



DANTE NEWS GOLD COAST

February/febbraio 2023



LETTERA DEL PRESIDENTE

DATE CLAIMER

Thursday 2nd March, 9.30 a.m. Library

Thursday 9th March – AGM

Saturday 11th March
“How an Australian lives
La Dolce Vita in Italy”

Friday 24th March
“Benvenuti alla Dante”
End of term function

Dear Members and Friends

Welcome to all new members. It is wonderful to see how many new students we have! I visited one of the new classes and intend to catch up with all the other classes to wish everyone a *Buon Anno*. Thank you to our School Director, Rita Lo Presti, for all the work involved in organising the classes. Thank you to all who have renewed their membership!

In this newsletter there is information on the Dante Alighieri Society, Library information and main discounts for your Dante membership card. All Dante members should have a Dante membership card with their own number on it. To check out the website go to: **ladante.it** then click on “**DIVENTA SOCIO**” then “**LE PRINCIPALI CONVENZIONI**” and “**LE CONVENZIONI IN ITALIA E NEL MONDO**”. When a map opens up you can see what other discounts are available in Italy and other parts of the world.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held in the Dante Rooms in Aula 2 on Thursday, 9th March. Would you like to join our committee? We need to set up a Social and Cultural Sub-committee to help organise coming events.

Every Friday, Ester Ceron organises Italian speakers to have lunch at the Gold Coast Italo Australian Club. Everyone is welcome. Please let me know if you would like to join us.

Have you dreamt of living in Italy? Our member Lou Puggioni has made this dream come true. Come and listen to his short presentation at 2 p.m. on Saturday 11th March and you can ask him about it.

I would love to receive articles from you to include in future newsletters. Please let me know what you want included.

Cordiali saluti

Giovanna

Cav. Giovanna Santomauro

Presidente, Società Dante Alighieri Gold Coast Inc.

Società Dante Alighieri Gold Coast Inc

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Secretary: Anna Domaneschi 07 5526 0170

School Director: Rita Lo Presti 07 5527 0797

Facebook Dante Gold Coast Australia

Instagram @dantegoldcoast

Ciao a tutti, benvenuti!

A very warm welcome to all new students. I hope you enjoy your classes. Welcome back to past students. It's nice to see some students who have had a break return to our classes.

Dante Membership Card All Dante members should have a numbered membership card. Benefits of the cards were in last month's newsletter, and repeated again on *Pagina 8*. New students get a card with the 2023 sticker on it and continuing students can get the 2023 sticker from their teacher. If you have not received yours yet, please let your teacher know, so it can be organised for you.

Dante Library All new students should have received the sheet with the information but it is repeated on *Pagina 6*.

Scambio dei libri, Book Exchange Don't forget we have a special section in our library that contains English novels with settings in Italy or related to Italy. If you take one of these books, it does not need to be recorded however, it is a book exchange. Either please return the book once finished or replace it with another similar type of book based on Italy. **The cupboard is in Aula 1 near the front whiteboard.**

Dante Alighieri Society Thank you Astrid, for the information on *Pagina 6* about our Society.

Any questions or concerns about the school, please call me on 07 55270797 or email me:

info@dantegoldcoast.com

Rita Lo Presti

School Director

Alcuni studenti delle classi di lunedì e mercoledì mattina con le insegnanti



****CONVERSATION FOR CURRENT AND PAST DANTE STUDENTS****

CONVERSAZIONE E CAFFE' CON LUISA E AMICI

OGNI VENERDI DALLE 10.30 A.M. ALLE 11.30 A.M. AL GOLD COAST ITALO AUSTRALIAN CLUB. LIVELLO INTERMEDIO E PROGREDITO. NUMERO LIMITATO. SE SIETE INTERESSATI VI PREGHIAMO DI TELEFONARE A GIOVANNA AL 07 55395528 O POSTA ELETTRONICA : luisaliussi@gmail.com o gsantomauro23@gmail.com

Dear Members of Dante

This year your committee has reluctantly decided to increase the fees for Italian lessons. The increase is \$30.00 per semester for those who take advantage of the “early bird” discount. This increase represents an increase of \$1.67 per class or \$0.83 per hour. The increase in fees was kept to a minimum. The increase in fees was necessary because many of our expenses have risen markedly over the last 2 years.

