MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal for Maltese Living Abroad

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U L-KOTRA

QAMET

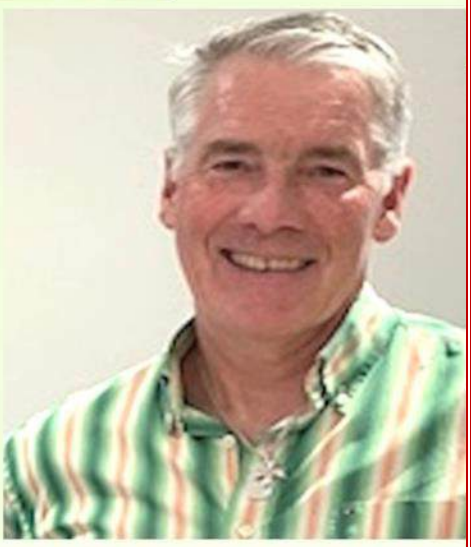
F'DAQQA

U GĦAJTET:

'JIEN MALTIJA!

NEVILLE ZAMMIT

TROY CASSAR-DALEY



SEAN RICHARDSON

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MALTESE E-NEWSLETTER

Journal for Maltese Living Abroad

WE REMEMBER AND SALUTE THE PAST AND PRESENT MIGRANTS WHO ARE THE PRIDE OFTHE MALTESE DIASPORA. WE SHOULD NOT ONLY ACKNOWLEDGE THEM BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY HELP THEM TO SURVIVE AND FLOURISH

“U L-KOTRA QAMET F’DAQQA U GĦAJTET: ‘JIEN MALTIJA!’

March 1945 - March 2026

Eighty-one years ago, on March 25, 1945, a significant moment of national pride emerged during a football match in Malta.

As the teams, Malta XI and Hajduk Split, readied themselves for competition,

the stadium echoed with the anthems - first the Yugoslav national anthem, followed by God Save the King, the anthem of Britain.

However, an extraordinary event unfolded. Without any official prompt, the entire assembly of Maltese supporters erupted into the Maltese National Anthem L-INNU MALTI- their voices harmonizing in a powerful display, filling the stadium with a patriotic fervour.

This was more than merely an anthem; it represented a proclamation of identity, a bold demonstration of unity during a period when Malta was still under British rule - a British colony. This remarkable incident left an indelible mark on Ružar Briffa, one of Malta’s most celebrated poets. Motivated by the profound emotion and national pride of that moment, he composed ‘Jum ir-Rebħ’, a poem that enshrined the event and became a testament to Malta’s steadfast resilience, featuring the unforgettable line 'And the crowd rose and shouted: ‘I am Maltese!’'

A seemingly ordinary football match transformed into a pivotal moment of Maltese identity, illustrating that at times, the most powerful declarations are expressed through the strength of a united voice.

JUM IR-REBHA TA’ RUZAR BRIFFA

U l-Kotra qamet f’daqqa
U għajtet” Jien Maltija”
Miskin min ikasbarni
Miskin min jidħak bija

U l-Kotra għanniet f’daqqa
U semmet ma’ l-irjieħ
l-Innu ta’ Malta tagħna
u l-leħen kien rebbieħ

MALTESE QUEEN OF VICTORIES BAND OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC. 45 YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENTS

The Maltese Queen of Victories Band of SA celebrated its 45th Anniversary during the Feast of Saint Paul at the Christ the King Church/Hall at Lockleys in Adelaide in February 2026.

The Maltese Queen of Victories Band of South Australia (MQVB) was founded in 1981 and plays an important role within the Maltese community, commemorating cultural events and traditions.

The MQVB was established in February 1981, driven by the aspiration of the Maltese community in South Australia to form a band that embodies their cultural heritage.

The initiative was sparked following the successful celebration of the Queen of Victories Feast in October 1980, which showcased the Maltese Own Band Philharmonic Society of Victoria.

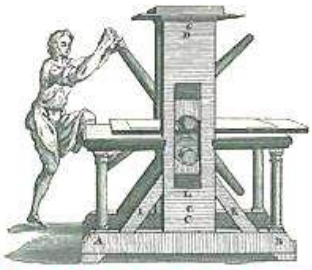
This occasion inspired local youth and their families to pursue music education and to establish their own band. With the assistance of qualified music instructors, Mr. William Azzopardi and Mrs. Antoinette Azzopardi, the band commenced with around 56 members eager to learn music and entertained the Maltese/Australian community of SA.

The band has actively participated in numerous cultural celebrations, including the Queen of Victories Feast, L-Imnarja (feast of St. Peter and St. Paul), St. Paul's feast day and Malta National Day events.

These festivities frequently feature the band performing traditional Maltese hymns and marches, which resonate with the community and evoke fond memories of the feasts celebrated in Malta.

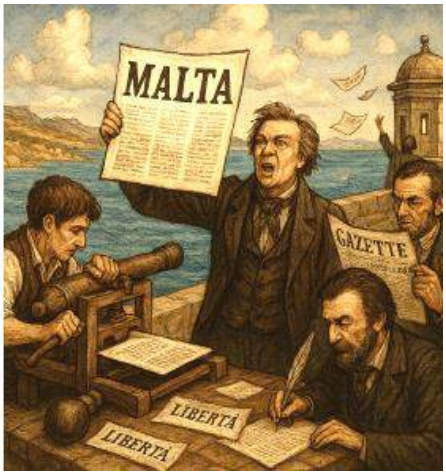
The band has played an essential role in preserving and promoting Maltese culture in South Australia through music and community involvement. The Maltese Queen of Victories Band remains a crucial component of the cultural landscape, nurturing a sense of community and safeguarding the rich traditions of the Maltese people in Australia.

The Editor and readers of the Maltese Journal for Maltese Living Abroad congratulate this beloved Band and wish the committee, band players, volunteers and all the members more successes in the future and thanking you for making the Maltese Community of South Australia proud for these last 45 years. AD MULTOS ANNOS.



THE MALTA PRESS

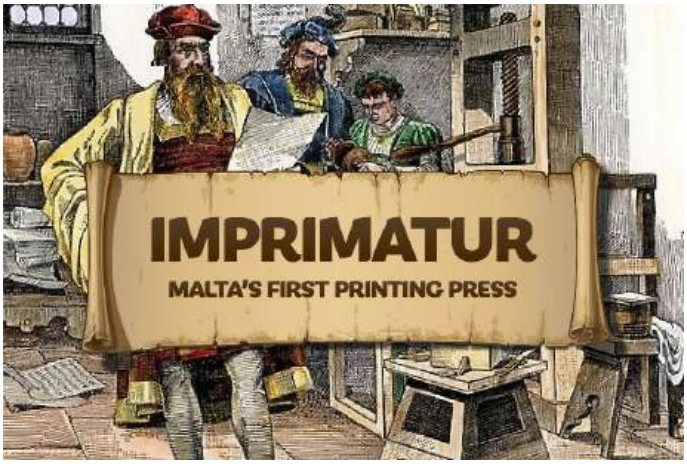
By
Sean Richardson
Australia



The Unsinkable Aircraft Carrier, The Nurse of the Mediterranean, and Fortress Malta are just a few of the epithets given to Malta, reflecting its strategic role in fighting for and defending the Mediterranean. But what if I told you that one of Malta's most important roles was as a printing press? In the 1800s, Malta became a producer of books and newspapers in the "great game" of nineteenth-century geopolitics.

