

President's Letter

Dear members

Thank you for renewing your membership. Welcome to all new members. I hope you are all keeping well. Thank you also to our sponsors.

Our classes have started in the Dante rooms and we hope we can continue to do so as we are keeping all the Covid rules in place with all teachers being vaccinated, continuous sanitizing and social distance in the classroom which limits the number of students we can have at any one session. Please continue to wear a mask, where possible, to keep each other safe.

Our teacher, Luisa Liussi is retiring. We will all miss her. We are featuring Luisa in this newsletter. Our classes are running with fewer students at present and the Lingua Cultura Societa` Wednesday evening class is not running this term. If we are able to get more students at the advanced level interested in returning to class we will be able to continue it again.

The Gold Coast Italo Australian Club had its AGM on the 29th January. Congratulations to the President Robyn Wallace and her committee. We wish them all the best. Please support the Club when you can. By the Club staying open we will keep our school open.

Carnevale celebrations in Italy start on the 12th February. I have mentioned a few in this newsletter. Maybe you can look them up and participate virtually.

We are trying to plan a social and cultural calendar of events for this year but at the moment I am hesitant to organise something that may have to be postponed or cancelled. If you have any suggestions please let us know.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on the 23rd February. For the first time we will be holding it via Zoom. Please contact me if you wish to receive the invitation link to participate. Thank you to our Webmaster, Brian Bell for sending out the AGM notice. All the information about our AGM is on the Website.

Cordiali saluti
Cav. Giovanna Santomauro



DATE CLAIMER

23rd February
AGM on Zoom

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SCHOOL NEWS

Ciao

This week sees the start of our Semester 1, 2022 classes. Thank you to all who are returning to us and a warm welcome to the students starting with us this semester. I hope that the semester is a rewarding one for all.

This semester, we welcome a new teacher to the Dante, Ilaria Villani. Ilaria has been in Australia for about 2 years. She will be working with the Intermediate 2 level. Another teacher we welcome back is Gabriel Scarmana. Gabriel has worked for us over many years when required. We hope to not need to go to Zoom classes again and be able to continue face-to-face classes. If you are unwell, please do not come to class. Let your teacher or myself know. Zoom could be an option for you at that time.

Private Classes

If you would like private classes this coming semester, early bookings would guarantee your preferred day and time. Please ring me to discuss this further.

Important Course Dates for Semester 1, 2022

Semester 1 – Term 1 commenced 31 January
Easter break- 2 April- 18 April
Term 2 commences 19 April
Semester ends 18 June

If you have any suggestions for activities or courses, please let me know. If you have any questions or concerns relating to the school please call me on 55270797 Or Email- info@dantegoldcoast.com

Spero che questo semestre sia prosperoso

Rita School Director

Teachers' meeting on Zoom



Grazie per tutto Luisa!

It was sad to read Luisa's last email to me to say that it was time she devoted her energy to herself and family. I have worked with Luisa from when I first started teaching Italian on the Gold Coast at Southport primary in 1991. She invited me to a Dante car rally and before I knew it, I was on the committee and teaching for the Dante!!

Luisa has been loved by all her students, many requesting her as a teacher. She has always loved working with lower levels and the Buongiorno Italia book. She has promoted so many things for the Dante especially everyday Italian conversation.

In the last 10 years she started her own travel group to Venice. This was promoted to Dante students. She thoroughly enjoyed this experience and spending time in Venice.

Grazie for all your work for the Dante school, Luisa.



THANK YOU LUISA LIUSSI

A new year of Dante classes are just beginning and we are sorry that one of our favourite teachers, Luisa Liussi will not be re-joining us. Luisa has decided it's time to enjoy more time with the family, more time in her wonderful garden, and simply enjoy some free time which she has so graciously devoted to the Association over the years.

Right from the very first thoughts of starting a Dante Alighieri Association on the Gold Coast, Luisa was involved. In 1989, the first Italian language class was held at Bond University with Giovanna Santomauro and Luisa Liussi as the two teachers. My mother-in-law, Armanda Moro, and myself were students in Luisa's class – I can't believe it was 33 years ago but the memory of the inspiring way Luisa introduced us to her native language made the classes a joy to attend. Since those first days, Luisa has introduced and nurtured the Italian language journey of many, many students.

As a foundation member of the Dante Committee, Luisa has been instrumental in assisting in social functions, theme nights, cultural seminars, film nights, restaurant outings, picnics and in particular our very popular car rallies. The first car rally "Matta Mattinata in Macchina" (questions in easy Italian so the students hiring cars in Italy would have a knowledge of *senso unico, rotonda, corsia, viale, dossi* etc) was in July 1991 and Luisa was one of the organisers. In the last few years, Luisa joined me in adding some extras to the car rally – greeting the participants at the end picnic spot with Prosecco and delicious '*cicchetti*' or '*assaggini*' – mainly home-made by her.