For example our Insurance rose from less than \$1,700 per year to \$4,363 per annum. That is an increase of 158 per cent. Our rent increased 37 per cent, which in dollar terms is an increase of more than \$5,000 per annum. The rate of superannuation for our teachers increased by more than 11 per cent per year.

The total increase in our fees will not cover the extra expenses that we will incur.

If you would like to discuss the contents of this letter please contact me by email or mobile phone.

Regards *Gerard*

Gerard M Wilkes FCA GDipAppFin , Chartered Accountant , Treasurer of Dante G.C., Mobile 0412 753 339

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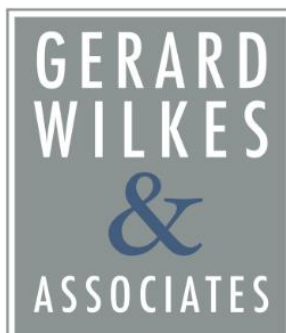
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DANTE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6 P.M. THURSDAY 9TH MARCH 2023

DANTE ROOMS

Notice has been emailed to all our members and is on the Website.

LA PAGINA DI JAQUIE

Il Caffè Florian a Venezia è il più antico caffè che è stato aperto continuamente in Italia, e uno dei più antichi al mondo. Chiamato 'Venezia Trionfante'. Nel 1720 il caffè era di due stanze. Nel 1750 venne esteso a quattro stanze. Queste erano la Sala del Senato, considerata dai veneziani la più importante, grazie al suo valore storico e artistico. Le altre sono la Sala Greca, la Sala Cinese e la Sala Orientale. Queste ultime due offrono un'esperienza indimenticabile. Gli specchi sulle pareti dei piccoli passaggi tra le sale riflettano la vostra immagine innumerevoli volte, mentre passate dalla Cina all'Oriente. Nel 1872 fu aggiunta la Sala degli Uomini Illustri. Presenta ritratti di dieci uomini, tra cui Marco Polo, che hanno reso Venezia importante e famosa per il loro contributo all'impegno civile e all'arte. Nel 1891 fu aggiunta la Sala delle Stagioni, raffigura le donne come stagioni. Nel 1920 venne creata la più piccola, chiamata La Sala Libertà, quando l'Art Nouveau era di moda. La sala celebrava i duecento anni del Caffè, ma divenne presto un magazzino e fu restaurata e aperta al pubblico solo nel 1986. Vanta soffitti ad arco, specchi dipinti a mano, tavoli con basi in rame, preziosi parquet intarsiati in legno e lampade in vetro di Murano. Tutte le stanze avevano specchi, opere d'arte e foglie d'oro. I tavoli erano in marmo, le sedie rosse e i camerieri in eleganti giacche bianche.

Nel 1796, con la sua clientela internazionale, il Florian, era diventato un luogo d'incontro. Quando gli eserciti francesi entrarono a Venezia, nel maggio 1797, si temeva che le idee rivoluzionarie francesi potessero costringere a chiudere il caffè. Valentino Francesconi tolse il cartello 'Alla Venezia Trionfante' fuori dal caffè e lo sostituì con il nome cristiano del proprietario originale "Florian" che era suo zio. Molti non sanno che il caffè era uno dei pochi luoghi che permetteva alle donne di accedere o che nel 1848, durante la Rivoluzione di Venezia, divenne un ospedale provvisorio. I visitatori più famosi sono stati Casanova (nacque a Venezia nel 1725), Dickens, Henry James, Lord Byron, Shelley, Dumas, Thomas Moore, Proust e Anthony Trollope. È ancora una tradizione veneziana voler essere visti alle finestre del Florian ma è costoso da visitare: un caffè nel 2022 costava 11,50 euro!

Jaquie Shelton (LCS)

