15 days and flags will likely remain at half-mast until the day after the Queen's funeral.

The House of Representatives was expected to sit next week but this may be rescheduled.

Apology after death due to triple-O delays

The State of Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews has personally apologised for the deaths of 33 people following adverse events linked to ambulance call delays and other issues.

A report detailing the findings by the state's Inspector-General for Emergency Management was released recently.

"I offer my deepest condolences and sympathies and my personal apology - and the apology of the government more broadly - to anybody who has been touched by this virus and particularly those who have lost a loved one," he said.



Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews

The government was made aware of the Emergency Service Telecommunications Authority's precarious financial position as early as 2015. Its funding model didn't allow for its response to be rapidly scaled up when COVID-19 hit, according to the report.

The authority is supposed to answer 90 per cent of calls within five seconds. But figures blew out to completely unacceptable levels after Victoria moved away from lockdowns in October 2021.

At its worst during the first Omicron wave in January, only 39 per cent of calls for an ambulance were answered within the five-second target and one caller waited more than 76 minutes.

The government vowed to recruit and train almost 400 extra call-takers, helping lift the ambulance call response rate.

A quick glimpse at Australia



LIZ TRUSS: the new UK PM and Australia

Liz Truss, 47 (left), has been named the new leader of the United Kingdom's governing Conservative Party and become the nation's fourth prime minister since 2015, succeeding Boris Johnson's resignation in July.

Ms Truss, the third woman to ever serve in the role after Margaret Thatcher and Theresa May, was born in 1975. She studied Philosophy, Politics, and Economics and graduated in 1996. Before entering politics, she worked for oil giant Shell, telecommunications company Cable & Wireless, and was deputy director of think tank Reform.r.

In 2020 during her tenure as trade minister, former Australian prime minister Tony Abbott was appointed an adviser to the UK's Board of Trade.

While critics claimed Mr Abbott's views on women, homosexuality, and climate change made him unfit for the role, Ms Truss defended him.

She said that Australia is a key ally of the United Kingdom and he has done a very good job in areas like trade.

Ms Truss was also responsible for negotiating a post-Brexit free trade deal with Australia, which critics say will leave UK farmers worse off.

Former Australian prime minister Paul Keating described comments she made in January on a visit to Australia about Chinese military aggression in the Pacific as "demented" and saying that "Britain suffers delusions of grandeur and relevance deprivation".

In a speech to the Lowy Institute during that same visit, Ms Truss described the UK's "close bonds" with Australia as "more important than they've ever been", particularly in the face of "growing threats" from China and Russia.

"I see Australia as a real inspiration … with the work you do to promote free trade, freedom of speech, human rights, and rights for women and girls as a leading nation," she said.

Ms Truss also hailed the "landmark" AUKUS part bold new era" in the countries' "long history together" that would help "protect security and stability" across the Indo-Pacific region.

"This is a truly formidable and cutting edge partnership – and we are determined to continue strengthening it for the benefit of us all," she said.

Addressing lengthy visa backlogs

The Australian government has announced it will increase its annual migration intake by 35,000 places and invest $36 million into addressing lengthy visa backlogs.

The announcement came during the government's Jobs and Skills Summit, which has been dominated by Australia's labour shortage and the potential for migrant workers, who have largely left or avoided the country due to the pandemic, to help fill needed jobs.

Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said Australia's reliance on workers with temporary visas had made the workforce "vulnerable" and there was a "general consensus" to promote permanent migration pathways for workers.

Home Affairs Minister Clare O'Neil relayed those comments in a formal announcement, pledging the migration cap will rise from 160,00 to 195,000 places.

Ms O'Neil said Labor's priority is to move away from focusing on short-term migrants "toward permanency, citizenship and nation building".

Immigration Minister Andrew Giles said there are 900,000 visas in the current backlog, but the government's "repair work is well underway". He said since winning the federal election, Labor has been reducing the visa processing times.



60,000 vacancies in Age Care

Aged care peak bodies say the new increase to the annual cap on skilled migration should lead to more measures to directly fill an estimated 60,000 vacancies in Australia's aged care sector.

A study by Catholic Health Australia found of the 60,000 vacancies, 45,000 are qualified aged care workers.

Catholic Health Australia chief executive Pat Garcia skilled migrants would help alleviate the workforce crisis.

"Adding personal care workers to the skilled migration list could really help plug the gap in the aged care workforce," he said.

Uniting NSW and ACT senior services director Saviour Buhagiar said there was a 10 per cent vacancy rate across operations, with 1000 of them being in aged care alone.



Issa li qed nistejqru ...

Issa li bil-mod il-mod qed nirritornaw għal dak li nsejjħulu normal, għax attwalment mhux faċli tgħid x'inhu n-normal, imma nikkalkulaw fuq l-2019, l-aħħar sena ta' qabel il-pandemija, donnu li l-ħajja reġgħet riesqa lejn dawk iż-żmienjiet.



