



THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal for Maltese Living Abroad

Editor - Frank L Scicluna OAM (Aust) MQR (Malta) Email - maltesejournal@gmail.com



L-Ghid it-Tajjeb
lill-Qarrejja taghna
2026



GUESS WHO?

Happy Easter
to all our Readers

MALTESE COMMUNITY IN SCOTLAND

Maltese Pot-Luck
MEET-UP - SCOTLAND

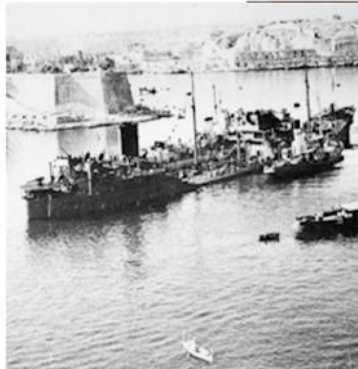
11 April



Katy Perry for
Isle of MTV Malta
2026



BIRKIRKARA



I watched the SS OHIO convoy entering
the Grand Harbour - August 1942
100 year old Cecil Bartoli

Best wishes for Easter

from Frank L Scicluna - Editor



We the Editor, correspondents and sponsors of the Maltese eNewsletter this Easter offer our heartfelt and warmest greetings to every Maltese expatriate celebrating this Sacred Season of Easter. Easter represents a deep demonstration of faith - commemorating the remembrance of Christ's sacrifice and the joy of His Resurrection.

It conveys the lasting promise of hope, rejuvenation, and new beginnings, inviting contemplation on the power of love, grace, and faith. Easter also serves to bring as Maltese families together living in Malta and abroad within our varied and multicultural community. Whether through worship, gatherings with family and friends, or the sharing of meals and customs, this season cultivates connection and emphasize the richness of our language, history, tradition, culture and heritage.

The principles at the core of Easter are love, unity, compassion, generosity, and rejuvenation - resonate with all of us. They inspire us to uplift one another, offer kindness to those in need, and continue to foster a diaspora rooted in respect, inclusion, and harmony. As we celebrate Easter, may this sacred season bring renewed purpose, peace, tranquillity and fresh beginnings to all our readers and their loved ones. On behalf of our staff, correspondents sponsors and readers of the Maltese journal I wish you all a joyful and blessed Easter

Tkellem bil-Malti u Kun Kburi



Practise Speaking Maltese

Reconnect with Your Roots 



**NEW MANDATORY
MALTESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE
COURSE FOR THIRD-COUNTRY
NATIONALS IN MALTA**

A new course has been introduced for third-country nationals already in Malta, focusing on Maltese culture and the Maltese language. The syllabus for this course was prepared by the Ministry for Home Affairs, Security and Employment, and it will be available to be offered by all licensed Maltese educational institutions.

This course, for which attendance is mandatory, also includes an examination. While applications can be submitted through the Identità website, the exam will be coordinated by the Government's

Examinations Department.

This course makes it possible for these third-country nationals working in our country to be granted a longer permit renewal. However, this will only be granted if the person is already trained, received training while in Malta, or after successfully completing this course and passing the examination.

This was a measure announced in the Malta Labour Migration Policy, aimed at introducing stability in the labour market, meaning that those who have been trained and have learned about Malta contribute more, as explained by Minister for Home Affairs, Security and Employment Byron Camilleri.

"Foreign nationals who come to work in our country have the obligation to adapt to us, and not the other way around. That is why we launched this course, as promised in the Malta Labour Migration Policy; they must also sit for and pass an exam to be considered, based on a number of other conditions, for a two-year permit instead of a one-year permit. In this way, we will have workers who are better trained and more adapted to Maltese society. This is the way forward; this is the path we have designed, implemented, and are now reaping the benefits of," stated Minister Camilleri.

A worker employed in a role considered low-skilled must complete this training programme and examination, covering areas such as Maltese culture, traditions, civic participation, legal awareness, personal and professional development, and the learning of the Maltese and English languages, to be considered for a longer permit.

Meanwhile, if the employment is considered higher-skilled, the two-year extension is granted on the basis of training. Naturally, the period must always be covered by an employment contract. In specialised schemes such as the Key Employment Initiative (KEI), the Special Employment Initiative (SEI), and the Blue Card directive, renewals of up to three years can be made. A three-year renewal is also possible for someone who has obtained a higher-level skills card in tourism and has a three-year employment contract.

Licensed educational institutions wishing to offer this course must inform Jobsplus by sending an email to qa.jobsplus@gov.mt.

The syllabus is being published alongside this statement, including the assessment method.



BIRKIRKARA

Birkirkara is more than just one of Malta's largest towns, it's a place deeply rooted in culture, tradition, and community pride. With origins that stretch back centuries, Birkirkara began as a rural settlement made up of farmland and small communities.

Over time, it grew steadily alongside Malta's development, eventually becoming one of the island's most important residential and commercial centres, while still preserving its historic character. At its heart stands the iconic Basilica of St Helen, a landmark that has shaped the town's identity for generations. The annual feast of St Helen remains one of the most anticipated celebrations on the island, bringing residents together in a vibrant display of faith, music, and tradition.

