Maltese eNewsletter

Journal for Maltese Living Abroad

Editor: Frank Scicluna OAM MQR JP Contact: maltesejournal@gmail.com

THE MALTESE PRESENCE IN NORTH AMERICA AND THE MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER A MESSAGE FROM BRAZIL

We are delighted that with the article which was published in the Times of Malta recently regarding the journal – The Maltese Presence in North America, we are sure it brought Dan Brock and his family and the Maltese communities in Canada and America happiness, and a sense of pride. I am researching the Spiteri Family for the August edition. On another note, while historical accounts are extremely important, I am also very keen on recording contemporary events. I have already advised Dan that I will be providing him with stories of some current happenings involving Maltese – Brazil relations. If you are aware of any current achievement or outcome involving Maltese Brazilians, or Brazilians of Maltese heritage, please let me know about them.

I will be delighted to make personal contact and promote their achievements. In the meantime, I hope you and other members of your family and friends start subscribing to Dan's Monthly Journal. t's free and always has very interesting news. I also have another friend in South Australia, Frank Scicluna, who produces an equally interesting fortnightly Journal – The Maltese Newsletter . He has more than 12,000 subscribers worldwide. Please find below the links to the editors of both Journals. Kindest regards,

danbrock62@gmail.com and maltesejournal@gmail.com

Submitted by H.E. John J Aquilina
Ambassador for Malta in Brazil

The Maltese Presence in North America has become a reference point for members of the Maltese diaspora. A place to share community events, celebrate heritage and keep track of social clubs across Ontario, Detroit, New York, California and beyond. Each issue features letters from contributors, photographs of events like boċċi or fenkata nights, and updates on visits by Maltese dignitaries to local clubs.

TIMES OF MALTA 19 July 2025

Jake Brimmer celebrates scoring a goal for Melbourne Victory during his Johnny Warren-medal winning 2021-22 A-League season. Picture: Morgan Hancock/Getty Images)

Marco Monteverde

JAKE BRIMMER DREAMT OF PLAYING FOR THE SOCCEROOS, BUT NOW 2022 JOHNNY WARREN MEDAL WINNER JAKE BRIMMER HAS PLEDGED HIS INTERNATIONAL ALLEGIANCE TO MALTA

The former Australian youth international once adjudged the A-League's best player has switched his international allegiance to Malta. Auckland FC midfielder Jake Brimmer, who won the Johnny Warren Medal in 2022 during his time with Melbourne Victory, has had his "change of association" request approved by FIFA.

The 27-year-old former Liverpool youth player who was born in Melbourne of Maltese Parents, has represented Australia at under-17 and under-20 levels but hasn't played for the Socceroos, who are currently coached by his former Victory mentor Tony Popovic.

Having taken advantage of his Maltese heritage, Brimmer can now play for Malta, whose next match is a FIFA World Cup qualifier on September 5 against Lithuania in Kaunas.

Auckland FC midfielder Jake Brimmer has chosen to represent Malta at senior level. Picture: Phil Walter/Getty Images

"Obviously growing up I wanted to play for the Socceroos, but I'm 27 now and perhaps that chance has passed me by, and this is a chance for me to play international football and be seen in Europe, which will hopefully help my chances of going back over there to play club football," Brimmer said.

"I discussed things with my family and we felt this was the best decision for me.

"I'm entering the prime years of my career, and feel this is the right time to do this, and I;m happy with my decision."

Brimmer said the Malta Football Association first approached him about changing allegiances after his Johnny Warren Medal-winning season.

However, at the time, Brimmer was still intent on playing for the Socceroos, believing his form at the time warranted selection in Australia's senior team.

But having constantly been overlooked, Brimmer is set to now follow in the footsteps of former Central Coast Mariners pair John Hutchinson and Trent Buhagiar, who switched allegiances from Australia to play senior football for Malta.

Brimmer, who started his A-League career with Perth Glory, left the Victory at the end of the 2023-24 season to become a foundation player with Auckland, and was part of the Black Knights squad that won the Premier's Plate in the club's maiden A-League campaign.

He came off the bench in Auckland's 4-0 Australia Cup round-of-32 win over NPL Queensland club Gold Coast Knights on Tuesday night at Carrara. (Anthony Grima – Victoria)

AMALGAMATING TWO INCORPORATED SOCIETIES

During the last few years, we have witnessed the closing down of several clubs and associations because of the diminishing number of members of the Maltese communities around the world. It was suggested that instead of dissolving our groups we might consider amalgamatIng these precious societies that were the backbone of the Maltese living abroad for decades.

Amalgamating two societies involves merging two incorporated associations into a single new entity. This process is used to combine resources, assets, and members to form a new, independent incorporated association. It's a way to streamline operations and potentially increase effectiveness by sharing resources and expertise.

Here's a more detailed explanation:

What is Amalgamation?

- Amalgamation is a specific process for incorporated associations (registered in the same state or territory) to combine into one.
- It's different from a merger, which is a broader term and may involve different legal structures.
- In an amalgamation, the individual associations essentially cease to exist, and their assets, liabilities, and operations are transferred to the newly formed association.

How it Works:

1. Special Resolutions: Each of the merging associations must hold a meeting and pass a special resolution approving the amalgamation.

2. Application: Once the resolutions are passed, the associations can apply to the relevant state regulator (e.g., Consumer Protection WA or SA.GOV.AU in Australia).

3. New Entity: The regulator then cancels the incorporation of the individual associations and registers the new amalgamated entity.

4. Transfer of Assets and Liabilities: All assets, liabilities, and operations of the original associations are transferred to the new entity.

5. New Name and Rules: The amalgamated association may adopt a new name or the name of one of the original associations, and new rules (constitution) will be created for the new entity.

Benefits of Amalgamation:

- **Streamlined Operations:** Combining resources can eliminate duplication and improve efficiency.
- **Shared Expertise:** Amalgamation allows for the sharing of knowledge, skills, and experience between the two organizations.
- **Increased Effectiveness:** By working together, organizations can potentially achieve greater impact and reach.
- **Cost Savings:** Sharing resources can lead to reduced costs for things like administration, fundraising, and operational expenses.
- **Access to New Opportunities:**

Amalgamation can open up new opportunities for collaboration, funding, and service delivery.

Things to Consider:

- **Due Diligence:** Thorough due diligence is crucial to assess the financial health, legal standing, and operational practices of each organization before proceeding with the amalgamation.
- **Legal Advice:** It's important to seek legal advice to ensure the amalgamation process is carried out correctly and in compliance with relevant legislation.

A Message from

The Honourable Jing Lee MLC

Member of the Legislative Council | Parliament of South Australia

Dear Frank, I hope this letter finds you well. It has been a great honour to serve South Australians in Parliament over the past 15 years. I want to formally thank you for the important work for the Maltese community of South Australia by producing such a prestigious and popular journal for the Maltese Diaspora. As a first-generation migrant from a non-English speaking background, I have a deep appreciation of the remarkable role that Digital Media plays in preserving language and cultural connection, and I truly value your dedication to this vital mission.