While a printing press had existed in Malta under the Knights of St John, it was in the early 1800s that the island became a focal point of British and American interest as a bulwark against Ottoman and Russian influence. However, rather than relying solely on physical fortresses and armaments, printing presses were established in Malta on behalf of Anglican and Protestant missionary societies to exercise "soft power" against Islam and Orthodox Christianity, in a competition for the hearts and minds of the "East".

In 1813, under British colonial rule following the Napoleonic governance of Malta, the first Malta Government Gazette was produced. But a far larger printing enterprise was about to begin. By 1820, several printing operations run by different groups had been established. Their primary objective was to spread Christianity and provide secular education in the Middle East and North Africa, while also countering Russian influence, over Orthodox Christians, emerging across the Balkans but particularly in Greece.



The Church Missionary Society (CMS), the London Missionary Society (LMS), and the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions were the three major organisations to establish printing operations on the island. The British government supported these presses because they served the secondary political goal of extending British influence in the East. They operated under strict conditions, including not offending the British Governor, and that all printed materials were for export only, so as not to antagonise the local Maltese Catholic Church.

Malta became the headquarters of Mediterranean missionary printing targeting the southern and eastern Mediterranean due to its proximity to the Ottoman Empire, across Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, and the wider Levant, while operating under the protection of British rule. The island's publications also filled a gap created by political censorship, which restricted the spread of potentially "revolutionary" material among the diverse populations of the East.

The output and influence of these printing operations reached their zenith in 1842. The presses produced scriptural texts, such as bibles and parables translated into Arabic and Turkish, as well as educational works on geography, astronomy and history, alongside religious literature. Over 150,000 books were issued in 1842 alone for distribution across the Mediterranean. The underlying belief was that by "educating" local populations, a generation more European in thought would emerge, and would therefore, be more receptive to Protestant Christianity.

The printing operations in Malta generated several legacies that extended well beyond the island. Ahmad Faris al-Shidyaq, a Lebanese scholar, lived in Malta while working as a translator and editor for the CMS, and as a result the Malta presses became pioneers in modernising the presentation of Arabic in print. The CMS press published one of the first modern world atlases printed entirely in Arabic, with al-Shidyaq responsible for translating geographical place names into accurate Arabic for use by the cartographers.

Despite its relatively short lifespan, the Malta press is credited with contributing to the early standardisation of Arabic typefaces, influencing the later Bulaq Press in Egypt, and contributing to the foundations of the Arabic press in Lebanon. In a twist of history, an operation established in Malta to "spread Christianity" ultimately played a significant role in modernising the Arabic written language across the Middle East.

Due to financial pressures, political changes and reforms within the Ottoman Empire, the presses gradually ceased operation from 1845. However, they left behind a local legacy of highly skilled Maltese linguists, legal specialists and technical experts, which helped pave the way for Malta's own newspaper and literary sectors.

While the ultimate aim was to launch a programme from Malta to replace Islamic and Eastern Orthodox beliefs with Protestant Christianity, the "weapon" deployed in 1842 was the printed word and education rather than direct religious or theology confrontation. Instead, the most enduring legacy was unintended, and would come to be known collectively as the Malta Press.

On 16 February 2026, High Commissioner Clifford Borg-Marks welcomed a group of over 50 Maltese-Australian visitors to the High Commission n Canberra as part of a tour from Melbourne organised by Ms Josie Camilleri.

L-ISTILLA TAL-MUŻIKA COUNTRY TROY CASSAR-DALEY TAGĦTI ĠIEĦ MILL-QALB LILL-GĦERUQ TAL-FAMILJA MALTIJA

L-istilla tal-mużika country Awstraljana Troy Cassar-Daley, ta' dixxendenza Maltija, qasam tifħir kommoventi fuq Twitter lill-għeruq Maltin tiegħu, billi ppubblika messaġġ mill-qalb dwar nannitu u missieru.

F'post fuq il-midja soċjali, Cassar-Daley żvela li kien iltaqa' ma' ritratt antik ta' nannitu, Maryanne Cassar, magħrufa wkoll bħala Marianna, mara li ddeskriva bħala "sabiħa" u inkredibilment b'saħħitha.

Hi welldet 21 tifel u tifla, li 13 minnhom baqgħu ħajjin, u għamlet il-vjaġġ li biddlu ħajjitha minn Malta għall-Awstralja fl-1950, ftit wara l-gwerra, fit-tfittxija ta' futur aħjar għall-familja tagħha.

Il-kantant esprima kburija bit-tbatijiet li għaddiet minnhom lura f'Malta u l-kuraġġ li żgur ħadet biex tibda mill-ġdid f'pajjiż ġdid. Flimkien mar-ritratt ta' nannitu, huwa qasam ukoll ritratt ta' missieru, fejn b'affezzjoni ddeskrivieh bħala "l-Papà sabiħ tiegħi", u enfasizza r-rabtiet profondi tal-familja li sawru t-trobbija tiegħu.

It-tribut ta' Cassar-Daley huwa tfakkira tar-reżiljenza tal-familji migranti u s-sagrifiċċji li għamlu l-ġenerazzjonijiet ta' qabel.

COUNTRY STAR TROY CASSAR-DALEY PAYS HEARTFELT TRIBUTE TO MALTESE FAMILY ROOTS

Australian country music star Troy Cassar-Daley, of Maltese descent, has shared a touching tribute on Twitter to his Maltese roots, posting a heartfelt message about his grandmother and father.

In a post on social media, Cassar-Daley revealed that he had come across an old photograph of his grandmother, Maryanne Cassar, aka Marianna, a woman he described as "beautiful" and incredibly strong.

She gave birth to 21 children, 13 of whom survived, and made the life-changing journey from Malta to Australia in 1950, shortly after the war, in search of a better future for her family.

The singer expressed pride in the hardships she endured back in Malta and the courage it must have taken to start anew in a new country. Alongside the image of his grandmother, he also shared a photograph of his father, affectionately describing him as "my beautiful Dad," underscoring the deep family bonds that shaped his upbringing.

