

The Voice of the Maltese

(driven by the voice of its readers)

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Wasal iż-żmien li l-mexxejja tal-komunità Maltija jergħu jibdeu id-diskussjonijiet mad-dirigenti tas-Special Broadcasting Service fl-Awstralja (SBS) biex inżommu ż-żewġ programmi addizzjonali li tawna wara li kienet tħabbret ir-reviżjoni tal-iskeda tal-programmi tar-radju f'Novembru tal-2012, meta l-komunità Maltija spiċċat b'żewġ programmi biss minn disgħa.

Kien sforz tal-mexxejja tal-komunità Maltija li nqas flimkien u fetħu battalja kontra l-manigment tal-SBS mal-oghla awtoritajiet, li waslet anke quddiem il-Prim Ministru ta' dak iż-żmien, li l-manigment kellu jbaxxi rasu u jagħti żewġ programmi oħra lill-komunità Maltija fuq ir-radju diġitali u programm iehor tal-aħbarijiet fuq it-televiżjoni.

Kif kienet qalet Mandi Wicks, direttur tal-*Audio and Language Content* tal-SBS fil-programm Malti stess, il-ftehim huwa għal sentejn, jiġifieri lanqas se jstennew sa revizjoni ta' skeda oħra, għax il-manigment xorta jemmen li l-allokkazzjoni ta' żewġ programmi Maltin biss għall-komunità Maltija fuq ir-radju kienet ġusta.

Għalhekk skont il-baġit tal-SBS il-manigment se jirrevedi s-sitwazzjoni taż-żewġ programmi ekstra li nqas il-komunità Maltija.

Issa li għaddiet sena u l-mexxejja tal-komunità Maltija jridu jergħu jinnegozjaw ftehim iehor mal-manigment tal-SBS, l-SBS innifsu jinsab f'taqbida interna u esterna dwar revizjoni tal-ef-fiċjenza tiegħu u kif qed jonfoq il-miljuni ta' dollari li jinghata mill-gvern federali.

F'sitwazzjoni bħal din fejn l-allokkazzjoni biex jinżammu żewġ programmi Maltin fuq ir-radju hija qatra fejn il-miljuni li l-SBS jonfoq f'amministrazzjoni, holqien ta' pożizzjonijiet, ivvjaġġar u spjarparlar ta' flus, x'aktarx huwa żmien opportun għall-komunità Maltija li tattakka u



Meta l-editur ta' *The Voice* ha t-talba tal-komunità Maltija dwar in-nuqqas ta' programmi Maltin fuq l-SBS Radio dirett quddiem il-Prim Ministru ta' dak iż-żmien Julia Gillard. Tidher ukoll Michelle Rowland MP.

li tiftah mill-ġdid neguzjati.

Dan huwa żmien li l-SBS ma jridx inkwiet u jinkixfu borom fil-pubbliku waqt li Peter Lewis, l-eks Kap tal-Finanzi ta' Seven West Media, qed jassisti

Il-programmi Maltin fuq ir-Radju u TV tal-SBS mill-ġdid taht il-mannara?

l-id-Dipartiment tal-Komunikazzjoni biex jagħmel ir-reviżjoni tal-finanzi u l-ef-fiċjenza tal-SBS.

Ir-reviżjoni tal-ef-fiċjenza mill-gvern qed issir fuq l-ABC u l-SBS, imma fi żmien meta l-Prim Ministru, Tony Abbott qed jattakka lill-ABC għall-mod kif jirrapporta kwestjonijiet politiċi, l-

attenzjoni hi aktar mitfuha fuq l-ABC.

Imqabbel mal-ABC, l-SBS huwa hafna aktar effiċjenti u moderat fl-infiq tiegħu u għalhekk l-SBS jista' jintuza bħala mudell, li l-ABC għandu jimxi fuqu fl-operat finanzjarju, strutturali u proċessi tiegħu.

Għal paġna 4

The Voice of the Maltese is a bi-lingual (in English and Maltese) fortnightly publication specifically targeting all Maltese living abroad, with emphasis on the Australian scene.

This electronic style magazine is sent via email by request. Subscription is free.

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Logo & Memento competition for 4th Convention launched

The 4th Convention for Maltese Living Abroad will be held in Malta during April 2015. The chairman of the organising committee, Ambassador Joseph Cole, who is also the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs said that this Convention will involve to the fullest, thousands of Maltese living around the world.



The banner used during the last convention in 2010

The first ever Convention was held in 1969, the second at the dawn of the new millennium and the last one from March 15 to 18 in 2010.

The Organising Committee within the Malta Ministry for Foreign Affairs is also launching an international logo and memento competition open for all Maltese living abroad. Both logo and memento can be the same or different design(s) and should epitomise the spirit of Malta's diaspora and the Greater Malta concept.

Artists may opt to make submissions for either the logo or memento, or both.

All participating works should be forwarded to the nearest Malta High Commission, Malta Embassy or Malta Permanent Representation by Friday May 30, 2014 at noon. Works received after this date and time would not be considered.

The final work will be chosen by an independent team of judges in Malta



Joseph Cole

"We left Malta but Malta did not leave our hearts"

(Report by Josephine Bigeni JP – President Xaghra Association of NSW)

Bishop Mons Joe Bonello OFM, Bishop of Juticalpa, Honduras, recently paid a short visit to NSW and spent three days among the Maltese community in Blacktown. It was thanks to his brother Mario and wife Mariella that his visit was made possible giving the people of NSW the opportunity to meet him.

During his visit Bishop Bonello first celebrated mass at St. John the Evangelist, Riverstone and again a day later, which was on a Saturday, at the La Valette Social Centre in Blacktown. This mass was well attended and the Maltese community had the opportunity to talk to him after mass.

Then on Sunday he also celebrated a thanksgiving mass at St. John The Evangelist before attending a dinner in his honour at the Mandavilla Function Centre, which was full to capacity. All who attended had an enjoyable time. At the dinner he was presented with a chasuble.

The motto of his visit was "I am Joe, your brother, one of you, and like you I live abroad, in another country'. And it's true! Like any other Maltese person who has left our beloved Malta, Malta is still very close to us, within our hearts. ("Jien Gużepi hukom Gużepi hukom, wiehed minnkom, u bhalkom ngħix barra minn pajjiżna").

Bishop Bonello also thanked the Maltese



community in NSW for their generosity that it making it possible for the mission church in Honduras to carry on with its work amongst the poor.

The pro-

- Bishop Mons. Joe Bonello

ceeds from the fundraising dinner that amounted to \$5,800.00, were also presented to him so he could carry on with his mission. In the past, the Xaghra Association of NSW had also sent donations to Bishop Joe Bonello's mission in Honduras.

It was a very successful occasion and all those who made Bishop Bonello's visit possible deserve our thanks. Xaghra Association of NSW and H.G. Mr. Joe Bonello OFM expressed their deepest gratitude.



Bishop Mons Joe Bonello with members of the Maltese community in NSW

Mario Sammut celebrates two great anniversaries

30 Years of Broadcasting; 25 years as Hon. Vice-Consul in Victoria

Mario Sammut, a well known and highly respected personality within the Maltese Community in Victoria, this year is celebrating 30 years of broadcasting, and this month, (March) will also be celebrating 25 years as Hon. Vice-Consul of Malta in Latrobe Valley and Gippsland.

Mario, his wife Vivienne, and three children under the age of eight years, emigrated to Australia in 1983, and less than a year later, in January 1984 Maltese radio presenter Reno Galea enlisted him as a possible broadcaster on Radio 4EB in Brisbane. It was a new challenge for him, as he never imagined that some day he would take to radio broadcasting in Australia.

At the time, Mario was still trying to find his feet in this vast continent. Life for him and his family was very different to what they were used to in Malta when he was thrown in at the deep end of broadcasting. Little could he imagine that 30 years on, he would still be volunteering as a radio broadcaster.

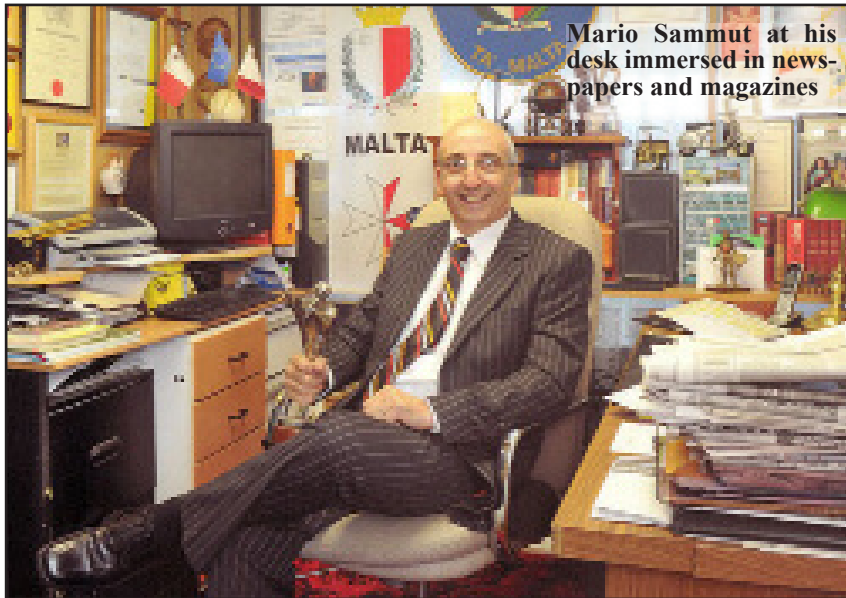
Thirty years is a long time in any career and when it comes to broadcasting in Australia for somebody who was new to the 'job' it certainly wasn't easy for him.

If he had to document all that happened during this time, I am sure it would make a very interesting book. For a start, he had to take a course in radio broadcasting and studio techniques.

Mario had his full time job to take care of, and after finishing work, and in order to fulfil his commitment on the radio he had to drive about an hour to get from his home to the radio station and then make a return trip at around 11 pm.

It was not fun at all. However, after two weeks, along with his wife, he ventured for the first Maltese Radio Show. It was an hour-long Sunday programme aired between 4 to 5 pm.

Mario and his wife Vivienne had to drag their children along to the station. They would make them sit quietly in the studio



Mario Sammut at his desk immersed in newspapers and magazines

by
PAUL VELLA
(Melbourne)



during the programme. He was making a success of his new challenge and soon after, at a meeting, the broadcasters appointed him Con-
vener of the Maltese Programmes on 4EB.

Eighteen months later the Sammut family moved to Morwell, in Victoria, and the story repeated itself. No sooner had they arrived at his new home that he was asked by the Maltese broadcaster on 3GCR Gippsland FM to take over the Maltese radio programme, that had been going for about eight years, and also to double up as President of the Maltese Club.

That was in January, 1986. Today, 28 years later he is still involved with the same radio station. He produces the two-hour long Maltese Programme on Tuesdays between 5.30-7.30 pm, and for the last 15 years has also been presenting a Breakfast Show on Wednesdays (between 6.00-9.00 am).

Lately, Mario has also been entrusted with presenting Monday's Breakfast Show. The show is in English.

Last December the station awarded Mario the "Presenter of the Year Trophy"

to add to the "Silver Logie Award" that his Maltese Show on 3GCR received in 1988 from the Walter Shauble Ethnic Broadcasting Foundation for the best Ethnic Show in Australia for non-metropolitan areas. Indeed a great honour.

This month, Mario will also be celebrating 25 years presenting the Maltese programme "Ejjeu Oqoghdu" on 3ZZZ, Australia's Biggest Ethnic Community Station.

It has been a very difficult and, at the same time a rewarding experience for Mario. The

travelling to Melbourne every Saturday is quite a commitment, time wise and financially.

March this year also marks the 25th year since Mario Sammut became Hon. Vice-Consul of Malta in Latrobe Valley and Gippsland. It is a great honour and something that he will cherish all his life. The feeling of helping your fellow Maltese migrants in their needs regarding Government affairs, is great.

During all these years he also managed to squeeze in about 18 years as President/Founder of the Maltese Community Centre of the Latrobe Valley, again



Some of the awards Mario has collected during 25 years of broadcasting in Victoria

something that he is proud of in the knowledge that with his help and guidance the Maltese of the Valley have a Centre to be proud of, and that it actually belongs to them.

Continued on page 4

Il-programmi Maltin fuq ir-Radju u TV tal-SBS mill-ġdid taħt il-mannara?

Mill-ewwel paġna

Madankollu wiehed ma jridx jinsa' l-ghadd ta' pozzizzjonijiet manigerjali b'salarji enormi u dipartimenti li nholqu f'dawn l-aħħar snin fl-SBS, li m'huma qed jikkontribwixxu kważi xejn fil-produzzjoni u programmi attwali li jixxandru fuq ir-radju u t-televixin.