But Birkirkara's story isn't only told through its churches. It also lives on through its strong sporting culture. Birkirkara FC, one of Malta's most well-known football clubs, continues to unite supporters and represent the town on a national level, a source of pride for many Karkarizi. Despite its growth into a busy urban hub, Birkirkara has held onto what makes it truly special: close-knit neighbourhoods, long-standing traditions, and a strong sense of belonging. It's this unique mix of history, faith, sport, and community that defines Birkirkara, a town where the past and present continue to grow side by side.



**Żmien sabih qed jerga' magħna –
jiem għeżież tal-Gimgħa l-Kbira
illi fihom aħna nagħmlu
tal-mewt il-Mulej tifikira!**

**'Il fuq minn elfejn sena ilu
Kristu ssallab għall-bnedmin,
ċarċar demmu, ħalla ħajtu,
biex le nibqgħu midinbin.**

**It-tbatija illi sofru
ma tfissirha bl-ebda kliem;
għuda tqila garr fuq spalltu
li wasslitu lejn it-tmien.**

**Fuq salib safa mdendel
qisu l-aqwa kriminal;
lil Missieru minn hemm talab
biex jahfrilhom dan l-iżball.**

**Għaddew, tgerbu das-snin kollha –
lill-Mulej għadna nwarrbuh,
u lil qalbu nfieru, inweggħu,
dispjaċir wisq kbir nagħtuh!**

**Tafu xejn li bl-aġir tagħna
mill-ġdid qeghdin insallbuh
u fuq l-għolja tal-Qorriegħa
qeghdin nergħu nwassluh!**

**Ejjew nidhlu fina nfuṣna
u naraw li jisgħobbina;
nibdlu r-rotta, lilu nwiegħdu,
li naharbu t-triq ħażina.**

**Ħalli wkoll nitfgħu ħarsitna
fuq Marija Addolorata
li mxiet it-triq ma' Binha
b'rieda soda daqs ta' blata.**

**Iżda min jista' ifisser
it-tbatija li batiet!
L-ebda pinna m'hi ser tfisser
il-mumentu li sofriet.**

**F'dan iż-żmien qaddis tas-sena
inwiegħduk, Mulej Divin,
illi lilek qatt ma nonqsu –
ma nħallukx bi dnuḡna tnin!**

**Aħfrilna, Mulej, ħtijietna
u fis-siegħa ta' l-hemm tagħna,
Ħalli nħaddnu lil salibek**

**Kav. Joe M. Attard
Victoria-Għawdex
IL-GIMGHA L-KBIRA 2026**



MALTAPOST LAUNCHES YEAR PACK 2025 CELEBRATING MALTA'S CULTURE, HERITAGE AND PHILATELIC EXCELLENCE

MaltaPost launches Year Pack 2025 MaltaPost is pleased to announce the launch of the **Year Pack 2025**, a comprehensive and elegantly presented collection featuring all postage stamps issued throughout 2025. Carefully curated and preserved in pristine mint condition, the Year Pack brings together a diverse range of themes that reflect Malta's cultural identity, historical milestones, and international connections. The 2025 collection includes stamp sets dedicated to:

- The Year of the Snake 2025
- Cats - Series II
- Pope Francis (1936-2025)
- EUROPA 2025 - National Archaeological Discoveries
- Presidency of Malta, Council of Europe
- EUROMED 2025 - Resources of the Mediterranean
- SEPAC 2025 - Architecture
- Maltese Festa - Series IX
- Comic Art in Malta 2025, DIABOLIK
- Nativity 2025
- Christmas 2025

Presented in an attractive folder, the Year Pack also includes full technical details on each philatelic issue, offering valuable insight for stamp collectors, cultural enthusiasts and Melitensia buffs - serving as both a collectible item and a visual narrative of the year's most significant themes.

The Year Pack will be available from all Post Offices in Malta and Gozo as from Wednesday 25 March 2026. Orders may also be placed online at www.maltaphilately.com, by mail through the Philatelic Bureau, MaltaPost p.l.c., 305 Qormi Road, Marsa MTP 1001, by telephone on 2596 1740 or via e-mail at info@maltaphilately.com



Malta is welcoming the prestigious Four Seasons Yacht 1, a new ultra-luxury yacht, as it ended its maiden journey with an inaugural call into the iconic Grand Harbour.

The yacht made its arrival early on Saturday morning, marking the conclusion of its inaugural journey, a nine-night Grand Mediterranean tour from Málaga to Valletta, with stops at exclusive locations throughout the Mediterranean. Following this first visit, Four Seasons Yacht 1 is set to commence its second voyage immediately, welcoming new passengers from Valletta, with fares beginning at approximately €20,900, as stated by the government. Designed to function as a floating five-star resort, this Malta-flagged yacht is tailored for ultra-high-net-worth individuals, including Four Seasons clients and discerning travelers who prioritize privacy, space, and customized experiences.

This ultra-luxury market signifies a strategic transition towards quality rather than quantity, with estimates suggesting that total per-guest expenditures could reach as high as €200,000 per voyage.