L-għadd ta' turisti kulma jmur qed jikber bil-kbir, il-poplu qed joħroġ ferm aktar minn darhu, u l-festi fl-irħula u d-divertiment tal-massa qed jikbru sew, jekk mhux b'ċerta eżaġerazzjoni.

Hu ċar li wara r-restrizzjonijiet, il-poplu jrid jerġa' jibda jgawdi u donnu li għal uħud, din is-sena, l-istaġuni tar-rebbiegħa, is-sajf u l-ħarifa, jekk mhux ukoll tax-xitwa sa Diċembru ġew biex igawduhom.

Fost dan kollu qed naraw ukoll attivitá sħiħa li ftit li xejn issemmiet fl-aħħar sentejn, jew jekk issemmiet żgur biex wieħed jiċċelebra, għax ir-restrizzjonijiet żammew lil kulħadd 'l bogħod mid-divertiment: it-tiġijiet.

Għalkemm kien hemm xi għarajjes li baqgħu sejrin bil-pjanijiet tagħhom u minkejja r-restrizzjonijiet kollha iddeċidew li jieħdu l-istat tagħhom, kien hemm ħafna koppji li ċaqilqu d-data tat-tieġ, uħud anke għal tliet darbiet, sakemm li fl-aħħar qatgħu qalbhom u ddeċidew li jiżżewġu biss bil-Knisja bla tant festi.

Oħrajn baqgħu jistennew għax xtaqu li jiffesteġġjaw iż-żwieġ tagħhom bi kbir. Saħansitra kien hemm min ħassar d-data tat-tieġ bit-tama li fl-aħħar l-awtoritajiet ineħħu ċerti miżuri li kienu qed jeffettwaw it-tiġijiet. Sintendi mat-tneħħija tal-miżuri dritt ħasbu biex jiċċelebraw.

Għalkemm kien hemm min baqa' xettiku dwar kemm kellu jippjana fit-tul u għalhekk għażel li jistenna, u ma jissugrax, tant li bbukja biss ftit xhur qabel, xorta l-għadd ta' żwiġijiet kulma jmur qed jikber mhux ftit.

Xi organizzaturi tat-tiġijiet qed ħabbru b'ċerta pompa li issa li tneħħew ir-restrizzjnijiet, mhux talli bdew jieħdu r-rankatura iżda wkoll hemm min qed "jesaġera" b'tiġijiet aqwa minn qabel u stravagnati.

Maż-żwiġijiet ta' koppji li jgħixu f'Malta, żdiedu wkoll dawk bejn barranin, li jiġu Malta apposta biex jiżżewġu, min għax irid jagħmel dan il-jum wieħed memorabbli u oħrajna anke għax isostnu li tieġ f'Malta jiġihom irħas.

Qabel il-pandeija dawn kienu spiċċaw għal kollox, im'issa, li anke r-restrizzjonijiet fuq l-ivjaġġar tneħħew reġgħu ħadu rankatura, u l-organizzazzjoni magħrufa bħala *Wedding Planners* qed jiftaħru b'kemm żdiedu dawk il-barranin li qed jibbukjaw it-tiġijiet magħhom.

Interessanti li ma' min jiżżewweġ u min jorganizza qed tgawdi wkoll Malta għax min jiżżewweġ iġib miegħu lejn Malta l-mistednin u allura jmorru tajjeb ukoll min jagħmel l-ikel, il-lukandi, ir-ristoranti u dawk li imdaħħla fis-settur turistiku.



Ħsejjes il-bhejjem

Dawk li għandhom ċerta eta' u li għaddew is-snin bikrija tagħhom fl-iskejjel primarji ta' Malta żgur għadhom jiftakru kemm fit-tħejjija għall-eżamijiet, l-aktar biex wieħed jagħmel l-eżami għal-Liċeo jew fl-iskejjel sekondarji l-oħra, kienet isir emfasi dwar il-ħsejjes li jagħmlu l-annimali.

X'aktarx li ħafna jiftakru l-imbierek ktieb bil-qoxra blu, il-*First Aid in English*, tant kien jintuża biex wieħed jitgħallem dawn il-ħsejjes.

Dan l-aħħar fuq il-midja soċjali f'Malta deher xi ħaġa simili, imma din id-darba bil-Malti. Fil-fatt hemm xi ħsejjes li x'aktarx li wħud mill-qarrejja lanqas biss qatt semgħuhom.