Żgur li f'din ir-reviżjoni esterna jinstab kif daqs hames snin ilu hafna mill-manigers tal-SBS spiċċaw barra b'pakketti u somom kbar ta' flus biex ftit wara regħhu nholqu pozzizzjonijiet simili b'salarji akbar u manigers godda.

Kif qal il-kelliemi tal-Komunikazzjoni fl-Oppożizzjoni, Jason Clare, din ir-reviżjoni tista' twasal għal tnaqqis fil-baġit tal-SBS.

Jekk isir dan, il-manigment tal-SBS jista' jkollu l-iskuża li jghid lill-komunità Maltija li m'hemmx baġit għaż-żewġ programmi Maltin fuq ir-radju diġitali, għax għalkemm imqabbel mal-miljuni li jonfoq fuq it-televiżjoni lill-SBS ir-radju ftit jiswielu, kull meta jkun hemm nuqqas ta' fondi r-radju dejjem ikun l-ewwel li jispiċċa hażin.

L-aħbar ta' din ir-reviżjoni qajment ukoll l-ispekulazzjoni li l-Gvern ta' Abbott jista' jkun li qed jippjana li l-ABC u l-SBS jingħaqdu flimkien; għalkemm il-Ministru tal-Komunikazzjonijiet, Malcolm Turnbull qal li ma jarax sens f'dan, għax l-SBS jitmexxa b'baġit ferm inqas mill-ABC.

Jekk ikun hemm amalgamazzjoni kif qal il-kelliemi tal-Komunikazzjonijiet fl-Oppożizzjoni, Jason Clare, l-SBS jinqered u s-servizzi lill-komunitajiet jew jisparixxu



(Dan l-artiklu gie miġbur wara sħarriġ fit-tul li t-tim ta' The Voice għamel dwar is-sitwazzjoni prekarja li ninsabu fiha dwar dan l-istazzjon nazzjonali mħallas mit-taxxi tagħna ilkoll.)

inkella jitnaqqsu u dan ikun ta' detriment kbir għall-komunitajiet.

It-termini ta' referenza għal din ir-reviżjoni mill-gvern, ma jinkludux bidliet fiċ-*charters*, kon-tenut jew deċiżjonijiet editorjali tal-SBS u l-ABC. Madankollu tqajjem ukoll il-punt li m'hemmx ġustifikazzjoni għall-miljuni ta' dollari li jingħata l-SBS meta *charter* jistipula li *'the principal function of SBS is to provide multi-lingual and multicultural radio, television and digital media services that inform, educate and entertain all Australians and, in doing so, reflect Australia's multicultural society'*.

Izda u fuq it-televiżjoni tal-SBS inkomplu naraw kontenut u films li m'għandhom x'jaqsmu xejn maċ-*charter*. Ir-rapport ta' din ir-

reviżjoni jithabbar f'April.

Sadattant x'tista' tagħmel il-komunità Maltija f'din il-qagħda delikata? Xorta huwa l-waqt li jibdeu mill-ġdid id-diskussjonijiet mal-manigment tal-SBS, avolja l-SBS jistgħu jghidu li jridu jistennew sa meta joħroġ ir-rapport tar-reviżjoni.

B'amalgamazzjoni mal-ABC l-ewwel li jitqacċat il-barra jkun hafna mill-manigment tal-SBS, li ma tantx kien hanin mal-komunità Maltija, billi hafna mill-istruttura manigerjali diġà qegħda fl-ABC.

Imma kif kien hemm dejjem, il-biża' hi, li l-programmi tar-radju jistgħu jonqsu taħt l-ABC.

Ma ninsewx ukoll iż-żewġ programmi tal-aħbarijiet bil-Malti li għandna fuq it-televiżjoni. Ix-xafra taqta' minn żewġ naħat u hi x'inhi s-sitwazzjoni, il-komunità Maltija m'għandhiex tibza' ssemmi lehinha mal-manigment tal-SBS u fil-pubbliku.

Mario Sammut: 39 years of broadcasting; 25 years as Hon. Malta V/Consul

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In 2004, his dedication earned Mario the "Victoria Award for Excellence in Multi-cultural Affairs", and followed that the following year with being presented with a medal from the Federation of Ethnic Communities Council of Australia for his commitment and contribution to Australia Multi-Culturalism.

In 2012, Mario was awarded the "Order of Australia Medal" for services to the Maltese Community of Victoria, particularly through broadcasting.

We congratulate Mario and wish him all the best for the future.



The Voice is heard!

SBSTV shortcomings, PBS explains its plans to ensure avoiding further disruptions

While apologising to the Maltese SBS TV viewers for the inconvenience caused when, as reported in the February 18 issue of *The Voice*, the twice-weekly half hour news reviews from Malta failed to reach SBS in time, Public Broadcasting Services Ltd in Malta says it is doing its utmost to resolve the situation and has “invested heavily” to reach its goal.

Through its Programmes Manager Mr. Reuben Zammit, PBS (Malta) told *The Voice* it is committed to deliver an improved customer experience to all its viewers; therefore its stations; TVM and TVM2 have recently switched from Standard Definition to High Definition format. As a result of this upgrade in formats all of the Standard Definition work practices and systems of work have become obsolete.

Mr. Zammit went on to explain that SBS TV is not yet in a position to receive HD format video from PBS, which means that all PBS programming has to be con-



verted to SBS standards in order for it to be aired. The converted files are then sent through FTP servers to SBS.

He went on to say that in both instances referred to in *The Voice's* report it was due to the technical problems in the conversion transfer system that caused the delays, which meant that the news reviews could not reach SBS in time.

PBS has now “invested heavily” to resolve these issues and a contingency system has been set up to avoid further disruptions. Besides, PBS said it is working closely with SBS TV to ensure that all

viewers will be able to enjoy PBS's HD programming as soon as possible.

In the meantime, PBS is extending its services to all Maltese and their descendants living abroad by providing free direct access to ‘live’ online broadcasting and catch-up services that cover all its programme schedules on the two TV channels, TVM and TVM2 as well as its three radio stations, on the company's website www.tvm.com.mt.

Apart from the streaming facilities, users also have full access to latest local news and sports on demand service for all TV programming together with the 1200hrs and 2000hrs news bulletins, programme schedules and various information pages that are constantly updated.

Note: *The Voice* accepts Reuben Zammit's explanation and sincerely hopes that his promise not to have any more “blank half hours” on our screens on Thursdays and Sunday mornings on SBSTV2 is kept.

“L-Aħbarijiet” among highest rating programmes of SBS WorldWatch in language news bulletins

Compared to other nationalities, the Maltese community in Australia is perhaps among the smallest, however, SBSTV has confirmed that its news bulletin produced in Malta for Australia, “L-Aħbarijiet” is among the highest rating programmes of SBS WorldWatch in language news bulletins.

This was confirmed to *The Voice* by Overseas News Service, WorldWatch (SBSTV) manager Paul Williams when, in our effort to cover all bases, this magazine requested his reaction to the statement by PBS Malta (reproduced above).

Mr Williams said that SBS has had a good relationship with PBS Malta for many years and its “L-Aħbarijiet” bulletin it produces for Australia is keenly watched by the Maltese community.

He told *The Voice*, that 'L-Aħbarijiet' is one of the highest rating programmes of all SBS WorldWatch in language news bulletins.”

He added that it is frustrating for anyone when their news bulletin is not available at the scheduled time for whatever reason. “PBS Malta and SBS do not like it when a bulletin deadline is missed and we apolo-

gise for the inconvenience to our audience when this occurred recently, ' Mr Williams said.

He also confirmed that SBS would continue to work with PBS Malta to do everything possible to eliminate errors and, “We hope the audience will continue to support the broadcast of L-AHBARIJJET on SBS TWO at 8.00 am each Thursday and Sunday.”

The bulletin is also available online soon after transmission at <http://www.sbs.com.au/ondemand/> and <http://www.sbs.com.au/yourlanguage/maltese/>

Is-sacerdoti Maltin iżommu l-appuntament mal-Festa ta' San Pawl

Bhal kull sena għall-habta tal-festa tan-Nawraġġu ta' San Pawl fuq il-Gżejjer Maltin, il-qassisin, djaki, ir-religjużi, sorijiet, membri tal-Mużew u nies oħra ta' hajja dedikata, kollha ta' nisel Malti, nhar il-Hamis 13 ta' Frar iltaqgħu għall-ikla ta' nofsinhar, fil-Mandavilla Function Centre, Horsley Park.

Din il-ġabra ta' kull sena kien bdiha Fr Karmenu Sciberras eks-kappillan ta' Wahroonga u komplewha l-membri tas-Socjeta ta' San Pawl, l-MSSP, li jhallu għall-ikla.

Għalkemm ta' kull sena l-għadd jonqos, il-hbiberija ta' bejniethom u l-entuzjażmu

għax-xogħol fl-għalqa tal-Mulej, għadhom iheggu b'nar ta' qalb Maltija.

Din is-sena kellhom iż-żieda ta' Fr Michael Lanson, qassis ta' nisel Malti li ġie ordnat is-sena l-oħra għall-Arcidjoċesi ta' Sydney.

Dawk li attendew bdew il-laqgħa bit-talb tal-uffizzju ta' San Pawl u komplew b' rifflessjonijiet spiritwali u talb għall-mejtin li tul hajjithom kienu jmorru għall-ikla kif ukoll għal hbiebom morda.

Kulhadd ha pjaċir u diġa' ddecidew li s-sena d-dieħla jerġgħu jiltaqgħu għal nhar l-istess il-festa tal-10 ta' Frar

Mahtur il-kumitat tal-Maltese RSL

Sadanittant, waqt il-laqgħa ġenerali li saret fil-Blacktown Workers Club ġie iffurmat il-kumitat tal-Maltese RSL għal sena oħra. Dawk li se jiffurmaw il-kumitat il-ġdid huma: President: Charles Mifsud; Segretarju: Anthony D'Anastasi; Teżorier: Andrew Magro; 1st elected v/president: Alfred Carabott; 2nd elected v/president: Sam Vella; Trustees: Sam Vella, Charles Mifsud u Alfred Carabott; Administration officer: Doris Pocock; Welfare Officer: Alfred Fenech; Recruiting/Membership Officer: Doris Pocock. Il-kariga ta' Pension Officer ma mtlieix.

Pope Francis names Maltese priest bishop of Miami(USA)

The Vatican recently announced that Pope Francis has named a Maltese 53-year-old clergyman, Monsignor Peter Baldacchino, as the 10th auxiliary bishop for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Miami, which covers Miami-Dade, Monroe and Broward counties.

Bishop Baldacchino, who speaks English, Maltese, Italian, Spanish and Creole, had been serving as chancellor of the Mission of Turks and Caicos in the Caribbean for 15 years. He is a graduate of the University of Malta; Redemptoris Mater Archdiocesan Missionary Seminary, Kearney, N.J and Seton Hall University.

Monsignor Peter Baldacchino known for his efforts to help build the church's presence on the Turks and Caicos Islands, will now use his experience to Miami. He will be ordained on March 19, the day of the Feast of St. Joseph.

Mgr Baldacchino, was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark in 1996, and in 1999, after serving as a parochial vicar in New Jersey, he was assigned to Our Lady of Divine Providence Mission in Turks and Caicos with the specific mission of spreading Catholic teachings across the islands. He has called his work as "fulfilling". When he started there were only nine worshippers on Sundays. The number has grown to 1,000.

Turks and Caicos Premier Rufus Ewing said that the Maltese priest's "great work in the Turks and Caicos Islands will be dearly missed in the Turks and Caicos Islands." He added: "I trust that his promotion is to the benefit of the Turks and Caicos Islands people whom I know he loves dearly."

Baldacchino said he was surprised by the announcement, but was looking forward to learning about South Florida. "This opens up a lot of possibilities for me," he said. "Right now I am trying to follow, rather than lead," he added.



Monsignor Peter Baldacchino, the new bishop of Miami in the USA

Jinżlulek Għasel Gabra ta' aneddoti

Jasluli għadd ta' kotba u nhobb naqra, imma kultant jasal ktieb li jkun xi ftit differenti mill-ohrajn. Qed nirreferi għall-ktieb li għadu kemm hareġ bl-isem ta' "Jinżlulek Għasel", gabra mdaqqa ta' aneddoti helwin minn persuni Maltin maghrufa floqsma differenti tal-hajja Maltija.