Throughout my political career, I have been privileged to serve in senior leadership roles, both in Government and Opposition. With a strong background in community initiatives and economic development, and extensive experience as a shadow and assistant minister across portfolios such as multicultural affairs, tourism, education, and training, I am a passionate advocate for policies that support and empower our diverse community.

Many of you would have known me as the longest and continuous serving Member of Parliament in the portfolio of Multicultural Affairs. I take this opportunity to share an update about my journey since becoming an Independent Member of the Legislative Council in January 2025. I have recently announced my intention to stand again at the upcoming state election in March 2026, under a new political banner.

It is with excitement and humility that I introduce my new political platform: JING LEE – Better Community. This new party reflects my identity that builds on my 15 years of dedicated community representation, along with my unique skills, knowledge, and parliamentary experience. The second part the name also reflects my deep commitment to put community first, working hand in hand with the people of South Australia for a "better community".

As a Member of the Legislative Council, I work tirelessly to bringing accountability and an independent voice to policy and legislative reforms. I am committed to collaborating with community leaders to drive meaningful change through practical, community focused policies – especially in the areas of community development, education and multiculturalism.

I value the opportunity to work alongside you to amplify your voice in the Parliament of South Australia. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you wish to invite me to events and please let me know how I can support the Maltese eNewsletter and your important work with the Maltese communitity.

Thank you for your significant contributions to South Australia. I look forward to continuing our work together to shape a stronger, more inclusive future for our beautiful state.

Yours sincerely,

The Honourable Jing Lee MLC
Member of the Legislative Council
Leader of Jing Lee – Better Community

Parliament of South Australia House, North Terrace Adelaide SA 5000
Jing.Lee@parliament.sa.gov.au (08) 8237 9408

KING ROGER 1 – KING OF SICILY AND MALTA

The title "King of Sicily and Malta" refers to the historical rulers of the Kingdom of Sicily, which included the Maltese islands as a dependency for several centuries. From 1194 to 1530, the Kingdom of Sicily's rule over Malta led to the gradual Latinization and Europeanization of the islands. The Norman conquest of Sicily, initiated by Roger I, eventually extended to Malta, with Roger I being the first to establish Norman rule there in 1091.

Here's a more detailed breakdown:

- **Norman Rule:**
  Roger I of Sicily conquered Malta in 1091, and his successors, including Roger II, continued to exert control.
- **Kingdom of Sicily's Influence:**
  The Kingdom of Sicily, which included Malta, was a significant power in the Mediterranean region for centuries.
- **Latinization:**
  Under Sicilian rule, Malta experienced a shift from Arab cultural influence to a more European, specifically Latin, one.
- **End of Sicilian Rule:**
  In 1530, the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V granted Malta to the Knights Hospitaller, ending the direct rule of the Kingdom of Sicily.
- **Counts of Malta:**
  While the Kings of Sicily held overall authority, various individuals were appointed as Counts of Malta during this period, including Margaritus of Brindisi and others.

Malta Once Had a King? The Forgotten Royal Chapter Explained

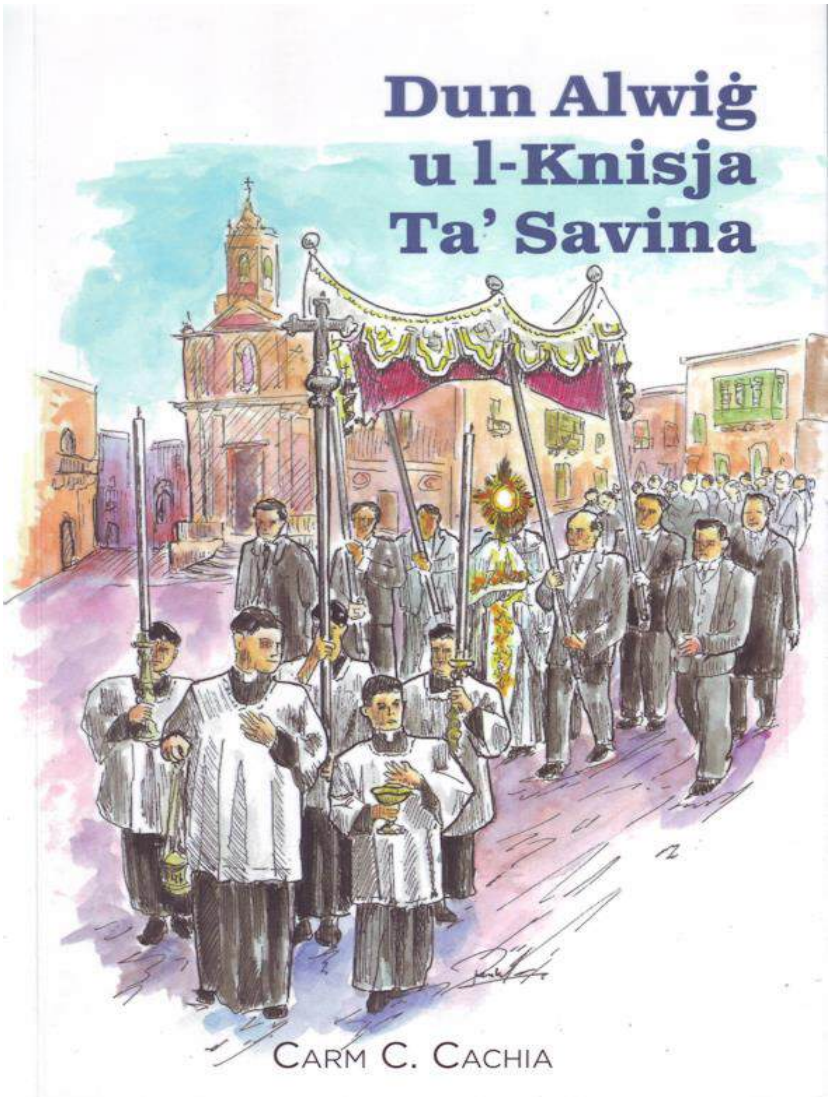
Back in the 1500s, Malta was ruled by Spain, which was one of the most powerful kingdoms in Europe. The Spanish king at the time, Charles V, decided to hand Malta over to the Knights of St John

This was not a gift without conditions. In exchange, the Knights were required to remain loyal to the Crown of Sicily and pay a symbolic annual tribute. That tribute came in the form of a live falcon, presented each year on All Saints' Day.

Although Malta did not have a resident king living on the island, the King of Sicily held sovereignty over the territory. In 1530, that king was Charles V, who also held the title of Holy Roman Emperor. His rule over Malta was largely symbolic, but legally, he was considered the island's monarch.

The Knights of St John governed Malta on the king's behalf. They were responsible for defence, administration, and justice. While they held most of the power locally, they were technically still ruling under the authority of the King of Sicily.

This arrangement continued for over two centuries. However, by the late 18th and early 19th centuries, Malta's political situation changed. Following the arrival of the British in 1800, Malta's connection to royal rule through Sicily and Spain came to an end.