Interessanti li wieħed jara x'jaf minnhom:

Iż-ziemel *JIŻHER*
Il-ħmar *JINĦAQ*
It-tiġieġa *TQAQI*
Is-serduk *JIDDEN*
Il-kelb J*INBAĦ*
Il-qattus *INEWWAĦ*
Il-papra *TLAQLAQ*
Il-baqra *TGARGAR*
Il-ħamiem *IBARQAM*
L-għasfur *IGĦANNI*
Il-ħanżir *IMAĦMAĦ*
Il-mogħża *TWETWET*
In-nagħġa *TINBEE*
Ix-xadina TWERŻAQ
Il-kokka *TWATWAT*
Il-wiżża *TWAQWAQ*
Il-werżiq *IWERŻAQ*
Il-pespus *IPESPES*
Il-pappagall *INAQNAQ*
Iż-żringˇ *ITAQTAQ*
Iż-żunżan *IŻANŻAN*
Il-balena *TKANTA*
l-jena *TIDĦAK*
Is-serp *IZEKZEK*

Anniversarju tal-inkurunazzjoni ta' Marija Bambina



Fit-2 ta' Settembru li għadda, f'Jum ta' għaqda intima tax-Xagħrin mal-Bambina fl-okkażjoni tas-solennità tad-49 Anniversarju mill-Inkurunazzjoni tal-istatwa titulari ta' Marija Bambina fil-Knisja Parrokkjali, Arċipretali, Kolleġġjata, Insinji, Bażilika u Santwarju, tax-Xagħra Għawdex, l-Isqof George Bugeja OFM, Vigarju Appostoliku ta' Tripli fil-Libja, mexxa Pontifikal Solenni.

Fil-fatt din iċ-ċerimonja tat bidu uffiċjali għall-festi solenni tas-sena speċjali li qed tfakkar il-50 anniversarju mill-Inkurunazzjoni. Fi tmiemha nxtelgħet il-fjakkola taż-żejt li se tibqa' quddiem in-niċċa tal-Bambina matul din is-sena ċinkwantenarja.

L-inkurunazzjoni kienet saret mill-Isqof Mgr. Nikol Ġużeppi Cauchi. Dakinhar, il-kuruna tad-deheb kienet inġarret minn iben ix-Xagħra, il-Prim Imħallef J.J. Cremona. Issa, ibnu il-Markiż Tony Cremona Barbaro, wettaq ix-xewqa ta' missieru u rregala lill-parroċċa t-toga u l-beritta li l-Prim Imħallef kien liebes f'dik l-okkażjoni tal-Inkurunazzjoni tal-Bambina.

It-toga damaskjata u b'xogħol tar-rakmu tad-deheb kienet il-bies ċerimonjali *(sewda fl-istampa)* se tinżamm b'għożża fl-Arkivju tal-parroċċa sakemm fil-ġejjieni jkunu esebiti flimkien ma'oġġetti oħra prezzjużi *(stampa)* li ġew mogħtija għal dan il-mużew li se jinbena.



It-tfal igawdu l-festa ta' San Ġwann Bosco

Bħal ma jsir kull sena f'jum it-twelid tal-qaddis patrun tal-Oratorju San Ġwann Bosco, imwieled f'Turin 207 snin ilu, għal din l-okkażjoni din is-sena wkoll, ġew organizzati għadd ta' attivitajiet speċjali għat-tfal li bdiet bl-Isqof ta' Għawdex, Mons. Anton Teuma jqaddes quddiesa għat-tfal, u wara ttieħed ritratt tal-okkażjoni.

Wara ssoktat wirja ta' maġija minn Glenn & Mirka u marċ minn banda minn grupp ta' żgħażagħ fl-Oratorju stess bi statwa li kienet inġħatat lill-Oratorju aktar minn 70 sena ilu minn Dun Alwiġ Mizzi u li nġarret mit-tfal stess.

Il-jum kompla billi t-tfal ingħataw kull cans jiddevertu b'għadd ta' logħob apposta għalihom u fl-aħħar daqu mill-kejk tad-Direttur tal-Oratorju, Dun Effie Masini.



Drawwiet, arti, u kultura fin-Nadur

Tliet elementi f'Dar Dun Franġisk Grima, fin-Nadur: drawwiet, arti, u kultura, kollha f'wirja waħda tal-Għaqda Ħbieb tal-Presepju-Nadur, bil-kollaborazzjoni tal-Kunsill Lokali tal-lokalità.

Il-wirja sservi ta' pjattaforma għar- residenti lokali biex juru l-kreazzjonijiet artistiċi tagħhom, l-oġġetti ta' interess mill-kollezzjonijiet privati tagħhom lill-komunità.



Dis-sena l-wirja fiha wkoll oġġetti mill-kollezzjoni privata tal-Arċipriet Martin Camilleri li taħt it-tmexxija tiegħu, fil-bidu tas-seklu 20, il-Knisja Parrokkjali tkabbret u żżejnet mill-perit Fracesco Saverio Scortino u Lazzaro Pisani.



L-artist Għawdxi Denis Mompalao lesta fil-ħin għall-festa ta' Marija Bambina nhar il-Ħamis li għadda, l-ewwel pavaljun minn 13, għal triq 28 ta'April 1688, ix-Xagħra, fejn il-festa tal-Vittorja tiġi festeġġjata bil-kbir. Ix-xbihat fuq dan l-ewwel pavaljun juru lil Jesse (missier David) u David (it-tieni re ta' Iżrael).