Fil-fatt hemm madwar 123 minn dawn il-grajjiet, hafna minnhom ghandhom inisslu tbissima u minn xi daqqiet anke xi demgha. Huma grajjiet li ghaddew minnhom Maltin maghrufa, u li sehnew tassew, miktuba b'sengha, ton mexxej u fil-qosor. Darba li dan il-ktieb ikun f'idejk qajla jkun faċli tnehhih.

Niggarantikom li jekk tibdew taqraw dan

il-ktieb mahrug mill-BDL žgur li ma tiegħu sakemm taslu fl-ahhar pagna, il-320. L-awturi huma żewġ hbieb antiki tiegħi, Charles Flores u Tony Barbro Sant, itnejn ġurnalisti u xandara veterani.

Sfortunatament dan il-ktieb m'hux għall-bejgh fl-Awstralja iżda jekk jinteressa sakhom taqraw l-aneddotti ta' Ministri, Imhallfin, Poeti, Atturi, Ġurnalisti, Xandara eċċ, idhlu fis-sit elettroniku tal-BDL www.bdlbooks.com.

Parti mid-dhul mill-bejgh ta' dan il-ktieb se tmur bhala għajnuna lil żewġ għaqdijiet volontarji li jahdmu b'riżq l-annimali f'-Malta.

-Lawrence Dimech

The function of the Year for Maltese Senior Citizens



The 14th Quiet Achievers – Night of Recognition

presented by the Maltese Welfare (NSW) Inc

Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at 7.15 p.m.

Annunciation Hall St Dominic's Hostel - 175 Walters Road Blacktown NSW

Presentation of Awards for Maltese Senior Citizens of the Year

Special guest artists: The Mifsud Brothers

All welcome - Entrance free.

Part of NSW Seniors Week

Sponsored by Fiducian Financial Services: Tel: 1300 544 409

The *festa tal-Vitorja* and the suburb of Greystanes

The festa of Our Lady Queen of Victories is one of the main events in the calendar of the parish church in Greystanes NSW. In this suburb of with 6.1 per cent of people living in this 23,446 (some 25km from the GPO), 6.1 per cent are of Maltese descent. Nearly three quarters of the residents speak English at home. Other languages most spoken at home are Arabic and Maltese.

The Voice spoke to Joe Spiteri, Qormi born, a prominent member of the Maltese community in these areas and the president of the festa committee.

It is worth noting that Joe has served on the festa committee continuously for the last 50 years. We believe this to be an unsurpassed record.

The annual Maltese festival in Greystanes, known by its Maltese word "Festa", launches into action on the last weekend of September.

Actually, in 1973 the church and the festa were dedicated to Our lady Queen of Victories (*il-Vitorja*) but the name was changed to Our Lady Queen of Peace.



The ceremony of the laying of the first stone of the church dedicated to *Il-Vitorja* in 1973 by Cardinal Norman T Gilroy. Also in picture, Frank Cefai, (hands on stone) Maltese builder/developer who built the church.

The Maltese parishioners who single-handed built the church protested because of their deep devotion to *Il-Bambina/Il-Vitorja* but to no avail.

The two-day festival has entertained thousands of people across Australia over the years since 1965.

Mr. Joe Spiteri said he was looking forward and thrilled that in 2015 the community will be celebrating the FESTA's 50th anniversary.

"I've been on the committee since it started and I'm glad to see the community continuing the traditions from year to year."

"There are so many things to do and it attracts people not just from NSW but from all over Australia. I really look forward to celebrating the occasion with my community, friends and family. Although it has started as a Maltese festa it has grown and now has no boundaries; it belongs to all," he said.

The focal point of the festa is the procession with the statue of the Maltese patron saint, Our Lady Queen of Victories. After religious festivities inside the church, the statue is taken out of its glass case and carried around the Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish grounds by members of the festa committee.

The statue "*Il-Vitorja*" holds a special place among the many parishioners from Malta because it has been associ-



Joe Spiteri

ated with the 8th September feast, one of Malta's national days that commemorates the end of the great siege of Malta in 1565 and the end of the Second World War.

Celebrations continue on Sunday with a mass, food stalls, bands and rides. The festival ends with a fireworks' display.

Greystanes had a humble beginning 70 years ago when it was actually part of Wentworthville. The notable history was started with the original site being known as Prospect Hill. It was recognised as one of the first land grants given in 1791 to emancipated convicts.

The name changed after unrest between the new settlers and the Darug people, the original occupants, led to a divide in the area.

Greystanes is part of the Holroyd City Council.



The statue of Our Lady Queen of Victories is seen carried around the large church grounds

ROUNDUP OF NEWS ABOUT MALTA

Muscat, Renzi agree to make migration an EU priority

Immigration and the Mediterranean political situation would be priorities on Italy's agenda, new Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi told Malta PM Joseph Muscat as they met in Rome's Palazzo Chigi on Friday.

Joseph Muscat was the first leader of a nation to meet the Italian PM who was nominated to take over from former premier Enrico Letta by the Italian Parliament a week earlier.

Renzi said that during its EU Presidency,



Italy would consider the Mediterranean as the centre of Europe and make the issues pertaining to migration and the Mediterranean at the forefront of its priorities

Dr Muscat said that along with Malta, Italy should stay united in

pressuring the EU on placing the issue of illegal immigration on top of its agenda.

The Maltese POM insisted that, "Italy's and Greece's presidency of the European Union serves as the right platform for the issue of illegal migration to be highlighted on a European front."

Malta Enterprise approves record number of projects

Economic Affairs Minister Chris Cardona announced that in the first nine months of a Labour government, Malta Enterprise approved 132 industrial investment projects a record for a single year. This



Economic Affairs Minister Chris Cardona

equates to an investment of €166 million. They will create over 2,600 jobs over three years.

Addressing a press conference, Dr Cardona said that the new projects include 36 new overseas investments, the highest annual number since 2006. Another 15 are expansions of foreign companies already in Malta.

The sources of the investments, which include aviation maintenance, electronics, furniture, ICT, digital gaming and pharmaceuticals, are the UK, Germany and Italy, followed by Spain.

He added that local investors came forward with 50 new projects and 31 expansions of which 70 were in manufacturing industry.

He attributed the success to better focus and better organisation by Malta Enterprise, micro targeting of potential clients, an improvement in international conditions and a reduction of red tape in Malta.

All this proves that the current government's economic strategy was paying dividends, particularly as between 2010 and 2012 Malta Enterprise had only approved an average of seven foreign direct investments with an average employment of just 38.

Malta with strongest employment growth

The European Commission has positively revised its 2013 to 2015 deficit forecast for Malta, and according to the Winter 2014 European Economic Forecast, Malta not only has the strongest employment growth among all EU Member States, but also the fourth lowest unemployment rate and retains strong growth projections.

Welcoming the forecast as one that confirms the Government's own economic outlook, and expressing great satisfaction, Finance Minister Prof. Edward Scicluna said it "demolishes the unfounded doomsday claims of the Opposition".

The revision of deficit figures follows two consecutive forecasts that predicted a deficit in excess of 3% for 2013 and 2014. This is now revised positively to 3% in 2013, and 2.7% in 2014 and 2015 respectively.

The Minister said this forecast confirms that the Government has achieved an economic turnaround and is looking forward to continued success. It also confirms that the economy is experiencing a positive turnaround and is expected to keep performing well.

With regard to economic growth, the Commission noted that "real GDP is estimated to have increased by 2% in

2013 as a whole, up from a mild 0.9% growth in 2012" and that that "it is projected to remain largely unchanged, averaging 2.1% in 2014-15."

The employment growth forecast for 2013 ranks Malta as best performer in the EU for the years 2013 to 2015.

"On all counts, the Commission's opinion is that the economy is expanding and the country's public finances are being put on a sustainable path," Prof. Scicluna said.



Finance Minister Edward Scicluna

ROUNDUP OF NEWS ABOUT MALTA

Free childcare centres in Malta, Gozo from April

As of April this year, the government will be providing free childcare centres in Malta and Gozo after practically all childcare centres in Malta and Gozo signed up to be part of the new scheme, the Govt said in a statement.

It added that the initiative has been widened in scope in order for parents, who are in education, as well as those in employment, would be able to make use of this service.

Parents will be entitled to free childcare services based on the number of hours they work. An additional hour per day and the equivalent of 10% of the entitlement will be added to the total to allow for commuting. Parents studying on a part-time basis will be entitled to 20 hours while those studying full-time will benefit from 40 hours.

Announcing the scheme, Education and Employment Minister Evarist Bartolo, said that the proposal had already proved a success with childcare centre providers prepared to invest in facilities and expand.

Minister for Finance Prof. Edward Scicluna on his part, that this scheme must be seen as an investment (valued at €3.8 million in the 2014 budget). He added that it seeks to utilise a previously untapped resource.

Prof. Scicluna added that this initiative represents one of the Government's major economic reforms, and that through it, the Government is increasing the female participation in the labour force and strengthening the country's skills.



Minister Evarist Bartolo

MCF opens centre for treatment of eating disorders and obesity

The President of Malta, George Abela officially inaugurated Dar Kenn ghal Sahhtek, the residential home for the treatment of eating disorders anorexia, buli-, mia, binge eating and obesity. The opening was made in the presence of Prime Minister Dr. Joseph Muscat

The €2.5m facility set up by the Community Chest Fund is housed in a former services building - the Nurses Quarters near the former Mtarfa Hospital that was built in 1924. It has been transformed to a state-of-the-art facility.

The centre is to be run by the Foundation *Kenn Ghal Sahhtek* set up jointly between the Malta Community Chest Fund and the



Ministry of Health, which was assisted by medical professionals from the Umbria region in Italy who work in the field of treating eating disorders.

The Italians also provided the expertise required customising the facility to suit the specialised treatment that will be provided to people with eating disorders.

The government is funding a multidisciplinary professional team of experts who have received professional training and mentoring in Malta and in Italy.

Tourist arrivals in January up by 7.1%

Malta registered an increase of 7.1 per cent in the total of tourist arrivals for January compared to the same month last year. The National Statistics Office has reported the estimated total as at 69,525.

A total of 55,440 of the arrivals were for holiday purposes, while 9,775 were for business. Most inbound tourists

arrived from EU member states, while tourists from Non-EU countries increased by 45.0%.

The largest proportion of tourists was aged between 45 and 64, followed by the 25-44-age bracket.

Total nights spent reached 571,745, which is up by 10.6 per cent. In absolute terms, the majority of guest

nights were spent in collective accommodation establishments, while the number of tourists residing in private accommodation rose by 40.9 per cent.

During the reference month, total tourist expenditure showed an increase of €56.2 million, that is, 9.4 per cent over the corresponding month last year.

Malta International Airport ranks fifth best in Europe

The 2013 Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards has ranked Malta International Airport (MIA) fifth best from 75 European airports surveyed by the Airports Council International (ACI)

Malta got an overall passenger satisfaction score of 4.17 on a scale from one (poor) to five (excellent). Only one other airport from the top five forms part of Malta's category that is, airports that serve between two and five million passengers.

MIA's CEO Markus Klaushofer, said that Malta has performed consistently well in the ASQ survey, because of its constant investment in infrastructure and customer service. "The competition may be getting tougher every year but we are more determined to excel," he said

He added: "Our airport gives visitors the first and last impression of Malta and we cherish this important role with a sense of pride and duty."

Malta International Airport has consistently

An aerial view of the Malta International Airport taken by Kurt Arrigo.



performed well in the past years. Despite a large increase in participating airports, Malta's overall score has remained in line with previous results. This year saw 285 airports worldwide surveyed, an increase of 37 from last year, including 16 from Europe.

Airports Council International is the only global trade representative of airports. It is a non-profit organisation, whose prime purpose is to represent the interests of airports and promote professional excellence in airport management and operations

Farsons announces new €27 m. investment in beer packaging facility

Farsons Group that prides itself as being foremost in the beverage and leisure markets in Malta, has announced further plans to fulfil its ambitions to become a niche regional player in the beverage market by making an investment of €27 million in constructing a new beer packaging facility.

Farsons' chairman Mr Louis A. Farrugia made the announcement of the investment during a visit Prime Minister Joseph Muscat, made to the brewery.

He said that the company – that is a totally owned Maltese Group led by Maltese management selling Maltese brands in Malta and other markets, has ambitions to become a niche regional player in the beverage market and aims to treble its exports within the next five years.

The reason for such an investment, Mr Farrugia said, is for Farsons to ensure it remains competitive and so “grow our businesses in our own and other markets. Through these investments Farsons has shown its determination to grow and remain a leading and relevant Maltese business,” he said.

The construction of the facility, that has been approved by the Board of Directors of the parent company, starts April to be completed by April 2016.

