THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal for Maltese Living Abroad

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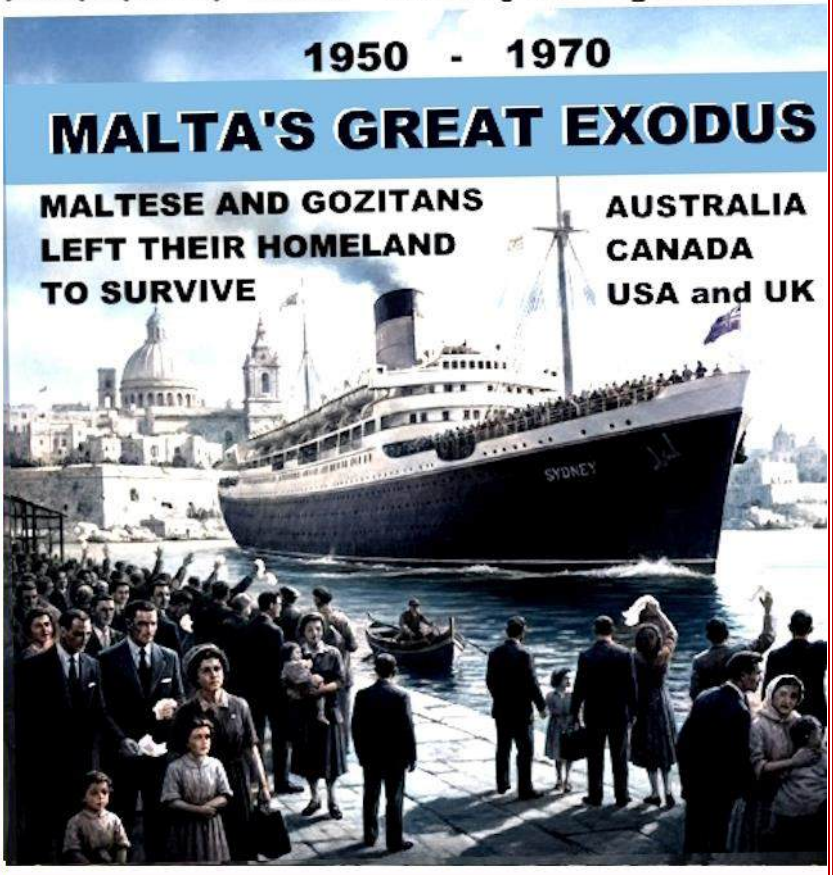
Delta Goodrem to represent Australia at Eurovision 2026

Chevalier Dr Raymond Xerri

The Maltese eNewsletter is the last international voice of Global Malta and Global Gozo.



WE KEEP OUR COMMUNITY CONNECTED

MALTESE CORNER - MACKAY BRONZE STATUE UNVEILING

18 APRIL 2026 AT 2.00 PM

Corner Victoria and Wood Strs MACKAY

Carmel Baretta

MALTESE CORNER AT MACKAY QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA

MALTESE CORNER AT MACKAY QUEENSLAND

MEDIA RELEASE –

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The MALTESE CORNER FUNDRAISING GROUP INC inaugural meeting on Tuesday 29 June 2021 and registered 19 August that year, was formed to raise monies to erect three bronze statues at the MALTESE CORNER, Wood and Victoria Streets, Mackay.

President Carmel Baretta, Secretary Evelyn Vassallo, Treasurer Lee-Anne Zammit along with Mary-Ann Refalo (Fundraising Co-ordinator) and Dorianne Vassallo (Social Media Co-ordinator) were elected and have retained their positions for the past five years.

Mackay Regional Council had recognised that the Corner was a cultural site and erected a sign and photograph depicting a group of men gathered there in 1994. The photo, taken by Joe Caruana, J & J Photography, also a Maltese migrant who was passionate about recording Maltese migrant history for posterity. Sadly Joe died earlier this year but will be represented by his sister Doris and brother-in-law Joe and retired business partner Janine Perkins.

Within two years, after fundraising and campaigning, the Group had raised the necessary $300,000 needed to commission a sculptor to create the bronzes.

Kay Paton started dabbling in sculpting in 1984, but did not get serious about making it a business, ***Kay Paton Bronzes***, until 2000. A number of her works can be seen throughout the district at Nebo Museum (stockman), Moranbah (miner), and Dame Nellie Melba site Marian (canecutter).

Kay, with the support of her husband Trevor and two sons Mitchell and Justin, has been working closely with the committee over the past 5 years to create a fitting and lasting monument to honour the Maltese Community who chose Mackay for their home.

Working in close consultation with Mackay Regional Council representatives, new slats have been replaced on the existing seating at the site, and installation techniques were agreed upon to ensure the security and safety of the bronzes.

Two plaques, each 560 x 300 cm, detailing the story of the Maltese Corner and Mosta Building Society, a bronze image of the original group of men, and the Commercial Bank of Australia ("The Maltese Bank"), and the Mosta Building Society, will be housed between the two seats.

Floor lighting to highlight the bronzes will be installed after the official **launch 2pm Saturday 18 April 2026 followed by refreshments at St Patrick's Hall, River Street.** The public are most welcomed to attend but RSVP by 10 April is necessary for catering purposes.

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Żmien ir-Randan jinsab magħna. Dan huwa żmien qawwi li ma rridux inħalluh jgħaddi bla ma jħalli l-ebda effett fuqna. Huwa żmien is-sagrifiċċju. Irridu niftakru li anke l-Imgħallem Divin tagħna qatta' erbgħin jum fid-dežert jagħmel il-penitenza mħabbat mix-xitan li ma ħallihx mument bi kwietu! Bla dubju n-nisrani għandu jħoss il-ħtieġa li f'dan iż-żmien għażiż tas-sena jidħol waħda fih innifsu u jdur dawra ma' dwaru u jara ftit hux miexi fit-triq li twasslu għand il-veru Ħallieq tiegħu. Ommi kienet tgħid li fi żmienha kienu jsumu għal erbgħin jum ħobż u ilma – xi ħaġa li llum lanqas biss toħlomha – mhux għax mhix ħaġa tajba u possibbli, imma għax illum drajna wisq geddumna fix-xgħir u tlifna ħafna s-sens tas-sagrifiċċju. Kienu jaraw li ma jitilfux il-kors ta' l-Eżerċizzi Spiritwali li jsir fil-Parroċċa. Kienu jkunu żewġ priedki wara xuxlin għal ħamest ijiem infila u t-tieni priedka kienet tiffoka ħafna fuq in-Novissimi, li llum ħafna min-niesna lanqas biss jafu x'inhuma. Illum kulħadd tibda tarah iħares lejn l-arloġġ kif jikser ċertu ħin bilqegħda fil-knisja. Donnu ħadd ma fadallu ħin għal ħadd! Eżerċizzi llum jsiru għal kull kategorija tas-soċjeta' u allura min ma jridx ma jismax il-Kelma t'Alla f'dan iż-żmien.