Halliena Bro Joe Pantalleresco mssp

Fi sbieħ l-20 ta' Lulju li għadda Bro. Joe Pantalleresco, jew kif kienu jafuh ħafna, Fra Salv, ħa l-aħħar nifs fid-dar fejn kien itirat fl-aħħar snin, tal-Little Sisters of the Poor, f'Melbourne. Naħseb li għad baqa' ħafna Maltin u Għawdxin, ta' Victoria, f'Western Australia u oħrajn fi Blacktown li jiftakruh sew.

Bro Joe, għax hekk semmewh fil-magħmudija, kien minn tas-Sliema, u l-ġenituri tiegħu, Ommu Katerina, u missieru Ċensu li kien jaħdem mal-Merchant Navy kienu mill-belt Valletta.

Il-familja Pantalleresco kienet waħda numeruża u għadd ta' membri tagħha emigraw lejn l-Awstralja u marru jgħixu fl-istat ta' Victoria.

Fl-1941, minħabba l-gwerra l-familja Pantalleresco marret tgħix f'Għajnsielem Għawdex. Hemmhekk il-ġenituri fetħu ħanut żgħir tal-merċa. Naħseb li għad hawn min jiftakar il-kanzunetta, *"Censu l-Malti u Katarin"*, li kien kiteb għalihom, neputihom Alfred Rapa.

Bħala skola sekondarja Joe attenda fil-Kulleġġ ta' San Luigi f'Birkirkara. Wara daħal bħala novizz mas-Soċjetá tal-MSSP, ħa l-isem ta' Saviour, u għażel li jiservi lill-Alla bħala *Brother.*

Fit-18 ta' April 1950, flimkien mall-mibki Dun Onortat Galea mssp, salpaw lejn l-Awstralja fuq il-vapur Ocean Trumph bħala missjunarju

Minħabba li s-Soċjetá ma kienx għad għandha dar tagħha, Bro. Joe mar joqgħod fid-Don Bosco Hostel ta' Brunswick. Ta' spiss, minn hemm kien imur, f'Ruperstwood, Sunbury, biex jagħti daqqa t'id lill-*Fathers* Salesjani.

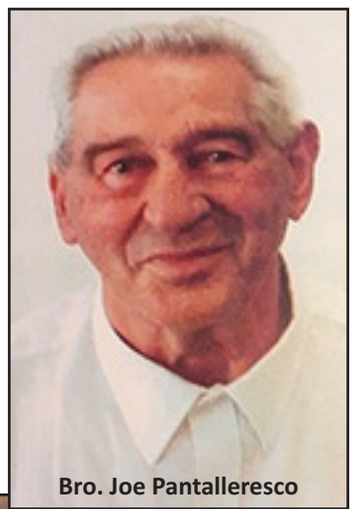


Bro.Joe (wara bl-ingravata)**, flimkien ma' Fra. Claudju Borg, Onortat Galea u Georg Scerri meta fethu id-Dar ta Parkville**

Lil Brother Joe il-Mulej żejnu b'ħafna doni. Kien imidd idejh għal kollox: fil-ġnien, fil-farm, isajjar, barbier u għal kull ma kien ikun meħtieġ. Kien ukoll jieħu diversi rġiel fuq il mutur tiegħu biex jipprova jsibilhom ix-xogħol. Forsi għad baqa' xi whud ħajjin, li jiftarkuh dan.

Bro. Joe ġieli kien anke jmidd idejh fix-xogħol tal-kostruzzjoni. Infatti l-bini tad-Dar tas-Socjetá f'Wantirna kienet responsabiltá tiegħu.

Għalkemm kien ikun impenjat ħafna, qatt ma naqas



Bro. Joe Pantalleresco



Brother Joe mas-Superjura tas-sorijiet tal-Little Sisters of the Poor, f'Melbourne fejn kien irtirat qabel miet f'Lulju

mid-doveri spiritwali tiegħu, u ta' spiss kont tarah jippassiġġa bil-kuruna f'idejh.

Wara disa snin niżel lura Malta, imma lanqas hawn ma baqa' lura għax ta daqqa t'id sewwa, kemm fil-bini tal-"wing" il-ġdid f'Sant'Agata r-Rabat Malta, kif wkoll fil-bini tad-Dar Stella Maris, fiż-Żebbuġ Għawdex.

Imma qalbu Bro Joe baqgħet marbuta mal-Awstralja u fil-fatt reġa' mar iservi fid-Dar ta' Blacktown. B'danakollu, waqt li kien fi triqtu lejn l-Awstralja waqaf f'Karachi, il-Pakistan, biex jgħin fil-bini ta' dar għas-Soċjetá tal-mssp hemmhekk.

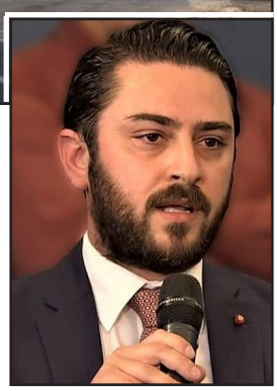
Brother Joe kien tassew l-id il-lemiija tal-MSSP għax kien imur kull fejn kien ikun hemm bżonn. Infatti għadd ħafna snin, fid-diversi djar ta' Wantira, Blacktown NSW u f'Parkville Victoria.