He said that the objective of this investment is to ensure that Farsons' beer packaging facilities remain competitive in today's market place by serving the important local market with packages that are relevant to contemporary consumer preferences, and to allow the Group to meet its objectives of increasing its ex-



Louis A. Farrugia (left) and Mr Norman Aquilina, explaining the new facility to Maltese PM Joseph Muscat (centre)

ports of beer and non-alcoholic products to nearby markets.

The new facility will deploy modern technology and bring about improved quality and productivity, along with increased efficiency through automation and lower energy and water consumption. The proposed building housing these lines will also accommodate all related raw and packaging material storage requirements.

According to Farsons CEO Mr Norman Aquilina, the company is envisaged to employ no less than 100 construction

workers on site by early summer and more workers in the first quarter of next year when other trades will be engaged.

On completion of this new investment, Farsons would have invested no less than €80,000,000 in its beverage business alone in the space of eight years, averaging €10,000,000 a year over the period. During the past six years, Farsons has invested no less than €50 million in a new PET packaging facility, a Logistics Centre and a new Brew house.

Explaining the importance of the project, Mr Aquilina on his part said: “This bold investment is critical to Farsons' vision and export led strategy as it will primarily provide the company with the right cost structures to operate and compete more effectively and efficiently on both the local and international market.”

Exports currently represent 6% by volume of Farsons' total production and it aims to increase the share of its total production to 17% by 2020.

Last year was one of Farsons' best years as it exported more than one container a day of beers and soft drinks to Europe, North Africa and Asia. It also continued to increase its exports to Italy, its primary overseas beer market, with brands including Cisk Export, Cisk XS, Farsons Strong Ale and others.

One of the company's main products, and perhaps the best known among the Maltese community in Australia, is the Kinnie soft drink, which is produced under licence in Australia. Last year was a record one both in terms of volume and royalty income.

Other main markets for Kinnie include Libya, the Netherlands and Russia and in the coming days Farsons will be shipping its first containers with Kinnie to the Czech Republic and Poland.



MCCV Survey on the Second Generation of Maltese in Australia

The Maltese Community Council of Victoria is conducting a survey to obtain a picture of the Second Generation of Maltese in Australia about whom we really know very little.

If you are a second generation person of Maltese background, it would be appreciated if you would fill out the survey questionnaire.

Completed forms may be returned in electronic or hardcopy form.

BY EMAIL: Form is available for download from the MCCV website: [URL: <http://www.mccv.org.au/index.php/youth/59-youth/413-mccv-survey-on-second-generation-maltese-in-australia->].

Complete it and email it to: mnc25@optusnet.com.au

BY POST to: Prof Maurice Cauchi, MCCV President, Maltese Community Centre, 477 Royal Parade, Parkville, Victoria 3052

The information provided will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Please pass this information and request for survey participation on to your children, friends and acquaintances.

Prof Maurice Cauchi (MCCV President)

Note: Definition of the 'second generation' for the purpose of this survey:

This survey is meant for second (and subsequent) generation persons of Maltese origin born in Australia or elsewhere outside Malta (ex. UK, etc).

It would also include those who were born in Malta but were brought to Australia when they were very young (under 10 years of age).

This survey is for adults aged 18 years and above.

Mix-xena tal-hajja Maltija

minn Ġużè Camilleri

Spicċaw l-ispekulazzjonijiet!

Coleiro Preca għal President ta' Malta

Ghalkemm mhux uffiċjalment, imma jidher fiż-żgur li l-President ta' Malta li jmiss wara li jintemm it-terminu ta' Gorg' Abela f' April li ġej, se tkun Dr Marie Louise Coleiro Preca, li bhalissa tokkupa l-kariga ta' Ministru tal-Familja u s-Solidarjeta' Soċjali.

Hekk wara tant spekulazzjoniet dwar min seta' jinghata din il-kariga prestiġġuża, sar maghruf li fil-jiem li ġejjin, kif il-Prim Ministru Joseph Muscat, diġa' kien wiegħed tul il-kampanja elettoral, il-President li jmiss se tkun mara, it-tieni wahda wara Agatha Barbara li serviet bejn Frar tal-1982 u l-1987.

Il-Prim Ministru mistenni jhabbar din il-hatra uffiċjalment, fil-jiem li ġejjin, l-aktar meta nhar il-Sibt li ġej, 8 ta' Marzu, jifakkur Jum il-Mara.

Marie Louise, nutar, ilha timmilita fil-Partit Laburista sa mindu kellna 21 sena meta anke mliet il-kariga ta' segretarja ġenerali tal-partit.

Minn dakinhar serviet f'ghadd ta' karigi oħra sakem fl-1998 giet eletta għall-ewwel darba fil-Parlament Malti. Fl-2008 hija ikkontestat ukoll għall-kariga ta' mexxej tal-partit. Qabel din t'issa l-aktar mument li x'aktarx tghożż kien li fl-ahhar elezzjoni ġenerali tal-2013, kienet it-tieni kandidat Laurista wara l-mexxej Joseph Muscat li gabet l-akbar għadd ta' voti.

Il-post tagħha fil-kabinett tal-Gvern kien assigurat u fil-fatt inghatat il-fiduċja tal-Prim Ministru li hatarha tmexxi l-ministeru li dejjem hu maghruf li jkollu sfidi kbar, dak għall-Politika Soċjali u l-Familja.

Hawnhekk uriet il-hila tagħha għax f'kull stharrig tal-fehma pubblika dejjem inghata l-akbar għarfien għall-hidma tagħha, f'qasam li tant hu għal qalbha.

Fil-fatt sar maghruf li sakemm waslet biex tiddeċiedi li tilqa' l-kariga li ġet offruta, it-tema tal-familja kienet wahda mid-diskussjonijiet bejnha u l-Prim Ministru. Issa hemm ukoll il-possibilita' li taħtha l-presidenza jkollha sehem importanti fil-

hidma kontra l-faqar u l-eskluzjoni soċjali. Oqsma li wkoll kienu ferm għal qalb il-President attwali.

Ta' 55 sena Marie Louise se tkun l-iżgħar President fl-istorja ta' Malta. Bhal Gorg' Abela wkoll kienet ikkontestat għall-hatra ta' mexxej tal-partit Laburista, u hu unur għall-Qriema l-fatt li wara Abela se tkun ukoll it-tieni President minn Hal-Qormi.

Hekk issa wiehed jista' jibda jhejji għall-presidenza l-ġdida, imma żgur li mhux se tonqos il-kontroversja, minhabba li l-Oppożizzjoni kienet qed tinsisti li bhal ma sehħ hames snin ilu, il-President il-ġdid kellu jintgħazel mill-kamp oppost, allura dak Nazzjonalista.

Hi insistenza li xejn ma' nizlet tajjeb mal-partitarji Laburisti, l-aktar u l-aktar dawk akkaniti, imma mhux biss, għax irragunaw li l-gvern Nazzjonalista għazel lil Abela

mhux għax ried lil xi hadd min-naha tal-partit oppost, imma bi skop, u li wara kollox għam-lu l-għażla, wara li għal erba' darbiet kienu għażlu persuni mill-Partit tagħhom, fosthom anke Prim Ministru li kien għadu kif ir-riżenja minn mexxej tal-Partit.

Issemmew sensiela ta' ismijiet sakemm f'daqqa wahda, il-Hadd, 24 ta' Frar, il-ġurnali lokali, kważi kollha, harġu jghidu donnu b'certezza, li l-President li jmiss se tkun Dr Marie Louise Coleiro Preca.

Hemm ukoll kri-



tika li l-Gvern se jitlef l-aktar membru popolari u haddiema tal-Kabinett. Dan saħansitra kitbu l-artikolista maghruf u eks ministru Laburista, Lino Spiteri, f'*The Times* (24.02.14) "*A Presidential Mistake*".

Hafna oħrajn imma staqsew kif wiehed jista' ma jaċċettax kariga prestiġġuża bhal din li turi tant fiduċja fil-persuna?

Ghawdex fit-Tielet Post

Ghalkemm rari ssib lil Ghawdex b'ismu fil-mapep, il-*website* maghrufa ma' min jivvjaġġa, *TripAdvisor* poġġiet lil din il-gżira fit-tielet post bhala l-aqwa gżira għat-turizmu fl-Ewropa. Din id-ditta tibbaża l-fehma tagħha fuq l-elef ta' kummenti li tirċevi minghand turisti li jżuru kull rokna tad-dinja.

Qabel Ghawdex kien hemm il-gżira Lewis and Harris fl-Iskozja, u Naxos fil-Greċja. (ara wkoll paġna 14)

... u l-ajruport fil 5 post

Iva, minkejja li m'għandiex ajruport kbir u lussuż daqs ajruporti ta' pajjiżi ferm akbar minna, nistghu niftahru li tagħna hu meqjus fost l-aqwa tal-Ewropa.

Infatti, skont l-Airport Service Quality (ASQ) Awards tal-2013, l-Ajruport Internazzjonali ta' Malta ġie ikklassifikat il-hames l-ahjar fl-Ewropa, minn fost il-75 ajruporti mistharrġa.

... u anke fix-Xogħol

Bhalissa f'Malta għaddejja polemika shiha bejn il-Gvern u l-Oppożizzjoni dwar il-qagħda tal-impjigi, bil-Gvern jikkwota ċ-ċifri tal-impjigi li dejjem qed jizdiedu, u l-Oppożizzjoni tikkwota l-figuri tal-qagħad li f'Diċembru li għadda żdiedu b'aktar minn 500 ruh fuq l-istess xahar tas-sena ta' qabel, it-tbassir ekonomiku tal-Kummissjoni Ewropea juri li fl-2014 pajjiżna huwa l-iktar wiehed li qed johloq impjigi fl-Ewropa.

U kif spjegajt l-ahhar darba ż-żewġ nahat għandhom raġun għax filwaqt li l-postijiet tax-xogħol qed jizdiedu sewwa, jidher li l-ghadd ta' haddiema qed jizdiedu ukoll. Parti sewwa mill-impjigi li qed jinholqu qed imorru għand il-barranin, kemm għax hemm ċertu xogħol li l-Maltin ma jridux jagħmluh, filwaqt li hemm xogħol iehor li l-Maltin mhumiex kwalifikati għalih

Fl-ahhar hdax il-sena waslu 18,625 immigrant

fil-Gżejjer Maltin aktar minn 18-il elf immigrant. Ghalkemm mhumiex libjani, fil-maġġoranza tagħhom waslu mil-Libja. Il-parti kbira minnhom huma Somali u Sirjani.

Minn dawn madwar 6000 biss baqghu Malta. Hafna minnhom marru f'pajjiżi oħra, bl-Istati Uniti taċċetta l-akbar għadd 2,242.

Sadanitant sar maghruf ukoll li f'Malta hawn ghixu 20,264 persuni barranin. Fost dawn, 32 fil-mija huma mir-Renju Unit, 5 fil-mija kull wiehed mill-Italja u s-Somalja, 4 fil-mija kull wiehed mill-Bulgarija u l-Germanja, u 3 fil-mija kull wiehed mill-Eritrea, r-Russja u s-Serbja.

Tbagħbis u Mahfriet

Filwaqt li l-kwestjoni ta' Ċittadinanza kwazi ghebet għal kollox mill-media lokali, issa qamet diskussjoni qawwija dwar tbaġħbis ta' *meters* u mahfriet.

Dan l-aħhar il-Gvern habbar li, minn investigazzjonijiet li kienet għamlet l-Ene-Malta, kien instab li kien hemm aktar minn 1000 *meter* tal-elettriku li kien ġie mbaġħbas biex dawn juru konsum ferm inqas minn dak attwali... u li minhabba dan it-tbaġħbis f'dawn l-aħhar tlett snin l-Ene-Malta tilfet €30miljun Ewro.

Immedjatament ġew sospizi xi haddiema tal-Ene-Malta li allegament kienu mdahhla f'dan it-tbaġħbis. Wiehed minnhom ammetta u nbaġħat sentejn habs.

Meta habbar dan, il-Gvern qal li kien lest ma jiehux passi kriminali kontra dawk li kellhom il-*meter* imbaġħbas, basta jhallsu l-kontijiet li iffrankaw, multa' ta' 10% u l-interessi. Dan dejjem skont regolamenti tal-Ene-Malta li kienu jippermettu li jsir dan.

Sintendi, mal-ewwel dahlet il-politika fl-istorja, Uħud ippuntaw subgħajhom lejn il-Gvern ta' qabel għal nuqqas ta' serjeta'. Kien hemm min sostna li l-Gvern ta' qabel kien jaf bl-abbuż u ma għamel xejn.

Ma setax jonqos li n-naħa Nazzjonalista toħroġ tiċhad li l-Gvern ta' qabel kien jaf bl-abbuż ... u allura nfetaħ battibekk biż-żewġ naħat jippruvaw jikkonvinċu lill-poplu li huma kienu qed jgħidu l-verita'.