The yacht features 95 opulent suites, each equipped with a private terrace offering ocean views, accommodating 180 guests alongside 180 crew members, thus providing personalized service with a 1:1 staff-to-guest ratio. Additionally, it includes chef-led fine dining establishments and wellness, spa, and marina amenities, complemented by AI-driven onboard systems and environmentally friendly, low-emission technologies.

The limited capacity of the vessel guarantees minimal impact on infrastructure while maximizing both economic and reputational benefits for Malta. Its extended port stays, which include overnight visits, further amplify opportunities for genuine cultural, culinary, and experiential engagement on land.

MALTA HIGH COMMISSION ACT AUSTRALIA



**H.E. Clifford Borg Marks on his first visit to Melbourne
Melbourne General-Consulate - the Caroline Springs George Cross FC
Latrobe Valley at the Maltese Museum in Morwell.
The Shelter of Peace, Maltese Australian Association, the Maltese
Community Council of Victoria, Parkville, Victoria**



**I watched the SS OHIO convoy entering
the Grand Harbour - August 1942
100 year old Cecil Bartoli**

Centenarian reflects on his youth during WWII, including watching air raids from the Floriana church bells

Cecil Bartoli recently celebrated his 100th birthday. Photo: Chris Sant Fournier

The bombing of the Valletta Opera House is a moment etched into Malta's wartime history.

For Cecil Bartoli, who has just turned 100, it is a memory that feels as



fresh as yesterday. Born in Floriana in 1926, he celebrated his 100th birthday on February 8 but he remains sharp and eager to recount stories from his youth, particularly those shaped by World War II. During the war, he admits, he had one persistent wish: "All I wanted was a camera to capture what I saw!" As a teenager, Bartoli often sought out vantage points during air raids. One of his hiding spots was beneath the bells of the Floriana church.

"I was hiding underneath the Floriana church bells as protection from the bombs," he says, smiling at the memory.

"I saw a bomb falling on Valletta (on 7th April 1942) and it was only later on that I learnt that it hit the opera house."

Watching the raids from the bell tower became something of a habit.

"My family would shelter nearby, but I would sneak out to see the bombs. It was quite adventurous back in those days." *My family would shelter nearby, but I would sneak out to see the bombs. It was quite adventurous back in those days-* Cecil Bartoli

His father, Albert Victor Bartoli, also played a role during the war years. Bartoli proudly recounts that his father was a member of parliament with the Constitutional Party, led by former *Times of Malta* owner Gerald Strickland, and an officer during the conflict, assisting citizens during air raids. As a schoolboy, Bartoli boarded at St Edward's College, which had temporarily relocated to Mdina for safety reasons during the war. However, he was allowed home on Sundays.

One such Sunday, when he was 14, he returned to Floriana to find himself in the midst of chaos linked to the bombing of HMS *Illustrious* across the Grand Harbour fairway. 'It was hell'

The aircraft carrier had been heavily bombed by German forces and made its way to Malta for repairs in January 1941, becoming a prime target during the first blitz over the island.

ADVERTISING

"I had some friends there on the gun in Floriana. We were just about 200 metres from the *Illustrious*," he continued. "As I heard the plane coming closer, I looked to my friend and asked where I could take shelter? He told me, quick go underneath the gun in the ammunition dump."

What followed placed the teenager at the heart of one of Malta's most intense air raids.

"It is one of the biggest air raids we had, and there I was opening boxes and passing ammunition."

The scene across the Grand Harbour left a lasting impression.

"Hell. It was hell," he says.

While HMS *Illustrious* sustained only superficial damage from a direct hit, the surrounding harbour cities Senglea, Vittoriosa and Cospicua, and to a lesser extent Valletta suffered extensive destruction.

Cecil Bartoli surrounded by cameras, projectors and VHS tapes, alongside awards from the Malta Amateur Cine Circle. Photo: Chris Sant Fournier

'I just wish I had a camera'

"I just wish I had a camera to capture that sight. You would understand why we deserved the George Cross."

After the war, Bartoli joined the Territorial Army and later worked with his father before establishing C & H Bartoli Ltd with his brother in 1962. The company, which supplies catering equipment, laundry equipment and floor coverings, remains in operation today.

His advice for building a long-standing business is straightforward: "You need people you can trust, who you don't need to watch over. It goes two ways."

Beyond business, he said he had quite an adventurous life. He shared his tales of travelling around the world, windsurfing around Malta and speeding across the sea in his boat.

He was married to Mary Ann Kissaun, an acclaimed concert pianist who appeared multiple times on the BBC and was memorialised in the 1953 film *The Malta Story*, starring Alec Guinness. Together they had a daughter, three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Later in life, he finally fulfilled his childhood wish and took up filmmaking. When Times of Malta visited him recently, he was surrounded by cameras, projectors and VHS tapes, alongside awards from the Malta Amateur Cine Circle. He also founded his own production company, Peacock Productions.

As he marked his 100th birthday surrounded by family and friends, he offered one piece of advice for longevity.

"Don't smoke," he says. "I never smoked and never will. But a little drink is a different matter," he chuckled.

Ejjew neghinu lis-Socjetà ta' Santa Katerina ssib Sala.