Meta Bro Joe miet, Fr. John Taliana, is-Superjur Reġjonali, flimkien mal-membri l-oħra tas-Soċjetá, saċerdoti oħra u għadd sabiħ ta' Maltin tawh l-aħħar tislima, fil-Parroċċa ta' St. Bernardette, f'North Sunshine



The continuous saga of Australia House and its surrounds





Australia Hall in a dilapidated state; RIGHT: **Pembroke Mayor Dean Hili**

Australia Hall was featured prominently in the July 19 issue of *The Voice of the Maltese* as news about this historic building built in 1915 with a strong connection with the ANZACs, and its surroundings are in the process of being developed.

Australia Hall is situated in Pembroke, an up-market locality in the northern region of Malta to the east of Paceville, the popular nightlife district. There is continuous debate as to what is to be built around or in the vicinity of this Grade 2 national monument.

The Pembroke local council has unanimously objected to the development of three blocks that would rise to six storeys around Australia Hall, as proposed in a zoning request by Fino Group, now the owners. The increased density in the development of the new Chinese embassy was also mentioned.

Over the past years, the Pembroke local council led by Dean Hili has consistently taken a stance against over-development in the area, "Australia Hall's historical value was such that its prominence should not be buried and dwarfed by a number of different buildings being proposed around it," remarked Labour mayor of Pembroke, Dean Hili.

Fino's three "mixed-use" blocks, ranging between five and six floors, are being proposed on a 3,870sq.m area that envelops the historical Australia Hall.

The latest plans foresee development over some 12,000sq.m in total floor area, that is, the entire floor area of the three massive blocks and the restoration of Australia Hall itself. Some 2,400sq.m of the total 6,331sq.m site will be retained as an open public space.

The development is being proposed by AH Developments, which is owned by C. Fino + Sons Limited, established in 1935 with its premises in Triq l-Imdina, Mriehel. They are one of the oldest and most reputable leading furniture houses in Malta.

Meanwhile, Heritage NGO *Din l-Art Ħelwa* and *Moviment Graffitti* are objecting to the zoning application presented by the Fino Group, with *Moviment Graffitti* going as far as even warning that the approval of this application would see "the degradation of a cultural and historical area, as well as the urban landscape surrounding it".

Moreover, it would diminish the Grade 2 scheduled building's status and become a "grave eyesore, while also setting a dangerous precedent for future similar applications" in other historical areas.

Back in the 1970s the Malta Government had originally accorded the land with the Australia Hall in Pembroke to the MLP as compensation for the expropriation of its land in Marsa, for the Malta Shipbuilding Corporation.

The land in Marsa was being used by the MLP as its headquarters. Eventually, the party moved its headquarters to the Macina in Senglea. Currently its headquarters are at Mile End in Hamrun, while the Macina has been converted inta a five-star hotel.



Smart and Sustainable Scheme for companies

The ministry for the Environment, Energy and Enterprise has introduced the Smart and Sustainable Investment Grant Scheme, to be administerd by Malta Enterpise inteded for companies to operate sustainably through which they can improve their operations. A company already benefitting is a local bakery that is investing in a more efficient and sustainable air conditioning system, known as adiabatic that uses water to cool the air.

The scheme addresses five types of investments: (i) efficient use of water, (ii) sustainable materials that increase the lifecycle of the product and therefore make it easier to recycle, (iii) better waste management and use of resources, (iv) digital processes to enhance customer care and quality service and (v) efficient use of energy.

The grant is intended for companies investing in sustainable projects, with a minimum investment of €10,000. Eligible companies receive an assistance of 50% of the investment, up to €50,000. Those operating in Gozo, which have been established for more than three years, or with projects that would lead to a drastic reduction of CO2 emissions, may also benefit from a tax credit of up to €20,000.

During a visit to the bakery Minister Miriam Dalli said that each sector, including the economic sector, must work in favour of the environment and sustainability. "We are working with enterprises to continue encouraging the use of energy efficiency and reduction of emissions within their operations, Such investments contribute positively towards the environment, whilst creating new career opportunities,she said.

F'dawk li huma festi l-Maltin pattew bis-sħiħ għas-sentejn tal-pandemija



Donnu bi tpattija għas-sentejn tal-pandemija li żammewna milli bħal ma konna nagħmlu sal-2019 ingawdu u niċċelebraw il-festi fil-bliet u l-irħula Maltin u Għawdxin, din is-sena kważi ffangajna u donnu li kulħadd ried ipatti.

Deher biċ-ċar li l-festi fil-parroċċi din is-sena kienu ferm akbar minn ta' qatt qabel. Kemm jekk fil-knejjes u wkoll fit-toroq. Kemm f'dak li hu tiżjin, fit-tempji mqaddsa u wkoll barra.

