



DANTE NEWS GOLD COAST

December/dicembre 2023



LETTERA DEL PRESIDENTE

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DUE

DATE CLAIMER

12th January 2024
Early Bird for classes finishes

16th January 2024
Mini Courses start

19th January 2024
Italian classes resume

Dear members and friends

We had a great night for our students' end of year dinner. Thank you Rita, Anna and Pat for the antipasto nibbles before the pizza. For dessert we had Panettone, Pandoro and Tiramisu`. It was good to see the pizza being made and it was eaten very quickly. Thank you Bruno. Everyone loved it. Thank you also to everyone who helped set up and clean up. It was lovely to see all the teachers there, except for Francesca, who was away for the weekend celebrating her birthday. All the photos will be put on the Website. Thank you Webmaster, Dr. Brian Bell. Please check it for all information.

Thank you for your support of the Gold Coast Dante Alighieri Society. It seems like only yesterday that we started 2023 and now it is almost the beginning of 2024. A special thank you to our committee, teachers, web master, facebook manager, and plant nurturer, Ester Ceron. I remind you that 2024 Dante membership is due for renewal. Attached is a Membership/renewal form for the convenience of non student members. Students will complete their membership section as part of the enrolment form. Please tell your friends about our classes. The best advertising is word of mouth.

Congratulations to Multicultural Communities Council Gold Coast (MCCGC) for their 40th anniversary, celebrating a rich history of Gold Coast multiculturalism. MCCGC, born in 1983 to address the unmet needs of migrants and refugees, has been a catalyst for change, fostering an inclusive community over the past four decades. (photo on Pagina 7)

In this newsletter is the second part of Mark Hayward's adventure of learning Italian in Italy. Last month he told us about the Dante school in Bologna and this month he tells us about the Dante school in Firenze. Next month we will have him share his experiences and photos with you in the Dante rooms.

A reminder to let me know if you are willing to share your Italian travel experiences with our members. We can do one at a time or even a couple together in one session. You can phone or email me to discuss this.

We wish you and your loved ones a peaceful Christmas and a wonderful start to the New Year.

Cordiali saluti e auguri dal Comitato.

Giovanna Santomauro

Cav. Giovanna Santomauro, Presidente

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Ciao a tutti

Another year has come to an end. It was wonderful to see our numbers increase this year which means that hopefully we will have more continuity of our classes and levels.

We had a lovely celebration at the end of the semester, our "pizza night". The pizzas were delicious and the company we shared shows how we love all things Italian! Thanks to all who attended including the 'Coro' to make it a fun, relaxing night.

I must thank our teachers for their constant dedication to the students and their commitment to the Dante. Francesca, a Dante teacher who has been with us for several years informed me that she and her partner are returning to live in Italy. Francesca will be missed at the Dante, but we wish her all the best.

We have mini courses running before Christmas and several after the New Year. There may be something there for some of our students who would like to refresh or recommence in 2024. Complete an online enrolment form and I will get back to you as soon as I can. No beginner mini courses will be running.

Next year's membership and enrolment forms for 2024 Semester 1 courses are all available on the website. There is a calendar also on the website highlighting start dates, holidays etc so that you can work out classes around your holidays!

Important Course Dates: ***Please take advantage of the Early bird price!!***

* **Mini Courses 2023** - *Italian Grammar and Conversation Clinic* Tuesday 28 Nov/5 Dec/12 Dec 10-12noon
- *Il Caffè Culturale*- Wednesday 29 Nov 6 Dec/ 13 Dec 10.00- 12.00 noon
- *Italian Conversation Online* Thursday 30 Nov/7 Dec/ 14 Dec 6.30-8.00pm

* **Mini Courses 2024** - *Italian Grammar and Conversation Clinic* Tuesday 16 Jan/ 23 Jan 10-12noon
- *Il Caffè Culturale*- Wednesday 17 Jan/ 24 Jan 10.00- 12.00 noon
- *Italian Conversation Online* Thursday 18 Jan/ 25 Jan 6.30-8.00pm

**** School closed between 16th December 2023 to 15th January 2024****

***Early Bird Special price-** *Payment before 12 January 2024-* \$510 including membership

*** Classes commence-** week beginning 29th January 2024

A sincere thank you to all students. If not for you, we would not have a Dante school on the Gold Coast.

Vi auguro un Buon Natale e Felice anno nuovo!! Any questions or concerns about the school, please call me on 55270797 or email me: info@dantegoldcoast.com ***Rita - School Director***



Le insegnanti con la Presidente e la Direttrice dei Corsi.
Charlotte Petrucci, Eleonora Zanatta, Martina Medda,
Giovanna Santomauro, Rita Lo Presti e Ilaria Villani



Festa degli studenti



***Auguri per il tuo
compleanno
Francesca.***

Buon Viaggio.