Kemm hi drawwa antika u sabiħa li matul dawn l-erbgħin jum insibu ħin mhux biss għal quddiesa imma anke għal dawk il-ftit minuti li matulhom nieqfu ftit nimmeditaw l-erbatax-il stazzjon tal-Via Sagra! Importanti qrara tajba kif ukoll li nagħmlu xi att ta' karita' ma' min hu fil-bżonn. Nippruvaw innaqqsu xi ftit mid-divertiment, mill-ħin ta' quddiem it-Television, mill-ħelu, mit-tipjip, mic-'chatting' fuq il-computer, u minn dak kollu li s-soltu jagħtina gost u pjaċir. Bil-mod il-mod dawn il-ġranet jibdew iressquna lejn il-festa għażiża tad-Duluri u mbagħad għal Gimgħa l-Kbira. Ejjew naraw li nagħmlu thejjija xierqa issa li għadna fil-ħin! Ilkoll bdejnih ir-Randan, imma għandna xi garanzija li lkoll kemm aħna sa nispiċċawh! *Estote Parati!* Dan hu l-mument li jtina l-okkażjoni nagħmlu ftit eżami tal-kuxjenza u naraw aħniex mexjin fit-triq it-tajba, tbegħidniex jew ħriġniex xi ftit 'l barra. Ħafna minna diġa nkitbu biex ikaxkru l-ktajjen jew biex jerfgħu minn xi statwa fil-Purċissjoni tal-Gimgħa l-Kbira! Dan qed nagħmluh bi drawwa jew għax tassew nifhmu s-sinjifikat ta' dan iż-żmien qaddis! Ħafna drabi n-nisrani ta' żmienna qed jieħu kollox *for granted*, imma wasal iż-żmien li naraw kemm aħna konvinti minn dak li nemmnu għax bejn il-kliem u l-fatti, hemm baħar jikkumbatti! Intant jien se nagħlaq dawn il-kelmtejn billi nħeġġeġ lill-qarrejja jagħmlu eżami sewwa tal-kuxjenza flimkien ma' xi ftit tas-sagrifiċċju li jista' jieħu diversi forom, tibda miż-żgħir u tispiċċa fl-ixjeħ persuna tal-kommunita'. Anke l-morda u l-anzjani tagħna jistgħu joffru l-mard u s-solitudni tagħhom bħala tpattija għal tant dnubiet li jweġġgħu qalb l-Imsallab, li min-naħa tiegħu jiġri dejjem wara n-nagħġa l-mitlufa biex terġa' lura fil-merħla. Matul dan iż-żmien fis-sala tejatrali tas-Seminarju tal-Isqof, issir l-**Wirja Tradizzjonali tar-Randan** organizzata mill-*Għaqda Dilettanti Gimgħa l-Kbira – Għawdex*. Nissuġġerilkom tmorru tarawha għax hemm ħafna x'tapprezzaw, ħafna talent u varjeta' ta' statwetti u oġġetti sagri marbuta ma' daż-żmien għażiż u sabiħ tas-sena. L-istess Kumitat diġa qed jaħseb biex bħas-snin l-imgħoddija jorganizza l-pageant mat-toroq tal-Belt Victoria *L-Imsallab fi Treqtna* li kien sar ukoll mat-toroq tal-belt Valletta. Dan hu żmien sabiħ li sewwa ma nħalluhx jaħarbilna bla ma nkunu għamilna eżami sewwa tal-kuxjenza u naraw kif qed ngħixu t-twemmin tagħna!

THE LAST INTERNATIONAL VOICE OF GLOBAL MALTA AND GLOBAL GOZO

Chev. Dr. Raymond C. XERRI
K.H.S., Ph.D. (Aust), M.A.(Dip.St.)(Malta), D.D.S. U.Sch.(E.U.Law)(F.R.G.), B.A.(Hons.)(U.S.A.)

Maltese and especially Gozitans migrated more in 2025 mainly to Ireland, Germany and other European Union countries, return migrated increased in 2025 and remigration was less throughout 2025. A negligible amount migrated to the traditional countries - Australia, Canada, the USA, France and the United Kingdom.

Yes, migration of Maltese and Gozitans from Malta and Gozo has increased and never really halted. I experience these phenomena myself in my everyday work at the first and so far only 'Welcome Back Home Centre' in the Maltese Islands, called Gozo Diaspora & International Office situated at the Ministry for Gozo & Planning (MGP) in Victoria, Gozo. Most are primarily very worried with the lowering of the quality of life of our country, the large quantity of wasted time in traffic, the impossibility of buying and owning their own home due to the extremely property prices, the too fast pace of life and work with no time for family and loved ones, we are losing our precious identity and centuries-old values by the day especially our Maltese way of life and our unique millennia-old language and 65 dialects. Maltese and Gozitan children only speak English because they are taught all subjects no longer in the Maltese language but in English to accommodate the thousands of foreigners attending our schools at all levels. Migration, return migration and re-migration is not caused by a lack of
work as was in the past, on the contrary but the gradual unliveable situation which is causing these phenomena.

2025 saw my re-election as President of the Europe's largest Organisation, Europeans Throughout the World (E.T.T.W.), a return to the European scene after Malta between 2013 and 2019 had proved to be a very good interlock-er of countries and manage exceptionally such
a large organisation as E.T.T.W. It is an organisation which represent all European Diasporas around the world with 60 million Europeans living abroad and 490 million persons of European origin living in 195 countries and territories around the world. What a great honour and privilege for Malta!

THE MALTES E-NEWSLETTER – JOURNAL FOR MALTESE LIVING ABROAD

All the above information leads to one sure conclusion. The Maltese eNewsletter is the last international voice of Global Malta and Global Gozo. The Maltese eNewsletter is more relevant and needed more than ever before to inform and continue to unite Maltese and Gozitans around the globe.

I whole heartedly thank Frank Scicluna and his great team for their sterling work in putting together the eNewsletter consistently. As I bind the 2025 copies into a volume for my library and other libraries, I look forward for the 2026 editions. Hundreds of copies of the Maltese eNewsletter are printed purposely and delivered to places where return Gozitan migrants frequent in Gozo, like bars, clubs, restaurants, complexes and homes for the elderly. It is read by many return Diaspora and also Gozitans who have never migrated, many times out of curiosity and/or wanting to learn about our heritage locally and internationally. These copies are passed on to one another, from one person to another and from room to another in homes for the elderly. Yes, circulation of the Maltese Newsletter is very high in Gozo. **"Let us be a proud nation, proud of our people wherever they may live on this planet, every person is an ambassador of our Global Malta and Global Gozo."**

Thank you Frank for uniting Global Malta and Global Gozo into ONE.

MALTA'S HARDSHIP: POST-WAR STRUGGLE AND EXODUS

"Hard" is almost an understatement for Malta in the 1950s. While the world remembers the '50s as a decade of rock-and-roll and post-war booms, for Malta, it was a period of grinding transition and painful survival.

The islands were reeling from the physical and economic devastation of World War II, and the decade was defined by a choice between two harsh realities: staying and struggling, or leaving everything behind.

The Scars of War and Poverty

Even though the war had ended, the destruction remained. Valletta and the Three Cities were still heavily scarred by the Blitz.