Il-flus fl-armar li ma setax jiġi minfuq fis-sentejn ta' qabel, intefaq bil-kbir fil-festi li kellna f'dan is-sajf.

Deher ukoll biċ-ċar li fis-sentejn tar-restrizzjonijiet, id-dilettanti li jieħdu ħsieb l-armar tal-festi ma baqgħux b'idejhom fuq żaqqhom imma ħadmu u ħejjew armar ġdid u ħafna minnu tassew ta' klassi, li ħarġux fit-toroq biex jitgawda mill-Maltin, barrann li jgħixu f'Malta, u wkoll mit-turisti, li meta jzuru Malta huma wkoll ikunu għatxana li jidħlu fl-ispirtu offrut mill-festi Maltin.

Xi ħaġa li wieħed ma setax ma jinnutax kien il-progress li kompla jidher f'dak li hu logħob tan-nar, kemm jekk tal-art u wkoll tal-ajru. Il-ħila tal-Maltin anke f'dan is-settur kibret mhux ftit u kulħadd sar juri professjonalità u serjetà.

Il-logħob tan-nar f'Malta hu tradizzjoni li tmur lura sekli sħaħ. Fil-fatt, is-sengħa tal-piroteknika tmur lura sa minn żmien l-Ordni tal-Kavallieri ta' San Ġwann li kienet tiċċelebra l-aktar festi importanti bil-piroteknika.

Id-dilettantiżmu f'dan il-qasam spiċċa, u x'aktarx li l-Maltin tgħallmu wkoll, xi wħud forsi anke aspejjeż tagħhom. Għarfu li hemm wisq perikli u għalhekk ma tistax tieħu riskji.

Żgur li għenu wkoll il-liġijiet li sawwru l-awtoritajiet biex jiġi żgurat li ma jibqax ikollna tragedji ta' dari b'dilettanti jitilfu ħajjithom meta suppost iridu jifirħu u jferrħu.

Daż-żmien kull kamra tan-nar, li minnhom hawn mal-35, huma mhux biss attrezzati u mimlija b'tagħmir ta' sigurtà, imma anke dawk li jaħdmu l-piroteknika jridu jkunu liċenzjati. Fil-fatt f'Malta hawn fuq l-elfejn li jħaddnu din il-liċenzja u kull sena dejjem ikun hemm oħrajn, ġieli mijiet li jitħarrġu biex huma wkoll jiksbu l-liċenzja.

Mhux ta' b'xejn li l-pirotekniċi Maltin saru jħabbtuha bis-sħiħ mal-barranin, tant li saret xi ħaġa normali li meta jieħdu sehem f'kompetizzjonijiet internazzjonali mhux biss ilaħħqu magħhom imma ġieli rebħulhom.

Il-festi liturġiċi fl-irħula u fl-ibliet - li fadal

Nistgħu ngħidu li l-kbir għadda. Hekk kif resqin lejn tmiem is-sajf, resqin ukoll lejn tmiem l-istaġun riservat għall-festi fil-bliet u l-irħula Maltin. Dawk ta' Settembru saru wkoll u sa tmiem is-sena l-festi titulari li jonqos fil-kalendarju huma biss disgħa, maqsumin fi tlieta f'Ottubru, waħda f'Novembru u erbgħa f'Diċembru.

Imbagħad tibda t-tħejjija għall-festi li kulħadd ikun irid jiċċelebra, dawk ta' żmien il-Milied. Mela ħalli naraw x'fadal:

OTTUBRU

2: Madonna tar-Rużarju: **Il-Gudja**
3: Madonna taċ-Ċintura: **Valletta (parroċċa Santu Wistin)**
30: Madonna taċ-Ċintura: **Il-Gudja**

NOVEMBRU

13: San Ġwann tas-Salib: **Ta' Xbiex**

DIĊEMBRU

8: Il-Kunċizzjoni: **Bormla**
Il-Kunċizzjoni, **L-Ibraġġ**
Il-Kunċizzjoni: **Rabat, Għawdex (San Franġisk**
11: Santa Luċija: **Santa Luċija, Għawdex**
13: Santa Luċija: **L-Imtarfa**

Maltese Seniors Social Welfare Day Groups

Llandilo Maltese Seniors

Meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the Llandilo Community Hall, 257 Seventh Avenue, Llandilo 11am to 1.00 pm. Group holds regular Information Sessions/Workshops & Bus Trips. Group Leader: Helen Azzopardi

Merrylands Social Maltese Seniors

Meets every second Friday of the month Miller Room, Memorial Avenue Merrylands from 10.30am to 12.30 pm.
Group Leader: Salvina Falzon.

Fairfield Active Maltese Seniors

Meets on the last Tuesday of the Month. Group meets in St Theresa's Parish Hall, cnr of Stella Street & The Boulevard, Fairfield Heights from10 am to 12 noon.
Group Leader: Dorothy Gatt.