Cassar-Daley's tribute is a reminder of the resilience of migrant families and the sacrifices made by earlier generations. (Submitted by Ron Borg – Adelaide)

Troy with his wife Laurel in Malta

Troy's grandmother

Troy with his father

Troy with his daughter Jem

Troy's mother and father married in1967

Troy with his mother

COUNTRY STAR TROY CASSAR-DALEY PAYS HEARTFELT TRIBUTE TO MALTESE FAMILY ROOTS

Troy Cassar Daley opens up on the moments that have defined his life and music

Troy Cassar-Daley, a renowned Australian country music artist, is of mixed heritage, born to an Aboriginal mother from the Gumbaynggirr/Bundjalung people and a Maltese- Troy Cassar-Daley, a renowned Australian country music artist, is of mixed heritage, born to an Aboriginal mother from the Gumbaynggirr/Bundjalung people and a Maltese-Australian father. He embraces his dual identity, often citing his Maltese roots and family history, including his grandmother's migration from Malta to Australia in 1950.

He lived part of the time with his mum outside Grafton, and some of the time with his dad in Sydney, but he always felt torn between the two families.

At 17, Troy started his first band called Little Eagle and within a few years, he was on track to become one of Australia's biggest country music stars.

Key details regarding Troy Cassar-Daley's Maltese heritage:

- **Family Roots**: His father was a Maltese immigrant, and his grandmother, Maryanne Cassar, was a significant figure who moved to Australia after the war.
- **"Two Worlds"** Upbringing: Born in Sydney, he grew up between two cultures, dividing his time between his mother in Grafton and his father in Sydney.
- **Cultural Pride**: Cassar-Daley has expressed pride in his multicultural background, stating in this Facebook post that being both Indigenous and Maltese is a special part of his identity.
- **Documented Heritage**: He explored his ancestry on the SBS show *Who Do You Think You Are?*, which highlighted his Maltese lineage going back several generations.
- **Family Legacy:** His daughter, singer-songwriter Jem Cassar-Daley, also identifies as having Maltese and Indigenous heritage.

ORDER OF MALTA
AUSTRALIA

A Tradition of Prayer for Justice: The Red Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, NSW

The Red Mass is a longstanding Catholic tradition dating back to the 13th century, marking the opening of the legal year and invoking the guidance of the Holy Spirit upon those working in the administration of justice.

Members of the Order of Malta Australia were honoured to be invited to process with members of the clergy at the Red Mass is Parramatta at St Patrick's Cathedral on 3 February. The mass was celebrated by Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, the Bishop of Parramatta and was well attended by judges, lawyers, and officials praying for guidance from the Holy Spirit for the legal profession.

The Red Mass is so named because the officiating clergy wear red vestments to symbolize the "tongues of fire" of the Holy Spirit descending on the Apostles at Pentecost. It also historically refers to the scarlet, red robes worn by royal judges in England and other parts of Europe who attended the service, a tradition that began in the 13th century to mark the opening of the judicial year.

ORDER OF MALTA - INTRODUCING THE NEW TREASURER – NEVILLE ZAMMIT

The Australian Association of the Order of Malta (AAOML) is pleased to announce the appointment of Neville Zammit as its new Treasurer. Neville succeeds James Gurry, who resigned from the role after a period of exceptional and dedicated service. The Association extends its sincere gratitude to James for his outstanding contribution and steadfast commitment during his tenure as Treasurer. We are grateful that he will continue to serve AAOML on several boards and working groups, where his experience and insight will remain of great value to the Association.

In accordance with Article 31.3 of the Constitution, Neville's appointment was unanimously supported by the Executive Council and subsequently approved by the Sovereign Council at their 9 February meeting.

As Member of the Order, Neville brings to the role both deep commitment and proven leadership within the mission of the Australian Association. He is a devoted husband and father of four children and, together with his wife, is actively involved in their local parish community. His longstanding dedication to the works of the Order has been clearly demonstrated through his participation in Asia-Pacific Conferences and National Assemblies, as well as his active involvement in charitable initiatives – most notably the Camps for Disabled Youth and the Parramatta Community Care Van.

Professionally, Neville has over 20 years' experience as an accountant across a broad range of industries and sectors. He is currently employed by a not-for-profit, faith-based organisation in residential aged care. His extensive financial expertise, combined with his experience in mission-driven organisations, makes him exceptionally well qualified for the responsibilities of Treasurer.

Neville is already actively undertaking his responsibilities and will attend the upcoming Conference of the Receivers and Treasurers in Rome, further strengthening the Association's engagement with the wider Order.

The Association looks forward with confidence to Neville's stewardship and leadership in this important role, assured that his professional acumen, integrity, and commitment to the charism of the Order will greatly benefit AAOML and those it serves.

Since 1993 Mario Sammut, Malta's vice-consular representative for the La Trobe Valley, has been President of the Maltese Community Centre La Trobe Valley. He migrated to Australia from Malta with his wife and three children in 1983. In December 2004 he was presented with Victoria's Award for Excellence in Multicultural Affairs for meritorious service to the community by Governor John Landy and Premier Steve Bracks at Parliament House in Melbourne. In February 2005 he was awarded the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia (FECCA) Award for commitment and contribution to Australian multiculturalism.

Mr Sammut also served as Vice President of the MCCV between 2002 and 2004, and as past chairperson of the Latrobe Valley Migrant Resource Centre, past executive member of the Victorian Ethnic Communities Council and past board member of Latrobe Health Centre.

Mr Sammut also broadcasts ethnic programs on three radio stations. He has broadcast on 3GCR in Morwell for 24 years, 4EBC in Brisbane for two years and 3ZZZ in Melbourne for 21 years.

Current activities include bus trips, an annual ball and dinner dance, an organised outing trip to Melbourne Cup at Flemington on the first Tuesday in November, counter tea every Sunday night as the Centre is only opened on Sundays.

ROCKIN XPRESS FROM AUSTRALIA TO MALTA

ROCK & ROLL CONCERTS IN AID OF HAPPY PARENTING - MALTA (FOR HAPPIER CHILDREN)

Anthony Cauchi and I, Mary Gauci, have been to Australia on two occasions. We attended Rockin Xpress concerts in Sydney where we spoke about our mission which is *prevention, support and therapy for family wellbeing*.

Rockin Xpress is a group of Maltese musicians who have lived for many years in Sydney. Currently they are making a big hit in various localities in Australia.

Rockin Xpress came to Malta and Gozo some years ago and played at various localities... the biggest concert was organised by Farsons at Ta' Qali. Lots and lots of people attended. Maltese people in Malta and in Australia really love this band.