Housing Crisis: Thousands of families were living in makeshift shelters or overcrowded, dilapidated buildings. The government had to use emergency powers to requisition houses just to keep people off the streets.

Infrastructure: Electricity, clean water, and drainage were luxuries in many villages. Infant mortality was shockingly high—at one point reaching nearly 30%—due to poor sanitation and limited healthcare.

Austerity: Life was spartan. Education was not yet fully universal or high-quality, and many children left school early to help their families survive.

The Great Exodus (Mass Emigration)

This is perhaps the most defining feature of 1950s Malta. Because the British military (the island's main employer) began scaling back, unemployment skyrocketed.

The "Safety Valve": Emigration was seen as the only solution to overpopulation and poverty.

The Numbers: Between 1948 and 1967, nearly 30% of the entire population left the islands.

Destinations: Thousands of young men and families boarded ships like the SS Asturias for Australia, Canada, the UK, and the USA. It was a bittersweet time; while it offered hope, it tore families apart and created a "brain drain" that lasted for generations.

Political Turmoil: Integration or Independence?

The 1950s were politically explosive. The country was desperately trying to figure out its identity.

The Integration Proposal: Prime Minister Dom Mintoff famously proposed that Malta should become part of the UK (having Maltese MPs in the British Parliament) to guarantee economic security and British standards of living.

The Fallout: The plan failed due to British reluctance to pay for it and fierce opposition from the Catholic Church and the Nationalist Party. This failure led to a state of emergency and eventually paved the way for Independence in 1964.

A Rigid Social Code

Life wasn't just economically hard; it was socially strict.

Church Influence: The Catholic Church held immense power over daily life. Social behaviour, dress codes, and even political opinions were closely monitored.

Strict Upbringing: Discipline in schools and homes was unwavering. "Decency and decorum" were the rules of the day, and there was little room for the "youth culture" that was starting to emerge in the rest of the West.

Life in 1950s Malta was a test of resilience. It was a decade of "counting blessings and being thankful for small mercies," as families worked tirelessly to build a future out of the rubble.

The Emigrant Experience: The Long Voyage

For many, the political debates in Valletta were secondary to the immediate need for work. The "Assisted Passage" scheme became the primary escape route from the economic stagnation of the dockyards.

The Journey: The voyage to Australia typically took four to five weeks. Ships like the SS Sydney or the SS Roma carried thousands of Maltese migrants through the Suez Canal. For many, this was the first time they had ever left their village, let alone the island.

The Cultural Shock: Migrants were often required to sign a bond to stay in their destination for at least two years. Upon arrival in cities like Melbourne or Sydney, they faced a language barrier—many spoke only Maltese—and a "White Australia" policy that, while allowing them entry as Europeans, did not always guarantee social acceptance.

The Remittances: The 1950s economy was kept afloat by "migrant money." Thousands of pounds were sent back to Malta every month, providing the capital for families left behind to repair war-damaged homes or start small businesses.

The Breakdown of the Fortress Economy

By 1957, the British "Defence White Paper" signalled the end of Malta's role as a strategic naval bastion. The planned layoffs at the Royal Naval Dockyard—the island's largest employer—triggered a national crisis. This economic shock effectively ended the Integration dream and shifted the national consensus toward total sovereignty, as it became clear that Britain was no longer willing to bankroll the island's colonial status.

MALTA HIGH COMMISSIONER MEETS THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF ASEAN

THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS

This marks an important milestone for Malta, as His Excellency Clifford Borg-Marks formally presented his credentials to the Secretary-General of ASEAN, H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, becoming Malta's first Ambassador accredited to the The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

This historic appointment underscores Malta's strong interest in deepening engagement with ASEAN on multiple levels, including within the framework of EU–ASEAN relations, and reflects Malta's commitment to strengthening political, economic and cultural ties, as well as people-to-people exchanges, with ASEAN Member States.

Borg-Marks said - Malta looks forward to working closely with ASEAN and its Member States to further advance cooperation, mutual understanding and shared priorities in the years ahead.

JOE BAJADA RECEIVES UEC MERIT AWARD AT THE 38TH UEC CONGRESS IN AVIGNON

Avignon, France – 8 March 2026 –

Joe Bajada, Secretary General of the Maltese Cycling Federation, has been honoured with the prestigious UEC Merit Award by the Union Européenne de Cyclisme (UEC) in recognition of his long-standing commitment and service to cycling in Malta and across Europe.

The award was presented at the conclusion of the 38th UEC Congress, held last Sunday in Avignon, France. The presentation took place in the historic Conclave Hall of the Palace of the Popes, in the presence of delegates from 46 nations. The award was personally presented by UEC President Enrico Della Casa, alongside David Lappartient, President of the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI).

Joe Bajada received the award in recognition of his decades-long dedication to the sport of cycling and for his historic role representing Malta in European and international cycling institutions. Notably, Bajada has served in various positions within both the UCI and the UEC, marking a first in the history of Maltese cycling.

In addition to Bajada, the UEC also presented Merit Awards to Catherine Gastou (France) and Jolanda Polkamp (Netherlands). Meanwhile, Agata Lang Lelangue (Poland) and Henrik Jess Jenson (Denmark) were honoured with the UEC Gold Licence.

Commenting on the recognition, Joe Bajada described the occasion as a deeply meaningful and memorable experience. "It was truly wonderful to receive this honour in such a historic place where faith, service, and sport came together. I accept this award with the utmost humility, particularly in light of the voluntary work and sacrifices involved in serving the cycling community," he said.

Bajada expressed his gratitude to his colleagues within the Maltese Cycling Federation for their continued support. He also congratulated the UEC and the French Cycling Federation for organizing the Congress in such a professional and exemplary manner.

"As a Knight of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, being honoured in a place with such deep Christian history as the Palace of the Popes holds a special meaning for me. This recognition reflects more than 50 years of voluntary service, commitment, and personal sacrifice in sport, including my roles as a football referee, journalist, and sports administrator," Bajada added.

He dedicated the award to his family for their unwavering support throughout his sporting journey, particularly to his wife, Salvina, their daughters, Vivienne and Lourdes, their husbands, Charlton and Paul, and his three grandchildren, Destinie, Ylenia, and Yana.

UEC President Enrico Della Casa praised Bajada's contribution to the sport. "It is an honour to present this award to Joe Bajada. His dedication and commitment to cycling in Malta and across Europe are exemplary. Through his work within the UEC and the UCI, he has become a true example for all of us," he said.

Della Casa also expressed his appreciation for Bajada's contributions to the development of cycling and thanked his family for their continued support throughout his years of service to sport.

WHEN MALTESE LANGUAGE WAS CONSIDERED AS "THE KITCHEN LANGUAGE"

The Burden of Aċċipe: When Speaking Maltese was a Schoolroom Sin

In the quiet, austere corridors of Malta's private schools during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, a silent war was being waged. It was a conflict not of bayonets, but of syntax and phonetics. At the heart of this struggle was a small, unassuming piece of parchment or a wooden ruler, bearing a single, cold Latin command: AĊĊIPE.