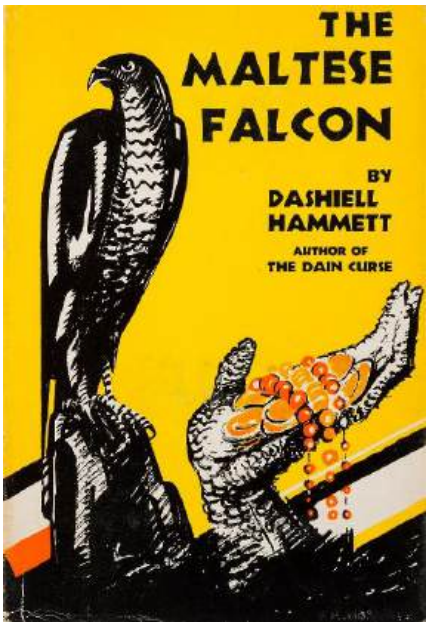
mill-Korrispondent Kav. Joe M Attard Rabat - Ghawdex

F'Għeluq il-120 sena mit-Twaqqif tal-Adorazzjoni Perpetwa fil-Knisja Ta' Savina (1904 – 2024), bil-għajnuna tal-Artts Council Malta, il-Knisja ta' Savina Victoria, fuq skript ta' Carm C. Cachia għadha kemm ippubblikat il-ktieb **'Dun Alwiġ u l-Knisja Ta' Savina** b'tislima lill-Benefatturi tal-imgħoddi u tallum li taw u għadhom jagħtu s-sehem tagħhom fiż-żamma tal-Knisja Ta' Savina u fis-sostenn tal-Adorazzjoni perpetwa. Fi kliem ir-Rettur tal-Knisja Ta' Savina, Mons Dr. Joe Vella Gauci, dan il-ktieb qed jiġi ppubblikat biex niesna taqrah u tifhem is-sinjifikat tal-Ewkaristija f'ħajjitna u l-importanza tal-Adorazzjoni Ewkaristika. Il-karatteristika ewlenija tal-Knisja Ta' Savina hi l-adorazzjoni. Li naduraw lil Gesu' fl-ewkaristija mhix okkażjoni ta' darba, imma għemil li rridu nikkultivaw f'kull jum ta' ħajjitna. Sa minn meta twaqqfet l-Adorazzjoni Perpetwa fil-Knisja Ta' Savina, li nsibu fil-qalba tal-Belt Victoria, qabel ma taqbad triqtek lejn is-Santwarju Nazzjonali Ta' Pinu, jiġifieri mill-1 ta' Gunju 1904 sallum, bla għadd kienu dawk il-persuni li b'ġenerożita kbira, offrew ħinhom u l-kwalitajiet sbieħ tagħhom biex għal 120 sena l-adorazzjoni perpetwa setgħet tissokta bla ebda interruzzjoni. Kif jispjega tajjeb ir-Rettur ta' din il-knisja ħelwa li dan l-aħħar għaddiet minn xogħol ta' restawr, wieħed għandu għax irodd ħajr lil dawk li ġew qabilna u taw is-sehem assidwu tagħhom. Illum li qed ngħixu f'ambjent soċjokulturali ħafna differenti minn dak tal-bidu tas-seklu l-ieħor, dan il-proġett tal-Adorazzjoni Perpetwa qed joffri sfidi ġodda. Barra r-rakkont storiku dan il-ktieb huwa minnu innifsu, stedina lill-pubbliku biex jimpenja ruħu u jżur li Gesu' Ewkaristija fil-Knisja Ta' Savina. Gesu' innifsu talab lill-Appostli biex jishru miegħu, biex jitolbu ħalli ma jidħlux fit-tiġrib. Qatt daqs illum ma tinħass il-ħtieġa li nersqu lejn Gesu Ostja f'dinja mifnija mill-ġlied u l-gwerer. Qatt daqs illum ma għandna bżonn l-Ewkaristija biex niskopru mill-ġdid il-valuri tal-Vanġelu.

F'kelmtejn għal din il-pubblikazzjoi, Mons Isqof Anton Tewma jagħmel riferenza għal Mons Lwiġi Vella li bena għal darb'oħra u ħadem bi sħiħ b'risq l-Adorazzjoni u l-Knisja Ta' Savina, saċerdot intelliġenti u qaddis u l-impenn tiegħu fi gżiritna biex ikollna knisja li fiha jkun hemm Gesu' espost għal parti l-kbira tal-ġurnata. L-Isqof wera t-tama tiegħu li dan il-ktejjeb iservi biex ħafna nies, b'mod speċjali l-istudenti tagħna jagħrfu aktar is-sbuħija ta' Gesu' preżenti fil-ħobż tal-Ewkaristija. Nagħlaq din r-reċensjoni qasira biex inħeġġiġkom, għeżież qarrejja, biex ma tħallu xejn ifixkel il-konċentrazzjoi tagħkom meta tirfsu 'l ġewwa mill-għatba tal-KnisjaTa' Savina fejn qalb il-bniedem

issib il-mistrieħ u l-paċi vera tal-qalb u tal-moħħ. F'waħda mill-knejjes ta' Pariġi fejn dan l-aħħar kelli l-okkażjoni sabiħa li nżur għadd ta' Santwarji Marjani, iltqajt ma' messaġġ li kien jgħid hekk: *When you enter this church, it may be possible that you hear 'the call of God'. However it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile. Thank you for turning off your phones. If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quite place and talk to Him.* Ċertament li din għandha tkun id-dispożizzjni ta' kull wieħed u waħda minna. U llum min ma jridx ma jsibx ftit tal-ħin biex joqgħod fis-skiet jitkellem mal-Imgħallem Divin meta niftakru li f'kull parroċċa għandek issib kamra b' Gesu Sagramentat espost għal ħinijiet twal.

Grazzi u Prosit lil dawk kollha li tawna f'idejna din il-pubblikazzjoni hekk ħelwa u interessanti b'mod speċjali lill-awtur is-Sur Carm C. Cachia, għal żmien twil għalliem tal-Malti, lil-artist Dennis Monpalao, lil Leanne Ellul li qrat u kkoreġiet it-test, lil Fabienne Grech u Kurt Cassar li ssettjaw it-test u lill-istampatur Tonio Mercieca. Issa jmiss likom li tiksbu kopja ta' din il-pubblikazzjoni li tissokta tqarribkon lejn il-Knisja tal-Adorazzjoni perpetwa Ta' Savina.



The Maltese Falcon refers to a few things: a real historical tribute of a falcon from Malta to the Holy Roman Emperor, a fictional jeweled statuette in the novel and film of the same name, and also the title of a 1941 film noir classic. The historical Maltese Falcon was a real peregrine falcon presented annually by the Knights of Malta to the Holy Roman Emperor as a form of tribute. The fictional Maltese Falcon, popularized by Dashiell Hammett's novel and the 1941 film starring Humphrey Bogart, is a jewel-encrusted statuette that becomes the object of a treasure hunt.