Happy Parenting believes in such good entertainment for the family. Rockin Xpress plays favourite hits in an exceptional way. This popular band will be travelling all the way from Australia to Malta this summer supported also by Festivals Malta.

Sea Side Night Club Thursday 23th July 2026 7.30pm Birzebbuga, Malta Villa Fiorita Thursday 30th July 2026 7.30pm Marsalforn, Gozo

Early Booking: €20

For more details

Contact on WhatsApp Anthony 99565730 - Edward 79834750 - Carmen +61 431 156 586

ROCKIN EXPRESS MILL-AWSTRALJA GĦAL MALTA

KUNĊERTI TA' ROCK & ROLL B'RISQ HAPPY PARENTING - MALTA (FOR HAPPIER CHILDREN)

Anthony Cauchi u jien Mary Gauci żorna l-Australja darbtejn. Attendejna kunċerti ta' Rockin Xpress f'Sydney fejn tkellimna dwar il missjoni tagħna ta' prevenzjoni, appoġġ u terapija għal familja aktar f'saħħitha.

Rockin Xpress hi grupp ta' mużiċisti Maltin li ilhom snin joqgħodu Sydney. Bħalissa għaddejjin b'suċċessi kbar madwar l-Awstralja.

Rockin Xpress kienu ġew Malta u Għawdex xi snin ilu, fejn daqqew f'diversi lokalitajiet, u l-ikbar kunċert kien organizzat minn Farsons f'ta' Qali. Ħafna u ħafna nies attendew. Il-Maltin f'Malta u dawk fl-Awstralja jħobbuha wisq dil-band.

Happy Parenting temmen f'dan id-divertiment li hu tajjeb għall-Familja. Rockin Xpress idoqqu kanzunetti popolari b'mod eċċezzjonali. Din il Band dan is-sajf, saħansitra se tiġi Malta mill-Awstralja fejn se tagħti dawn il-kunċerti bl-appoġġ ukoll ta' Festivals Malta.

PLANNING TO GET MARRIED IN MALTA?

With couples around the world celebrating their love, Malta is continuing to build its reputation as a romantic destination which draws hundreds of couples to come and marry in Malta because of its history and the beautiful views and beautiful weather it offers.

The Malta Tourism Authority told TVMnews it estimates that about 40,000 tourists are visiting Malta to attend marriages by foreign couples who choose Malta to seal their love.

According to the Authority which views this sector as an important niche of added value, visitors to attend marriages spend more than normal tourists.

The blue Mediterranean Sea, beautiful historic architecture and a rich gastronomy – these are among the elements which attract couples to marry in Malta.

The Tourism Authority identified this niche and is focussing it as part of the strategy of quality and added value tourism.

There are many marketing initiatives, including attending four fairs out of Malta, in England, Ireland and Sweden.

Janet Grech Dimech, Senior Manage Visit Malta Destination Weddings said that besides a stand participation there are also advertising campaigns and social media campaigns.

The most couples that choose to marry in Malta are from England and Ireland, but Visit Malta is exploring to attract more couples from places like Poland, India and Scandinavian countries.

The most popular months are between April and November.

However, what makes a foreign marriage different to a Maltese marriage?

Sarah Young, an organiser of marriages, said that in planning foreigners are almost all online and may visit Malta once to see that all is in place.

The Maltese are well-known for stand-up marriages and offered food and fruit dishes rather than sitting down for a three or four plate meal.

Foreigners like this and still have a stand-up part with dancing and entertainment but then sit for three hours eating.

Do the Maltese spend more? Sarah Young said not necessarily on the wedding day.

She said that nowadays the wedding is not only the day itself because there are pre-weddings, post-weddings and boat trips.

Foreign weddings are over four days and sometimes five and this not only Indian weddings as sometimes claimed. The Americans who greet guests from overseas reason that having made the trip the guests deserve pre-wedding and post-wedding attractions.

She said in this manner every wedding becomes a show window of talent and add economic value to the country.

Donate - Please, help us to keep this Journal alive

Bank - Commonwealth (Australia) BSB - 065106
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FOR OVERSEAS DONORS - CommBank's BIC/SWIFT Code: CTBAAU2S

ST. BENEDICT MONASTERY IN MDINA

ONLY ONE NUN LEFT VATICAN TO TAKE OVER

Holy See, through the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, has informed the Archdiocese of Malta that it has suppressed the Monastery of St Peter in Mdina.

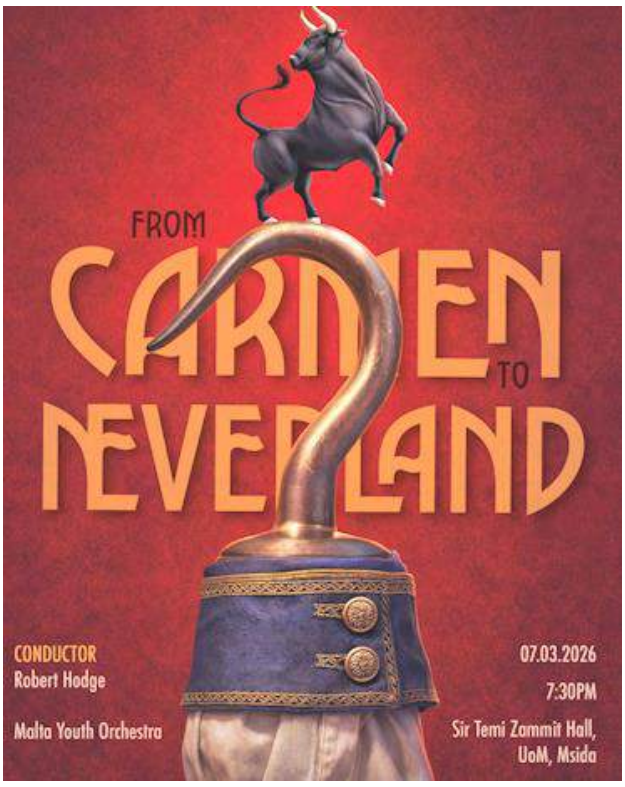
This means that the monastery has now passed into the hands of the Holy See, which in turn has appointed Dom Jeremias Schröder, O.S.B., Abbot Primate of the Order of Saint Benedict, to take over all administrative matters related to the property.

As a result, all administrative issues concerning the monastery have shifted from the Archdiocese to Dom Jeremias Schröder, who will oversee the property and its administration.

In a statement, the Curia said the Holy See had determined that the nun residing there, Maria Adeodata dei Marchesi Testaferrata De Noto, will be transferred to another Benedictine monastery.

The Curia explained that the Holy See took this decision after it emerged that the cloistered nun had signed, without authorisation, two 50-year lease agreements on the property with private individuals, each for less than €2,000 per month.