THE MARK OF THE 'MOTHER TONGUE'

During this era, the Maltese language—the soul of the island's identity—was relegated to the status of a "kitchen language." In the prestigious halls of education, only English and Italian were deemed the tongues of the cultured and the governed. To speak Maltese within the school gates was not merely a lapse in etiquette; it was a punishable offence.

The punishment was designed with a psychological cruelty that modern educators would find abhorrent. The first student caught "uttering a word in the vernacular" was forced to wear a sign pinned to their back. On it was written Aċċipe—Latin for "Receive" or "Take this." ### A CYCLE OF STIGMA

The Aċċipe was a nomadic punishment. It did not stay with one child for the duration of the day. Instead, it turned the playground into a space of wary silence and betrayal. The only way for a student to rid themselves of the mark of shame was to "catch" a classmate speaking Maltese.

The parchment would then be transferred to the new "offender," effectively turning the children into wardens of their own linguistic prison. This system was designed to:

Alienate: It made the native language a source of social friction and embarrassment.

Subjugate: It reinforced the idea that authority rested in Latin, English, or Italian.

Eradicate: By punishing the "impulse" to speak one's primary language, the authorities hoped to thin out its usage in future generations.

THE LINGUISTIC LANDSCAPE

The choice of the word Aċċipe was no accident. Latin was the language of the Church and the Law—the ultimate voices of "Truth." By using a Latin imperative, the educators gave the punishment a pseudo-religious weight, as if the child were receiving a penance for a moral failing rather than a linguistic preference.

FROM SHAME TO SOVEREIGNTY

The practice of the Aċċipe eventually withered away as the "Language Question" reached its climax. In 1934, the tide finally turned, and Maltese was officially recognised as a national language. The very tongue that children were once forced to "receive" as a burden became the official voice of the Maltese state.

Today, the story of the Aċċipe serves as a poignant reminder of the resilience of the Maltese spirit. Despite decades of being pinned to the backs of schoolboys as a mark of shame, the language survived, proving that a nation's voice can never truly be silenced by a piece of paper.

LEARN THE MALTESE LINGO

ESSENTIAL MALTESE PHRASES

The Maltese language is one of the most unique in Europe. It has roots in Arabic but also uses many words from Italian and English. Because of this mix, foreigners living in or visiting Malta often find some everyday Maltese words very confusing.

"MELA" Probably the most famous Maltese word. It can mean "so", "then", "of course", or simply be used to react to something. Locals say it all the time, and foreigners often wonder what it actually means.

"U EJJA" This is a reaction word. People use it when they are surprised, annoyed, or shocked. It doesn't have a direct translation in English, which makes it even harder for foreigners to understand.

"ISSA" "Issa" literally means "now". But in daily conversation Maltese people also use it to mean "hold on" or "wait a moment", which can confuse people who think it always means immediately.

"ALLURA" Another very common word. It usually means "so" or "well then". Many Maltese people start sentences with it during conversations.

"SEWWA" This word can mean "okay", "good", or "alright". It's often used when someone agrees with something. But with a sarcastic tone it can take on a very different meaning.

"GRAZZI" "Grazzi" means "thank you". Visitors quickly learn this word because it's used very often in shops, restaurants, and daily life. The sarcastic tone also changes it up, especially with an 'e' afterwards.

"AJMA" This is an expression people say when they are shocked or surprised, similar to saying "oh my!". But it can also be used in a 'cutesy' context (think a grandma grabbing your cheek and saying it).

"ARA" "Ara" literally means "look", but Maltese people often use it to start a sentence or explain something, like saying "look" or "listen" in English. It can also be a threat against doing something.

"SKUZANI" Whether you need to stop someone to ask for directions or bump into someone, the phrase "skużani" (pronounced scoo-za-nee) can mean both sorry and excuse me, depending on the context. It's another handy Maltese phrase to have ready.

"KIF INTI?" If you like striking up conversations with locals, a simple "kif inti?" (pronounced kif int-ee?) meaning "how are you?" is a great conversation starter. Bonus points if you can understand their replies in Maltese! If they reply with "tajjeb ħafna" (pronounced tai-yeb haaf-na), it means "very good," while "mhux ħazin" (pronounced moosh haa-zeen) means "not bad."

Thanks Frank, not a day goes by that I do not think of Malta . Talking with many Maltese at our local club, it seems that they too miss their Mother Homeland. I am glad to have your Maltese Journal to keep in contact with Malta past and present.
Stephen Mifsud

FR. FRED FARRUGIA - MALTESE AUSTRALIAN PARISH PRIEST AT THE ADELAIDE HILLS PARISH

A special feature about Fr. Fred was published in the Adelaide's Southern Cross Catholic Newspaper written by *Jenny Brinkworth*

Father Fred Farrugia shocked his family when at the age of 18 he announced his decision to become a priest. A self-confessed "troublemaker" who gave the Irish nuns a hard time at St Joseph Junior School, Blata l- Bajda, Fred even surprised his mother. "She didn't believe me," Fr Fred said. "They all thought my brother, who was five years older, would be a priest…not me."

Having helped in his grandparent's bakery, Fr Fred initially wanted to be a baker but his father wasn't happy about that so the plan was to continue his studies. Then he went on a youth retreat run by the Missionaries of St Paul, who educated him at the secondary level. While priesthood wasn't mentioned at the retreat, Fr Fred said the spiritual director "challenged us to look at ourselves and ask what do you think God wants from you at this time".

"I was struggling a bit at the time, wondering if I should get married," Fr Fred said.

"For five years at St Paul's Missionary College, in Rabat (Malta) I had seen how the religious brothers and priests lived in community, it was beautiful.

"We were permitted to go into the gardens where the brothers were working. They had never been to school so they worked really hard for the community, they were wonderful, very self-sufficient…They were philosophers of life; I could talk to them about anything."

Fr Fred entered the MSSP order's seminary at Rabat, Malta, in 1976. Before taking his final vows in1984 he did three months pastoral experience in the order's mission in Pakistan where he witnessed terrible suffering and poverty among the Christian population.

He was ordained with two other deacons in the former capital of Malta, Mdina, in January 1986 at the age of 27.

"It was a very cold day," he clearly recalled. "Mdina is a very old city, so you couldn't go in with a car, everyone had to walk and still the Cathedral was packed.

"My aunty, Sr Gemma, was a cloistered nun in Valletta. She was always praying for me and they wouldn't let her come out for the ordination, so we surprised her and went straight to the monastery after the Mass. She was so delighted, all the nuns came out and they knelt for my blessing."

Fr Fred's father had died four years earlier and he remembered his mum crying because of that.

After her initial surprise at his vocation decision, his mum was his greatest "companion" and when it looked like his journey was going to be delayed at one point, she said: "If God wants you to become a priest, nothing can stop you, just trust in God."

"One thing she always talked about was forgiveness," Fr Fred said.

Having completed a Bachelor of Arts (Hon), Fr Fred was assigned to teach geography, history and religion at St Paul's Missionary College. He also took on the position of principal for three years before he was informed that he would be sent to Melbourne to be chaplain to its large Maltese community. When he told his mother he was going to Australia she said, "I will never see you again".

"It was hard to leave, I sat in the car and cried," Fr Fred said.