Florian's Café in Venice is the oldest café in continuous operation in Italy and one of the oldest in the world. Called 'Triumphant Venice', it was built with two rooms in 1720 then expanded to four in 1750. These were the Senate Hall, considered by Venetians the most important, thanks to its historical and artistic value. The others are the Greek Hall, Chinese Hall and Oriental Hall. These latter two provide an unforgettable experience. The mirrors on the walls of the tiny passages between the rooms reflect your image multiple times as you go from China to Orient. In 1872 the Hall of Illustrious Men was added. It contains the portraits of ten men, including Marco Polo, who made Venice important, and who were famous for their contributions to civic endeavours and art. In 1891, the Hall of the Seasons was added, women depicting the seasons. The Liberty Hall, the smallest, was created in 1920 when Art Nouveau was so fashionable. It celebrated two hundred years of the café, but soon became a storeroom and was only restored and opened to the public in 1986. It boasts an arched ceiling, hand-painted mirrors, tables with copper bases, precious wooden inlaid parquet, and Murano glass light lamps. All rooms have mirrors, artwork, and gold leaf. The tables are marble, the chairs red, and the waiters wear elegant white jackets. By 1796, Florians, with its international clientele, had become a meeting place. When the French armies entered Venice in May 1797, it was feared that French revolutionary ideas might force the café to close. Valentino Francesconi took down the 'In Triumphant Venice' sign outside the café and replaced it with one bearing the Christian name of his uncle, 'Florian', the original owner. Many would not know that Florian's was one of the few places that allowed women to enter or that during the Venice Revolution in 1848, it became a temporary hospital. Its famous visitors included Casanova (born in Venice in 1725), Dickens, Henry James, Lord Byron, Shelley, Dumas, Thomas Moore, Proust, Anthony Trollope. It is still a Venetian tradition to want to be seen in Florian's windows, but it is expensive to visit- in 2022 a coffee cost \$18!



FLORIAN

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La Sala del Senato

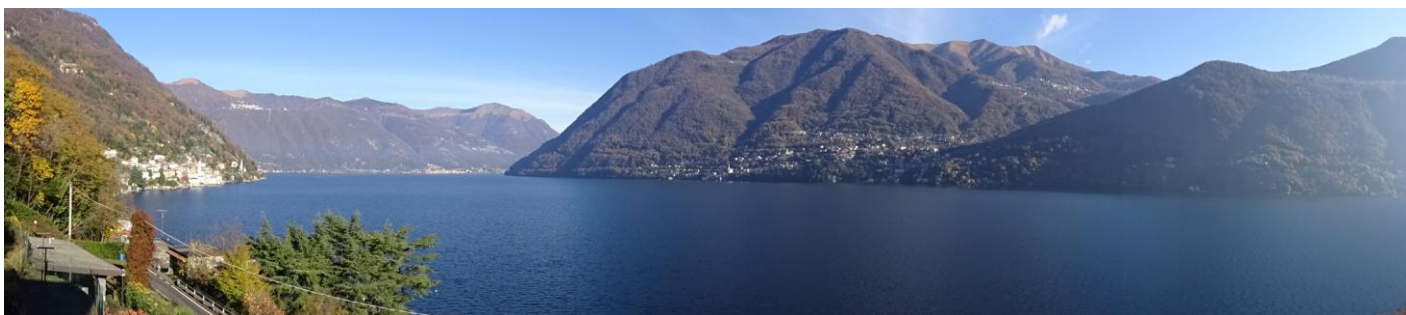
La Sala Cinese



*Dante Members and Friends are invited to an informative session
followed by afternoon tea*

SATURDAY 11TH MARCH 2 P.M.

**“How an Australian lives La Dolce Vita in Italy”
Presented by Lou Puggioni**



Lou Puggioni will talk about how and why he lives in Italy for 6 months or more of the year. Here are a couple of his photos. Do you know what part of Italy this is? You will have to come to the talk to find out!

The talk is about 20 minutes long and then time for questions before afternoon tea.

Please RSVP to Giovanna on
07 55395528 or email
gianna52@hotmail.com

DANTE ALIGHIERI SOCIETY

The Dante Alighieri Society was founded in Rome in 1889, with the aim to spread the Italian language and culture all over the world. Italians had migrated overseas in great numbers and it was important for them to retain their affiliations with Italy. The Gold Coast branch was founded in 1989 and promotes the Italian language and culture through classes and organized activities.

The Society was named after Dante Alighieri (1265-1321), the greatest of all Italian poets. He is considered the father of the Italian language. At a time when all reading material was written in Latin, Dante wrote in the 'vulgar' language so the peasants could enjoy literature, too.

He fell in love with Beatrice Portinari when he was 9 years old, but she had been promised to someone else. He married Gemma Donati and had 3 children, but Beatrice was his only true love and she was the inspiration of all his works.

In 1295 he fought with the White Guelphs (pro-imperial forces) who were defeated by the Black Guelphs (on the side of the Pope) and he was banished from Florence. If he returned, he would have been executed.

