



DANTE NEWS Gold Coast

18 Fairway Drive, Clear Island Waters, Qld Australia

Mail: P.O.Box 6862 Gold Coast MC 9726

Ph: 07 5575 5772 Fax: 07 5575 5772

Web site: www.dantegoldcoast.com.au

Email: info@dantegoldcoast.com

Società Dante Alighieri Gold Coast

Dicembre 2014/Gennaio 2015

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear members,

I wish you a peaceful Christmas and a new year full of peace and joy. I look forward to seeing our students back for 2015 courses. We need your help to promote our classes. Word of mouth is the best advertising. Thank you to the committee for their support this year and to all our wonderful teachers.

Thank you to everyone who helped make our end of year Christmas party such a success. It was held in our courtyard "Piazza Dante" where we were beautifully entertained by students and the food was prepared by Connie and her helpers. Photos are on our website.

Your contribution by renewing your membership is appreciated. Thank you to the people who have already renewed their 2015 membership. Forms are online.

On Sunday 30th November the new Italian Consul for Qld. & N.T. Ludovico Carlo Camussi came to visit the Gold Coast Dante rooms and met with committee, teachers and members before going to the Gold Coast Italo Australian Club to meet other members of the Italian Community. We welcome him to Queensland.

I was very honoured when Steven Ciobo MP presented me with a Moncrieff Community Award. Thank you to Maria Barrett for nominating me.



Tony Carnovale, Steven Ciobo, Giovanna Santomauro, Maria Barrett, Connie Canale and Gino Moro.

Like us on Facebook - Dante Gold Coast



Il presidente, il Comitato e tutte le insegnanti vi augurano un felice Natale e un sereno anno nuovo pieno di belle cose.

DATE CLAIMER

31 December - Membership due for renewal

20th and 31st January 2015 - Enrolment

9th February 2015 - Classes resume

3rd - 19th April - Easter holidays

THE GOLD COAST ITALO AUSTRALIAN CLUB

18 Fairway Drive, Clear Island Waters

Tel 55751966 www.italoaustralianclub.com.au

Open for lunch Tuesday to Sunday and
for dinner Tuesday to Saturday
Live music for dancing Friday and Saturday nights.

NEW YEAR'S EVE FUNCTION

\$75 Members \$80 non members

Antipasto, seafood entrée, buffet

4 piece band and entertainment.

BOOKINGS 55751966/0410653441

SAAMARIAS

CONTINENTAL BAKERY



OPEN MONDAY—SATURDAY
7am—2pm

PHONE 5596 7004
2/16 Hilldon Court, Nerang

PRESIDENT: Giovanna Santomauro 5539 5528

SCHOOL DIRECTOR: Rita Lo Presti 5527 0797



SCHOOL NEWS

Another year has quickly passed. I would like to thank the students who attended the Student Dinner. It was an enjoyable evening and an opportunity to relax with other fellow Dante students. The presentations by each of the groups added to the enjoyment of the night in a casual way. Thanks to the Introduction class and Astrid for their *Papaveri e Papere* item also a special treat. I'd like to thank the teachers for their work and efforts in bringing the language closer to the students. Grazie

School Info on the Website

Information on Semester 1 2015 is now available on the website. This includes the year calendar, classes and times, fees, Terms and Conditions of enrolment and the Enrolment form. The enrolment form and membership forms can now all be done online making it quicker and easier. Please take the opportunity to look at the site.

Children's Italian Class

We are hoping to introduce this again next year. If you know of parents with children aged between 5-8 who want lessons, please get them to call or email me.

Enrolment Dates for Semester 1 2015

Please note:- that as more people are completing their form and making payment online, the enrolment times where we will be at the rooms are limited.

There are two possible times

- **Tues 20th January**
4.00- 6:00pm
- **Sat 31st January**
10.00 - 11:00am

Summer - Mini Course - 2015

Laboratorio di Grammatica

Will continue for 2 weeks with Martina
28 January and 4th February \$20 per lesson

Italian Courses in Italy

We are putting together a list of schools in Italy offering discounts to our students. This will be put up in the Classroom. Please contact Giovanna or Rita for a list of these.

Special Price 'Early bird special':

5% discount applies only to whole course upfront payment on tuition

***** \$380 *****

Must be received on or before Wednesday 16th January Late direct deposits will be charged at higher rate.

Payment - Cash / Cheque / Direct Debit
BSB 034216
Acct No 862414

*Use Surname as Reference of Payee

Buon Natale a tutti !

Any questions - please call me- 55270797

Or Email- info@dantegoldcoast.com

Rita School Director



Teachers - Martina, Giovanna, Gilda, Rita, Valentina, Giulia, Oriana and Astrid



Entertainers Emi and Irma with teacher Luisa.



Astrid Pennisi has been teaching “her babies” “Introduction to Italian” students for many years as well as teaching other levels. Her students always give us great entertainment at end of year functions. Thank you Astrid. We will miss you.

Grazie mille Astrid, ci mancherai!



Rita presented Certificates to Astrid's students.



Astrid's students perform “Papaveri e Papere”

I will not be teaching at "la Dante" in 2015 so I would like to take this opportunity to thank the teachers, committee and students for their support and friendship over the past 11 years. It has been a wonderful time for me - it never seemed like going to work, just a pleasant hobby. My best experience has to be, going to Camerino as a student in 2009. I had so much fun, and learnt so much that I didn't want to return home.

Thank you all for the memories.
Buon Natale,

Astrid.

LA FESTA DI NATALE

Il 28 novembre 2014 c'era la festa di Natale per tutte le classi della Dante. Ogni classe è stata rappresentata alla festa. La nostra classe avanzata 2 purtroppo non aveva abbastanza studenti presenti e di conseguenza ci siamo uniti con le altre classi avanzate. Ci siamo uniti per cantare una canzone famosa che si chiama “Bella Ciao”.