Guilia, was only 68 but she suffered from arthritis and four months later she died suddenly.

His role as chaplain to the Maltese community took him far and wide, a challenge for Fr Fred who said he had never been in a car for longer than 20 to 30 minutes living on the small island of Malta.

With only a Melway directory to guide him back then, he often got lost.

There were also differences in Church practices and traditions which he had to adapt to and he recalled leaving midnight Mass on a warm December night and crying because he missed the Maltese winter Christmas.

After four years in Melbourne, he was called back to the island of Gozo where the order had a novitiate house.

"The Superior asked me to try to change it into a retreat centre which I did," he said.

After seven years he was told to go on sabbatical and he decided to return to Australia and enroll in a spirituality course at the College of Divinity at Brooklyn Park in Adelaide.
Through a Maltese friend, he was introduced to Fr Charles Gauci (now Bishop of Darwin) who was responsible for a very large region, including the Fleurieu Peninsula, and he was invited to spend a year there.
"I started thinking maybe God sent me here for a reason, and after finishing a second year (in Adelaide) I talked to Archbishop Wilson about becoming a Diocesan priest," Fr Fred said.
"He was delighted," he said.
In 2012 Archbishop Wilson accepted him as a Diocesan priest and he was appointed assistant parish priest at Noarlunga. After a discussion about his future with the then Vicar General Fr Philip Marshall, Fr Fred was appointed parish priest of the Adelaide Hills.The parish had been without a permanent priest for several years and Fr Fred said there were a lot of challenges.
"There were four communities, and they were considering selling properties so there was a lot of tension," Fr Fred said.
Fr Fred set about building community spirit and improving properties, including building a community centre at Birdwood, major maintenance on churches and building a new parish hall at Bridgewater.
The practical skills he learned from his beloved grandfather, including how to take apart machines in the bakery and put them back together methodically, have held him in good stead.
Importantly, his interest in wood carving and gardening, his budgies aviary and his dog, Dolly, have given him a balanced life. As well as serving four Mass centres, Fr Fred is helping the Maltese community as much as he can as he is the only Maltese-speaking priest in the diocese.
"When I put my head on my pillow I try to forget my problems, then I wake up in the morning and I start the day again," he said.
Fr Fred's older brother died last year and while he couldn't attend the funeral he returned to Malta a few months later and visited his two sisters. He told them that his plan was to remain in Australia even after retirement. "I'm very happy to be here," he said. Speaking at his anniversary celebration, parish pastoral coordinator Cathie Oswald paid tribute to Fr Fred's leadership.
"After so many years without a shepherd, we were a flock divided, a parish where two of its four churches were about to be sold, a parish where involvement by the laity was minimal," she said.
"Today, we have four beautiful churches in use as places of worship, spiritual homes to communities.
"Despite difficulties, Father has persevered in the belief that if we lose the church, we lose the community.
"Today we are thriving, with some 160 volunteers across the parish…Father, we feel so blessed to have you in our lives. We are your Australian family. Thank you for your leadership, your love, for being the 'heart and soul' of our parish community, and for taking that leap of faith and responding to God's call 40 years ago."

89.3fm 2GLF-fm - Sunday 15.02.2026 from 10:00am
Join the Radio Team of the Maltese Community Council of NSW this Sunday on 2GLF-fm 89.3 at 10:00am for an hour of Maltese Voices followed by the MCC in NSW Program at 11:00am
We have a jampacked program EVERY Week:
https://893fm.com.au/show/maltese-voices/
https://893fm.com.au/listen-live/
.MCC Program :
https://893fm.com.au/listen-live/ https://893fm.com.au/show/maltese-community-council/

DELTA GOODREM OFF TO EUROVISION 2026

Following plenty of speculation and years of personal manifestation, it's finally official: Delta Goodrem is representing Australia at the Eurovision Song Contest. The pop superstar was announced on Monday as this year's entrant with her power ballad "Eclipse", and I'm being completely serious when I tell you that we might actually bring the trophy home.

Not only does the track feature Delta's powerhouse vocals belting out a high note, but there's a dramatic piano riff, a haunting harp intro and a goddamn key change. It's as if Delta looked at a "How to win Eurovision" cheat sheet and ticked all the boxes.

The Lost Without You hitmaker is also entering the competition with a massive advantage: a pre-built European fanbase. After a recent tour across the UK, Germany, France, Switzerland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden — not to mention her 2025 wedding in Malta — she's already a local favourite. In a contest that thrives on cross-country connections (we're looking at you, Greece and Cyprus), Delta is in a prime position to sweep the douze points.

Australian singer Delta Goodrem married musician Matthew Copley in a private, "fairytale" ceremony in Malta on June 16, 2025. The couple, together for over six years, celebrated with a multi-day event, including a ceremony at St Paul's Cathedral in Mdina and a reception at Palazzo Parisio, honoring Copley's Maltese heritage.

Key details of the wedding in Malta include:

Copley proposed to Goodrem in September 2023 in the gardens of the Phoenicia Hotel in Valletta. The couple held their ceremony at the 12th-century St. Paul's Cathedral in Mdina. The wedding involved a, "family fairytale" atmosphere with a recovery party held the day after the ceremony. Malta was chosen due to Copley's family roots and their love for the location. Delta also previously performed at the Isle of MTV Malta in 2023.

A LETTER FROM MALTA

We, the readers of the Maltese Journal from Malta and Gozo, particularly those who have friends and family living abroad, take great pleasure in reading about how our sisters and brothers living overseas strive to preserve the language, culture, history and heritage of the Maltese Islands. We sincerely hope that you will continue with this important mission.

2026 **Joseph Camilleri - Malta**

Our club's aim is to foster Maltese cultural awareness among the descendants of Maltese immigrants in Mackay & District.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT Doris Gauci

Hi to everyone, especially our members who continue to support us. This is our first newsletter for the year and hopefully 2026 will be a good year for everyone.

Last year it was a very busy year for our family. My grandson Dominic is growing fast and needs more attention than anyone else. He comes to all the MMC events, and it seems that he enjoys himself very much, especially when food is involved. Little Dudu.

I would like to invite everyone to join us for the Meet & Greet mornings. They are a good way to catch up for a coffee and we are always meeting new people. No RSVP is necessary, so come along and join us for a chat.

Last year we started with the luncheon at Wests and it was a great luncheon with Catherine Smith attending as the guest speaker. We also had guest speaker Emily Starrett from MND attend our morning tea and cent sale where the club donated $3,000 to the Starrett fight MND Fundraiser. The morning was a great success, and we are already planning this years event.

We had many people join us for the Festa Luncheon at the Surf Club which was well attended for the first one being held at lunch time. I think this was a necessary change to accommodate our loyal members.

Last year we participated in Global Grooves and made and sold over 50 sweet boxes, with lovely hand made traditional Maltese biscuits in them. Melbourne Cup lunch at South's was well attended with around 40 people joining in the fun.

The MMC Committee visited and donated a hamper to our dear Franciscan nuns for Christmas. We then as a committee ended the year with a Christmas lunch and it was good to sit down and have lunch together, because all year we work hard behind closed doors to prepare all the events.