Maltese of Bankstown

Group meets 3rd Wednesday of month in the Bankstown CBD area. Every other 3rd Thursday an outing. Enquiries call: Sam Galea 0410 269 519.

Daceyville Maltese Seniors

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

The Sutherland & St George Maltese Group

Meets every first Wednesday of the month in July, September, November & December and in February, April & June 2023. From 10:00am to 12noon at the Miranda Community Centre 93 Karimbla Rd cnr Kiora Rd Miranda. Meetings are interesting & informative. Membership is free, so is Morning Tea/Coffee/Cake. Outings every other month. Come & make new friends. For more information contact our Coordinator: Charles Mifsud JP Phone (mb 0421 662 298).

Greystanes Maltese Seniors

Meets on the second Monday of each month at the George Preca Parish Centre Our Lady Queen of Peace (OLQP) Church, 198 Old Prospect Road, Greystanes from 10 am to 12 noon.
Group holds regular Information Sessions/Workshops & Bus Trips. Gro-up Leader: Frances Montesin.

Men's Group

Meets every last Tuesday of the month at the MCC Centre at 59b Franklin Street Parramatta West (next to the Primary School), from 10 to 12 noon. Discussion, information and renew friendship. Pastizzi, Kinnie etc. available. Contact Fred or Laurie 9631 9295.

(All Groups are coordinated by The Maltese Community Council of NSW) with a sponsorship from Multicultural NSW.
Please contact the MCC Welfare Officer: Marisa Previtera JP on 0414 863 123.

The MCC offices are at 59b Franklin Street (Cnr Young St) Parramatta West NSW (next to West Parramatta Primary School).

Community News



OLQP FESTA
Sunday
25th September 2022
Mass at 1pm
Festivities from 2pm-8.30pm
Our Lady Queen of Peace
198 Old Prospect Rd
Greystanes
See you then!

Ebejer&Associates Lawyers Pty Ltd.

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- purchase and sell businesses.
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- 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
www.ebejerlawyers.com.au)
email reception@ebejerlawyers.com.au

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



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

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

Classes available for beginners and those who already have a confident grasp of the Maltese language. Adult and Children's classes available.

All classes are online.

Positions available for people who can assist with teaching the Maltese Language.

Call Lisa for an information package on 0419 418 547 or email mls@mccnsw.org.au.

La Valette Social Centre

Inc. 175 Walters Road, Blacktown Tel. 96225847

The Voice of the Maltese has not received any information about any activites set for the coming weeks to be organised by the La Valette SC for this issue.

Therefore anybody seeking information about any fothcoming events, at the centre is being requested to phone the centre at Blacktown on9622 5847

St Nicholas Festa

Committee Plumpton -NSW

The events for the rest of 2022

Sunday. October 16: **Fete**
Sat. Nov. 19: **Dinner Dance**
Sunday December 4: **Festa**

Tune in to Radio and Television

SBS RADIO: 97.7 FM Tuesdays 12:00pm; Friday 12:00pm. Listen on Digital Radio or Live Streaming on www.sbs.com.au/radio/ or on TV Channel 38.

On Demand and podcasts on www.sbs.com.au/maltese

SBS TV: SBS TV news from Malta every day at 4.30 pm on Channel 35 also on demand.

VICTORIA

3ZZZ 92.3FM: Mondays 5-6pm, Fridays 5-6pm and Saturdays 10-11am. Presenters: Paul Vella, Mario Sammut, Liz Phillips. Listen live on www.3zzz.com.au

98.9 North West FM: Mondays 7-8pm and Fridays 6-7pm. Maltese Program. Presenter: Emmanuel Brincat.



Listen live on www.northwestfm.org/ethnic-radio/

97.9 FM Melton: Tuesday 6.00pm to 8.00pm Maltese Program. Presenter: Miriam Vella. Live streaming on www.979fm.com.au

NSW

2GLF FM 89.3 Maltese Voices with Marthese Caruana: Sundays 10:00 am to 11:00am. One hour of Maltese talent, songs from Maltese artists.

2GLF FM 89.3 Maltese Community Council programme: Sundays 11.00am to 12:00pm. News from Malta, music, information, culture, interviews, community notices and topics of interest. Listen live on www.893fm.com.au or On Demand on www.893fm.com.au/on-demand/

WOW-FM 100.7: Tuesdays 6pm to 9pm. Maltese program with Joe Borg and Michael Mallia. Listen live on www.wowfm1007.com.au

VOX FM 106.9: Mondays 5pm to 6pm. Voice of Valletta – Illawarra Maltese program presented by Louis Parnis Live streaming on www.voxfm.org.au

QUEENSLAND

4EB FM 98.1: Tuesdays 6:00am to 8:00am; Presenter: Lucy Stewart. Music, news from Malta, topics of interest, song requests, community announcements. Live streaming on www.4eb.org.au or On Demand on www.4eb.org.au/shows/program-bill-malti-global-maltese/

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

5EBI FM 103.1: Maltese Community Radio Program from Adelaide. Sunday: 7.00am; Monday: 8.00am; Monday: 6.00pm. Presenters: Bernadette Buhagiar and Ron Borg. Listen live or On Demand on www.5ebi.com.au

Sports



George Cross team group after defeating Beaumaris 3-0 in the Grand Final


Golden Boot winner Jay Hart

George Cross promoted as Champions

Following two frustrating seasons in 2020 and 2021, the George Cross football club finally achieved their goal by securing the 2022 State League 1st division championship and automatic promotion

The club's ambitions were setback in 2020 when the season was cancelled due to Covid-19. In 2021 George Cross looked set for promotion when they led the 1st division with eight matches remaining, but once again Covid-19 raised its ugly head and the season was cancelled.

