



# DANTE NEWS Gold Coast

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Società Dante Alighieri Gold Coast Inc.

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear members and friends

I hope you enjoyed the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Edition we sent you. It was a wonderful celebration. Thank you all for making it so special. Photos are on the web page.

June was a very busy month. As well as the celebrations, we had the *Amici della Dante* lunch and the Conference on Sardegna presented by Dott.ssa Anna Maria Carta. It was very interesting and informative and we thank her.



Best wishes to the **Sede Centrale** who is holding the 83<sup>rd</sup> **Congresso Internazionale Società Dante Alighieri** in Buenos Aires from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> July.

Cordiali saluti

*Giovanna*

[Like us on Facebook - Dante Gold Coast](#)

**We are also on Instagram**

<https://www.instagram.com/dantegoldcoast/>

**DATE CLAIMERS**

**2<sup>ND</sup> JULY – ENROLLMENTS**

**15<sup>TH</sup> JULY – 2<sup>ND</sup> SEMESTER STARTS  
18-20 JULY CONGRESSO DELLA DANTE**

**19<sup>TH</sup> & 20<sup>TH</sup> JULY - FRI & SAT - PUCCINI'S  
OPERA 'MADAMA BUTTERFLY' HOTA,**

**28 JULY – FRI - GIUSEPPE VERDI'S  
'REQUIEM' – QPAC – BRISBANE**

**THE GOLD COAST  
ITALO AUSTRALIAN CLUB**

18 Fairways Drive, Clear Island Waters

Ph: 5575 1966 /0499074910

<http://italoaustralianclub.com.au/events/>

Lunch – Wed. Thurs. Fri. 11.30a.m. - 2.30p.m.

Dinner – Wed. to Sat. 5.30p.m. - 9 p.m.

## COLLAS MORO ROSS

46 Watson Esplanade

**SURFERS PARADISE 4217**

PH. 07 55399099

Email: [ginom@cmrlawyers.com.au](mailto:ginom@cmrlawyers.com.au)

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**PRESIDENT:** Giovanna Santomauro 5539 5528

**SCHOOL DIRECTOR:** Rita Lo Presti 5527 0797



## SCHOOL NEWS

Thank you to all those that came to our end of semester social get-together -Pizza e Pacchia!. It was an enjoyable evening where we got the time to chat and catch up with friends and fellow students. The pizzas made by Fury in the pizza truck were “buonissime” and enjoyed by all. Our games were lots of fun too particularly the “trovarobe” game. In groups, members had to find the listed clothing and accessory items which were worth varying points. It was so funny to see people checking where their shoes were made, taking off jumpers and going through the bags. It is so great that at the end of the evening the students come up to us to say they had had a great night.



Ordinare la pizza



Tutti insieme



I giochi



### Semester 2 2019

**\$420** (returning student from Sem 1 2018)

**\$430** (new student this year incl. membership)

OR paying term by term

Term 1 (10 weeks) \$270.00

Term 2 (8 weeks) \$216.00

These details and the enrolment form are on the web site.

### End of Semester break-

June/ July break-29<sup>th</sup> June to 14 July- 2 weeks

### Course Dates for Semester 2 2019

Course commences- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July

Term 3= 10 weeks

Break in Sept- 21 Sept - 6 Oct

Term 4= 8 weeks

Course concludes- Friday 29 November

### Mini Courses

Thank You to Martina for running mini courses over the break.

### Library News

Please ensure that any books or materials that you borrow are recorded in the borrowing book by your teacher. A library loan is of about 2 weeks. If you would like it longer, just let your teacher know.

Grazie to all those for their early enrolment for semester 2 which makes organizing classes so much easier.

Closer to the commencement of classes when I know numbers in each class, I will send an email confirming your place in the class and who the teacher will be. Look out for this.

\*\*\*Classes recommence Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July\*\*\*

*If you have any questions or concerns-  
please call me on 55270797*

Or Email- [info@dantegoldcoast.com](mailto:info@dantegoldcoast.com)

**Rita** School Director

**GIUSEPPE VERDI'S 'REQUIEM'**

***Our student and Vice President, Gino Moro, writes about seeing this on the Gold Coast.***

My wife, June and I attended Verdi's Requiem presented by the Bleach Festival and Griffith University, in partnership with Gold Coast HOTA, Opera Queensland and the Queensland Conservatorium Symphony Orchestra.

'When Giuseppe Verdi's dear friend, poet and national hero Alessandro Manzoni died, he was too grief-stricken to attend the funeral, so he composed a requiem to honour his memory. What emerged out of his sorrow is one of the most powerful works for orchestra and voice ever written.

Sometimes referred to as 'an opera in ecclesiastical vestments', Verdi's gift for dramatic writing is on full display in this remarkable score for almost a hundred musicians and a chorus of over sixty singers. Asking the grand questions of life, it takes the audience on an intense musical journey from the depths of profound despair to ecstatic hope – a transcendent work, once experienced never forgotten.'

These words are so true. It was a perfect autumn night and HOTA's outdoor stage was the perfect setting. From the moment the black-hooded chorus appeared, moving eerily in a line through the audience, the chorus' faces lit by each holding a single candle, to the dramatic end when the HOTA stage was transformed into a fiery ceremonial sanctuary, we were mesmerised by this very special event.

**Congratulations** to HOTA for a great occasion. The Gold Coast has really come of age to be able to present such a production.