Membership remains at just $5 per person and is due now. Finally, I would like to thank the MMC Committee from the bottom of my heart for their continuous support. God bless you all.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATE

President
Doris Gauci

Vice President
Rosemarie Chapman

Treasurer
Lyn Zahra

Secretary
Veronica Gauci

We strive to continue with the Maltese passion of the Mackay Community and hope that we gain further support for the future.

MEET THE PRESIDENT OF THE MACKAY MALTESE CLUB QUEENSLAND AUSTRALIA
DORIS GAUCI

Doris Gauci (née Dolores Camilleri) was born in May 1956 in Manikata, Malta, near Golden Sands Bay. She was one of nine children born to Pacifico and Speranza Camilleri, who worked vegetable fields in their hometown. From a young age, Doris and her siblings helped their parents in the fields, learning the values of hard work and family. As a young woman, Doris worked as a cleaner in hotels around Golden Sands Bay. It was there that she met Jim Gauci, a Maltese man visiting from Australia.

The two soon formed a strong connection and became engaged before Jim returned to Australia for the crushing. Doris promised to marry him upon his return, and true to their commitment, Jim came back the following year. They were married in Malta in February 1979. After migrating to Australia, Doris quickly adapted to her new way of life. The early years of her marriage were spent on the Gauci family farm at Alligator Creek.

After nine years of marriage, and with the help of IVF, Doris and Jim welcomed their only daughter, Veronica, in June 1988. The family later moved to Marian, where Doris began working in various aged care homes, dedicating herself to caring for the elderly. In later years, Doris and Jim relocated to Ooralea, where they continue to live today. In October 2024, the Gauci family welcomed their grandson, Dominic.

Doris greatly enjoys caring for him alongside her many volunteer commitments. She volunteers weekly at the Francis of Assisi Home, assisting with bingo, and teaches advanced Maltese language classes once a week from her home. Monthly MMC Committee meetings are also held at Doris and Jim's residence.

Doris stepped into the role of President of the MMC when no one else was able to, taking on the responsibility with dedication and heart. She organises MMC events and is always willing to help wherever needed. Doris is a deeply valued and respected member of the Mackay Maltese Community.

We Need Your Help

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

This is a call out for anyone who is interested in becoming a Mackay Maltese Club Committee Member. You do not have to be Maltese, just have an interest in our Maltese Community. We have 1 meeting per month. All ages welcome. We promote Maltese get togethers, be involved in community events and support the Mackay community by donations. It's an honour to be part of upholding Maltese culture for the Maltese people in Mackay. If you would like more information, please contact Doris Gauci on 0419 027 554 or dolores.gauci56@gmail.com

Frank Scicluna, the editor of the Maltese Journal, along with the readers, wishes to express gratitude to Mrs. Veronica Gauci for providing us with the exquisite newsletter of the Maltese Mackay Club Inc. We value their support and remain committed to assisting all Maltese associations around the world.

Sr. Celsina's Pudina Recipe

Ingredients:

4 Cups Stale Bread
1 Tin Evaporated Milk
2 Eggs
1 Tbsp Butter
1 Tbsp Cocoa
1 Tbsp Sugar
2 Cups Mixed Fruit
1 Tsp Ground Cloves
Scotch/Rum

Method:

Preheat oven to 180 degrees. Mix all ingredients together until the bread is all broken up. Grease a baking dish. Put mixture into dish. Bake in a moderate oven for about 45 minutes.

96% of persons in Malta and Gozo aged 16-74 use the Internet

A methodological enhancement to the technique used to weight data in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Household Survey has been implemented, the National Statistics Office said.

It explained that this methodological enhancement aims to improve the accuracy and representativeness of the survey results which found that:

Nine out of ten persons aged 16-74 used the internet (96%).

Internet access on a daily basis was reported by 98.9% of users.

Nearly 80% of persons aged 16 to 74 used e-government services last year.

Internet users who engaged in e-commerce activities during 2025 amounted to 279,006.

Almost 40% of internet users aged 16-74 had above-basic digital skills.

Results show that the internet was used primarily for communication purposes, with 99% of internet users reporting such use. Additionally, 92.6% used the internet to access information.

The NSO noted that mobile devices were the most popular means of accessing the internet, with 98.6% of users going online via a mobile device. Almost 90% of internet users reported encountering no difficulties while using the internet.

I would like to express my profound gratitude and appreciation on behalf of myself, my family and the nearly one million Maltese and Gozitan diaspora spread in 190 countries for your steadfast dedication and hard work over the past lifetime, not only the 17 years you have served as Honorary Consul of Malta to our community in the State of South Australia with such love, passion and dedication but to your unique service to Global Malta. Global Malta is indebted to you and your team for your sterling service by bridging our diaspora communities everywhere. Our 'Maltese E-Newsletter - The Journal of the Maltese Diaspora' which you edit, has increased the much needed awareness in the Maltese Islands, in continental Europea and around the world that the country of Malta is not just the population of the Maltese in Malta and Gozitans in Gozo, but we are a Global Malta, a global nation with roots and presence everywhere, like any other country around the world. Thanks to you and your newsletter, Maltese-Canadians have become aware more than ever before of the importance of learning about their compatriots around the world and you have been key to this development and important step.

Donate - Please, help us to keep this Journal alive

Bank - Commonwealth (Australia) BSB - 065106
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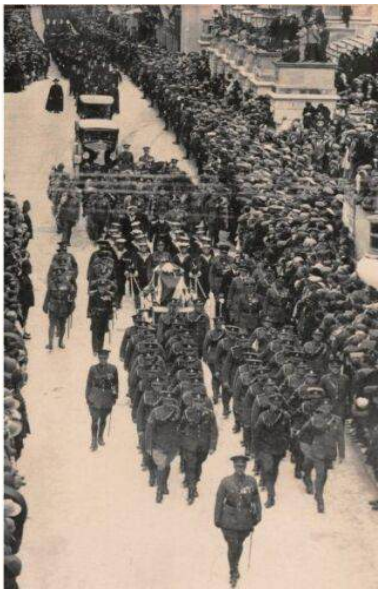
TAHT IL-QILLA TAL-ISWASTIKA