Here's a breakdown:

- **The Real Maltese Falcon:**
  In 1530, the Knights of St. John (also known as the Knights Hospitaller) were granted the islands of Malta by Emperor Charles V. One of the conditions was an annual tribute of a single falcon, presented to the Viceroy of Sicily, representing the Emperor. This falcon was a symbol of loyalty and fealty.
- **The Fictional Maltese Falcon:**
  Dashiell Hammett's novel and the subsequent film tell a story about a hunt for a priceless, jewel-encrusted falcon statuette. The statuette is a fictionalized version of the historical tribute, with added embellishments and a narrative centered around a treasure hunt and the characters involved in pursuing it.
- **The Film:**
  The 1941 film, The Maltese Falcon, directed by John Huston, is a classic example of the film noir genre. It follows private detective Sam Spade's involvement in the search for the statuette and the dangerous characters who are also after it.

NOKKLA PRODUCTIONS

I'm excited to share something deeply meaningful with you. I've just launched a campaign for a documentary I'm producing called *Force des Femmes* - a project close to my heart that shines a light on the resilience of women overcoming violence and rebuilding their lives through strength and solidarity. We're currently raising funds to move into the next stages of filming, editing, and bringing these powerful stories to the world. If you're able to contribute, or even just help spread the word, it would mean so much.

https://igg.me/at/l9l07mqGvf8/x/38657697#/

Every bit of support helps make this vision a reality. Thank you for being part of this **journey.**

Three years ago, while visiting **Essaouira, Morocco**, I met **Souad Dibi**, the incredible woman behind the **El Khir Feminine Association**. Despite not speaking the same language, their shared mission was clear: **give women a voice**.

That moment sparked *Force des Femmes*, a raw and powerful documentary that tells the stories of women rising above abuse, trauma, and silence. The goal? To showcase their strength and share it with the world.

From Malta to Morocco: A Mediterranean Collaboration

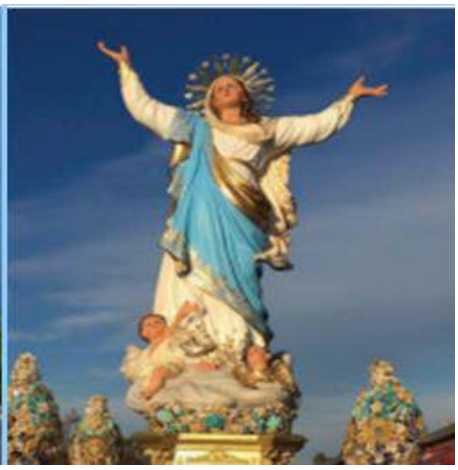
I teamed up with **João Amante,** a Portuguese director, producer, and DOP and filmmaker/editor **Anita Falcão to** bring the vision to life. Their team now includes creatives from **Malta, Morocco, France, and Portugal**, united by a single purpose: **amplify women's stories that matter**.

The first shoot took place in early 2025 in Essaouira, Morocco, where the crew documented the lives of three women supported by the El Khir Association. The footage captures raw emotions, hard truths, and undeniable strength.

Why They Need Your Help

To finish the documentary, the team is crowdfunding **€25,000** on **Indiegogo**. Here's what that funding will support:

- Translating & subtitling interviews (Arabic & French to English)
- Post-production editing
- Filming the Malta chapter
- Sound design, music licensing, and colour correction
- Film festival submissions & outreach



FESTA SANTA MARIJA ASSUNTA IN MELBOURNE

42ND ANNIVERSARY 2025 PROGRAM

AT ST. PETER CHANEL'S PARISH CHURCH

848, BALLARAT ROAD, DEER PARK, VICTORIA AUSTRALIA.

Santa Marija Assunta Association Inc, P.O. Box 26 St. Albans Victoria 3021

Email: galeafrank@ymail.com

FRIDAY 15TH AUGUST

6.15p.m. Confessions In Maltese & English

6.30 p.m. Reciting Of The Holy Rosary

7.00 p.m. Presentation Of Flowers By The Faithful To Santa Marija, Followed By Pontifical High mass celebrated by His Lordship Most Rev. Bishop Thinh Nguyen, Auxiliary Bishop for the Eastern Region of the Archdiocese of Melbourne, and accompanied by the "M.W.F. Philippine Choir". After Mass, "The MMG Concert Band of Vic." will be in attendance playing those cherished merry band and Marian Hymnal Marches at the Parish Hall. Everybody is invited, Come and meet each other, while celebrating this Great occasion. ***Complimentary light refreshments will be served.***

SATURDAY 16TH AUGUST

THE SANTA MARIJA ASSUNTA ANNUAL DINNER DANCE. 6.30pm – 11.59pm

At The "LUXOR Function Centre" 503-523 Sydenham Road, Sydenham, Vic.3038

Entertainment By: D.J. Dominic And The "M.M.G. Concert Band Of Vic playing those famous traditiona merry and Marian marches, creating that unique atmosphere of the traditional Santa Marija village festa.

For Purchase of D/Dance tickets Contact: **Email: galeafrank@ymail.com**

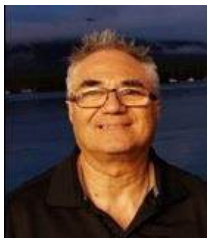
Frank Mintoff: 0407 816 603 **Frank Galea:** 9314 4231 **Joe Attard** 9361 1396

Raymond Theuma:-0409 361 271 **Charlie Spiteri:** 0402 215 839

Anna Azzopardi: 0438 551 372 **Doris Bonello** : 0431 459 668

Ticket's Cost: Adults:$85 – Children Under Twelve:$45

SUNDAY 17TH AUGUST FESTA DAY 2.00 p.m . A Solemn High Mass by: Rev. Fr. John Sang Pham CMF. who will deliver the Homily in honour of the Assunta, with other concelebrating priests. The accompanying Choir is "The Philippine Eucharistic Choir" **3.45 p.m.:** Weather Permitting a Procession Parade with the artistic and devotional statue of Santa Marija will take place, accompanied by: "The M.M.G. Concert Band of Vic. Inc". and "The Maltese Own Band Philharmonic Society Inc." For Entertainment, after the procession parade, a musical concert will be hosted at the parish hall by the two Bands, followed by the" D.J Domenic " Traditional Maltese Food & drinks will be available for sale.



Godwin Gauci

THE DEDICATED FISHERMAN FROM KANGAROO ISLAND, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

ANTONY JACKSON

by Godwin Gauci

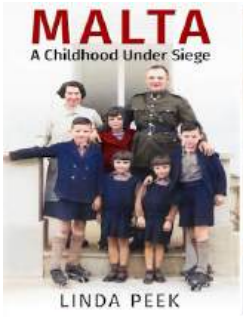
This is a very interesting story about my brother-in-law Antony Jackson who was born in Kangaroo Island, South Australia. He is the husband of my sister Bernadette. He has joined the Maltese family back in the early 70's and enjoys going to many Maltese functions. He joined the Maltese Senior Citizens club a few years ago, and last year he was elected the Vice-President of the club.