Is-Socjetà ta' Santa Katerina tas-South Australia, giet avzata li trid toħroġ mill-klabb tagħha f'Kilburn sa tmiem ta' Ġunju ta' din is-sena. Iva, fi żmien madwar 3 xhur trid toħroġ mis-Sala Parrokkjali ta' Kilburn fi Triq Le Hunte, Kilburn, fejn ilhom għall-aħħar 36 sena mill-1990. Din is-Socjetà li kienet u hija parti attiva ħafna mill-Komunità Maltija tal-Adelaide m'għandha l-ebda għażla ħlief li tgħaddi minn dan it-taqlib għaliex din il-proprietà tal-knisja se tinbiegh!

Għal din ir-raġuni, is-Socjetà ta' Santa Katerina qed tappella bil-qalb kolla lilkom, il-komunità Maltija biex tgħinu. Tafu b'xi sala jew bini li huwa disponibbli għall-kiri fejn is-Socjetà tista' tibda mil-gdid? Qed nagħmlu l-almu tagħna biex insibu post adattat fejn inkomplu nservu lill-komunità Maltija kif għamilna għall- dan-aħħar 40 sena, iżda il-proċess miegħxi bil-mod, allura jekk tafu b'xi post jew xi hadd li jista' jgħinna nsibu post, napprezzaw ħafna kwalunkwe għajnuna mingħandkom biex insibu dar ġdida għas-Socjetà. Jekk jogħġbokom għinuna!



Jekk jogħġbokom ċemplu lil – Bernadette fuq 0420 944 205

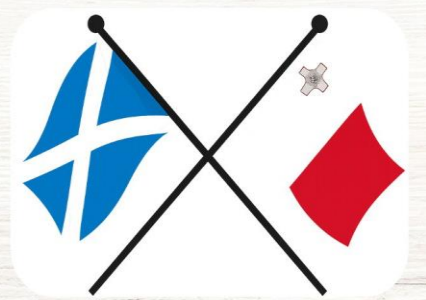
YOU ARE INVITED

MALTESE IN SCOTLAND GET TOGETHER

Bring a dish to share, enjoy relaxed time together, and celebrate our community.

Saturday 11th April
at Linlithgow Bowling
Club
1:00pm – 6:00pm

NUMBERS TO BE CONFIRMED BY
20TH MARCH 2026
GET IN TOUCH ASAP. LIMITED PLACES



Hi

@everyone 🇲🇹

A **Maltese pot-luck get-together** is being planned for **Saturday 11th April 2026**

Time: 1pm

Function room:

The idea is for everyone to bring a dish to share and enjoy a relaxed lunch together.

There will be a small fee or voluntary donation to help cover the cost, as the event isn't being funded by anyone. If the amount collected goes beyond the room hire, the extra will be **donated to Puttinu Cares**.

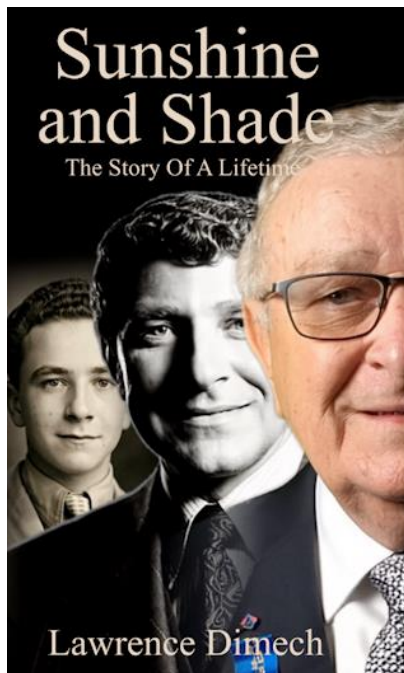
We need to confirm with venue a rough number of people attending by end of next week 20th March, so please comment below if you will be making it. Hopefully we can get a nice group together! Venue will not supply plates or cutlery.

There is a kitchen, kettles, microwave and oven. No teas or coffee served at the bar.

Map: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/xMXWUxjdA62isX696>

55.97692986173956, -3.6112313157349814

2 Philip Avenue, Linlithgow, United Kingdom, EH49 7BH



Lawrence Dimech: A Pillar of the Maltese Community in NSW

Lawrence Dimech has played a significant role in the Maltese community in New South Wales since he arrived in Sydney. One of his notable achievements was co-founding the Melita Eagles Football Club in 1956, a milestone that marked his commitment to fostering a sense of belonging and pride among Maltese new arrivals. In addition to this, he has accomplished several other pioneering feats, further cementing his influence and leadership within the community.

Lawrence Dimech was the first consul-general of Malta in NSW, a position that enabled him to advocate for the Maltese community at the highest level. He also served as the inaugural director and coordinator of the Parramatta Migrant Resource Centre, established by the Department of Immigration & Ethnic Affairs. Another of his significant contributions was as the first editor of the Maltese Herald, an iconic publication that served Maltese Australians from 1961 until 2013.

Approximately a year ago, Dimech began writing his biography, providing a compelling look back at a time when migration from Malta was at its peak. The narrative highlights the challenges faced by migrants, particularly the struggle to obtain support from governments during those formative years.