Iżda l-Oppożizzjoni ma waqfitx hemm. Malajr ippruvat tisvijja l-kwestjoni fuq dik li sejjhet l-abbuż min-naħa tal-Gvern li għażel li juża liġi li permezz tagħha qed jitlob konsumaturi li kellhom l-*smart meters* imbaġħbsa biex ihallsu lura dak li gg-wadanjaw u penali, u ma jdahhalthomx il-qorti fuq att kriminali bħala komplici fil-koruzzjoni ta' uffiċjali pubbliċi.



Il-Ministru Konrad Mizzi (nofs) flimkien maċ-chairman tal-Enemalta, Dr Charles Mangion (xellug) u l-Kap eżekuttiv tal-Enemalta, Frederick Azzopardi jindirizzaw lill-gurnalisti

Il-mexxej Nazzjonalista, Simon Busuttil beda jsosti li, "*Min ma jiggelidx il-korruzzjoni huwa korrott*". Min-naħa tiegħu l-Prim Ministru Joseph Muscat wieġeb: "*Xi irid Simon Busuttil, jifja l-ħabs mijiet ta' familji? Jiena taf lil min irrid nitfa' l-ħabs, lil min hu korrott. Lil min ilu jħaxxen bwi-etu b'din u b'affarijiet oħra.*"

U filwaqt li kienet għadha fl-aqwa tagħha

din id-diskussjoni, il-Ministru Konrad Mizzi habbar li kienu nstabu 665 fajl mohbi li kienu jirreferu għal serq ta' dawli bejn 2006-2011. Minkejja li minn għamel dan is-serq kien ġie individwat, u saħansitra ddahhlu l-pulizija fil-kwestjoni, jidher li kollox waqaf hemm, u la thallas id-dawli misruq u l-anqas ittiehdu passi fil-Qrati kontra min għamel ir-reat.

L-elezzjonijiet għall-Parlament Ewropew - se jikkontesta eks PM

Il-kampanja għall-elezzjonijiet l-tal-membri tal-Parlament Ewropew qabdet ir-ritma sew.

F'dawn l-elezzjonijiet se jiehdu sehem it-tliet partiti politiċi: dak Laburista, Nazzjonalista u l-Alternattiva Demokratika. Hemm ukoll l-Imperium Europa, li huwa meqjus bħala partit tal-lemin estrem.



Abela Baldacchino (li ilha biss sena) diġa' kkonfermaw li m'humix se jikkontestaw.

Għalhekk l-unika membru tal-Parlament Ewropew Laburista li s'issa għet ikkonfermata bħala kandidata hija Marlene Mizzi.

Min-naħa tal-Partit Nazzjonalista, iż-żewġ MEPs t'issa - David Casa u Roberta Metsola - ġew

ikkonfermati.

Min-naħa l-oħra l-Alternattiva Demokratika u l-Imperium Europa se jippreżentaw żewġ kandidati kull wiehed.

Fost il-kandidati hemm ukoll eks Prim Ministru, Dr Alfred Sant (*ritratt*) li se jikkontesta f'isem il-Partit Laburista.

Billi l-elezzjoni se issir lejn l-aħhar ta' Mejju li ġej, jistgħu jiżiedu xi kandidati oħra, anke forsi xi kandidati li jiddeċiedu li johorġu bħala indipendenti.

Sintendi, huma l-Partit Laburista u dak Nazzjonalista li se jagħmlu l-akbar kampanja elettorali bil-Partit Nazzjonalista jipprova jirbah it-tliet membru (bħalissa hemm 4 MEPS tal-PL u 2 tal-PN), mira li skond kummentaturi politiċi tidher li mhix daqshekk diffiċli għax fl-aħhar elezzjoni l-aħhar MEP laburista ġie elett minhabba kif taħdem is-sistema elettorali. Dakinhar il-kontestazzjoni saret għal hames membri. Is-sitt wiehed kien li ġab l-aktar voti meta Malta kisbet is-sitt sigġu. Attwalment l-importanti min se jgħib il-maġġoranza tal-voti.

Ta' min jgħid li kemm ilhom isiru l-elezzjoni f'Malta, għall-Parlament Ewropew, dawn dejjem intrebhu mill-partit li kien fl-Oppożizzjoni.

Two great Events organised by the Maltese Association Hobsons Bay Inc
MALTA NATIONAL DAY (FREEDOM DAY)
35th Anniversary on Tuesday March 25
at 1.00 pm at the Maltese Neighbourhood Centre 21-31 Cn Collins & Marion Avenue Altona North

FEAST OF JESUS THE REDEEMER
March 30 at St Mary's Star of the Sea Church 33 Howard Street West Melbourne from 2.30 pm: Solemn Mass, Street Procession with the Statue of Jesus the Redeemer.
Maltese Choir of Victoria.
Buses available.
For more information call Joe Attard on 0400357001

S'issa l-Partit Laburista ikkonferma 12-il kandidat, bil-possibilita' li jkollu t-13, li jista' jkun Joseph Cuschieri, li bħalissa hu membru parlamentari Ewropew u li għad ma ġiex ikkonfermat.

Skont l-aħhar aħbarijiet Joe għadu qed jiddiskuti l-partecipazzjoni tiegħu mal-mexxejja tal-Partit Laburista.

Jekk Cuschieri ma jikkontestax ikun ifisser li tlieta mill-erba' MEPs laburisti ta' bħalissa ma jikkontestawx, minhabba li Dr John Attard Montaldo li ilu fil-Parlament Ewropew sa mill-ewwel elezzjonijiet li saru, u Claudette



MORE CARNIVAL FLOATS ON PAGE 14



Il-Karnival (ir-Renju tal-Bluha) u l-Parlament

Bejn il-Gimgha li ghadda u t-Tlieta (4 ta' Marzu), f'Malta qed isir il-Karnival, maghruf f'Malta bhala r-Renju tal-Bluha. Dis-sena kien akbar mis-soltu u nghata nifs gdid ghax anke reġa' kien ifukat fil-belt Valletta.

Did-darba jidher li mhux talli whud mill-Parlamentari spiċċaw bhala maskaruni, imma wkoll kellhom iċ-ċans igawduh aktar, minhabba deċiżjoni li fil-jiem tiegħu ma jsirux laqgħat tal-Parlament. Ir-raġuni kienet li min-habba li l-attivitajiet saru fi Pjazza San Gorġ (quddiem il-Palazz fejn

jiltaqa' l-Parlament) kien ikun diffiċli li l-membri Parlamentari jidhlu fil-Parlament.

Bhal-dejjem, il-ftuh sar permezz tar-Re tal-Kaniva il-Gimgha b'karru li bhalu għal dawn l-aħhar 18-il sena kien isir minn Charles Axisa, maghruf bhala "l-Landa", li miet f'incident fuq il-post tax-xogħol xi xhur ilu. Imma wliedu zammew it-tradizzjoni u xorta wahda zammew it-tifkira tiegħu hajja billi flimkien mal-istess nies li kienu jghinu lil missierhom jibni l-karru, din id-darba wkoll bniewh, u semmewh, appuntu, 'Landa King' (*fuq nett*).



Il-Karnival

*Dan ix-xahar ta' ferħ u bluha
Reġa' magħna f'dawn il-jiem;
Kulhadd lilu jkun jistenna
Għax tas-sena hu l-isbah żmien.*

*In-nies taġna tkun trid tinsa
Hekk kif fuqna jfeġġ Frar
U għalkemm il-qawl jgħidilna
Li matulu ifuru l-bjar*

*Nisa, rġiel, żgħażaġh, anzjani
Jistennew il-Karnival
Biex jitbellħu w jibahardu
Għax darbejn insiru tfal!*

*Fil-misraħ ewlieni ta' beltna
U fil-pjazez ta' l-irħula
In-nies tigri u tiffolla
Ma toqgħodx id-dar maqfula!*

*Tgawdi l-festa ta' kuluri
L-ispettaklu ta' l-iżfin;
Jekk tgħidilha: kun ftit serja!
Tgħidlek: issa mhux il-ħin!*

*U taseww għax dawn il-Festi
Li ġabulna l-Kavallieri
Jiġu sabiex niddevertu –
Staqsu lili x'jiġifieri!*

*Hbieb, immela, ħudu kliemi
Ejjew issa nixxalaw:
Għalfejn toqgħod thammemhFafna
La darba m'ahniex għal haw'!*

Kav. Joe M. Attard

Malta in Europe Street at the Canberra Multicultural Festival

Malta was part of the Europe Street at the February National Multicultural Festival, Australia's premier celebration of all things multicultural, providing an opportunity for communities around Australia to learn about other countries and indulge in cultural heritage.

At the festival that attracts large crowds from Canberra and interstate, was a great success, the High Commissioner of the Republic of Malta in association with the Maltese-Australian Association Canberra & Queanbeyan, had a vibrant stand with Malta hand flags, posters, brochures, maps and promotional material all on show.

High Commissioner Mr. Charles Muscat, 1st Counsellor/Deputy HC Joseph Pirota, Joseph Micallef, (president, MAA (Canberra & Queanbeyan), Robert and Jane Vella, John Vassallo (Association Members), and Greg Farrugia, a volunteer, were all present at the stand, answering questions and highlighting the benefits and attractions of Malta.

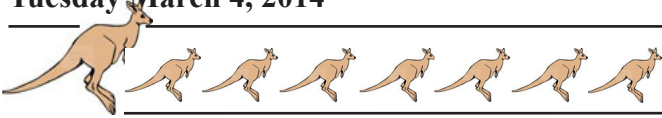


Malta's High Commissioner, Mr Charles Muscat (second left) during his visit to the Malta stand at the Multicultural Festival in Canberra; and (right) a section of the crowd at the Malta stand



MALTA CARNIVAL 2014
Pictures show some of the floats that took part in the defile that made Carnival 2014 in Malta the success it turned out to be as, after 40 years, the focal point was returned to Palace Square in Valletta





A quick glimpse at Australia

Qantas in big trouble

Five thousand of the 22,000 members of Qantas's full-time workforce are now staring down at the barrel job losses and wage freeze as Australia's national airlines announces a record underlying loss of A\$252 million pre-tax for the first half of the financial year.

Chief Executive, Alan Joyce said he will stall growth plans in Asia, defer or cancel orders for 50 aircraft, withdraw from loss-making routes, sell terminals and reduce the number of aircraft types in the fleet from 11 to seven. In all \$2 billion in reduce costs in the next year.

These measures will be implemented irrespective of whether Qantas gets support from the Abbott Government. The Pilots are calling it a demolition job.

Meanwhile, to cap off a woeful week for Qantas, on Thursday a Qantas A380 superjumbo collided with another of the airline's Boeing



Alan Joyce said Qantas targets A\$2 billion in cost cuts over three years

747-400 jumbos at Los Angeles International Airport, causing damage to the wing tips of both planes and forcing the cancellation of flights.

Sources said they believed the planes had suffered "millions of dollars" worth of damage.

The incident occurred while the aircraft were being towed out of a hangar. A full investigation is under way.

There were no passengers on board either aircraft but as result of the collision, Qantas has cancelled two flights from Los Angeles, one to Melbourne and another to Brisbane.

Passengers were accommodated in hotels overnight and put on the next available flights out of Los Angeles.

Not on the same planet

Prime Minister Tony Abbott again had downplayed the role of climate change as drought ravaged much of inland eastern Australia.

The PM said that the extreme heat and dry conditions were not unusual to Australia.

"If you look at the records of Australia agriculture going back 150 years, there have always been good times and bad, tough and lush time, this is not new to Australia. As the seasons have changed, climatic variations have been a constant here in Australia".

The US Secretary of State, John Kerry has warned Indonesia that man-made climate change could threaten their way of life, deriding those who doubted the existence of "perhaps the world's most weapon of mass destruction".

Mr. Kerry described those who do not accept that human activity causes global warming as "shoddy scientists" and "extreme ideologues". Big companies and special interests should not be allowed to "hijack" the debate.



Misleading information

The Greens and some Labour backbenchers called for Border Protection & Immigration Minister Scott Morrison (above) to resign or be sacked. "He definitely has blood on his hands" said Senator Sue Lines. On the other had the PM said, "you do not want a wimp running border protection".

This followed the Minister's statement about the fatal brawl (on dead and 62 asylum seekers injured) at the immigration detention facility on Manus Island. The Minister gave misleading information but later corrected it.

Misleading information about asylum seekers is not new, we well remember the Tampa children overboard incident. The security at Nauru & Manus Island will cost us all \$1.22 billion for 20 months.