He Left Kangaroo Island when he was a young man and went to the mainland securing a job with Simpson Pope a manufacturer of household goods and appliances, He was there for several years and one day, he said it was time to move on, so keeping that in mind, he joined the Adelaide Metro and became a bus driver.

He and his wife Bernadette had three daughters and one son, with six grandson which keeps him on his toes all the time. After a hard day's work driving a bus, he likes to go home and put his feet up and relax, not so, his greatest hobby is FISHING. He has bought himself a big boat, lots of rods and reels, lots of fishing equipment such as lures, hooks, sinkers, floats and hundreds of metres of line in many weight sizes.

He is so keen, that he finish work early 3am or 4am in the morning when it is still dark and everyone is still asleep, hooks up the boat to the car, picks up the thermos flask and some food, get some bait from the shed fridge, and off he goes fishing. He has joined a fishing club, The Northern District Anglers Club, part of the South Australian Piscatoral Council Inc. where he goes fishing with the club all over South Australia. He has won many trophies and in 2022 was declared Veteran Angler of the Year, and in 2023 he was awarded Fisherman of the Year by the club. He is one of the top two people, taking out the most fish caught, the heaviest catch, and many more. He is now retired from diving buses, so he can go fishing any day any time. He also takes out his grandson fishing during the school holidays. Below are few of the many trophies and awards he has received.

Antony also competes in the Australian Angling Association Competitions. Mostly in the Freshwater Competition at Cobdogla on the Murray River and the Rock and Beach at the bottom of York Peninsula. As an individual Antony has been runner up in the Freshwater events and his team has come first many times in both the Freshwater and Rock and Beach competition, in the Men's Team Events



MALTA: A CHILDHOOD UNDER SIEGE WITH LINDA PEEK BETTER READ THAN DEAD

Join us with Linda Peek for a talk about her book Malta: A Childhood Under Siege.

Register Now

Time & Location 25 Oct 2025, 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm 265 King St, Newtown NSW 2042, Australia

About The Event ***"Air raid warning, air raid warning. Shut your doors and windows."***

The Rediffusion blared out in English and then in Maltese, at 6:55am on the morning of 11 June 1940.This was the first of many times we would hear that warning. The day our lives changed. Margaret Staples was nine years old at the beginning of 1939 when her father was posted to the British colony of Malta with the Royal Engineers. Swimming every day, with blue skies and balmy weather; Margaret and her siblings thought they were in paradise.

Everything changed when the Second World War broke out. Hitler wanted to take control of Malta for its strategic position, right in the middle of the Mediterranean. To this end, the Axis powers dropped more bombs on this tiny island than anywhere else on the planet. When that didn't work, they decided to sink all the supply ships going...

This is Margaret's story of survival, told by her daughter Linda.

Event ticket $5.00 Event+Book $30.00

www.betterreadevents.com/events/malta-a-childhood-under-siege-with-linda-peek

Our Christmas in July: A Celebration of Maltese Culture was an amazing night filled with music, laughter, and community spirit. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make the evening a success!

We're especially grateful to:

- The Victorian Government for their generous grant support - Everyone who donated prizes and purchased raffle tickets—your contributions are very much appreciated.

- **The Village Feast** for crafting a vibrant and delicious Maltese culinary experience

- @readysteadyjump_party for entertaining the children (and some adults) with face-painting, balloon twisting, and cotton candy

- Roderick from **Green Room Events and Entertainment** for turning up the energy with dance tunes and capturing memories in the photobooth (photos coming soon!)

- Of course, our beloved Banda—no celebration of Maltese culture would be complete without a briju from MMG! Thank you to all our incredible musicians who proudly call MMG their banda family. - And last but certainly not least, those who stayed behind to help our committee with the clean-up.

From every musical note to every moment, thank you for helping us celebrate tradition, culture, and togetherness.

HOW MALTA'S STREETS, VILLAGES AND LAWS STILL REFLECT BRITISH RULE

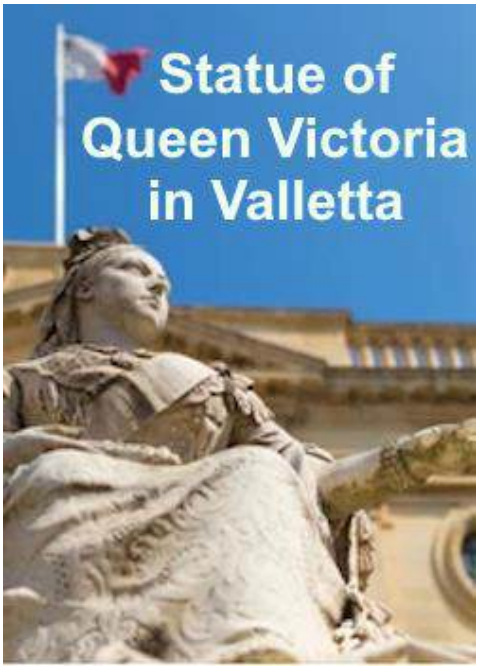
Malta's British legacy is still visible today in its language, education system, architecture, and political structure. English is one of Malta's official languages, and the education system is heavily influenced by the British model, with English often used as the primary language of instruction in schools. Many buildings, particularly those of a civic or military nature, reflect Neoclassical or British colonial architectural styles. Furthermore, Malta's parliamentary system and legal framework are largely based on British models.

Here's a more detailed look at the British influence:

Language: English is one of Malta's two official languages, alongside Maltese. This is a direct result of British colonial rule. Most Maltese people are fluent in English, and it's widely used in government, education, and everyday life.

Education: The British introduced a curriculum and educational system that continues to influence Malta today. While Maltese is taught as a language, many schools, especially private and church-run institutions, use English as the primary language of instruction. University courses and scholarly literature also frequently draw on English sources.

Architecture: The British introduced Neoclassical architectural styles, which are evident in many buildings throughout the islands. Examples include the Main Guard building in St. George's Square in Valletta, and band clubs and municipal structures around Malta and Gozo. Forts, law courts, dockyards, and barracks also reflect British influence.



Political System: Malta's parliamentary system and legal framework are modeled after the British system. The parliament, law courts, and civil services are all based on British institutions.

Other Remnants: Red telephone booths, although less common now, are still visible as a reminder of the British period. The British also established military barracks, some of which have been repurposed or refurbished for other uses.

Historical Context: Malta served as a strategic British stronghold in the Mediterranean, playing a key role in both World Wars. The islands were heavily involved in World War II, and were awarded the George Cross for the bravery of its citizens during the war. Malta gained independence in 1964 but remains part of the Commonwealth.