Over time, significant agreements and schemes were introduced to support the Maltese community. These included dual citizenship, social security reciprocal agreements, health reciprocal agreements, student exchange schemes, and the establishment of the Council of Maltese Living Abroad, among others. These initiatives were instrumental in improving the lives of Maltese migrants and strengthening their ties to both Malta and Australia.

Lawrence Dimech's autobiography offers valuable insight into the Maltese community in Australia, emphasising the importance of unity. This book is highly recommended for anyone interested in understanding the history and collective spirit of the Maltese in NSW. It is truly a work not to be missed. **Maltese Welfare NSW** is proud to assist Lawrence Dimech with his remarkable Autobiography –

Submitted by Lawrence Gatt – President of the Maltese Welfare NSW

I have known Lawrence Dimech for more than sixty years. Throughout this time, we have maintained a strong friendship and collaborated for the advancement of the Maltese community in New South Wales. I regularly contributed articles to the Maltese Herald during Lawrence's tenure as editor. In 1973, I was relocated to Adelaide to teach Mathematics. Despite the distance, we consistently kept in contact. I have always admired his dedication to the welfare of the Maltese community in Australia. In 2012, both of us were appointed by the Prime Minister of Malta as delegates to the newly established Council of Maltese Living Abroad, where we worked diligently to ensure this governmental body was effective and relevant to the members of the Maltese Diaspora, particularly the community in Australia. I have always received respect from him, and he supported me in all my endeavours and projects. He is an enthusiastic reader of the Maltese eNewsletter – the Journal for Maltese Living Abroad. I congratulate Lawrence for his latest publication *Sunshine and Shade – An Autobiography* and wish him and his wife, Marlene, a happy and healthy retirement.

AD MULTOS ANNOS – Frank Scicluna – Editor – Maltese Journal 2026



Malta: Aidan Concludes Promo Tour in Australia

by [Anthony Granger](#)

29 March 2026

2 minute read

Image Source:

AIDAN

Aidan has concluded his promotional tour in Australia ahead of his participation in the Eurovision Song Contest 2026.

Aidan, who will represent Malta at the 70th Eurovision Song Contest with “Bella” has concluded his promotional tour of Australia. The singer became the first Eurovision participant to head to Australia ahead of the contest and took part in a number of events. In Melbourne and Sydney, he met with the Maltese community, with Australia home to one of the largest Maltese populations outside of the country.

He also appeared at the OGAE Australia Sydney Pre-Party performing alongside Go-Jo and also went on television to promote his participation. He was interviewed as part of Channel Nine’s Today Weekend on Sunday morning.

Aidan will represent Malta at Eurovision 2026 with “Bella”. The song was written by Aidan himself and composed by Aidan, Joep van den Boom and Sarah Bonnici. Sarah Bonnici represented Malta in Eurovision 2024 with “Loop”. “Bella” is the first Eurovision entry to feature lyrics in Maltese since 2000.

Find out more information about Aidan here:

Source: Aidan / [Aussievision](#)

Malta in the Eurovision Song Contest+

Malta debuted in the Eurovision Song Contest in 1971 and was represented by Joe Grech and the song “Marija L-Maltija”, which finished last. Malta competed again in 1972 and 1975 but then withdrew until their return in 1991. During the 1990s, Malta only once finished outside of the top 10, and in 1998, they came within just 7 points of victory. It was Chiara who brought the country their 3rd place finish in 1998, and who went on to finish in 2nd at the 2005 contest in Kyiv. The only other artist to finish 2nd for Malta is Ira Losco, who was 12 points away from victory in 2002. They are the longest and most successful participating country to have never won the Eurovision Song Contest.

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Katy Perry to headline Isle of MTV Malta 2026

MTV has announced that global pop superstar Katy Perry will headline Isle of MTV Malta 2026, bringing her worldwide hits to Europe’s biggest free summer festival.

The event will return to Malta’s historic Il Fosos Square on Wednesday 22 July marking Katy Perry’s first ever performance in Malta and her debut at Isle of MTV.

Renowned for its electrifying atmosphere and spectacular location, Isle of MTV Malta is held in partnership with the Malta Tourism Authority and has become a landmark fixture on the

global music calendar, attracting tens of thousands of local and international fans for world-class performances each summer.

A global pop powerhouse and one of the best-selling music artists of all time, Katy Perry arrives at Isle of MTV Malta with an era defining catalogue that has shaped modern pop. Since her 2008 breakthrough *One of the Boys*, she has amassed more than 115 billion streams and sold over 70 million albums worldwide, and is renowned for international hits including *Firework*, *Roar*, *Dark Horse* and *California Gurls*.

With the success of *Teenage Dream* and *PRISM*, alongside *SMILE* and her latest album *143*, Katy continues to connect across generations. MTV said that “her Isle of MTV Malta debut promises a memorable night for fans, uniting standout hits, bold visuals and unmistakable energy in one of Europe’s most iconic live music settings.”

Katy Perry said, “I’m so excited to be heading to Malta for the very first time to headline Isle of MTV”. Additional performers joining the Isle of MTV Malta 2026 lineup will be revealed at a later date. The festival forms part of Isle of MTV Malta Music Week, a series of club nights and events across the island’s most popular venues from 22 – 26th of July.