From Carmen to Neverland

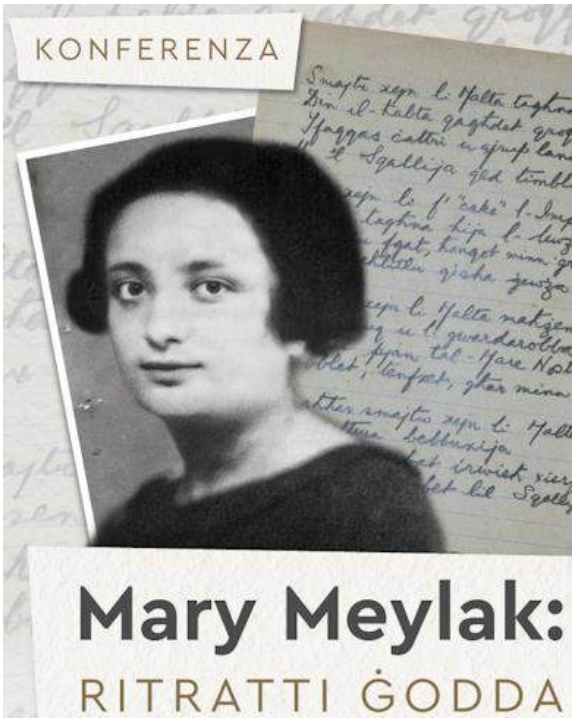


The **Malta Youth Orchestra** embarks on a riveting musical adventure under the baton of **Robert Hodge**, journeying through vivid orchestral storytelling.

Bizet's *Carmen Suite No. 2* brings fiery Spanish colour and drama, while **Debbie Wiseman**'s *The Fairy Tale of The Selfish Giant* offers warmth and lyrical reflection. **Alan Menken**'s *Beauty and the Beast Overture* sparkles with enchantment, leading into **John Williams**'s soaring worlds – from the exhilaration of *Hook: Flight to Neverland* to the wonder of *The BFG* and the unforgettable magic of *E.T.*.

DATE: Sat 7 March, 2026 **TIME:** 7:30 PM
LOCATION: Sir Temi Zammit Hall, University of Malta, Msida

Tickets are available from Showshappening.com
Concessions on tickets are available for senior citizens and students For more information on our events, kindly visit www.maltaorchestra.com

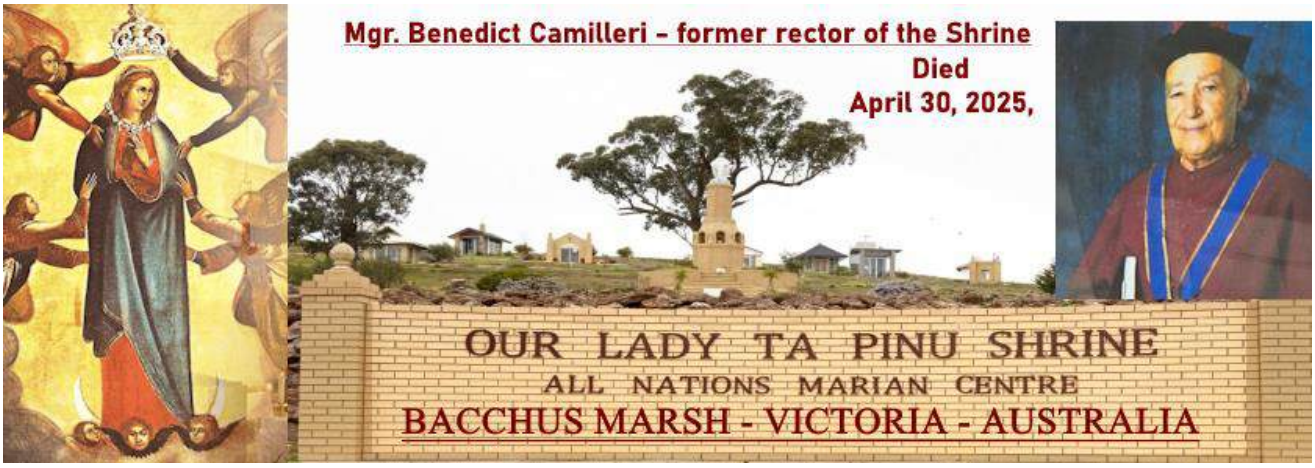


Mary Meylak: Ritratti Ġodda

Id-Dipartiment tal-Malti, l-Akkademja tal-Malti u l-Għaqda tal-Malti – Università, qed jorganizzaw konferenza dwar l-awtriċi **Mary Meylak u x-xogħlijiet tagħha.**
Data: Is-Sibt, 7 ta' Marzu 2026
Ħin: 9:00am
Post: L-Aula Prima, l-Università l-Qadima, il-Belt
Il-kelliema: Beverly Agius, Olivia Borg, Anthea Enriquez, Maria Frendo, Immanuel Mifsud, Nathan Anthony Pace.
Wara l-interventi tal-kelliema, tliet poeżiji ta' Mary Meylak, immużikati minn Tano Monseigneur, se jiġu interpretati mill-kor **Vox Dulcis** immexxi minn John Anthony Fsadni.
Din il-konferenza miftuħa għall-akkademiċi, l-istudenti, u l-pubbliku ġenerali.
Id-dħul bla ħlas. Irreġistra: https://forms.gle/qp7a2uPSfxbksJMn8

Remembering Mary Meilak, Malta's first recognised female poet

Mary Meilak was born on 9 August 1905 in Victoria, Gozo.
In a time when the female voice was not the most heard in the country, Meilak was pretty much the only feminine voice in Maltese romantic poetry. Working in government offices before becoming a teacher in 1942, Meilak began writing poetry when she was 25 years old in 1930.
It was not before 1945 however that she published her first collection of poems, titled titled *Pleġġ il-Hena* (A Pledge to Joy). She also published two volumes of essays titled *Nirraġunaw u Nitbissmu* (Let's Reason and Smile), three novels titled *Nokkla Sewda* (Black Locks), *San Nikola tal-Venturi* (St Nicolas of Venturi) and *It-Tewmin tal-Birgu* (The Twins of Vittoriosa), as well as two operas and some operettas.
For many years, Meilak was also a regular contributor to *"Leħen is-Sewwa"* (The Voice of Truth), a print publication established by the ecclesiastical authorities of Malta on September 1, 1928.
Many of the poems which Meilak contributed to this publication were of a religious nature, including a series of works related to the Passion of Christ, which were gathered into one volume under the title *L-Istrumenti tal-Passjoni* (Instruments of the Passion) by Frank L. Mercieca in 2005.
"Not only does Mary Meilak stand apart from the other poets in that she does not allude to the existential and historical angst of her time, but also because her form of expression is at its best when it throws a fantastical lens on the world around her", Professor Oliver Friggieri said of her in the *Akkademja tal-Malti*'s commemoration of Meilak.
Prof. Ġużè Aquilina and Prof. Peter Serracino Inglott have also observed that Meilak had a quick hand and a technical style which, perhaps unbeknownst to her, tended to employ the metric found in Arabic poetry rather than the Greek and Italian literary forms which influenced most of her contemporaries. Meilak passed away on New Year's Day in 1975



MGR BEDEDICT OF TA PINU SHRINE DIES Mgr Benedict Camilleri, from the Parish of Gharb, has passed away at the age of 95 on April 30 in Melbourne Australia, where for the 30+ last years he served as Rector of the Shrine of Our Lady of Ta' Pinu at Bacchus Marsh, Victoria, Australia.