The Hamrun Club was established in 1979 and is located in Marsden Park, NSW Australia. It has been servicing the Maltese community for over 44 years with Live shows, Dinner Balls, Functions ect. The club also celebrates the feast of San Gejtanu in August each year with a Mass, Procession and a Brass Band following the Statue and the people following the statue. We organise many outings around NSW for our members, mostly elderly above 70. We open ever Sunday, with Saturdays open when we have events and functions. We are a licensed Bistro and Bar.

CUTE MALTESE TERMS

PUPA / PUPU - The Maltese version of *doll*, usually used when calling or encouraging children.
"EJJA PUPA, L-AĦĦAR FTIT" - any adult trying to convince a little girl to finish her broccoli/homework.
ĦANINI - **"Darling"** No, not the spreadable cheese or a boat. Ħanini is usually reserved for beings of great cuteness (i.e. all animals and some babies). "Ħanini! Irrid wieħed bħalu!" - any human watching a video of a baby sloth.
TEŻOR - **"Treasure"** Although this term of endearment hasn't been widely used since the knights roamed freely through our streets (in the flesh, not spectral form), calling anyone a treasure is an endearing thing indeed.
QALBI - **"My Heart"** Although it lacks any sense when translated literally, 'my heart' is one of Malta's most common (and sweetest) terms of endearment used for children, friends and significant others. **Things get dark when...**
It's used following a deep sigh. Nothing spells disappointment quite like a condescending look and a short '*qalbi...*'**DUDU / DUDA** - **"Worm"** Although at face value calling someone a worm may not seem like the sweetest of terms, but it's probably one of those that developed out of theI-love-you-so-much-it's-cool-if-we-insult-each-other school of thought.
SABIĦ / SABIĦA - **'Hello beautiful!'** - not much room for offence here, right? Wrong. T**hings get dark when** 'Eh' is tacked on the end, then it's suddenly 'sabiħ eh!' and morphs into one of the most sarcastic phrases ever. Also, if you're called a *sabiħ/a* in traffic, the other driver you just cut off is in no way exchanging pleasantries.
Other common terms are: **XBIN u SIEHBI – "mate" U EJJA HA MMORRU** - Come on, let's go.
ANĠLU (TIEGĦI): This translates to "(my) angel" and can be used to address someone you find sweet and lovable.

MONUMENTS AT CASTILLE SQUARE – VALLETTA

One of the most beautiful buildings on Castille Square is Auberge de Castille, which was built in 1570 as the home of the **Sovereign Military and Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem**
Castille Square in Valletta, Malta, features several prominent monuments and statues, including those dedicated to Maltese Prime Ministers and historical figures. The square is also home to the Auberge de Castille, a significant Baroque building currently housing the Prime Minister's Office.
Monuments and Statues:

- **GORG BORG OLIVIER MONUMENT:** Located in front of the Stock Exchange building, this monument honours Gorg Borg Olivier, a former Prime Minister and leader of the Nationalist Party,
- **DOM MINTOFF MONUMENT:** Situated in Castille Square, this monument celebrates Dom Mintoff, another former Prime Minister, and his role in Malta's emancipation from colonial powers,
- **PAUL BOFFA MONUMENT:** A memorial statue dedicated to Maltese politician Paul Boffa.
- **KARMENU MIFSUD BONNICI:** Another monument will be erected at the square celebrating the life of the former Labour leader He was prime minister from 1984 to 1987. He died in November 2022, aged 89.
- **Migration Summit Monument:** Erected on Castille Square to commemorate the 2015 Malta Summit on migration.
- **Other Notable Features:**
- **Auberge de Castille:** This historic building, originally built in 1570, is a prime example of Baroque architecture and currently serves as the Prime Minister's Office.
- **Central Bank of Malta:** The headquarters of the Central Bank of Malta is also located on Castille Square.
- **Malta Stock Exchange:** The Stock Exchange building is another prominent structure in the square.
- **St. James Cavalier:** A historic fortification that has been converted into a cultural centre.
  Castille Square.
  Upper Barrakka – a beautiful garden adjacent to Castille square overlooking the Grand Harbour.

BEFORE INTRODUCING YOUR FOREIGN PARTNER TO YOUR FAMILY READ THIS

Introducing your foreign partner to the family is a an exciting experience. It calls to an entirely different level of social skills. You are essentially the cultural/social/emotional translator of the entire operation. Yours is a delicate juggling act of tempering a tidal culture-shock wave whilst trying to convince your people that – this guy/girl is really special.

Here's some essential warnings you should pass on to your partner before they delve into this harrowing situation:

Just because they are shouting, doesn't mean they are angry

Maltese people are generally a laid-back bunch, but when it comes to saying our piece we're not accustomed to waiting our turn. Hence – lunches and dinners are noisy and embarrassing situtaion. Brace yourself.

Sinners are not welcome

Never tell Nanna that you are living together. It's a mortal sin. Tell her you live separately. You only meet each other for coffee after Sunday Mass which you attend weekly without fail.

You will be made fun of – *a lot*

Tell your partner to think twice before telling any of your family members which parts of Malta you have visited today. Your pronunciation *will* be made fun of. And apparently the joke never gets old.

No, you don't need to remember who's who

This will all take years to sink in. Don't rush yourself. The list is endless to remember all the aunties, uncles, nieces and nephews etc..

There's no such thing as Maltese reservation

From physical invasion of personal space to unprecedented level of prying into your personal life – with Maltese families. Be prepared to tell them the whole story even if you have to exaggerate or twist the truth.

Flattery will get you everywhere

Even if you don't love pastizzi/bigillia/zalzett malti/ħobż biz-zejt/Kinnie – pretend you do. It's an automatic "okay, you're in the club".

Take all the food that is offered to you

Just trust us on this one – it's better to leave a family BBQ feeling like you might explode than having to explain to a Maltese mother why you're not eating her food. She thinks that her food is not good enough for you and she will be offended.

You'll have inbuilt credibility

If there's one thing Maltese people are used to it's learning from foreigners who have conquered us. It won't be long before mum tells all the members of the family and neighbors how smart and sophisticated partner are. Yes, even after just meeting him/her once.

You'll feel right at home… Becoming part of a Maltese family is a bit like joining the Mafia. There's always someone looking out for you. Beware.

WE THANK ALL THOSE WHO SENT A DONATION

Bank - Commonwealth (Australia) BSB - 065106
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For overseas donors - BIC/SWIFT code:CTBAAU2S

DONATE AND KEEP THE JOURNAL ALIVE

MALTA INTERNATIONAL FOOD FESTIVAL 2025

Explore a vibrant scene with local and seasonal cuisine, premium wines, and live performances by top Maltese and international talents. Fun for the whole family, with activities for kids and a kaleidoscope of tastes for everyone to enjoy. Redeem tokens for exceptional food and drinks and immerse yourself in an unforgettable experience.

SOMOS LATINOS- UNLEASH THE LATIN SPIRIT

Feel The Heat, Move Your Soul!
Get ready for an unforgettable evening that bursts into motion with interactive dancers igniting the venue (as if Malta needed any more heat!) and drawing everyone into the rhythm with spirited, communal Latin moves.