Tickets for Isle of MTV and Malta Music Week will be available via isleofmtv.com in due course. Isle of MTV Malta will be broadcast across MTV’s international network in September 2026.



FROM OUR READERS

Hello dear families and friends

I hope you enjoy The Maltese E-Newsletter from South Australia, Editor Frank Scicluna who has been producing and sending it out via email to many Maltese people for some years now. I send it out globally to friends etc. Keep it going Frank Scicluna. God bless.

Nancy Serg nee Borg OAM.

Nancy Serg OAM (née Borg) is a distinguished figure within the Maltese-Australian community residing in Sydney, New South Wales.

Acknowledged for her contributions to community service, she was affiliated with the Maltese Community Council of NSW and has been honoured with the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM). In 1969, she married Felix Serg. Key

Originally named Nancy Maria Assunata Borg, she belongs to the Maltese diaspora in Australia. She is actively involved in the Maltese community in NSW and is frequently referenced concerning events organized by the Maltese Community Council of NSW, as well as in advocacy for multicultural aged care.

Nancy received the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2014. She is a member of the Order of Australia Association (NSW) and is recognized in publications related to the Maltese-Australian community included the Maltese eNewsletter, the Journal for Maltese Living Abroad.



Dr. Gioconda Schembri

Dr. Gioconda S. Schembri (née Mifsud) is a Maltese-Australian legal professional and diplomat, currently serving as the Consul General of Malta in Melbourne, Victoria, since 30th October 2023. A Doctor of Laws graduate from the University of Malta, she has a long history of service within Maltese community organizations and diplomatic

offices in Australia.

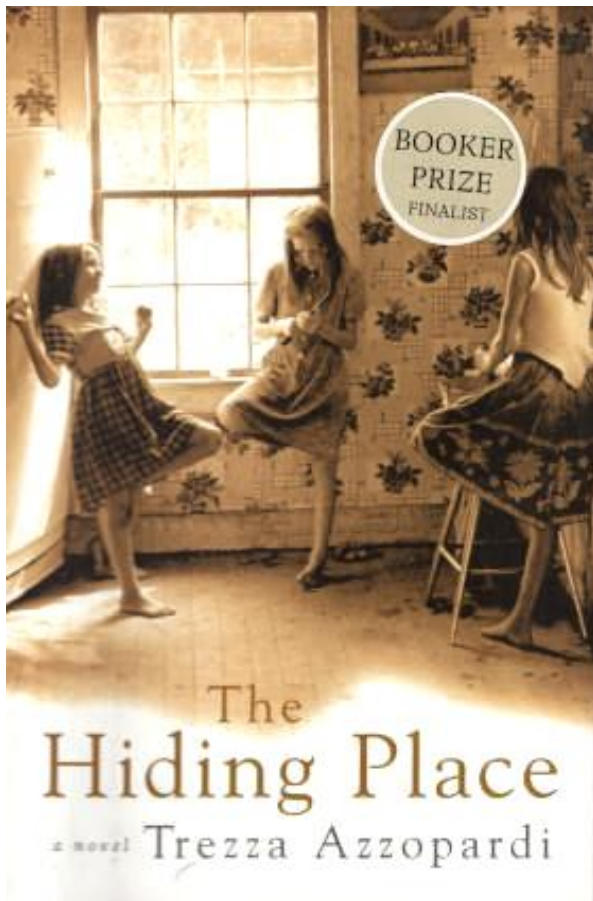
Appointed Consul General of Malta in Melbourne on 30 October 2023, replacing Chirelle Ellul Sciberras. Gioconda served as First Secretary and Deputy High Commissioner at the High Commission of Malta in Canberra Australia from 1998–2001.

She migrated to Australia in 2002, working with the Maltese Community Council of Victoria, the Consulate of Malta, and as a freelance translator of the Maltese language. Dr. Schembri was born in Malta, she graduated as a Doctor of Laws from the University of Malta and Lives in Melbourne with her husband, Darren, and son, Thomas.

Dr. Schembri is widely recognized and respected within the Maltese community in Victoria.

She is the author of "Three Anzacs from Malta" which is a true story documenting the lives of three young Maltese men—Charles Ancilleri, Waldemar Beck, and Anthony (Tony) Xuereb—who migrated to Australia and enlisted in the Australian Army during World War I, serving in Gallipoli and Flanders.

The Hiding Place by Trezza Azzopardi



The Hiding Place is narrated by Dolores, the youngest of six daughters born to a Maltese immigrant father and a Welsh mother. With one hand permanently disfigured by a fire when she was only one month old -- the hand is beautifully described by the author as "a closed white tulip standing in the rain; a cutoff creamy marble in the shape of a Saint; a church candle with its tears flowing down the bulb of wrist" -- Dolores has always been treated as an outcast. Her father, Frankie Gauci, is an incorrigible gambler who bets "more than he can afford to lose." On the day Dolores is born, he loses his half-share of a café, as well as the apartment above it where his family lives. Everything in Frankie's life is potential currency, including his family; he even sells his second-oldest daughter Marina to gangster Joe Medora in exchange for a house and money to pay off his debts. Dolores's mother, Mary, is driven to the edge of insanity as she watches the world around her collapse, helpless to save even her children from her husband's vices.