The Global economy is improving

Sydney hosted the G20 two days of talks between the finance minister and central bank governors. This is a prelude to the head of state meeting to be held in the city of Brisbane, Australia in November 2014.

The G20 is a group from 20 major economies, 19 countries plus the European Union. The members are: Australia, Canada, Saudi Arabia, US, India, Russia, South Africa, Turkey, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, France, Germany, Italy, UK, China, Indonesia, Japan and South Korea.

In order to host the G20 meetings this year, Australia will fork out \$468 million.

The major outcome from the Sydney meeting was a crackdown on global profit sharing and a new target to boost economic output for more than 2 per cent over the coming five years. The also concluded that the global economy was improving.

Division of the Maltese Community Council of NSW Inc. PO Box 5332, Greystanes LPO, NSW 2145

Learn Maltese!

Learn the Maltese language, the culture, lifestyle, cuisine, traditions and about the amazing history of this magnificent Mediterranean island.

Our trained and experienced teachers are qualified in language teaching and have Maltese study credentials.

Classes available for students from 6 yrs to adults at all levels of ability in the Maltese language.

Classes are held at:

HORSLEY PARK

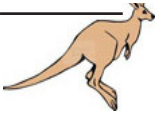
Horsley Park Public School
1759 The Horsley Drive, Horsely Park

SEVEN HILLS

The Meadows Public School
Fuller Street, Seven Hills

SCHOFIELDS - Terra Sancta College. Hambeldon Rd, Schofields

For more information and all enquiries call Carmen Cassar on 0402 002 454



A quick glimpse at Australia

A bullet in your head

The ICAC hearing involving Joe Camilleri, the former most senior official in charge of train maintenance in NSW RailCorp for 37 years is continuing with bizarre declarations. Joe is saying that he has ruined his career and sacrificed the savings of friends and relatives for the sake of his daughter Jessica. It is alleged he borrowed about \$4 million in loans in 2012-13. However his daughter is not impressed as evidenced from a secretly recorded tape when she told her father, "I'm paying for someone to put a bullet in your head".

The accused was repeatedly challenged about whether he believed the stories Jessica told him about

her identity fraud and why she wanted the money.

RailCorp sacked Mr. Camilleri in February last year for failing to disclose he had borrowed from contractors. He said he only started to doubt his daughter's stories when he was later told she had a gambling problem. The hearing continues.



Joe Camilleri: allegedly borrowed about \$4 million in loans in 2012-13

Inconvenient truth

Victorian Magistrate Charlie Roznewajg found ex-Federal Labour politician Craig Thompson and ex-secretary of the Health Service Union between 2002 and 2007 guilty of charges related to using union funds for sexual services and of

making cash withdrawals with issued credit cards.

This bizarre four-year saga came to the end (bar sentencing) for the 49-year old MP for the seat of Dobell. He was elected a Member of Parliament in September 2007.

Pell to the Vatican

Cardinal George Pell was appointed Archbishop of Sydney in 2001. He has just been appointed Prefect for a new Secretariat for the Economy of the Holy See. He will have a challenging task of taking on the Vatican entrenched and "semi-corrupt" financial culture and to "clean it up".

It is likely that the Cardinal Pell will vacate his post as Archbishop of Sydney where his reputation as an uncompromising figure has not always served him well. Retired Cardinal Edward Cassidy remains the only Australian to reach the highest rank in Rome when he served as Substitute Secretary of State, in 1988.

Maltese National identity Your help is needed

Dr Gordon Sammut, a lecturer at the Department of Psychology of the University of Malta is asking the readers of *The Voice of the Maltese* to assist with regards to a study he is currently researching regarding Maltese national identity in Malta as well as other countries around the world.

Presently, Dr Sammut in this final part of the process of conducting a survey with Maltese migrants to Australia.

Please take a few minutes to share this message with any of your relatives/friends/acquaintances that live in Australia and with any other Maltese that may have contacts in Australia.

Your participation would be highly important as it would enable us to direct this survey to those who are in a position to answer it, making sure we learn about their experiences as Maltese living in another country. Should you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact: gordon.sammut@um.edu.mt

ONLINE QUESTIONNAIRE:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1HoG-EfUrKZiBhmqFe_xV3PFVNP7zXnE4AI0CPARxC54/viewform

PDF QUESTIONNAIRE (printable):

<https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/9123578/Study%20on%20Maltese%20in%20Australia.zip>

Ballot papers lost

It was a bungled vote of historical proportions. Taxpayers will pay an extra \$13 million or more for a fresh election for half-Senate for six of the Western Australia State 12 senators. The unprecedented WA's Senate election last September 7th was made necessary as 1375 ballot papers went missing during the counting process.

The Head of the Australian Electoral Commission, Ed Killesteyn has resigned after apologising unreservedly for the bungle.

Readers Please Note

Are you receiving our newsletter regularly? If you miss out or need back issues please let us know.

There are times when email boxes are full or you may be away. Get in touch and we'll look after you.

You can also access *The Voice of the Maltese* by logging to:

<http://www.maltesewelfare.com.au> and clicking on *The Voice* sign

The Team – The Voice

Community News

Tune In to Radio and Television

Maltese Radio Programmes

In **MELBOURNE**, on 3ZZZ 92.3FM or on www.3zzz.com.au. Mondays 5pm, Fridays 5pm, Saturdays 10am.; Last Wednesday each month at 1pm.

In **SYDNEY**, listen to the MCC radio programme Sunday at 11am 2GLF FM89.3, or on demand on www.893fm.com.au

In **BRISBANE** listen to the Maltese Program on 4EB on Tuesdays 6.00am to 8.15am and Sundays 4.15pm to 5.15pm

To listen to the Maltese Radio of **UNCLE SAM DJ** from Australia tune in to link: www.unclesamdj.com

FRED FENECH: Every Thursday from 5.00pm till 6.00pm on 2RRR FM 88.5. Can be reached from the Parramatta and Holroyd region!

Maltese Programmes – TV, Web

The **GDAY MALTAUSSIE SHOW** on TVS is broadcast in Sydney.

Every Saturday at 2pm; Repeats on Mondays 5 pm and Tuesdays 7.30 am

Watch direct via HYPERLINK: <http://www.tvs.org.au>; <http://www.tvs.org.au>

The PBS MALTESE NEWS L-Ahbarijiet on SBS TV twice a week nationwide Sunday at 8.00 am on SBS2 (Chan. 32); Thursdays at 8.05 am on SBS2

On SBS Radio - Latest schedule

Day Time Analogue Digital

Tuesday: 12:00 - 13:00 SBS Radio 3

Thursday: 12:00-13:00 SBS Radio 3

Friday: 12:00-13:00 97.7fm SBS Radio 2

Saturday: 14:00-15:00: 97.7fm SBS Radio 2

To tune into digital radio you will need a new receiver or device with a DAB+ chip.

Tuning in is by station name not frequency. Digital radio can also be heard on digital TV. SBS Radio 2 is on Channel 38 and SBS.

Radio 3 is on Channel 39. Analogue is the present FM wavelength. Digital radio can also be accessed by a smart phone and/or by going online at HYPERLINK:

<http://www.sbs.com.au>, www.sbs.com.au

VIVA MALTA

VIVA MALTA on Central Coast Radio

NSW on Thursdays March 13 and 27

from 6 pm -7pm on COAST FM 96.3

Community Radio in Gosford. NSW. Presenter: Nathalie Gatt.

Web streaming is also available on:

www.coastfm.org.au.

Computer Clases for Seniors

The Maltese Community Council (NSW) Inc. will be conducting Computer Clases for seniors from the MRC cnr Franklin and Young Street, Parramatta West.

Lessons Saturday mornings from 10.30 to 11.30

For more information phone: Emanuel Camilleri on: 9822 0228

Stella Maris Maltese Assoc. Inc (Melbourne) - Founded 1988

Activities for 2014

April 5th, May 3rd, June 7th, July 5th.

All Family Get Together at St Joseph The Worker

Watch for more activities on The Voice

The Committee for 2014

President Charlie Xerri, V/President: Lino Fava; Secretary: Frances Fava Tel: 03 9449 7290; Asst Secretary: Lilian Wessley; Treasurer: Paul Scerri; Asst Treasurer: John Darmanin. Committee Members: Sunny Micallef, Charlie Cach-ia, Carmen Cachia, Antoinette Gauci, Manny Bugeja.

18-Day US Holiday (with Charlie Camilleri)

Departing 19TH May 2014

MEMPHIS - 3 NIGHTS: Visiting Elvis's home and resting place **GRACELANDS:** Sun studio, where Elvis recorded his first song; Board Elvis's plane The Lisa Marie. **TUPELO** Elvis's birth place.

NASHVILLE – 3 NIGHTS MUSIC CITY of USA: Visit Johnny Cash Museum; Country Music Hall of Fame and a show at the **GRAND OLE OPRY.**

LAS VEGAS – 5 NIGHTS of fun. Try your luck at gambling. Optional day at **GRAND CANYON.**

LOS ANGELES – 3 NIGHTS, 1 day **DISNEY LAND,** 1 day **UNIVERSAL STUDIOS.**

Phone Charlie on: 0410-523-476

Notice to Former members of ... Malta Society of New Zealand

We now have a Facebook page that we invite you to join. It is called **Mainly-Maltese-in-Auckland.**

We can be found online at:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Mainly-Maltese-in-Auckland/396193070527203?ref=hl>.

It is open to anyone who is Maltese or has an interest in the Maltese culture.

Meetings of Maltese Seniors Fairfield Active Maltese Seniors

Meets on the first Tuesday of the Month from 10:00am to 12 noon.

The group meets in the Parish Hall, cnr of Stella Street & The Boulevard, Fairfield Heights.

Daceyville Maltese Seniors

Meets on the last Wednesday of the month in the Meeting Room One, No. 3 General Bridges Crescent, Daceyville.

Note: The Groups also arrange regular Bus Trips.

Come and join us and make new friends. For more information on any of the Groups please contact the Maltese Welfare Officer, Marisa Previtera, JP, on: 0414 863 123

Greystanes Maltese Seniors

Meets on the second Monday of the

The Sutherland & St George Maltese Group

Ongoing: We meet every First Wednesday of the Month from 10:00am. to 1:00pm Our Meetings/Get Togethers are interesting, informative & entertaining.

We also have regular outings. Come Join us and make new Friends

month in the Youth Room of OLQP Church, 198 Old Prospect Road, Greystanes from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Llandillo Maltese Seniors

Meets on the first Wednesday of the month at the Llandilo Community Hall, Seventh Avenue, from 11am to 1pm.

For more information one should contact our Coordinator – Charles Mifsud J.P. Phone (02) 9501 5525 – mobile 0421 662 298

*(All Groups are Sponsored by The Maltese Community Council, NSW)

St Gejtanu goes over the Bay!

The Saint Gaetan Society recently held its annual trip over Port Philip Bay. On Sunday February 9 two busloads of supporters travelled from the Western suburbs of Melbourne down to the beautiful waters of the Mornington Peninsula.

Thankfully, it was an equally beautiful day: a warm sun, cool breeze and salt scented ocean air. After lunch in Frankston, we boarded the ferry at stunning Sorrento.

Quite a number of us stayed on deck, taking in the view and photographing the sparse sights on the bay's open expanse, else just photographing one another!

Despite fears that the waves would be choppy, the cruise to Queenscliff turned out to be both pleasant and leisurely. After a brief stop for afternoon tea, all headed back home, slightly exhausted but grateful for the fun and company we'd had.

The association's next activity is a Seafood Night on Saturday March 8 at St Martin de Porres Parish in Avondale Heights. Tickets can be bought at \$32 for members and \$35 for non-members. It includes a four-course meal and DJ entertainment. For enquiries and bookings, those interested should contact Rita Hili on: 93311430.



MRC MALTESE SENIORS GET TOGETHER GROUP

Now meets every 3rd Friday of each month (unless stated) starting Friday March 21 at 11 – 1 pm.

Venue: MALTESE RESOURCE CENTRE Cnr Franklin & Young x Pitt Strs Merrylands (Mays Hills) at the Headmasters Cottage, behind Parramatta West Public School.