6 August 2025 From 7:00 pm to 11:59 pm

MedAsia Playa, Ix - Xatt Ta' Qui - Si - Sana, Sliema, Malta

This electric kick-off effortlessly gives way to the dynamic sounds of Profondo Rosso, a powerhouse ensemble led by two sensational female vocalists and accomplished musicians hailing from across Latin America. But the energy doesn't stop there! Feel the pulse as a vibrant, Malta-based 20-piece Brazilian Batucada and Samba troupe weaves through the crowd to thumping live drum beats, creating exhilarating "snakes" of dancers and inviting even more guests to join the celebration throughout the performance.

A dazzling, authentic Samba from Brazil and Malta comes alive in the heart of Tigne'. And just when you think the night can't get any more thrilling, the festivities reach their crescendo with a high-energy set from one of Malta's premier Latino DJs, Gustavo, guaranteeing that the party ends on an irresistibly high note. A mini-festival not to be missed.

THE SWORD AND DAGGER OF GRAND MASTER DE LA VALETTE

Lost (& found) Maltese treasures: the sword & dagger of Grandmaster de la Valette
When even Malta's capital city bears his name, it's not surprising that the Maltese would make a treasure of anything that ever had a connection with Grandmaster de la Valette (1557-68).
Allegedly used during the Great Siege of 1565, some such treasures include three pieces of armour (the breastplate, backplate and falling buffe) held in the Palace Armoury in Valletta and the Grand Master's actual fighting sword used during the Great Siege, which is held at the chapel of Our Lady of Damascus within the Oratory of St Joseph at Vittoriosa.

La Valette's armour and fighting sword were reunited in 2017, the same year when his ceremonial dagger was on display in Malta on loan from the Louvre for the first time since 1798.
Napoleon's army had pilfered much of Malta's treasures. The clever Maltese set about painting their precious gold - often found in their churches - black, to stop them being stolen, but the Grandmaster's ceremonial sword and dagger had already been taken, never to return until almost 220 years later.
The ornamental sword and dagger, originally belonging to King Philip II of Spain, were gifted to the Grandmaster in recognition of de la Valette's illustrious victory over the Ottomans and Suleiman the Magnificent during the Great Siege of 1565 - a siege that could have forever altered the course of Europe's entire religious tradition and culture.
The sword and the dagger together make one set. The dagger, a poniard, was a parrying weapon used in conjunction with the sword, a mid-16th century rapier with a rich and elaborate hilt. The dagger is fashioned with a well-sized cross guard and side rings. It is decorated similarly to the sword, with cast and chiselled gold decorations highlighted with turquoise, blue, black, red and white enamel. Unfortunately, the original gold decorated girdle and sheath are long lost.
The sword and dagger were bequeathed to the Sovereign Order of the Knights of Malta upon the death of Grandmaster de la Valette. The sword and dagger were precious and iconic items in the Order's treasury that were annually paraded during the 8th September festivities for two centuries, until 1797.

When Napoleon's forces invaded Malta in 1798, the French took both items. The sword somehow found its way to Paris but Napoleon Bonaparte apparently took the dagger as a talisman and carried it with him. The dagger passed on to his son, upon Napoleon's death in 1821, and it was eventually presented to the Louvre in 1840 where it was first displayed in 1852.
Both items never left Paris for centuries after. But, interestingly, nobody in Paris really offered these historic items the prestige they deserve. If you had gone to the Louvre prior to 2017 - and searched for these treasures among the tens of thousands of exhibits - you would have been hard-pressed to find them, unless you knew where to look. They were kept in the Richelieu Wing, Floor 1, Louis VIX section: Objects d'Art – Decorative Arts, Room 25,.ish artist who made them, while guides at the famous palace just returned blank faces.
Thankfully, with Valletta being the European Capital of Culture 2018, the dagger and sword returned to a place where they could be properly appreciated: Malta, home of the Order of St John prior to Napoleon's invasion.
In actual fact, the sword and dagger never belonged to the Maltese. But Malta was the home of the Order of St John, and these were prized possessions of the Order after they ceased to be the personal possessions of Grandmaster de la Valette. Although the Treaty of Vienna of 1815 decreed that the French should return all items looted during the Napoleonic Wars, there was disarray in the Order of St John at the time and no claim was ever made by the Order.

FRIENDS OF PROVIDENCE HOUSE NSW

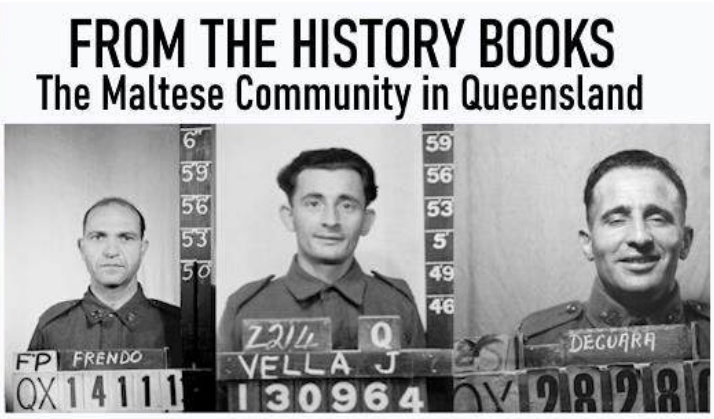
Id-Dar tal-Providenza

MALTESE AUSTRALIANS DONATED $17 500 FOR "DAR TAL-PROVIDENZA" SIGGIEWI MALTA

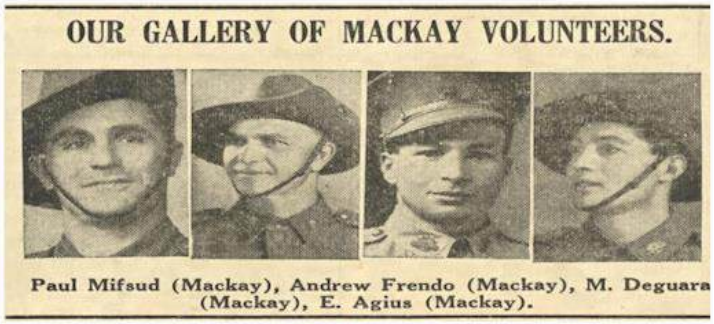
On Friday 18th July 2025 a cheque to the value of A$17,500 was presented to Id-Dar tal-Providenza Siġġiewi home for persons with disability on live TV during their Fund-Raising Volleyball Marathon. The cheque, on behalf of The Friends of Providence House N.S.W, was presented by the secretary Ms. **Rita O'Dwyer**. It was the first day of the Marathon sponsored by Bank of Valletta.
Rita, introduced by the TV hosts, briefly explained how The Friends of Providence House N.S.W was founded in 2011 and that to date has raised approximately A$220,000. Rita thanked Fr. Martin Micallef and all involved in this Marathon and mentioned how **Mr. Jim Borg**, Co-ordinator of The Friends of Providence House N.S.W. has recently announced his retirement from this position and that hopefully a replacement can be found in the near future. Rita thanked all those in Australia who were generous with their donations and wished Id-Dar tal-Providenza every success in this Marathon and in the future.
Any donations made straight into the official Commonwealth Bank account as per details below attracts no fees and every dollar raised will go to Id-Dar tal-Providenza in Siggiewi.
The Friends of Providence House NSW is the official Ambassador to
Id-Dar tal-Providenza Malta.
Donations can be made directly to the official bank details:
Bank: Commonwealth Bank of Australia
Name of Account: Friends of Providence House (NSW)
AC NO.: 1019 9448 BSB: 062 426