At times, *The Hiding Place* paints a phantasmagorical portrait of cruelty, but Trezza

Azzopardi's gracefully exacting prose saves her tale from becoming a shock-fest of the sort you would expect on daytime television talk shows. Azzopardi forges profundity through delicately interwoven double-sided images: rabbits that are the children's playthings, until they are brutally slaughtered by their father; trunks, rooms, and cages that can either protect or ensnare; and most abundantly and most significantly, fire, which can warm as well as ravage. Even Dolores's older sister Fran is sent away to a home for being a pyromaniac, craving risk like her father, "gambling on how hot, how high, on how long she can bear it."

While some readers may wonder how Dolores is able to relate events that happened when she was so young, it is easy to associate these stories with the phantom pains she feels in her missing fingers, her ability to "miss something [she] never knew." The story comes to us in a dreamlike tapestry, weaving together different times and perspectives. Consequently, the narrative is fragmented, leaving the reader with half-tellings, missing details, stories that unfold only in the retelling, and a sense that the only fact we can be certain of is the profound meaning she imparts through them. *The Hiding Place* is as much a portrait of a family's destruction as it is an exploration of how memory bends and buckles under the weight of ruin, and how "blame can be twisted like a flame in draught; it will burn and burn."

THE MALTESE DIASPORA IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

The history of Maltese immigration to the United Kingdom is a story of seafaring traditions, imperial ties, and the strategic movement of labour. While often overshadowed by the larger Maltese populations in Australia or Canada, the community in Britain remains a significant and culturally distinct part of the Mediterranean diaspora.

Early maritime roots

For much of the 19th century, Maltese migration was primarily directed toward the North African coast, particularly Tunisia, Algeria, and Egypt. However, as a British Crown Colony from 1813, Malta shared a unique legal and military bond with the UK that eventually facilitated movement to the British Isles.

The earliest established Maltese communities in Britain were found in major port cities. Cardiff, in particular, became a primary hub during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Maltese sailors and dockworkers were drawn to the Welsh capital by the booming coal trade and the presence of the British Merchant Navy. This community was small but robust, often centred around the Tiger Bay area, providing a rare Maltese presence in the UK before the First World War.

The post-war exodus

The most significant wave of Maltese immigration occurred following the Second World War. Malta had been devastated by the Siege of Malta and suffered extreme economic hardship. Between 1948 and 1967, roughly 30 per cent of the entire population emigrated to escape overcrowding and unemployment.

While the majority of these emigrants took advantage of assisted passage schemes to Australia, approximately 22 per cent chose the United Kingdom. This movement was driven by several factors:

- **Labour shortages:** Post-war Britain faced a desperate need for workers in the hospitality, manufacturing, and catering sectors.
- **Colonial status:** Until the Commonwealth Immigrants Act of 1962, Maltese citizens held British subject status, allowing them virtually unrestricted entry into the UK.
- **Military links:** Many Maltese women moved to the UK after marrying British servicemen stationed on the islands, and many Maltese men joined the British Merchant Navy or the Royal Navy.

Settlement patterns and community life

By the mid-20th century, the focus of settlement shifted from Cardiff to London. A notable community formed in the East End, particularly around Commercial Road, where many Maltese found work in the London Docks.

The integration process for Maltese migrants was often smoother than that of other groups due to their familiarity with the English language and their shared Roman Catholic faith. However, the Maltese were known for a "quiet" integration; they frequently assimilated into local working-class neighbourhoods while maintaining strong private ties to their heritage through social clubs and religious feasts (festas).

The modern landscape

Following Malta's independence in 1964 and its subsequent transition to a republic in 1974, mass emigration slowed to a trickle. By the 1980s, the economic situation in Malta had stabilised, and the pattern of migration shifted from permanent settlement to seasonal work or professional relocation.

Today, the Maltese-born population in the UK is estimated to be around 26,000 to 30,000 people, with much larger numbers if second and third-generation descendants are included.

The community is most visible in:

- **London:** Remains the largest hub, with residents spread across various boroughs but still maintaining cultural associations.
- **Cardiff:** Continues to host one of the oldest and most historically significant Maltese communities.
- **Manchester:** Home to a notable smaller community with roots in the textile and industrial sectors. The legacy of this migration is a deep, enduring connection between the two nations, characterised by shared history, bilateral trade, and a diaspora that continues to fly the George Cross flag with pride across the United Kingdom.



MAC's Ageing, Wellness and Diversity Expo returns in 2026, bringing together a diverse range of service providers, community organisations, guest speakers, and entertainers.

Come along to celebrate **cultural diversity, inclusion and wellbeing** within the aged care and community sector.

What to expect

- Learn about a wide range of services available to support older people, carers and families
- Meet the dedicated organisations and professionals working alongside our communities
- Listen to inspiring guest speakers
- Collect helpful resources to support informed choices that suit your needs

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17 APRIL

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

The Lights Community and Sports Centre, 244 - 270 East Parkway, Lightsview SA 5085

Parking available

Contact us at 08 8241 9900 for more details



Ta' Sannat, Gozo — Sunday, 29 March 2026 — Success for Criterium Organised by Shamrock Stars Sports Club – Joe Bajada

The Gozitan club Shamrock Stars Sports Club successfully organised its subscription race in accordance with the regulations of the Malta Cycling Federation. The event took place in Ta' Sannat under excellent weather conditions and featured a full programme of competitive races across multiple categories. The event opened with the Kids' races, followed by the Women's, Masters 40+, Masters 50+, Juniors, and Elite categories.