Rumanz imsejjes fuq ġrajjiet li seħħew tassew ...
RUMA, 1943
Ta' Ben Agius

Wara l-invażjoni tal-Alleati fi Sqallija u l-waqgħa tar-reġim ta' Mussolini, l-abitanti tal-Belt Eterna jaħsbu illi l-gwerra kienet intemmet. Iżda kienu sejrin imqarqa.
Chicca: armla Maltija maqbuda f'Ruma fi żmien l-okkupazzjoni Tedeska, tissogra ħajjitha u dik ta' familtha sabiex issalva għexieren ta' priġunieri tal-gwerra.
Gulia: it-tifla l-kbira ta' Chicca, xebba kuraġġuża bi spirtu kumbattiv, tara l-imħabba żagħżugħa tagħha tintemm qabel twarrad. Iżda l-imħabba għandha ħabta tinbet anki mit-tifrik.
Silvano: ġuvni patrijott, Komunist ferventi u ġellied partiġjan. L-imħabba għal Gulia hija ssuperata biss minn dik għal pajjiżu. Gabriel: jara lil niesu Lhud jinġarru mis-suldati tal-SS lejn il-kampijiet tal-mewt. Biex isib lil martu, mitlufa u tqila bl-ewwel wild tagħhom, jingħaqad mal-Partiġjani, jiġġieled it-tirannija tan-Naži-Faxxisti.
Dun Ugolino: Saċerdot Malti attiv fix-xirka ta' Monsinjur O'Flaherty, ikenni l-priġunieri tal-gwerra u Lhud maħrubin bil-Gestapo jsusu warajh.
Vito: Faxxist sa ruħ ommu ... L-imħabba tiegħu għal Gulia hi l-unika ħaġa umana li għandu. Kappler: il-kap tal-Gestapo fil-belt ta' Ruma. L-għan tiegħu huwa li jrażżan ir-reżistenza tal-partiġjani u jtawwal l-agunija ta' dawk maqfula fiċ-ċelel tat-torturi. Il-ġrajja ta' dawn il-karattri, minsuġa ma' ta' ħafna oħrajn madwarhom, tintgħaġen flimkien bid-dmugħ u d-demm f'taqtigħa għall-ħelsien minn taħt il-qilla tal-iswastika.

Dear Editor Maltese E-Newsletter,
I read with great interest your Journal of February 2026 and was especially interested in the article about our (almost forgotten) heroine Henriette Chevalier.
I knew about this woman's inspiring story for some time. In fact, in 2023, after researching her story in Rome, I have written a fiction novel (in Maltese) based on her and her family's exploits in the Rome Escape Line days during the Nazi occupation of Rome. See pic attached.
Unfortunately, Henriette Chevalier remains an unsung hero in Malta. Through my novel (Taht il-Qilla l-Iswastika - Under the Brutal Swastika) I tried to change this and give Chetta her rightful status as a national hero. Best Regards Ben Agius

WE ARE PROUD OF OUR MALTESE ACHIEVERS



On This Day In 1927: Malta's Governor Was Laid To Rest At Sea Close To Filfla

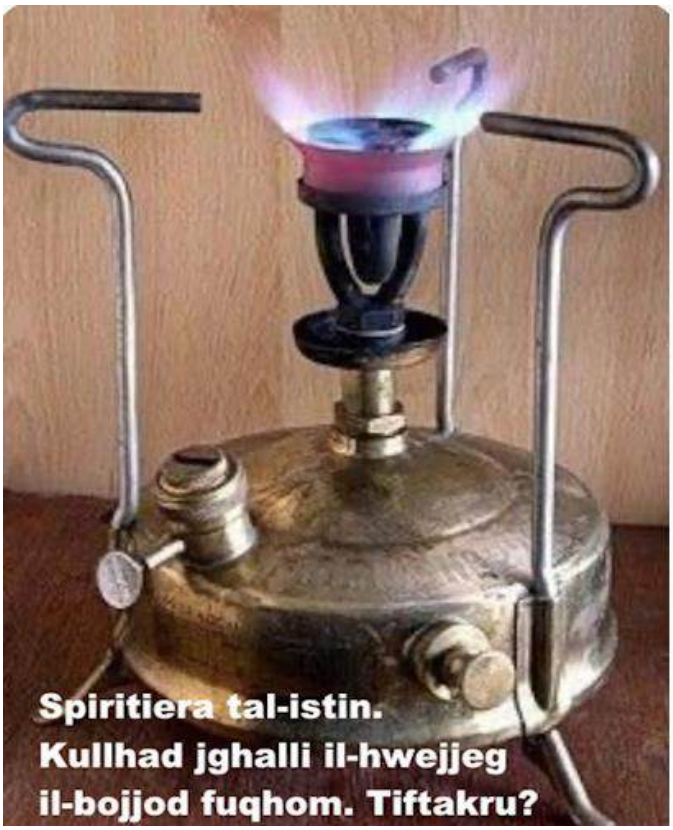
On this day in 1927, Governor Sir Walter Norris Congreve was buried at sea, off Filfla Island.

Sir Walter's death came during carnival festivities that year and because of his death, all celebrations were cancelled. He was known as "t'idu ganċ" (arm with a hook) because he had lost his arm during a battle in 1917. Just a few days before his death, Sir Walter said that he wished to be buried at sea, as seen from the telephone message that was sent by the Rear Admiral to the Commander-in-Chief.

Another letter that is still with us to this day contains the exact position where Sir Walter was laid to rest, as expressed by the Rear Admiral.

The funeral and burial were indeed carried out according to Sir Walter's request and the stretch of water where he rests became known as the "Congreve Channel."

Credit: National Archives of Malta



FOND MEMORIES FROM THE MALTESE COMMUNITY OF ADELAIDE

Back row - left: Reno Schiavone, Tony Chetcuti, Fred Saliba, Joe Chetcuti, Tom Borg, Peter Pace, Alfred Borg, Joe Delia, Joe caruana and Fred Chetcuti,
Front row: Victor ?, Leli Bugeja, Tony Farrugia,and Ben Schiavone

MISS MALTA - ADELAIDE 1966

From left - C. Zammit, Daniel Caruana, J. Hili, Joe Barbara, M. Mallia, A. Zammit, Marlene Buttigieg (Miss Malta), Joe DeFelice, Mary Sgarbossa, V. Mifsud. and T. Mahoney

"PAĊIKK QABEŻ MIT-TIEQA" is a popular Maltese children's nursery rhyme and tongue twister, often starting with "Wieħed, tnejn, tlieta" (One, two, three). It tells the humorous, nonsensical story of a character named Paċikk who jumps out a window, lands on a rock, hurts his potato/bottom, and visits family members. Common Versions and Lyrics:

The rhyme has several variations, often recited for fun:

Version 1: ***Wieħed, tnejn, tlieta, Paċikk qabeż mit-tieqa, ġie fuq blata, weġġa' l-patata, mar għand ommu u waħħlitomlu, mar għand missieru u kissirlu...*** **(1, 2)**

Version 2: ***...mar għand ommu ċapċpitlu, mar għand missieru kissirlu snienu, mar għand it-tabib...***

Version 3: ***...mar għand ommu, kisrila l-platti, Mar għand missieru, raħ ipejjep sigarru.***

The rhyme is well-known in Maltese folklore and often used to teach rhythm and language to children.

PAĊIKK QABEŻ MIT-TIEQA

Wiehed, tnejn, tlieta,

Pacikk qabeż mit-tieqa Gie fuq blata, wegga' I-patata
Mar ghand ommu, bamblithomlu Mar ghand missieru, kissirlu snienu
Mar ghand ir-re, garalu gabarrè Mar ghand ir-regina, tefghetlu kuccarina
Mar ghand I-ispiżjar, garalu pakkett tajjar Mar ghand it-tabib, garalu bott halib
Haduh I-isptar, ghattewh bil-liżar Hallewlu ż-żokra barra u naqqarhielu d-dundjan!