DATES:

3rd Friday: March 21

2nd Friday: April 11

3rd Friday: May 16

3rd Friday: June 20

3rd Friday: July 18

3rd Friday: August 15

3rd Friday: September 19

3rd Friday: October 17

3rd Friday: November 21

2nd Friday: December 12

Give a senior friend a lift. Everyone welcome. No need to book. Just come and enjoy each other's company. Please bring a plate of food to share. Free Parking close by. Any suggestions welcome. Speak to Fred, Rita, Nancy, Francis

St Helena Maltese/Australian S.C.Inc. (Melbourne)

Activities for 2014

MARCH 15: Saturday BYO at Errington, ST ALBANS

MAY 3: Saturday Feast of the Cross/Mother's Day at MELROSE TULLAMARINE

MAY 17: Saturday BYO at Errington, ST ALBANS

JUNE 21: Saturday BYO at Errington, ST ALBANS

JULY 19: Saturday BYO at Errington, ST ALBANS

AUGUST 22: Friday Mass 7.30PM at Croatian Church ARDEER

AUGUST 23: Saturday Feast Dinner Dance, at MELROSE TULLAMARINE

AUGUST 24: Sunday Feast & Concert at Croatian Church Hall, ARDEER

SEPTEMBER 20: Saturday AT MOONEE PONDS BOWLING CLUB

OCTOBER 18: Saturday BYO at Errington, ST ALBANS

OCTOBER 25: Saturday AT MOONEE PONDS BOWLING CLUB

NOVEMBER 15: Saturday BYO at Errington, ST ALBANS

DECEMBER 20: Saturday Xmas Function at MELROSE TULLAMARINE.

For information, Bookings phone: Victor: 0412 99 1325 or Mary Abdilla: (03) 9370 5164



St Nicholas Festa Committee

FIERA TAL-FNIEK

'FIERA MALTIJA'

Il-Hadd 30 ta Marzu

Mis-1.30 p.m. fil-Good Shepherd Hall f' 130-136 Hyatt Road, Plumpton

DIVERTIMENT KANT U DAQQ

-minn Ron Borg/Joe Xuereb & Tony Fenech

Fil-Fiera: fniek, inbid, whisky, Birra, Hams, Fruit Trays u affarijiet ohraj

Mill-kcina: ikel Malti - bhal hobz biz-zejt u bil-bigilla, pastizzi, biskuttini, ikel u xorb, u anke gelati b'xejn ghat-fal

Dhul u parking ikun b'xejn

Ghal aktar taghrif cemplu lil: Bill Schembri: 0416261415

All correspondence to: 282 Old Prospect Road, Greystanes NSW 2145
Email: snfcommittee@gmail.com

President Secretary Treasurer
Bill Schembri Danica Gatt Donna Bonnici
9896 1415 9671 3919 0410 695 388

Public Relations: Joe Fenech - 0412009957

Attivitajiet Ghaqda San Gejtanu (Melbourne)

Is-Socjeta` San Gejtanu ta' Melbourne ghadhom kemm ipubblikaw kalendarju bl-attivitajiet li ghandhom ippjanati ghal tul is-sena 2014. Ikun sewwa kienu jkollna iktar ghaqdiet Maltin li jipubblikaw bil-quddiem l-attivitajiet taghhom halli kemm jista' jkun jonqsu l-attivitajiet tal-istess xorta fl-istess jiem.

Is-Sibt 8 ta' Marzu: Seafood Night 7.30 pm

Il- Hadd 23 ta' Marzu: NSW bus trip

Il- Hadd 27 ta' April: Mothers' Day Lunch 12 pm

Is-Sibt 10 ta' Mejju: Festa San Gorg Preca 7 pm

Il- Hadd 18 ta' Mejju: Laggha u iklha 12 pm

Il- Hadd 15 ta' Gunju: NSW bus trip

Is-Sibt 19 tal-Lulju: Anniversary Dinner 7.30 pm

L-attivitajiet (barra l-bus trips) isiru kollha f'St Martin de Porres Avondale Heights (Melbourne)

Ikkuntatjaw lil: Jmmy Chirkop: 0435847173; Rita Hili: 93311430 jew Joe Cassar: 93742767.

It-tieni parti ta' dan il-kalendarju jhabbruh aktar tard.

Community News Continued

THE MALTESE GUILD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA Inc

Easter Monday Luncheon
Monday, April 21 at Maltese Cultural Centre 6 Jeanes Street Beverley
Lunch Menu will be advertised on the Radio and on the Notice Board

The Maltese Guild Centre and the bar will be open from 9.30 a.m. onwards.

ADMISSION: Members: \$7.00; Non-Members - \$10.00; Children - \$5.00
After lunch we will be playing Bingo and other games.

To book: see or phone, **Nina Abela: 8340 0345, Joseph Briffa: 8254 6988, or anytime on the mobile: 0421 791; George Craus: 82812329, or see any committee member.**



THE CITTADINI 2014 CALENDAR
SUNDAY 3rd May 2014
Wentworthville Leagues Club 2 p.m.



KUMMIEDJA

Together With **JOE GRIMA**

For tickets ring

Monica.....**9896 0712** or **0414 859386**

Doris...**9636 2295**

Sunday 26th October 2014
Wentworthville Leagues club 2pm

Joe Galea

DIRECT FROM MALTA

ELEANOR CASSAR & JOE GALEA

KUMMIEDJA FROM CITTADINI

For tickets sydney ring

Monica...**9896 0712** or **0414 859386**

Doris...**9636 2295**

Melbourne Reno Grima **0412 990664**

Joe Galea

Joe Galea

Joe Galea

COMING UP ACTIVITIES OF NOTE: Wednesday March 19-Seniors Week: Quiet Achievers, Night of Recognition at 7.15 pm at Annunciation Hall, St Dominic's at 171 Walters Road Blacktown NSW For information ring 0409 744 376

Maltese Language Schools

Maltese Language & Cultural Schools

If you wish to learn Maltese in SYDNEY
call: 0402 002 454 malteselanguageschoolnsw@hotmail.com

In MELBOURNE, contact:
Edwidge Borg, MCCV Maltese Language Classes
<http://www.mccv.org.au/index.php/language>
<http://federationofmalteselanguageschoolsaustralia.com>
edwidgeborg@excite.com

Also in MELBOURNE, contact Emma Navarro on 0406 215 990 or HYPERLINK "mailto:learnmaltesevic@gmail.com" learnmaltese-
vic@gmail.com

St Nicholas festa Committee NSW

2014 Calendar:

30th March: Autumn Fiera
7th July: L-iMnarja
19th October: Spring Fiera
29th November: Night of Entertainment (Rock n' Roll)
7th December: San Nicholas Festa

The Friends of Providence House NSW
(Official Ambassadors for Id-Dar tal-Providenza)

The Friends of Providence House NSW would like to advise that the Tour of the Greek Islands, UK, Ireland and Malta is now fully booked. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all those joining us and thank those who in one way or another supported us, particularly those who made donations.

Readers should note that donations can still be made to the one and only official Commonwealth Bank Account: *BSB:062 416 A/C 10199448.*

All money raised will be donated to Id-Dar Tal-Providenza, Malta.

For information one should contact the Co-Ordinator, Jim Borg on 02 9636 7767.
email: foph@bigpond.com -Thanks

Books for Sale

Telqu għal Għonq it-Trig
(Book 2)

by Lawrence Dimech

Call: Australia – 61 2 9631 9295
Malta – 356 2144 1545

Holy Trinity Association
Missions Fund Raiser

Functions and Outings for 2014

April 27: Picnic at Narragingi
June 14: Marsa Holy Trinity Dinner Dance
August 17: Bus to Central Coast Santa Maria
September 14: Bus to St Mary's Cathedral
October 18: Missions night dinner
November 23: Christmas bus trip

Sports 1

Malta to face Italy in Euro (France) 2016

Malta has once again been drawn in the same group as Italy in an international football competition, in Group H of the Euro 2016 qualifiers. The finals will be staged in France. The two countries had also been drawn together in the FIFA World Cup 2014 qualifiers, with Malta 2-0 in both legs. They will meet in Malta on October 13, with the return in Italy on September 3, 2015.

Malta will also resume acquaintance with Bulgaria, as like Italy they were

in the same group in the last World Cup qualifiers with Malta losing 2-1 at home and 6-0 away.

The other teams in the group are, Azerbaijan, Norway and Croatia. Malta last met Azerbaijan in a friendly in August last year and lost 3-0. It also faced Croatia on several times other occasions, and last played Norway in June 2007.

Malta lost that infamous match that was allegedly rigged, by 4-0. That meeting triggered the biggest match-fixing scan-



dal in the history of Maltese football, resulting in Maltese footballer Kevin Sammut getting a life ban from football by UEFA, pending appeal.

Before hosting Italy, Malta will play two qualifiers, on September 9 in Croatia and home against Norway on October 10.



Manny Muscat

Two A-League Players in Malta team against Albania

When it plays Albania in an international football friendly at the Niko Dovana Stadium in Durres on Wednesday, Malta will have two footballers that play in the A-League in Australia. They are, Melbourne Heart's Michael Mifsud, and Manny Muscat, the Wellington Phoenix defender.

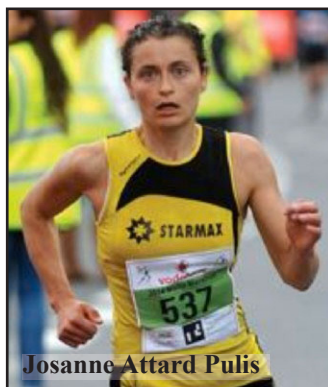
For Michael Mifsud, his inclusion in the national team has been a foregone conclusion for quite a long time after making his international debut against Albania in February 2000. This will be his 103rd match for Malta.

For Manny, who can play in defence and in midfield, it will be his 10th call up for national team duty and his first by Italian coach Pietro Ghedin. He has not featured for the national team since Ghedin took over in 2012.

In selecting Manny, a Maltese-Australian who has just turned 30, Ghedin said he wanted to see the player who is known for his versatility across the backline and defence in action, as he wants to build a strong team for when Malta kicks off its Euro 2016 campaign in September.

Both Manny and Michael are certs to be in the starting line-up in Albania. For Mannie, who made his Malta debut in 2009 against Czechoslovakia.

Moroccan makes it four wins in a row in Malta Marathon



Josanne Attard Pulis

Mohammed Hajy, a Moroccan, made it four wins in a row in the Malta Marathon when he crossed the line first in 2 hours 28.27 minutes in the 29th edition of the event held Sunday February 23. His only disappointment, if any, was that he failed to beat his own course record he set last year of 2:16.06.

However, he was still satisfied with his performance. He said: "Despite failing to get the necessary support from my own friends – who all wanted to win not interested in the time, I wanted to better my record of last year."

Hajy had hoped for a time of 2:14, but explained that it was not possible doing it alone. He hopes to better the time next year as he intends to come back,

"for a fifth straight win."

Italy's Carmine Buccilli was second in 2:20.01 and Hicham Boufars, also of Morocco, took third place in 2:20.30. The first Maltese runner to finish was Jonathan Balzan who clocked 2:30, same as last year.

The women's event was won by Malta's own, Josanne Attard Pulis, in 3:00.20. Second was Ame Bitrou Gaillard in 3:14.27 and third another Maltese girl, Karen Xerri, who had a time of 3:17.10.



Mohammed Hajy winning the Marathon

Sudan-born Ibrahim Hussein and Elga Caccialanza were the winners of the Half Marathon. Hussein who runs for St Patrick's AC, was in a class of his own as he finished a clear winner. He completed the 21km course in one hour 10 minutes and 24 seconds.

In the women's event, Maltese girl Josanne Attard Pulis was the winner in a time of 3:00.20. Second was Ame Bitrou Gaillard in 3:14.27 and third another Maltese girl, Karen Xerri, who had a time of 3:17.10.

Waterpolo: Malta Falls at S/Final Stage for Euro 2014

Malta's national waterpolo team failed to make it to the final phase of Euro 2014 after losing 40-14 on aggregate to France in the semi-final double-header.

Malta lost its home leg on Saturday by 20-6. It followed another 20-8 heavy defeat in the first leg the week before away in France.

Malta took part in the semi-final after re-

placing Macedonia who were disqualified from the competition. Malta won its place after finishing as the best runners-up in the final qualification round last year.

Malta never stood a chance of recovering from the first leg defeat, and its only hope was to limit the damage in Malta, which did not succeed to do.

Sports 21

B'kara only team in Championship Pool to take maximum points from first two rounds

The second part of the Premier League in Malta got off to an interesting start with Birkirkara continuing where they left off in the first phase of the campaign by becoming the only team to take maximum points from the first two rounds of the Championship Pool.

They started by beating Balzan 3-1 when they had to come back from a goal down to beat their neighbours, and then also defeated Mosta rather comfortably by 4-0.

Their nearest challengers, Valletta could only managed a 1-1 draw with Sliema in their first outing but then beat other challengers Hibernians 3-1.

The Paolites must have already given up hope for the title after suffering two defeats. The other one was by 1-2 against Mosta.

Following their fivured in an easy victory over Balzan who like Hibernians have lost both ties.