Gli altri studenti hanno recitato e alcuni hanno cantato.

C'era tanto cibo italiano, vino e altre bibite. Ci siamo divertiti molto in buona compagnia

Buon Natale e buon anno nuovo per tutti quanti dalla nostra classe. Speriamo che voi non dimentichiate di studiare l'italiano durante le vacanze.

Gerardo e Nicola

(More photos on our web)



Cantando “Bella Ciao”



Gerard Wilkes e Peter Mignani

LA BEFANA

La **Befana**, è una figura [folkloristica](#) legata alle festività [natalizie](#), tipica di alcune [regioni italiane](#) e diffusasi poi in tutta la [penisola italiana](#), meno conosciuta nel resto del mondo. Secondo la tradizione, si tratta di una donna molto anziana che vola su una scopa, per fare visita ai bambini nella notte tra il 5 e il 6 gennaio (la notte dell'[Epifania](#)) e riempire le calze lasciate da loro, appese sul camino o vicino a una finestra; generalmente, i bambini che durante l'anno si sono comportati bene riceveranno dolci, caramelle, frutta secca o piccoli giocattoli. Al contrario, coloro che si sono comportati male troveranno le calze riempite con del [carbone](#). (da Wikipedia)

TUESDAY 6TH JANUARY3 P.M. - 4.30 P.M.Gold Coast Dante rooms.

There will be a short play about "La Befana" a character who was too busy cleaning her house when the Wise Men came to ask if she wanted to visit Baby Jesus. When she filled her bag with gifts she could not find Baby Jesus so to this day on the evening of the Epiphany, 5th June, she leaves gifts for good children and lumps of coal for naughty children. Please phone .Giovanna on 55395528 if you are coming.

BIBLIOTECA

Thank you to Yen and Luisa for all the work you are doing on the Dante Library.

THANK-YOU TO **FRESCO CHEESE** for partly sponsoring our Presentation of Certificates and Christmas Function on 28th Nov. 2014 with their delicious bocconcini.



33 Leda Drive, Burleigh Heads, Qld. 4220
– Ph. (07) 5520 1666



**Connie Canale, Martina Medda, Italian Consul ,
For Qld. & N.T. Ludovico Carlo Camussi,
Giovanna, Tony Carnovale and Gilda La Rocca**

**FOR GENUINE PROFESSIONAL
SERVICE & ADVICE**

GERARD WILKES

&

ASSOCIATES

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Family owned & operated. Est. 1977

Ph. 5532 1733

email: admin@wilkes.com.au

P.O. Box 1932 Southport Q. 4215

www.wilkes.com.au

L'ALBERO DI NATALE - THE CHRISTMAS TREE

*O albero, O albero,
Eternamente verde.
O albero, O albero,
Eternamente verde.
La neve cade, giu' dal ciel
Ma tu resisti anch'al gel.
O albero, O albero,
Eternamente verde.*



In very olden times, various cultures decorated the “Paradise Tree” with coloured objects, ribbons, small bells and candles, as the belief was that they illuminated the souls of their dear departed. There was also the tradition to decorate “The Tree” with cosmic symbols such as the sun, moon, planets, and stars. The fir tree was used as it was considered particularly sacred to the god Odino (Wotan), a strong character in German mythology.

In Medieval times these pagan cults came to be incorporated into Christian symbolism. So not only did it signify God’s gift of nature to the people, it became a symbol of Christ, his life, and the Church. In the Bible “The Tree” is often referred to with different names starting with “The Tree of Life”, “The Tree in our Earthly Paradise”, then as “The Cross” and “The Tree of Jesse” – referring to Jesus’ lineage – Jesse being the father of King David.

In more recent times it is believed that the tradition of “The Tree” initiated in Tallin, Estonia, in 1441 when a big fir tree was put up in the Municipal Piazza Raekoja Plats and young single men and women would dance around it looking for a kindred spirit. The tradition then moved on to Germany and it was first referred to in 1570 in Bremen, when a tree was decorated with apples, walnuts, dates and paper flowers. In Riga – Latvia, there is a plaque in eight languages stating that the “First Tree” was put up and decorated in 1510. Then it spread to Great Britain in the 19th century when Prince Albert Saxony-Coburg-Gotha – husband of Queen Victoria - due to his Germanic background, wanted to introduce it to England. Soon after that it spread throughout Great Britain and the rest of the Anglo-Saxon world.

In Italy it was Queen Margherita who first introduced it during the mid-eighteen hundreds when she put up “A Tree” at the Quirinale. Previously it was looked upon as a Protestant tradition. It quickly spread throughout the country. It was one of the few foreign traditions to have been adopted in Italy before consumerism got hold of it after the Second World War. Pope John Paul II had a “Christmas Tree” erected in the heart of the Catholic world – Saint Peter’s Square in Rome in 1982. It is now known as “The Vatican Tree”.

After the Second World War the phenomenon of “The Christmas Tree” acquired an unprecedented dimension of consumerism and commercialism never before experienced and became almost a status symbol, and an enormous industry for Christmas decorations developed around “The Christmas Tree”. Sadly however, its traditions seem to have been forgotten.

TO ALL SOCIETA’ DANTE ALIGHIERI GOLD COAST’S MEMBERS, STUDENTS AND FRIENDS – I WISH YOU ALL “BUON NATALE E ARRIVEDERCI NEL 2015”.

Connie Canale.

See Selena for your 10% Dante Members’ discount at:
GOLOSI Food Emporium
 3/45 James Street, Burleigh Heads
 Ph. 07 55200704 selena@golosi.com.au