Mentioning *cicchetti* – a very Venetian word for snacks/side dishes - reminds me of Luisa's love for all things Friulani. Born in Udine, in the region of Friuli, has been of great pride and love of the area for Luisa. She has introduced our Dante students to *crostelli, gnocchi, fricco* (a potato and onion dish) and many other specialities of her region.

Another avenue that Luisa has been very active in is the Italian culture. She has helped organize (often being the main organizer) the events of *La Befana, Carnevale*, Cultural Workshops, a Venice Night and most recently the wonderful 'Summer Serata' evening. Raising the profile of our Dante association has been a personal goal of Luisa's and from the response to this function, I can verify that it was achieved.

Luisa is not deserting us – still intending to be an active member but just stepping back from the teaching commitment and organising required for the car rally etc. We look forward to some of our new members now stepping up to continue Luisa's legacy. We thank you so very much, Luisa and want you to know just how much your years of service and enthusiasm for Dante have been appreciated.

June Moro



PAGINA DEGLI STUDENTI

Ciao a tutti

Durante le vacanze la nostra insegnante, Martina, ha fatto diversi mini corsi. Ho frequentato cinque classi che mi sono piaciute molto.

La classe di grammatica mi ha aiutato a rafforzare la mia conoscenza della bella lingua.

Martina ha fatto quattro lezioni sulla Divina Commedia. La storia era molto interessante e non succede spesso che gli studenti possano studiare un soggetto così importante per lingua italiana.

Consiglio a tutti voi questi mini corsi se volete migliorare la vostra abilità linguistica. **Gerard Wilkes LCS**

Finora mi sono chiesta per quale motivo io segua un corso d'italiano da anni. E da anni, quando qualcuno mi chiedeva il perché, io ripetevo le stesse parole vaghe: perché mi piaceva questa bella lingua. Una bella lingua lo è, ma ora so che c'è di più.

L'ho capito dopo aver fatto un breve corso estivo con Martina sulla Divina Commedia.

Era come un'introduzione, un assaggio della magnificenza e della delizia che si può provare a leggere l'intera opera.

Non pretendo di poter capire la storia originale di Dante Alighieri. Se Luca Sommi (autore de *Il cammin di nostra vita*) non avesse tradotto grazie al lockdown, durante la pandemia, la storia in italiano moderno, non sarei mai stata in grado di leggerla con piacere.

I passi del libro che Martina ci ha dato durante le quattro classi hanno rivelato indizi sulla splendida immaginazione, la conoscenza astronomica e la fede di Dante.

Il suo stile di scrittura dettagliato e descrittivo ad un lettore può causare ogni tipo di sentimento: paura, nausea, disgusto e gioia.

Rivela anche che Dante era una persona piena di dubbi, curiosità e fragilità ma anche capace di idolatrare Beatrice. Su questo non avevo alcun dubbio!

Dora (LCS)

The Russian poet Anna Akhmatova said regarding Italy - "Italy is a dream that keeps returning for the rest of your life".

I recently attended the mini course "Caccia ai Tesori", in which we learned of towns including Peccioli, San Leo, Gradara, Cingoli. These "belli borghi" are small but full of beauty, history and treasure. One of the towns that has a wealth of history to discover is Gradara, in beautiful Le Marche, it has a double line of medieval walls and a well preserved castle. The castle was built from the 12th century by the family Grifo and was later conquered by the Sforza and was controlled by the Borgia, Della Rovere and Farnese. It is famous as the location of the story of Paolo and Francesca as told by Dante in the V Canto of his Inferno.

We also discussed some of the fine cuisine of Italy. The variety of produce and the quality that can be found in each region is another reason that people dream of Italy. The Italian peninsula holds within its boundaries a vast variety of landscapes and climates, from Alps to plains, islands, lakes and valleys. In all regions, despite the differences, grapes, crops and produce are grown from which gastronomic food is created. The food and wine of Italy has inspired artists, writers, chefs and travellers. And not to forget the fashion, textile and ceramic products, including Diesel – the Italian jeans that conquered America.

With so much to offer in one country, we continue to learn and dream of what can next be discovered and experienced the next time we visit Italy.

Vicki (Adv 2)

CARNEVALE IN ITALIA DATES

Venice Carnevale
12th February – 1st March
Viareggio Carnevale
12th February – 5th March
Ivrea Carnevale
27th February – 1st March

PATRONATO INAS

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****ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY 23RD FEBRUARY 6 P.M. ON ZOOM****



Our last monthly lunch – January 2020. Hopefully we will be able to organise these monthly lunches again soon.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS – GERARD WILKES & ASSOCIATES,
AND COLLAS MORO ROSS. Please consider becoming a supporter of the Dante Gold Coast
with a sponsorship. Grazie.

COLLAS MORO ROSS

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