Balzan seemed to have come of age against Birkirkara. They were the better team in the fist half and created the most scoring opportunities, but took only one, in the 33rd minute through Jose Luis Armario Negrin.

But Birkirkara, a disappointment in the first half, soon got to grips in the second half and delivered a double blow with two goals in a span of four minutes scoring in

the 50th through Haruna Shola Shodiya and then going ahead through Paul Fenech. They sealed the win deep into stoppage time through Ryan Camenzuli.

Mosta dealt a blow to Hibernians' hopes by beating them 2-1 thanks to a brace from Bojan Kaljevic on 13 and 53rd minute. Jurgen Degabriele got Hibs' consolation tally. Valletta, who had a good start by taking the lead through Abdelkarim Nafti after six minutes, eventually shared the spoils with Sliema who levelled the score with a goal by Admir Vladavic in the 59th minute.

The second round was played in mid-week with Birkirkara and Sliema getting 4-0 victories over Mosta and Balzan respectively. It enabled the leaders to open a three-point gap at the top of the table.

Birkirkara, in a class of their own, inflicted the first defeat on Mosta who were on a six-game winning streak, with two goals in each half by Joseph Zerafa (11'), Jhonnattann Conceicao (35' and 56'), and Nikola Vukanac (79').

Balzan could not cope without suspended duo Lucas Ramon dos Santos and Pedro Enrique and were never a match for Sliema particularly as they had to play for 54 minutes with only 10 men due to the red carding of Dylan Grima.

The Blues could do no wrong and goals

by Ivan Woods (18'), Stanley Ohawuchi (41'), and a brace by two Admir Vladavic (76' and 88') saw them through.

Valletta retained their position as Birkirkara's main challengers by beating Hibernians, who sorely missed Jonathan Pearson and Edison Luis dos Santos, both suspended, 3-1.

Denni Rocha dos Santos gave Valletta the lead on 34 minutes in a breakaway, Jonathan Caruana headed in a second two minutes later, and then took the result beyond Hibs' reach with a third goal 13 minutes into the second half scored by Latif Elford Alliyu. Hibs pulled one back through Jean Paul Farrugia (70th minute).

Results After Two Matches

Championship Pool	
Birkirkara v Balzan	3-1
Mosta v Hibernians	2-1
Valletta v Sliema W.	1-1
Birkirkara v Mosta	4-0
Valletta v Hibernians	3-1
Sliema W. v Balzan	4-0

Relegation Pool	
Naxxar L. v Rabat A	1-1
Tarxien v Vittoriosa	1-1
Floriana v Qormi	3-2
Floriana v Vittoriosa	3-1
Qormi v Rabat A.	3-0
Tarxien v Naxxar	2-1

Melbourne Heart the team of the moment



Melbourne Heart's incredible resurgence under coach John Van 't Schip hit new heights after handing cross-town and bitter rivals Melbourne Victory their biggest ever derby defeat in a stunning 4-0 triumph at AAMI Park in Round 21.

With Michael Mifsud again sitting this one out, the Heart stretched their winning streak to five games and provided the biggest indication yet that they are capable of forcing their way into the A-League finals.

In their last two outings they also managed a sensational

1-0 win (scorer Orlando Engelaar) over leaders Brisbane Roar 1-0 in Round 20.

With the team's record in 2014 now standing at six wins, two draws and one defeat that helped them to leave bottom spot and leapfrog over two teams.

The Heart are one of the competition's form teams, however, Michael Mifsud was not there to see it happen as he has been out of the first team in the last five outings.

He instead was again in the Heart's Foxtel National Youth League team that on Feb 22 came from two goals be-

hind to record a sensational 7-4 victory over Brisbane Roar. Michael scored two of the goals.

In Round 21 Brisbane Roar rediscovered their attacking prowess to beat Perth Glory 3-1.

Meanwhile, before leaving for Malta's match against Albania, Manny Muscat was the red-carded as his team,



Melbourne Heart's coach John Van 't Schip

Wellington Phoenix were thrashed 5-1 at Adelaide United.

Western Sydney slipped to a 2-0 loss against Newcastle.

RESULTS - Round 20	
Central Coast v Wellington Ph	1-4
Newcastle J. v Sydney FC	0-2
Perth G. v Western Sydney	0-2
Melbourne V. v Adelaide U	4-3
Melbourne H v v Brisbane R	1-0

Round 21	
Adelaide U v Wellington P	5-1
Brisbane Roar v Perth Glory	3-1
Central Coast v Sydney FC	2-1
Melbourne H. v Melbourne V.	4-0
West Sydney v Newcastle J	0-2

Standings	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brisbane Roar	21	13	2	6	36	19	41
W. Sydney W.	21	9	7	5	25	21	34
Adelaide U.	21	8	6	7	38	29	30
Cent. Coast M	21	8	6	7	22	27	30
Melbourne V.	21	8	6	7	30	36	30
Sydney FC	21	9	1	11	28	30	28
Wellington Ph	21	7	5	9	31	34	26
Newcastle J	21	7	5	9	22	27	26
Melbourne H.	21	6	6	9	28	30	24
Perth Glory	21	5	6	10	20	27	21

Wins for Parramatta Eagles FC

Parramatta Eagles FC played a friendly against Granville Rage. The U21 won 5-1 and all age won 3-2. The winter season will start on the 23 March 2014. Will have more information next issue.

Sports 3

French-born Elise becomes Malta's first-ever Winter Olympian in Sochi

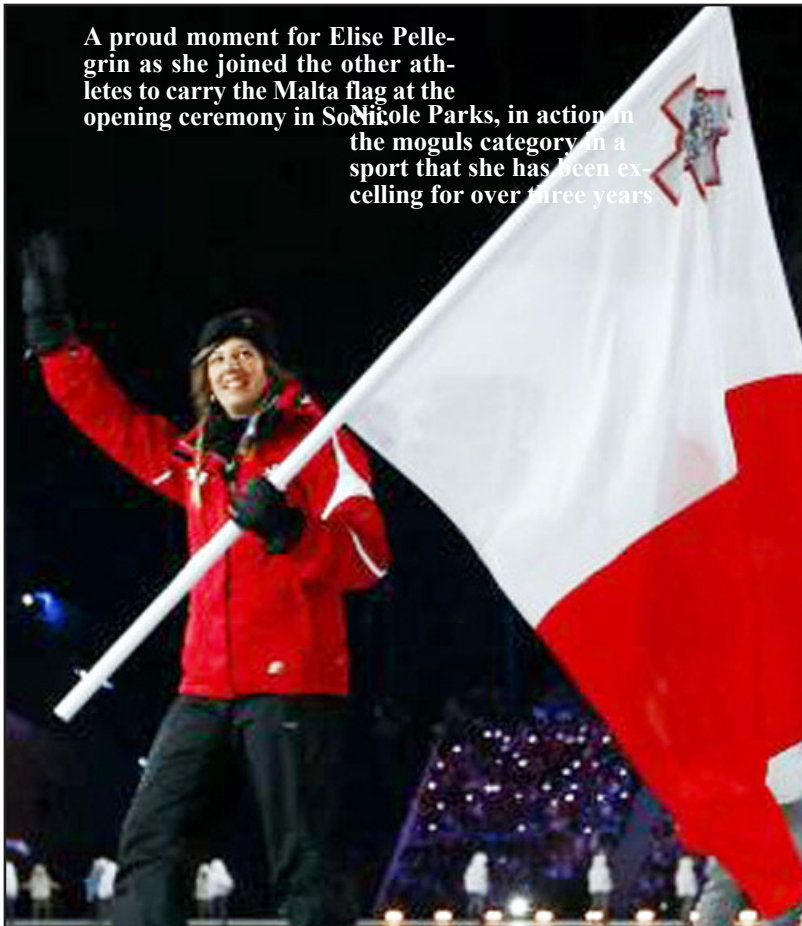
Further to the last issue's report on Nicole Parks, who took part at the Winter Olympic Games on behalf of Australia, though she could, if she so chose, to represent Malta by virtue of the nationality of her Maltese mother, Gozitan-born Josephine Buhagiar, Malta, still managed to pride itself with being presented at the event, through Elise Pellegrin.

The French-born girl, competed for the country through the nationality of her grand-father, who emigrated to France from Malta after the Second World war.

Elise, a 23-year-old Maltese-French alpine skier, born in Blois, France on May 7, 1991, thus managed to make it to the history books by becoming the first ever Winter Olympian to represent Malta in such an event.

The French girl was also the flag-bearer for the country at the opening ceremony when the Maltese flag was paraded along with the other participating nations at the opening of the Winter Olympics.

A proud moment for Elise Pellegrin as she joined the other athletes to carry the Malta flag at the opening ceremony in Sochi. Nicole Parks, in action in the moguls category in a sport that she has been excelling for over three years.



According to the final quota allocation released a few weeks before the start of the

Winter Olympic Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

Games in Sochi, Russia, Malta had qualified the one athlete, that was filled by Elise, who made her debut on February 18 in the women's giant slalom at the Rhosa Khutor Centre, finishing the first run in 72nd place out of 74 competitors in 1:36.85, which was +18.97 slower than the winning skier. In the second run she finished 64th, and her overall placing was 65th.

In the Women's Slalom Run 1 on February 21, Elise finished 52nd as she was timed at 1:07.10 (+14.48).

She also placed 39th in the second run in 1:02.73 (+11.62) for a final placing of 42nd.

Meanwhile, Nicole Parks who has been holidaying with her mother and relatives in Ghajnsielem, Gozo, has expressed her delight at visiting the island and said that that she is already looking forward to representing Australia again in the next Winter Olympic Games in four years' time in Pyeongchang, South Korea.



Elise Pellegrin (first left) with the rest of the Malta contingent at the Olympic Village in Sochi. The others are, Joseph Cassar (MOC secretary general), Julian Pace Bonello (MOC president), an Olympics volunteer, Dr. Lucienne Attard (Sochi 2014 chef de mission) and coach Marvin Hocquaux.



Gozo nominated as third best island to travel to in Europe

With tourism in Malta in 2013 reaching an all-time record of 1.6 million, it is no wonder that many of the visitors to the island write rave reviews about the island on various websites relating to travel. However, the result of a poll run by Trip Advisor that named Gozo as the third best island in Europe

where one can travel to for leisure, has been received in Malta a pleasant surprise.

Malta's sister island, the second largest of the seven-island chain in the Maltese archipelago, beat two of the most popular islands in Greece, Santorini and Milos, and also Naples, Capri, which is one of the most popular destinations by the Maltese travellers.

This results in reviews submitted by the followers of the Trip Advisor website that gives advice to travellers worldwide, and has 1,892,545 followers from all over Europe.

The followers of the website voted Lewis and Harris, in the Outer Hebrides of Scotland as the best in Europe.

In second place is the island of Naxos, Cyclades, in the Aegean Sea, that is a unique blend of ancient ruins and beach culture. Naxos is the

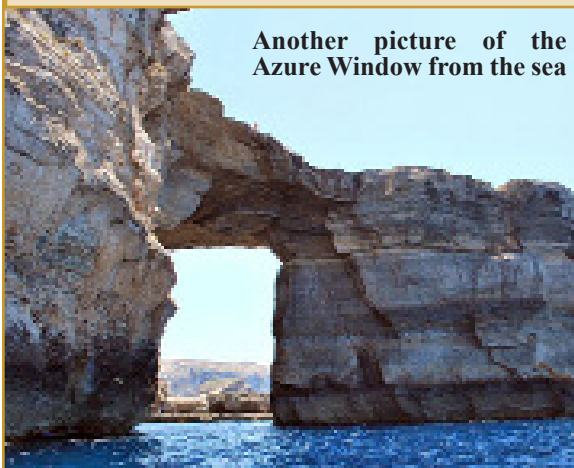
largest of the Cycladic Islands.

Gozo, with a population of around 31,000 basks in the Mediterranean off the coast of Sicily. It has been described as more rural than its sister island, Malta, and that it is home to some of the oldest religious structures in the world.

Most known are the fascinating Ggantija temples, but the island also offers dramatic orange-red sands and perfect snorkelling waters at striking Ramla Bay.

One of the most fascinating and spectacular sites on the island of Gozo is the Azure window off the village of San Lawrence that has also been described by a traveller who has visited countries like Spain, France Greece Turkey, Thai, Bali, and many others, as "the most stunning place on the Mediterranean.

The Azure Window (Maltese: Tiegħa Żerqa) is natural arch made of a Maltese limestone known as Globigerina. This is the second oldest rock found on the islands covering almost 70% of its area. It is situated near Dwejra Bay on the Inland Sea.



Another picture of the Azure Window from the sea