Mgr Benedict held various significant roles in the Diocese of Gozo in the past, namely as the first Secretary to Bishop Cauchi, Chancellor of the Bishop's Curia, and Rector of the Ta' Pinu National Shrine - Gozo, MALTA. May Our Lady of Ta' Pinu welcome him in her loving arms and his soul rests in peace.

Here is a brief history of the Shrine. After Our Lady's Call to Carmela Grima, the first foreign country that received an Icon of Our Lady Ta' Pinu was Tunisia, where some Gozitan people emigrated in the early years of the 20th century. These immigrants, besides personal devotion in their hearts, had carried to that country, an Icon of Our Lady Ta' Pinu and installed it in one of the local Churches.

To date, devotions to Our Lady Ta' Pinu has spread all around the world, namely India, Guatemala, Toronto, Albania, Brazil, Rome, and the latest oratory was installed at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington D.C in 2006. In 1957, for some reasons, this Icon from La Goulette, Tunisia was removed from Tunisia and was brought to a Church in Kensington, Melbourne. After remaining for some years in that Church, it was transferred again to St. Bernadette Church, in Sunshine Victoria.

In 1989, a group of devotees of Our Lady decided to have some celebrations in honour of Our Lady Ta' Pinu at St. Bernadette Church. In 1990, this group, wishing to have an icon of Our Lady for processions, commissioned a new Icon to artist, Chev. Paul Camilleri Cauchi. The painting was finished early 1991 and Mgr. Benedict Camilleri, then Rector of Ta Pinu Shrine in Gozo, Malta was invited to come to Australia and conduct a few Marian Celebrations.

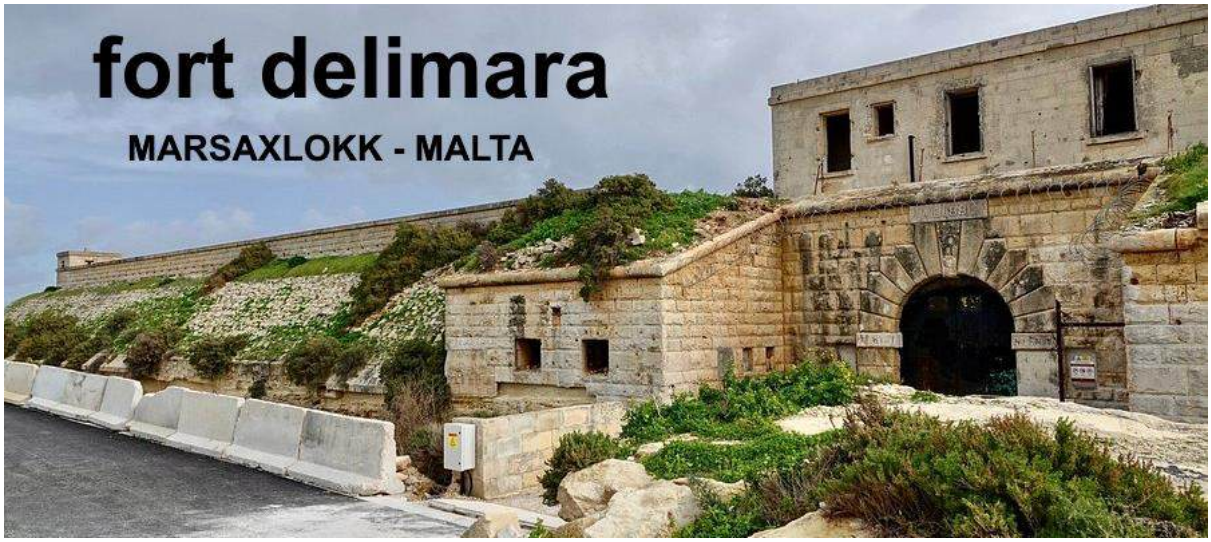
May/Mejju 2025 10 Devotions to Our Lady Ta' Pinu was introduced in Horsley Park and Blacktown (Sydney) and Ou Lasy is also venerated in the Marian Centre of Berrima(NSW) While Mgr. Benedict Camilleri was in Sydney, some friends suggested that he could build a church here in Australia dedicated to Our Lady Ta' Pinu. On his return to Melbourne, meeting the group that had

invited him, he revealed this idea which they were ready to support. He then made the necessary requests to both Ecclesiastical Authorities, in Malta and in Melbourne, and began looking for a suitable place for such a devotion.

After consultations, the Hill overlooking the Western Highway was selected, a loan to support the project was obtained and an application for a planning permit was lodged. In 1992, a Low Mass was celebrated on the land. The first official Mass in the presence of a beautiful number of Pilgrims was celebrated on 27th March 1993. His Lordship, Archbishop Francis Thomas Little also gave permission for Mass to be said each first Saturday of the month. This began on the 26 March 1994, Each month hundreds of people gather in front o the statue of the blessed Virgin Mary, duly built on the hillside and blessed by Bishop Nicholas Cauchi of Gozo, to pray the Rosary and attend Holy Mass. The majestic concrete Cross overlooking the Western Freeway was erected, marking the site of the proposed church. was blessed by His Lordship Dr. Francis Thomas Little, Archbishop of Melbourne on Saturday, 24th February 1996. He also placed a solid brass cross which had been previously blessed by His Holiness Pope John Paul II, at the foot of the cross.

The growing number of pilgrims, as in earlier times, demands that a suitable church to accommodate them be built. Accordingly, it has been decided to commence construction, by building a replica of the ancient chapel. This too will be surrounded by fields, but one day, with God's help, a beautiful church will also stand out, a sign of the Australian People's wish to honour the Mother of God. Our prayer is that she will grant peace and harmony to all the peoples of this great land. And that she will draw us in all into communion with Jesus, her Son and our Saviour. The foundation stone for this chapel was cut from the same stone in which the old chapel was built.