While he was in exile, he wrote his greatest achievement - the *Divina Commedia* – an epic poem of 14,233 lines. It is divided into three volumes: *Inferno*, *Purgatorio* and *Paradiso*. It is a fictional work and tells of his journey from hell to purgatory and finally to paradise where Beatrice is waiting for him.

The *Divina Commedia* is studied in all Italian schools and has been translated in many different languages and is known world-wide.

Dante died in Ravenna in 1321. Five hundred years later, Florence wanted his remains to be returned from Ravenna to Florence, the city where he was born, but Ravenna would not allow it. There is a tomb in his honour in the Basilica Santa Croce in Florence and his statue looks down at the piazza but the tomb remains empty. **Astrid Pennisi**

DANTE LIBRARY

Dante members may borrow books, magazines, DVDs and CDs from the library either 15 mins before class, or during the coffee break. We will make library available for members on Thursday 2nd March from 9.30 a.m. – 11.30 a.m. The Dante library will be open on the first Thursday of the month. There will be volunteers there. This could also be an opportunity to have a coffee and chat with someone in Italian. For further information you can contact Giovanna on 07 55395528. Thank you to Yen Musgrove and Adolfo Matthews for all the work in cataloguing our library items. Thank you to our Webmaster, Brian Bell for the **Library Section on the Web site** where there is access to the library catalogue and you can read some reviews.

Our borrowing is a self-checking honour system:

- **You select the item to be borrowed, and enter its details (title, call number, etc.) in the Loans Register in the section under your teacher's name.**
- **Sign it out to yourself by using a legible signature and providing your full contact details i.e. name and phone number.**
- **Loan Period: 4 weeks** [with a possible further 2 week extension after obtaining your class Teacher's approval].

Reference material can be used in the Library only. They are Not For Loan and cannot be removed from the library under any circumstances.

- **RETURNED loan item(s) must be signed in, by your Class Teacher, and placed in the Box provided.**

OUR SPONSORS AND FRIENDS

THE GOLD COAST ITALO AUSTRALIAN CLUB

Dear Members

It is so heart-warming to see so many of our members coming back for Friday lunch. If you haven't made it yet please come and try our spectacular meals. You won't be sorry, I promise.

The President

Robyn Wallace



Charmaine, Robyn and Walter



Joseph and Marilyn



John Santomauro was happy that there were ribs on the blackboard menu.

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ITALIAN SPOKEN

Dante website

Please remember that at the website you will find.....

- * Semester calendar
- * Enrolment & Membership forms
- * Private class application form
- * Prices of courses
- * Monthly newsletter
- * The latest News from La Repubblica Newspaper
- * Info on scholarships/discounts to study at Italian language schools/Library contents



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THE GOLD COAST ITALO AUSTRALIAN CLUB

18 Fairways Drive, Clear Island Waters

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www.italoaustralianclub.com.au

If you know of any businesses that can give our members a discount, we would be happy to promote their business.

PRANZO AL GOLD COAST ITALO AUSTRALIAN CLUB**Graziella, Dino, Flora, Teresa, Bruno e Luigi****Le Nonne – June, Clelia, Luisa e Rena****CAFFE' E CONVERSAZIONE****(dalla destra) Adolfo, Judith, Dora, Tanya e Giovanna**

Ester Ceron (foto alla destra) e' venuta per il gruppo di Caffè e Conversazione e poi e' rimasta per pranzo .

DANTE MEMBERSHIP CARD

Continuing (renewal) members will get a new 2023 sticker to put on their current membership card. New members will receive the membership card with 2023 sticker on it.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS IN ITALY**Teatro dell'Opera di Roma**

- 10% discount on full priced tickets

FAI Fondo Ambiente Italiano

- Various discount when purchasing a ticket to visit "luoghi el cuore"

Musei del Genus Bononiae (Bologna)

- Reduced ticket

MUSMA Museo della Scultura

Contemporanea di Matera – reduced ticket

Cappella degli Scrovegni e Musei Civici di Padova

– Reduced ticket

Scuderie del Quirinale (Az. Speciale Palexpo)

– Reduced ticket

Venaria Reale di Torino

– Reduced ticket

and 10% discount at gift shop.

MAXXI Museo delle Arti del XXI Secolo

Reduced ticket

Acquario di Genova

– Reduced ticket

Hotel Best Western

– Various discounts

Musei Vaticani

– Reduced ticket

Star Hotels

– Various discounts



Note that the information provided above is subject to change. Before booking, please contact the service providers to confirm the terms and conditions.