BLAST FROM THE PAST

This photo shows a concert band in Malta. Georgina's brother Fred Schembri said that their father played in the band and he is somewhere on the left-hand side of the picture. The band may be from Hamrun or Valletta. Some sad news her brother, Frank Schembri, passed away on the 20 August 2025 at the age of 86 in Australia. Above is a photo of Frank with his mother and brother Joe on their way to Bindoon Western Australia several years ago. In one of your Journals, you did a story on Maltese Migrant Children who were sent out from Malta to Australia after WW2 to Australia. There were 350 boys and girls in Perth and Frank and Joe Schembri were two of these children.

Bindoon school was established by the Christian Brothers in 1936 near Bindoon, north of Perth. It began as a 'farm and trade school' for boys aged 12 to 16 years from various backgrounds, including Australian-born boys who were wards of the State and those who had been admitted privately, and (from 1947 to 1966) child migrants from Britain and Malta. The boys built most of the buildings at Bindoon. Since 1967, Bindoon has been a Catholic agricultural high school and was involved in several scandals over the years. – Submitted by Joe Chetucti – Adelaide Australia

ERNEST FERRANTE FACEBOOK

Maritime Disasters in Maltese History

Being a naval hub, Malta has witnessed several catastrophic accidents at sea and in the docks.

SS SARDINIA (1908): Known as Malta's worst peacetime maritime disaster, this ship caught fire shortly after leaving Grand Harbour. Over 110 people perished as the ship ran aground while engulfed in flames.

HMS VICTORIA (1893): Though it sank off Lebanon, this was a massive tragedy for the Maltese community, as it was the flagship of the Mediterranean Fleet based in Malta. 358 crew members died, many of whom were local or had deep ties to the islands.

UM EL FAROUD (1995): A more recent tragedy, where an explosion on a Libyan tanker in the Malta Drydocks killed 9 shipyard workers. The ship's hull is now a famous dive site off Wied iż-Żurrieq.

While rankings are always subjective, a consensus among historians and fans generally points to these 10 players as the greatest to have represented the Maltese islands.

1. **Carmel Busuttil ("Il-Bużu")**
Commonly regarded as the greatest of all time. He was a pioneer for Maltese football in Europe, captaining KRC Genk in Belgium and being named Malta's "Golden Player" for the UEFA Jubilee. His technical skill and leadership remain the gold standard.

2. **Michael Mifsud ("The Mosquito")** The ultimate record-breaker. He is Malta's all-time top scorer (42 goals) and most-capped player (143 caps). His legendary brace for Coventry City against Manchester United at Old Trafford remains arguably the most famous moment in Maltese club history abroad.

3. **Gilbert Agius** A Valletta FC icon known for his immense loyalty and creative vision. He won the Maltese Player of the Year award three times and was the heartbeat of the national team for over 15 years.

4. **Tony Nicholl**The superstar of the pre-professional era. Playing mostly in the 1940s and 50s for Sliema Wanderers, Nicholl was a physical powerhouse and a prolific scorer. Many "old-timers" argue that in terms of raw talent, he was the equal of Busuttil.

5. **André Schembri** A highly intelligent forward who enjoyed a successful career across Europe (Germany, Greece, Cyprus, and India). He is famously remembered for scoring twice in Malta's historic 2-1 win over Hungary in 2006.

6. **Raymond Vella ("Il-Mundu")** A midfield maestro of the 80s and 90s. Known for his incredible passing range and tactical discipline, Vella won the Maltese Player of the Year award twice and was a crucial part of the national team during their most competitive years in the early 90s.

7. **Joe Cini** A clinical striker from the 1950s and 60s who became the first Maltese player to move to a major English club, signing for Leyton Orient in 1959. He was a focal point of the legendary Floriana and Sliema teams of that era.

8. **David Carabott** A tireless wing-back and midfielder who held the appearance record (122 caps) for years before Mifsud broke it. His longevity and consistency across three decades made him a staple of the Maltese defence.

9. **Joe Brincat** A classy midfielder with over 100 caps. Brincat was a winner at the club level, securing league titles with Hamrun Spartans, Birkirkara, and Sliema Wanderers. He was renowned for his composure on the ball and his ability to dictate the tempo of a game.

10. **Teddy Teuma** The modern-day representative. Currently playing for Stade de Reims in Ligue 1, Teuma is arguably the most technically gifted player Malta has ever had in a top-five European league. If he continues his current trajectory, he may climb even higher on this list.

Historically, the Maltese Islands were often described as "more Catholic than the Pope." Following the end of the Second World War and the subsequent achievement of independence in 1964, the religious landscape remained remarkably uniform. However, the turn of the 21st century sparked a demographic shift that has transformed Malta into a multi-faith society.

While the 1964 Constitution still establishes Roman Catholicism as the state religion, migration, global trade, and European integration have introduced a variety of new religious identities to the archipelago.

The Rise of Islamic Communities The modern presence of Islam in Malta is a post-war phenomenon, largely separate from the islands' medieval Arab history. The community began to take root in the 1970s, bolstered by diplomatic and economic ties with North Africa.

The most significant milestone was the 1982 completion of the Mariam Al-Batool Mosque in Paola. This remains the only structure in Malta specifically designed and built as a mosque. Today, the Muslim population is diverse, comprising Sunnis, Shi'ites, and a small Ahmadiyya community, making up nearly 4% of the total population.

Expansion of Eastern Orthodoxy The collapse of the Soviet Union and the subsequent expansion of the European Union brought a wave of Eastern European professionals and labourers to Malta. This migration led to a rapid increase in Orthodox Christians, primarily from Serbia, Russia, Bulgaria, and Romania.

Unlike the Catholic majority, these communities often share physical spaces, sometimes renting or being granted the use of older Catholic chapels for their Divine Liturgy. According to the 2021 census, Orthodoxy is now the second-largest Christian denomination on the islands.

Protestantism and Evangelical Movements While the Church of England (Anglicanism) and the Church of Scotland (Presbyterianism) arrived during the British colonial period, many other Protestant and Evangelical groups were established only after 1945.

Pentecostal and Baptist Churches: Numerous independent Evangelical fellowships emerged in the late 20th century, often catering to both Maltese locals and the expatriate community.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: Missions were formally established in the latter half of the century.

Jehovah's Witnesses: This group has seen steady growth since the post-war era, establishing several "Kingdom Halls" across the main island.

Asian Religions and the Indian Diaspora Malta's Hindu community has a distinct history, primarily consisting of the Sindhi diaspora who arrived for trade purposes. While some families arrived in the early 1900s, the community solidified and gained public visibility in the post-independence era.

Similarly, Buddhism has found a foothold in Malta through both migration and local converts. Small Zen and Tibetan Buddhist meditation groups now meet regularly, contributing to the 0.5% of the population that identifies with Asian religions.

The Emergence of Religious Non-Affiliation Perhaps the most striking post-war change is not the arrival of a new deity, but the rise of secularism. For centuries, identifying as "non-religious" was socially taboo in Malta.

Recent data shows that approximately 5% of the population now identifies as atheist or agnostic. This shift is most prevalent among the younger generations and the European expat community, reflecting a broader continental trend toward secularisation.