The big question at the start of this season was whether Coach Eric Vassiliadis and his team would retain their hunger for another push for promotion.

This was emphatically answered in round one when George Cross scored a fine 5-1 win over Yarraville Glory.

The Georgies went to the top of the table by defeating their main rival Essendon Royals 2-1 in round two. The top position was retained for the rest of the campaign.

The team lost their first match in round 6 when Brimbank Stallions scored a 2-0 win over a 10-men George Cross team at City Vista. The Georgies continued on their merry way recording constant victories, but a mid-season slump following two defeats to Essendon Royals 2-0 and Sydenham Park 2-1 raised some concerns at the time.

Following the loss to Sydenham, George Cross raised their standards and left no doubt as to which team was the best in the league.

They won their final eight matches of the campaign to secure the championship by five points.

They put the icing on the cake to a fine North West State League season when they defeated South East champions Beaumaris Sharks 3-0 in the Grand Final.

On their way to winning the title, George Cross established two new club records. The 18 wins beat the previous best of 17 wins set in 1972 and the 55 points were the highest ever that eclipsing the 1996 tally of 52 points.

The Georgies played some great football throughout the season and had the best attack in the league with 58 goals. The defence was rock solid as well and conceded only 18 goals. Striker Jay Hart who was signed this season from NPL club St. Albans topped the 1st division goalscoring chart with 14 league and 1 cup goals.

Midfielders Lachlan Reus and Tyler James shared the Player of the Year award and youngster Jack Wardle won the President's award at the recent end of-the-season Presentation Night.

The club and the team appreciate having supporters coming out in big numbers at all home matches this season and urge everyone to continue the trend in 2023 when George Cross will again play NPL football.

Victor**Brincat**

Malta 14th in EuroWaterpolo C'hsips

Malta's national waterpolo team obtained its best ever placing, 14th at the European Waterpolo Championships just in Split, Croatia. The position was obtained following the 13-9 victory over Slovenia.

Earlier in their group matches, the Maltese lost their matches against the top teams: 5-19 against the eventual winners Croatia, 5-25 against Greece and 8-15 against France.

After the win against Slovenia Malta played in the match for 13th/14th place against Germany and 14-11. The last time the two sides met in the World League in 2018, Germans prevailed 23-9.

Croatia won the Championships by beat Hungary in the final 10-9

Could this be Hamrun's year?

When Ħamrun Spartans opened their 2022/23 camapaign in the Premier League and defeated defending Champions Hibernians 4-1, many saw that result as their letter of intent for the season, and that after their impressive participation in Europe, they would start favourites to carry the Premier's honours.

They added the scalps of four other teams in their next outings and with Birkirkara are the only side still unbeaten this early in the season.

PREMIER RESULTS *Day 4*:

Hamrun S. v Sirens	2-0
Floriana v Valletta	1-0
Hibernians v Gzira Utd	2-1
Birkirkara v Sta Lucia	4-0
Gudja Utd v Zebbug R.	2-1
Mosta v Pieta Hotspurs	4-1
Balzan v Marsaxlokk	2-1

Day 3

Ħamrun S v Pieta Hot.	2-0
Birkirkara v Floriana	1-0
Hibernians v Mosta	5-0
Valletta v Sirens	0-0
Gudja U v Balzan	1-0
Gzira U v Marsaxlokk	0-0
Zebbug R. v Sta Lucia	2-0

Day 2

Hamrun S. v Hibernians	4-1

Day 1

Hamrun S. v Marsaxlokk	1-0

Former Spartans' goalkeeper Jimmy Gatt dies aged 77



The death has been announced in Malta of Jimmy Gatt at age 77, better known as a Hamrun Spartans goalkeeper. Healso played in Australia between 1964 and 1966 for Melita Eagles during the time of-players Joe Cilia, Mario Azzopardi, Fred Dayney and Joe Zammit.

Bormla get Regatta win

Bormla secured the double in the Victory Day (8th September) Regatta by clinching both the Open and the 'B' category titles at the Valletta Grand Harbour. On both occasions victory was obtained in the last race, obtained at the expense of rivals Senglea, who finished runners-up.

Bormla won the Open category with 66 pts. Senglea were second won 56. In CATEGORY B Bormla obtained 68 points to Senglea's 48.