In the Boys' Under-12 category, Zachary Vella of Mosta CC claimed victory over a 2.4km lap, finishing ahead of teammates Raphael Buhagiar and Nolan Tabone. In the Under-14 Boys category, Ethan Cumbo of Team Greens secured first place after three laps, followed by Kurt Grech (Mosta CC) and Ayden Vella (D Sports Lab). Mickaya Fava of Shamrock Stars Sports Club won the corresponding girls' category.

Neil Cassar of Team Greens triumphed in the Under-16 Boys category, completing five laps ahead of Gop Ping (Bike It Up Racing) and Jake Refalo (Shamrock Stars Sports Club). In the girls' race, Zia Fiji of Shamrock Stars Sports Club finished first, followed by Nina Debono Curmi (D Sports Lab) and Katie-Anne Vella Wood.

The Masters 40+ category, contested over three laps after a combined 30 minutes, was won by Liran Ben-Ari of Agones SFC, with Team Greens riders Arek Kawalek and Gesred Borg finishing second and third, respectively. In the Masters 50+ category, David Cushing of Bike It Up Racing took the win ahead of Joseph Caruana of Team Greens. The Juniors category, held over one lap after a combined 40 minutes, was won by Andrei Cassone of Agones SFC.

Lindsey Pirotta emerged victorious in the Women's category, held over three laps after 30 minutes, with Team Greens cyclists Michelle Vella Wood and Katinka Zahra Lehtonen completing the podium.

The Elite race proved to be one of the most exciting of the day. Contested over three laps after 40 minutes, the race concluded with a final sprint in which Antoine Magaud of Agones SFC claimed victory ahead of two Bike It Up Racing cyclists.

Shamrock Stars Sports Club expressed its appreciation to all participating cyclists and club officials, as well as to the Ministry for Gozo and Planning, Sannat Local Council, Transport Malta, the Police, the Emergency Response & Rescue Corps, marshals, volunteers, and Mr Joe Bajada, Secretary General of the Malta Cycling Federation, for their support in making the event a success.



Malta International Fireworks Festival 25th Edition - 2026

The Malta International Fireworks Festival is an annual event held at the end of April in Valletta, the capital city of Malta. First launched in 2003, the festival has become one of the most anticipated cultural events in Malta, attracting both locals and international visitors.

The festival usually lasts two days and features the participation of local fireworks manufacturers, along with international guests, who deliver a spectacular display of colour, sound and music. Fireworks are launched over the

sea near the Grand Harbour, creating a truly unforgettable experience against Malta’s historic skyline. A key highlight of the event is the fireworks competition, where producers showcase their creativity, synchronising fireworks with music. The Grand Harbour area is considered one of the best locations to enjoy the show, offering excellent visibility and atmosphere.

Earth Garden Festival: Studying English in Malta with **ESE – European School of English** goes beyond the classroom. One of the best events students can enjoy during their stay is the **Earth Garden Festival**, a four-day celebration of **music, culture and nature** held across some of Malta’s most stunning locations.

ISLE OF MTV MALTA 2026: A SUMMER HIGHLIGHT FOR EVERYONE LOCALS AND TOURISTS

Isle of MTV Malta is Europe’s largest **free music festival** and one of the most anticipated summer events on the island. The festival is expected to return in **summer 2026 (June–July)**, taking place at **Il-Fosos Square in Floriana**, just outside Valletta. While the official dates and artist line-up are

usually announced closer to the event, Isle of MTV consistently attracts thousands of music lovers from across Europe.

The main concert is **free to attend**, although visitors must **register in advance for tickets**. In addition to the main show, **Malta Music Week** brings a series of **paid club nights and parties** across Malta, creating a full week of music and nightlife.

The President, Committee and Members
of the Maltese Community of New York

Happy Easter

from
The Maltese Center



MT. CARMEL COLLEGE - SANTA VENERA - MALTA (about 1956)



This photo of the teachers and students of Mount Carmel College, St. Venera was taken in the 1950s-60s. If you recognise any of them (could be you) just send me an email, please

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➔ MQF Level 2: Tuesday & Friday, 12:30 - 15:30 CET or Tuesday & Friday, 16:30 - 19:30 CET (starting June 2, for 28 lessons)

Apply here: :

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx...>

Deadline to Apply: 19 April 2026

MACKAY QUEENSLAND Maltese Corner Fundraising Group



BRONZE STATUE UNVEILING

The Maltese Corner Fundraising Group are thrilled to invite you to the installation of their long awaited bronze statues.

Join them from 2.30pm for light refreshments at the St Patrick's College Hall, River St. For catering purposes, please phone or text Evelyn Vassallo on 0438425662 mackaymaltesecorner@gmail.com
RSVP 10 April 26

Photo display and commemorative booklets will be available

2PM
18 APRIL 26

Cnr Victoria & Wood Sts
Mackay