It was blessed by the Holy Father in Rome on 18 June 1997 and presented to His Grace Archbishop George Pell of Melbourne during his visit to Ta' Pinu on 10th July of that year.In accepting this cornerstone Archbishop Pell expressed his delight that the devotion the Maltese have for the blessed Virgin will have a new home in Melbourne. He looked forward to the day when the Church at Bacchus Marsh will be completed. May Our Lady guide those who are undertaking this challenging task. Maria Gauci.



If you're into military strategy, artillery and historical warfare, then Fort Delimara is truly the place for you. Located at Delimara Point, the fort was one of a ring of forts and batteries that protected Marsaxlokk Harbour, along with Fort Tas-Silġ, Fort San Luċjan and Fort Bengħajsa.

Fort Delimara was constructed between 1876 and 1878 as a flankless fortification. On its outskirts, it included a dry ditch and three counter-scarp galleries. The main gate was completed in 1881, as the date inscribed above it reads. On the inside of the gate are separate accesses to the Communication Passage, Casemates Passage and the Parade Ground.

The latter is very large when compared to other Victorian fortifications and comprises **several barrack blocks**.

The fort's original armament of six 38-ton RML guns was only superseded in size by the 100-ton guns of Fort Rinella and Fort Cambridge. Four of these guns are still in situ, being the **last remaining examples in the world** still standing on their original carriages and platforms.

In 1887, a re-armament with the new breech loading technology was proposed, consisting of one 9.2-inch Mk VI B.L. gun and two 6-inch Mk VI B.L. guns.

New gun emplacements were constructed at Parade Ground level in 1891. By 1913, modification works on two new gun emplacements housing two 9.2-inch Mk X B.L. guns were ready as the new main armament of Fort Delimara.

Again, advancements in artillery technology forced the replacement of mounted guns, and in 1938/39 the two 9.2-inch gun emplacements were modified to be armed with the smaller 6-inch Mk VII B.L. guns.

During the **Second World War**, Fort Delimara was bombarded by enemy air attacks and fired its guns against mine-laying operations. After 1945, the fort remained in use until the abolishment of coastal defence throughout the British Empire in 1956. Upon Malta's Independence on 21st September 1964, the fort was transferred to the local government.

In recent times, all post-British and non-historical structures at the fort were removed, restoring the site to its historical 1964 configuration. All six guns were conserved and repainted, and the main gate was fully restored.

THE CONFRATERNITY OF THE KNIGHTS AND DAMES OF ST. PETER & ST. PAUL

Chevalier Peter Paul Portelli
Grand Master
Confraternity of the Knights of St. Peter & St. Paul
Melbourne, Australia.

Dear Friends of the Confraternity,
Happy and Blessed weekend.
You stand in a noble lineage of faith, courage, and sacrificial love. You bear the names of two towering pillars of the Church—Saint Peter and Saint Paul—men transformed by grace, strengthened by trials, and consumed with zeal for Christ and His people.
Peter, the steadfast rock, teaches us fidelity. Though he stumbled, he rose again in humility and love, becoming a shepherd who fed the flock with courage and devotion. Paul, once a persecutor, became a tireless missionary, carrying the Gospel across lands and seas, enduring hardship, imprisonment, and sacrifice so that others might know the saving love of Christ.
Their lives remind us that holiness is not born of perfection, but of surrender. Not of comfort, but of commitment. Not of status, but of service.

As Knights and Dames, your mission is not merely ceremonial—it is evangelical and charitable. When you serve the poor, you touch Christ Himself. When you care for the sick, you become instruments of His healing mercy. When you stand beside the Holy Roman Catholic Church in unity and obedience, you strengthen the Body of Christ on earth.
Let your charity be bold. Let your faith be visible. Let your service be joyful.
In a world often marked by division, indifference, and suffering, you are called to be witnesses of hope. Walk with the courage of Peter. Proclaim with the fire of Paul. Love with the heart of Christ.
Stand firm in your vows. Deepen your prayer. Support your clergy. Defend the faith with gentleness and truth. Build bridges of compassion wherever there is loneliness, hunger, or despair.

Remember always: your knighthood is not about honor received, but about sacrifice offered. It is not about recognition, but about reflection—the reflection of Christ's light to the world.
May God strengthen your hands for service, your hearts for compassion, and your spirits for perseverance. And may the intercession of Saints Peter and Paul guide you in every step of your earthly pilgrimage, until the day you share in the eternal victory they now rejoice in.
Forward in faith. Forward in charity. Forward in Christ.

May Almighty God bless you abundantly in your leadership, your service, and your devotion to His Church.
May He strengthen your mission, guide your words, and reward your charity toward the poor and the sick.
God bless you always. Sincerely in Christ Jesus the Lord.

The number of foreign tourists in Gozo surged by 7% in 2025

Nearly 200 000 foreign tourists visited Gozo last year

That was an increase of 7% increase over the previous year, according to newly published figures by the National Statistics Office (NSO).

Summer accounted for 37% of visitors, Spring for 27%, Autumn for 26% and Winter for 10%.

Despite summer remaining the busiest season, October emerged as the month with the highest number of foreign visitors, while December recorded the strongest growth rate. Every season saw an increase compared with 2024.

The NSO data also showed a 22% increase in collective accommodation stays, combining foreign and domestic tourism. Each month registered a rise compared with the previous year.

Improved transport links between Malta and Gozo had contributed to the uptick in arrivals. More than 46,000 ferry crossings took place in 2025—1,700 more than in 2024.

A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE IN THE HISTORY OF MALTESE MEDIA FOR MALTESE LIVING ABROAD.

NO OTHER JOURNAL HAS LASTED AS LONG, PROVIDING SERVICE TO THE MALTESE DIASPORA WORLDWIDE.

THIS MILESTONE HAS BEEN ACHIEVED THANKS TO THE DEDICATION OF THE EDITOR, STAFF, CORRESPONDENTS, AND BOTH MALTESE AND NON-MALTESE READERS. OUR ASPIRATION IS TO GATHER AND COMPILE ALL THE EDITIONS INTO A SINGLE BOOK TO ENSURE THEIR PRESERVATION FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS.

IT IS A COSTLY ENDEAVOR, AND WE REQUIRE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO MAKE THIS A REALITY.

CONCETTA BRINCAT'S BOOK PUBLISHED AFTER 100 YEARS

Concetta Brincat with her husband, children and brother Spiridione and his son Marcel in 1903
Photo credit Carmen Baxter

Concetta Brincat's dream becomes reality over 100 years later – the publication of her novel Concetta Brincat's dream 100 years ago, to see her novel published, has become a reality. The publication of her novel will change a part of the history of Maltese literature, as it will now include the work of a woman author going back to 1919, a period when Maltese writings were male dominated.

The Brincat family's determination resulted in a manuscript penned more than 100 years ago being published and changing a part of the history of Maltese literature.

Concetta Brincat, whose maiden name was Sciberras, wrote two novels in Maltese, in 1919 and 1922. From what is known, these are the oldest two novels in Maltese written by a woman author. *Il-Familja de Valereux jew Louis Mitluf Ġewwa l-Bosk* takes us back to the period of the French Revolution, and *Is-Saħħara Nerelis* is set in the time of the Roman Emperor Nero.

Professor Adrian Grima explains about Concetta Brincat

The Head of the Department of Maltese at the University of Malta, Professor Adrian Grima, explained that Concetta wrote these original novels 40 years before *Nokkla Sewda* by Mary Meilak. "We believe they are originals, as there are certain corrections that suggest she was penning an original work rather than a translation."

Professor Adrian Grima also explains how Concetta wished her work to be read.

"In fact, she created the work Cornelia Melitesi, so that the work would be published under this name, and she also mentioned her name."

For the novel *Il-Familja de Valereux jew Louis Mitluf Ġewwa l-Bosk* to finally be published, the manuscript was handed down through generations. Professor Grima explained that when Concetta died, she left the novel in the hands of her daughter Emma. It was then passed down to a granddaughter, Desdemona, and then to her husband Nick.

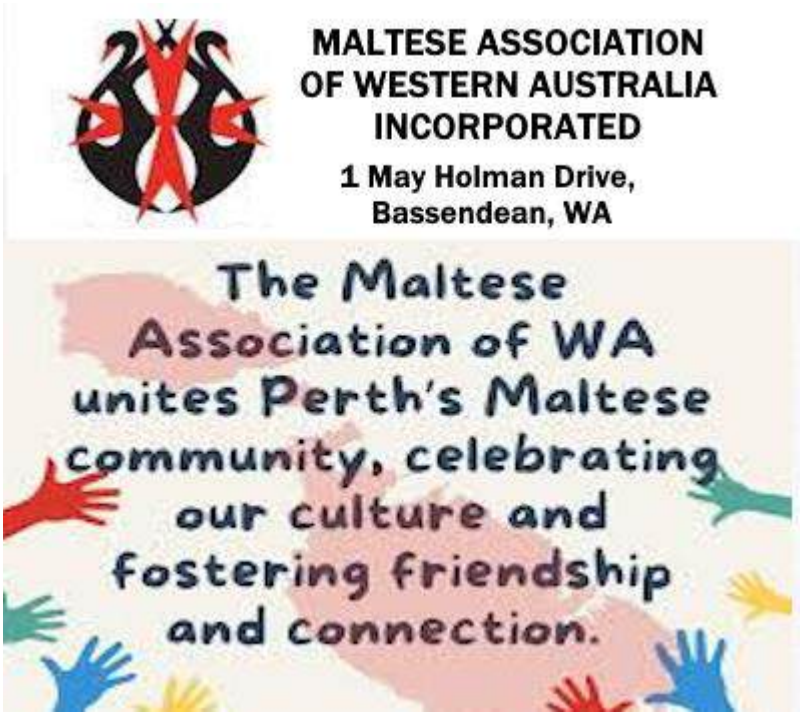
Professor Adrian Grima explains how Concetta Brincat's novel saw the light of day

Dr Simone Azzopardi, lecturer in the Department of History, explains that the background is the French Revolution, and Malta at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries.

"It reflects daily life in Malta in those times. In the simple and humble rooms of some of the characters, their very names, the issue of the language question in the names."

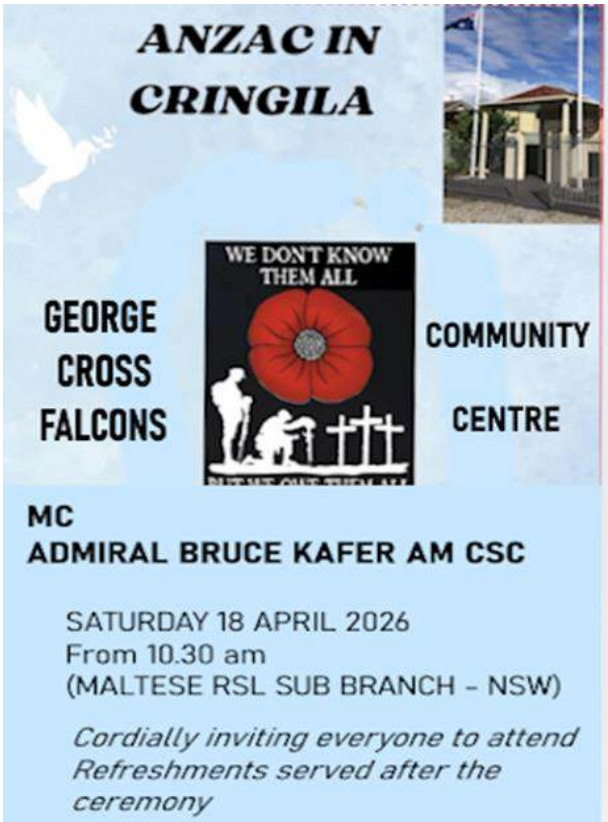
Dr Marilyn Mallia, a lecturer in the Department of French, explains that Concetta's novel has a Gothic element, a style popular in Europe in the 19th century, and is angled on the good and the bad. *Dr Marilyn Mallia explains the Gothic style* "Her writing flows, and she also uses elements from the Gothic novel to keep the reader on tender hooks about how the story will evolve."

Prof. Adrian Grima also explained that it was typical at that time for a novel to have two titles, as is the case with Concetta Brincat's novel: The Family de Valereux or Louis Lost in the Woods. The book is a publication of the KLABB KOTBA MALTIN.



The Maltese community in Western Australia is a well-established, tight-knit group, with the Maltese Association of WA (MAWA) based in Bassendean acting as a central hub for culture, heritage, and social events. It serves the local population through community gatherings, a hall for events, and support services.

- **Key Organization:** The Maltese Association of WA (MAWA) is located at 1 May Holman Drive, Bassendean.
- **Community Hub:** The MAWA centre serves as a focal point, offering a hall for events, a bar, kitchen, and meeting rooms, often used for fostering friendship and cultural connection.
- **Demographics & History:** While the largest populations are in Victoria and NSW, WA has a significant, older Maltese-born population, many of whom migrated during the 1950s and 1960s.
- **Activities:** The association organizes events that celebrate Maltese culture, tradition, and food.
- **Support:** The community often collaborates with wider Australian-Maltese networks to support senior members and preserve their heritage.
    - The community is supported by an Honorary Consulate in Western Australia.



NOSTALGIA MALTA - Measuring Bathing Suits, If They Were Too Short, Women Would Be Fined, 1920's