***Francesca con la
Classe di venerdì
mattina.***

L'insegnante Martina Medda con gli studenti della Classe di martedì mattina dopo aver ricevuto il Certificato dalla Presidente



Cari studenti, grazie per l' anno passato insieme tra studio ma anche tanto divertimento. Buon Natale a tutti voi ed alle vostre famiglie e buon anno, ancora insieme, alla Dante Gold Coast.

Martina



Festa degli studenti





More photos on our Facebook page and on the web.

*Buon Natale
Felice Anno Nuovo*

Part 2 of adventures of Mark Hayward's scholarship

Studying and exploring Firenze

After a most enjoyable week at school and sightseeing in Bologna, it was time to have a week's break before taking up the second week of Dante's borsa (scholarship) to study the Italian language in Italy. So we boarded a high speed Freccia Rossa (red arrow) train from Bologna to the beautiful Milano Central station, then on to Como – the major town on Lake Como made more famous by some notable residents including George Clooney (breathe ladies!).

Unlike Bologna with its high proportion of students, Como was just overflowing with tourists from all nations. We spent a lovely week exploring Como and cruising to the numerous villages on the shores of Lake Como and then with Basil (our pet basil plant) in hand, headed on another high-speed train to Florence.



A very
busy
Como

Florence was also very crowded with tourists, probably due to pent-up demand for travel due to the inability to explore the world caused by lock downs during the Covid pandemic.

We made our way, with luggage in tow, to our Airbnb accommodation right on Piazza della Signoria. This cobble stoned piazza is bordered by fancy restaurants from which you can view the beautiful palazzo Vecchio (old palace) which was the seat of the Medici family until they moved across the River Arno to the Pitti Palace. It also hosts the fountain of Neptune and the loggia with a replica of the statue of David amongst others.

On our first night, we had booked seats at a very intimate recital of Carmen at St Mark's English Church Florence. It was tiny. At one stage the lead actress almost sat on my lap! A very nice introduction to Florence.

Carmen recital



From our second floor room we could open the windows and look straight out onto the Piazza filled with attractions and tourists. A slight downside was that the market sellers from the nearby leather markets dragged their steel-wheeled market carts through the Piazza every night around midnight to some hidden giant warehouse for replenishment, only to drag them back out again at 0500 to set up for the next day of trading. This made for broken sleep, but I guess made one feel a part of life in Florence.

Come Monday, I was back off to school at Dante Florence. In stark contrast to Bologna's scuola, molto piccola, Florence's Dante School house was grand and beautiful. It was most recently a printery and a fantastic old printing press took pride of place in the entry room. It also had a number of offices for teachers and administrators and a few classrooms of different sizes including a main central conference room complete with stage and lectern.



Old printing press in Dante's front room

Cont. P. 7

Studying and exploring Firenze (Cont.)

Again I was tested and placed in a class of students -this time all Chinese. It was a class of about 10 and the guys and girls were studying everything from architecture, economics, medicine and ballet. They had virtually no English skills so Italian it was! The only way we could communicate was in Italian. Again, like the students at Bologna, these guys had only been studying for about 5 months and were already better than I was after 10 or more years – oh to have a young mind again. Classes were from 0900-1300 leaving the afternoons free to roam the city and surrounds as well as doing homework which we were given every day.

Kathy and I visited all of the usual iconic buildings and galleries including a walk across the Ponte Vecchio adorned with its goldsmith shops, up to the piazza overlooking the city with yet another copy of the Statue of David. A large storm was approaching which made for very atmospheric photos of the city, punctuated by Il Duomo, below.



However, I would like to share some of the other experiences we engaged in whilst in Florence for a week and encourage others to not just follow the milling crowd through the cathedrals and galleries, but also plan your own adventures. It is these experiences that stand out for me. The buildings will be there forever to visit in your later years (oh damn we are already there!), but whilst you are healthy and active, take long hikes to lesser known villages, get on a train to a random town and explore its treasures etc.

In the next newsletter you can read about some of the other things we did, and now hold as irreplaceable memories.

I would like to finish this article by expressing my sincere thanks to the Dante Alighieri Society for the opportunity to study in Italy. Special thanks also to Giovanna and Anna for assistance in applying for the borsa and with communications with Roma Sede Centrale (headquarters) to re-initiate it after a three year break due to Covid....

A presto

Marco



MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY COUNCIL GOLD COAST

We were invited to a Twilight Multicultural Mixer at HOTA to celebrate their Anniversary



Our new Taiwanese friend Shu-Ting.

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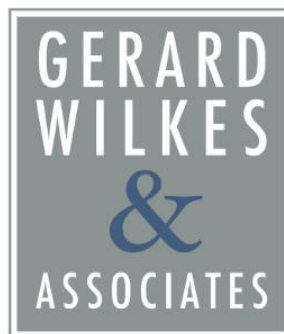
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*Il Comitato della Dante Gold Coast
augura ai nostri soci ed amici
un sereno Natale e
un Felice Anno Nuovo*

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