A pre-WWII image showing Australian trade unionists dragging three Maltese workers from a tram as they tried to reach the South Johnstone sugar mill. Photo: National Library of Australia

Utter terror is depicted on the bruised face of a Maltese worker as he attempts to escape from infuriated South Johnstone sugar mill strikers. Photo: Daily Telegraph July 20, 1927. Courtesy of National Library of Australia



Maltese IN THE Australian army during WWII (left to right): Andrew Frendo, John Vella and Paul Deguara. Such images were used to show the courage of the Maltese during the war.



Mackay soldiers, all Maltese migrants. These images helped break down cultural distance and perceived differences between the Maltese and the wider Australian community.
Photo: Daily Mercury, Mackay, June 23, 1941, C
ourtesy: State Library of Victoria

Before World War II (WW2), Queensland was home to a small community of Maltese migrants, who worked mainly on the sugar cane fields around Mackay and Innisfail. Although small in numbers, this community was controversial due to negative racial and class-based prejudices which derided the Maltese as 'dagoes', threatening Australian wages and standards of living. These prejudices resulted in significant restrictions on Maltese migration, despite the Maltese being British subjects like Australians. Although the impact of specific initiatives cannot be measured, and some pre-war prejudices lingered, the war and new 'populate or perish' immigration policies which emerged from it represented a turning point in perceptions about the suitability of Maltese migrants. Indeed, the '1948 Australia - Malta Assisted Passage Agreement' officially recognised them as preferred migrants.

VERBA VOLANT - SCIPTA MANENT - The history of Maltese emigration is significant due to the substantial impact it has had on both Malta and the many countries where Maltese people settled around the globe. It reflects Malta's long history as a source of migrants and the formation of vibrant Maltese diasporic communities that continues to shape both Malta and the world. We keep history alive for future

RESTORATION OF CASTLE CANONS

Restored 18th-Century Cannons Return to Castille Square After Heritage Malta Intervention
Yesterday, a dedicated team from Heritage Malta arrived at Castille Square, Valletta, to reinstall the iconic 18th-century cannons in front of the Auberge de Castille.
Their return marks the completion of extensive restoration and conservation works carried out to preserve these important symbols of Malta's military history.
The cannons, which have stood proudly at one of the highest points in the capital, had suffered considerable degradation over the years due to exposure to the elements and occasional damage caused by passersby. Now, thanks to careful intervention by Heritage Malta's experts, they have been stabilised, treated, and restored to their former glory.
The Auberge de Castille, currently housing the Office of the Prime Minister, was originally built in the 1740s to serve as the headquarters for the Knights of the Order of St John from the langue of Castille, León and Portugal.
The cannons that adorn its entrance were not merely decorative, they were originally placed to serve a defensive purpose, reflecting the military might of the Knights and Malta's strategic importance in the Mediterranean.
Over the centuries, these cannons have become a familiar and photogenic feature of Valletta's historic streetscape, admired by both locals and tourists alike.
Their careful restoration ensures that they will continue to serve as a visual reminder of Malta's rich past and its ongoing commitment to cultural heritage.
Heritage Malta's work is part of a broader national effort to preserve and maintain historic artefacts in public spaces, ensuring they remain accessible and meaningful to future generations.
The restored cannons now stand once again at the foot of Castille, facing the Grand Harbour, as they did nearly 300 years ago, ready to greet all who pass by with silent strength and timeless elegance.
#MaltaDaily

THE HIGH COMMISSION OF MALTA IN THE UNTED KINGDOM

THE ARCHBISHOP OF MALTA CHARLES SCICLUNA IN UK

The High Commissioner, together with Franciscan Fathers **Mario Sant** and Joseph Formosa, accompanied the Metropolitan Archbishop of Malta Charles J Scicluna on a visit to **Great Ormond Street Hospital** and the **National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery**. Archbishop Scicluna met with Maltese patients receiving specialised treatment at these two leading hospitals, and their relatives. He shared words of care and support and promised them the constant prayers of the Church of Malta. The archbishop also baptised a Maltese baby at St Christopher's Chapel, Great Ormond Street Hospital.

While the archbishop was in London the High Commissioner and Mrs Anna Montefort had the pleasure of hosting a dinner at the Official Residence, in honour of the Metropolitan Archbishop Charles J. Scicluna. The guests included members of the Clergy, Kevin Bonavia MP and senior members of staff at the Malta High Commission.

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO KEEP THIS JOURNAL ALIVE AND VIBRANT. WHO CARES???

I THANK THE VOLUNTEERS, CONTRIBUTORS, SUPPORTERS AND SPONSORS FOR THEIR HELP IN PRODUCING THIS JOURNAL

The meeting was productive and successful. We sincerely thank everyone who contributed, especially David and Paul, for cooking the BBQ and patties. Congratulations to Lily Zenere who received the certificate 'The Member of the Year 2025'! We wish the 2025/2026 Committee all the best for a great and successful year ahead.

The Maltese Queen of Victories Band Committee for 2025/2026 is

President: Lily Zenere - Vice President: Paul Taliana - Secretary: Marthese Kehoe
Assistant Secretary: Vacant - Treasurer: Anthony Baldacchino - Band Sergeant: David Baldacchino
Property Steward: Joe Aquilina - Librarian: Angela Taliana - Public Relations Officer: Joe Chetcuti
Committee Members: Maurice Lateu and Gabriella Baldacchino
Officers of the Band Spiritual Patron: Father Michael Trainor - Patron: Charles Zarb
Auditor: John Bonnici - Musical Director: Chris Abdilla - Assistant Musical - Director: Vacant
Newsletter Editor: Ray Grima

THE MALTESE SENIOR CITIZENS ASSOCIATIOB OF SA
will hold their Annual General Meeting on Friday 22 August 2025
At the Community Hall, 49 LeHunt Street, Kilburn SA at 2pm
ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

THE ST. CATHERINE SOCIETY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA
Will hold their Annual General Meeting on Sunday 28 Sept. 2024
At St. Brigid Hall 45 LeHunte Street, Kilburn SA at 2pm
ALL MEMNERS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

INVITATION TO EVERYONE (WITHOUT EXCEPTION)
THIS SPACE COULD BE YOURS
JUST SEND ME YOUR INTERESTING STORY AND
WE WRITE IT IN THIS BOOK OF RECORDS
MALTESE EMIGRATION HISTORY
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS