



TSAA

# Newsletter

Edition: April 2025

## *Save the dates!*

### **Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2025: Immigration Stories – Preview of Website**

Held at Hawthorn Library, Hawthorn.

### **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025: Presentation of Prof. Antonio Patti on Environment and Sustainability**

Held at Miss Franke (Cremorne) Restaurant.

### **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2025: Rosanna Morales in “Cumare Peppina – Psychic Extraordinaire”**

Held at Sortino Social Club. Bookings open via TSAA website (flyer attached).

### **September 2025: Italian Film Festival**

Program to be published soon.

### **14<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> November 2025: Weekend Away**

Held at Sebel, Yarrowonga Silverwoods

### **Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2025: Christmas Lunch**

Held at Fondata Restaurant, Kangaroo Ground

Further details for all events will be announced soon.



# Migration Stories: *Remembering, Reconnecting, Reflecting*

*Written by Vanessa Paciocco*

Not long ago, I found myself printing photos for my young niece, arranging them into a physical album. I wanted her to experience the beauty of memory not just through a screen, but in her hands—turning pages, pausing over faces, asking questions about the who, what, where, and why. In a world where over a trillion photos are taken each year—most vanishing into the cloud—it felt radical to create something tangible. Something that says: we were here. Despite our constant digital connection, a silence is growing—*una generazione silenziosa* of memories unspoken, stories left behind in forgotten scrolls. The migration experiences of our parents and grandparents risk being lost in the noise.

My nonno is a great storyteller. I've always admired the way he brings memories to life—describing his hikes up Mount Etna from his village of Randazzo or painting scenes from the Festa della Navarre, where you wonder how they used their imagination to keep busy. It's only in recent years that I've begun to understand just how precious these stories are—especially when they brush up against moments of hardship he often keeps quiet.

In 1956, he arrived in Kalgoorlie, far from home, working on the railways. When I asked him for this article, "*Come facevi a trasmettere le tue storie dell'Australia al tuo paese in Sicilia?*" he smiled and said, "*All'inizio, nel '56, non trovavo lavoro nel mio mestiere di falegname... Mandavo le lettere ai miei cari. Dicevo, 'ogni due che ve ne scrivo, mandatemene una.'*"

It was a clever way to save money—or maybe he was too busy to read them all! But what matters is that, even across continents, he kept telling his story. He mentioned how aerograms, then photos, and eventually phone calls became ways to show his family that he was happy—especially after marrying my nonna in 1960. Listening to him, I realised just how much he's always found ways to share his world, and how he has passed this down to me.



In my adolescent years, as my grandparents helped raise me, nonna encouraged me to write to cousins I had never met—planting the seed of connection across oceans. It is a bit surreal to think that Melbourne is home to one of the largest Italian diasporas in the world.

At eighteen, I finally visited Sicily. I wandered those same black stone streets and embraced the relatives I’d only known through pen and paper. It was then I began to understand what *terra amata* truly means. That trip inspired me to study Italian at university, and later become a language teacher. Today, I encourage my students to be curious about their own family stories, too.

In Victoria, we’re fortunate—our heritage is celebrated at home, in schools, and through the events of community groups like TSAA. We now have the luxury of watching modern adaptations of *Il Gattopardo* to help us understand our rich cultural roots, but nothing replaces the magic of *stare insieme*—gathering to listen, laugh, and reflect, no matter the medium.

I owe it to my nonno, the storyteller. His words have lit a spark in me, one that continues to grow in new and unexpected ways.

# Memberships: Did you know...?

By Jo Bellofiore

**You don’t have to be of Sicilian origin to be a member of The Sicilian Association of Australia!**

TSAA is an inclusive association with the aim of fostering and promoting Sicilian culture through education, literature, travel and lifestyle events.

The Committee has already commenced planning for a great calendar of events for 2025.

Some events in the pipeworks include: Sicilian themed lunches and dinners, archeological and historical presentations by expert lecturers, a cooking class, a film night at the Italian Film Festival, continuation of the Immigration Story workshops to support those in preparing their family’s stories, and a TSAA weekend away later in the year. These events and others are designed to bring people together, and maintain and establish new friendships whilst appreciating Sicilian culture and recognizing the contribution of Sicilian influence in Australia. interested in joining TSAA, you will be

warmly welcomed.

Each new membership will receive a uniquely designed TSAA keyring. Existing members, please renew your membership for 2025. We very much appreciated your support in previous years.

For those **Annual Membership costs:**

**Students: \$20**

**Singles: \$30**

**Couples: \$50**



The membership forms are available on our website: [www.tsaa.net.au](http://www.tsaa.net.au). Check out our Facebook page to view articles about past events. You can contact members of the Committee via email: [tsaa@tsaa.net.au](mailto:tsaa@tsaa.net.au). We would love to hear from you!

Cordiali Saluti from The Committee, TSAA.

# “In Musica e Parole”

## Un Racconto di Coraggio

Written by Carlo Corallo

On March 1st, The Sicilian Association of Australia (TSAA), in conjunction with Com.It.Es, The Consul General of Italy and the Italian Institute of Culture, presented the long-awaited concert of Giuseppina Torre, held at Madeleine Hall, Genazzano College, Kew.

Giuseppina Torre, a world-renowned pianist, composer and winner of numerous international awards, took the audience, on an intimate, heartfelt and moving journey of her compositions and how the power of the arts and her music, gives a real VOICE to women.

Giuseppina Torre's work tells the story of her own love-toxic marriage and how the struggle for survival gave her the ability to redefine herself and to have a “rebirth” of her dreams, her life and her family.

A pair of elegant **red shoes** took prominent position on Torre's piano throughout her performance; these being a reminder for all of us of the lives lost to violence against women. The RED SHOES are a well-recognised international symbol for this! The vibrant red colour, as we know, is associated with passion and a willingness to stand out but also a powerful expression of personality and confidence. All elements captured and formed the fundamental theme for Torre's compositions.

The evening was introduced by **Barbara Zoroduu** and featured the very talented **Carlotta Miglilo** presenting a passionate extract from the actress and writer Luciana Littizzetto – further focusing on the indispensable contribution of women in the Community.

Our special guest for the evening was **the Consul General of Italy, Chiara Mauri**. We also had the pleasure of having **Sebastiano D'Angelo** from Ragusa, here exclusively for this concert and representing **L'Associazione Ragusani Nel Mondo** as the principal instigators and promoters in securing the Giuseppina Torre tour to Australia.

**Co.It.Es President, Ubaldo Agliano** was also present as one of the key players in working with the TSAA in coordinating and presenting the evening.

Our special sponsor was **VOSTRO Private Wealth**, and we take this opportunity to thank **VOSTRO** for their generosity.

Torre completed her recital to a standing ovation and the entire evening being testimony to TSAA's principal objective of promoting Sicilian Culture in Australia and a promise of future similar events.



# The Red Shoes Project

*Written by Nancy Podimane*

Sicilian pianist, Giuseppina Torre, performed in Melbourne recently on International Women's Day, with a pair of shiny red stilettos defiantly sitting on her piano. We have the Mexican artist, Elina Chauvet, to thank for this pithy symbol of femicide: women assassinated by the men they often know and love-her own sister's life cut short at the hands of her husband. With over a thousand women killed a year it is no wonder the movement started in Mexico.

Impossible not to recall the collection of shoes found in the Auschwitz museum. The shock that assails us when we remember the silence and the denial surrounding the disappearance of millions.

Pairs of red shoes strewing the streets have characterised many demonstrations against gender violence, the collateral damage of patriarchy, often consumed within the safety of our homes. They take up the very space vacated by the women lost to violence

Sometimes red benches have been used instead: effectively highlighting the enduring emptiness.

Red, of course, for the shedding of blood but also the colour traditionally associated with love, with a national media outlet running headlines like "It was Cupid's fault," to explain such crimes.

From Mexico City's historic square the installation has now travelled around the world serving both as art and a form of protest to raise awareness.

Women often die in familiar places and within their private relationships; trapped forever in a domestic sphere. As if the very aim of gender violence is to punish women for striving to be part of the greater world.

In Italy around 150 women are killed a year as a result of gender violence. Over 92% at the hands of a partner, ex partner or family member.

In Australia the number is around 125.





In November 2023, Giulia Cecchettin, 22, a talented university student from Northern Italy was stabbed 70 times by her ex boyfriend who was demoralised by their separation, though Giulia continued to spend hours comforting him, offering companionship and answering the thousands of messages he bombarded her with daily. The fact that she had decided to graduate before him was the straw that broke the camel's back. Such hatred and envy. Yet, we still like to think it's a question of too much love.

This assassination sparked the indignation of a nation. Half a million Italians marched in the streets of Rome chanting "Not one less" and "Down with patriarchy." Her murder is considered a turning point in the collective awareness of the need to fight this hideous form of violence . And her assassin was given a life sentence.

Ironically, just before her assassination she had drawn a crocodile wearing red shoes.

Unfortunately, the murder of Sara Campanella, also 22, last week in Sicily filled the country with a sense of defeat. "Nothing has changed. We continue to be assassinated. So we will set fire to this city and our cries will be finally heard because we want to stay alive!" they hurled at the authorities who seem inept in responding. Another brilliant university student slain by an introverted, demure young man with an obsessive crush on her. He would follow her in secret and she had dubbed him "il malato" (the sick one), tolerating his ways out of kindness and pity.

Too much deadly love, indeed, but hardly on the assassin's part.

While there does not seem to be a fall in the number of victims, in Italy we have seen a plethora of books on the subject and many public debates including demonstrations with a significant number of young participants, both male and female. Testifying to the fact that young men too are seeking answers and help to better understand this phenomenon.



# Pranzo all'Aperto

*Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February*

*Photographs and article written by Deanna Zammit*

*Group photo courtesy of Frank Di Blasi*



The TSAA proudly celebrated its first event for 2025 at *La Baracca*, located within the picturesque and expansive grounds of the Veneto Club in Bulleen.

With just over 100 attendees, the event was well supported by members, family, and friends, all of whom enjoyed the beautiful weather and relaxed outdoor atmosphere.

Catering was provided by Remi Pizza, offering a delicious variety of food that was perfectly topped off with a traditional cannolo to finish the meal.

The afternoon was filled with lively entertainment by the talented Fabiola of *Max & 99 Musicians*, and many guests took to the dance floor for a fun and spirited session of singing and dancing.



We were pleased to welcome several special guests on the day, including photographer and journalist Frank Di Blasi from *Il Globo* newspaper, as well as past TSAA Committee Members Sebastian Agricola, Sam Rapisarda, and Rosa Vocale, accompanied by their partners.

A highlight of the day was the TSAA raffle. First prize, a Coffee and Chocolate Hamper valued at \$150, was won by Maria Gangemi Tabone, a proud TSAA member. Special thanks go to Rosa Vocale for supplying the hamper, kindly sponsored by Joe Silvestro of *Silvestro Coffee*, Thomastown.

Congratulations to all our prize winners — it was wonderful to see the joy and community spirit as attendees took home their prizes.

All in all, it was a fantastic start to 2025, and we look forward to sharing many more memorable events with you throughout the year.





# Simana dû Siciliano: *Sicilian Week*

Written by Anabelle Selvaggio

Celebrated March 31<sup>st</sup> to April 7<sup>th</sup> this year, *Simana dû sicilianu* is a cultural initiative to preserve the Sicilian language and increase its everyday use. A response to the language's "potentially vulnerable" UNESCO status, Sicilian speakers worldwide are encouraged to speak Sicilian with pride and create Sicilian content online, while learners are encouraged to study the language.

The week also reminds us that Sicilian is a regional language, not a dialect, which evolved from Latin independently of Standard Italian. The week itself may have passed, but that does not mean that we cannot continue to promote the language and its use.

*Parra sicilianu?*

To read more about *Simana dû Sicilianu*, check out their website <https://www.simanadusicilianu.com/>, or keep up with their work via their [Instagram](#) page.

To read more about the work of Cademia Siciliana, I encourage you to go to their website <https://cademiasiciliana.org/>, or keep up with their work via their [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages.

## *Recipe: Sicilian Almond Biscuits*

Recipe compiled by Deanna Zammit. Reference Enzo Oliveri

### Ingredients:

250g	Almond Meal (see note)
250g	Caster Sugar
3-4	Egg Whites (depending on size)
4 drop	Almond Essence (optional)
	Icing Sugar (for rolling. See note)



*Also known as almond dolcetti, pasticcini di mandorla, or if made with bitter almonds as amaretti, these sweet, soft little biscuits are incredibly easy to make – and gluten-free too!*

### Notes:

- Traditionally in Sicily, these were often made with bitter almonds. You can substitute natural almond meal, ground pistachios, or hazelnut meal instead of the blanched almond meal.
- Use gluten-free icing sugar to make this recipe gluten-free.
- You can also add vanilla essence to the biscuit mixture, or decorate the biscuits with nuts or dried cherries.

### Method:

1. Heat oven to 180°C/gas mark four.
2. In a bowl, mix the almond flour and caster sugar with a wooden spoon (or alternatively, mix in a stand mixer). Add three egg whites and mix. If the mixture is too hard or will not come together, add more egg white as needed.
3. Use your hands to shape the mixture into balls about the size of a small walnut, or alternatively, put the mixture in piping bag and shape as desired.
4. Roll biscuits in icing sugar and place on a baking tray.
5. Cook for 12-15 minutes.
6. Cool before serving.

# Proverbio Siciliano

**“A megghiu parola è chidda ca nun si dici”**

*(La parola migliore è quella che non si dice!)*

A favourite proverb that says “the best word is the one that’s not said.”

## TSAA Committee for 2025

Deanna Zammit

Frank Vitale

Marco Cimino

Carmela Corallo

David Seymour

Joe Turrisi

Pat Cutri

Carlo Corallo

### Website:

[www.tsaa.net.au](http://www.tsaa.net.au)

### Social Media



Join our Facebook Group

*“The Sicilian Association of Australia”*



Find us on Instagram

*“thesicilianassociation”*

### Contact Us

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