***Gino Moro***

***Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July and Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July – PUCCINI'S OPERA 'MADAMA BUTTERFLY' – HOTA GOLD COAST***

***Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> July GIUSEPPE VERDI'S 'REQUIEM' – QPAC – BRISBANE***

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**Conferenza "LA SARDEGNA, Ajo"**

La dott.ssa Anna Maria Carta ha tenuto una Conferenza presso la Sede della Dante Alighieri Gold Coast, per illustrare un viaggio virtuale in Sardegna alla ricerca di mete di vacanza: studio, storia, bellezza, arte, cucina e magia.

Ha iniziato la conferenza con la storia della Sardegna, proiettando foto sui nuraghi, le Domus de Janas e le Tombe dei giganti. Ha parlato delle varie invasioni, della cucina e degli sport praticabili in Sardegna.

La conferenza è stata interessantissima. Ascoltare La Dott.ssa Carta descrivere le bellezze naturali della Sardegna è stato piacevole e le due ore a noi dedicate sono praticamente volate.

Alla fine della Conferenza ha risposto a domande degli intervenuti, curiosi di saperne di più su alcuni temi da lei evidenziati fra i quali la longevità. Infatti i sardi hanno un'alta percentuale di ultra centenari.

Dopo la conferenza c'è stato un abbondante rinfresco con assaggio del Mirto, liquore sardo.

Grazie, Dott.ssa Carta, per aver dato ai nostri soci la possibilità di conoscere la Sardegna attraverso i suoi occhi.

***Anna Domaneschi***

## È VERO! LA DOLCE VITA AWAITS YOU AT DANTE IN ITALIA

Having the opportunity to study my beloved mother's language in her treasured country was a dream come true. I spent two weeks at the Dante Alighieri Society school in *Firenze* in March this year after being fortunate enough to secure a scholarship from Dante Alighieri Society *Roma*.

As the first Gold Coast recipient of a Dante Alighieri Society scholarship since 2005, I was determined to take full advantage of the opportunity, attending class every day speaking only Italian. At first this was challenging, however by day three I did not even notice.

Before I tell you about my time in *Italia*, let me give you a little background. Both my parents have Italian origins, with my mother arriving in Australia as a young teenager and my father's family a part of the first Italian settlement in Australia in 1881. I grew up in Casino, New South Wales, surrounded by a large Italian community, however my parents were encouraged to only speak English to me to ensure we assimilated, so I never learnt to speak Italian fluently. My mother, Faustina, was fiercely and passionately Italian. She lived on the Gold Coast and the centrepiece of her home was a huge dining table that was always full of people. The only activity that could draw my mother away from cooking and feeding people was a game of Italian cards; the cheating that occurred was obscene. She passed away just over three years ago and as a way of dealing with the most significant loss in my life, my husband Andrew and I joined the Dante Society. I wanted to learn her language and be immersed in her culture, my culture.

I travel to Italy once or twice a year, as most of my mother's family still live near *Lago di Garda*. This was my fifth visit to *Firenze*, however the scholarship gave me the opportunity to study, learn, live and really immerse myself in the Florentine lifestyle. I would encourage all of our dedicated students to consider applying for a scholarship or attend a school in Italy even if you don't get a scholarship.

My classes were from 9am to 1pm, which allowed me to rise early and explore the waking city before the crowds descended. I had *prima colazione* at different *pasticcerie*, indulging in fresh baked bread, pastries and coffee. Then I would jump on my bike, books stuffed in my basket and head to class. Riding past *la Piazza Della Repubblica*, *il Duomo* and beautiful clothing boutiques, clad in multiple layers, scarf blowing in the wind, it felt like I was living a dream.

I enjoyed the diversity of my class - people from Turkey, America and China. They all had a passion to learn the Italian language for a broad range of reasons. We all became very close during the two weeks, heading out in our twenty minute '*la pausa*' to practise our newly learnt Italian on the locals. We would have *seconda colazione*, eating as many pastries and slices of pizza as time would allow. I also become accustomed to drinking *l' espresso*!

Having the afternoon off allowed me to eat at *trattorias* throughout the city and indulge in different local delights; and visit off the tourist track places that 2 weeks allowed. I also organised private tours with locals (this allowed me to again practice my Italian), seeing a side of *Firenze* that most people never have the opportunity due to time limited holidays.

I had completed hours of research before leaving, however my itinerary was ever changing as I met and spoke with interesting and generous people. I found people would make extra effort when finding out I was travelling and studying alone. People were patient with me practicing my Italian with them, correcting and sometimes laughing at my mis-pronounced words. During one of my afternoons enjoying *l'aperitivo* overlooking *Il Duomo*, I met Elisabetta and her Australian husband. Elisabetta had lived her first thirty years in *Firenze*. They introduced me to many small *trattorias*, people and interesting places. The *trattorias* were usually tiny nooks underground, passed down from parents to children, with small or no menus. We ate what had been freshly made that day. I found that once people knew you were studying Italian they were so helpful and generous.

March was a lovely time to visit *Firenze*; the sky was clear blue and the temperature was between 8 and 22 degrees. Relaxing in the evening con *l'aperitivo* on one of the many rooftop bars, speaking Italian to anyone who would converse with me was my favourite. At night, due to the safety of the city, I would wander out at 8pm for dinner and then a drink at a bar, making many new friends. The Firenze centre at night is truly amazing, surprisingly quiet, leaving you to marvel at the magic that surrounds you.

I found the classes perfect for me, a combination of new vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation practice and applying these in conversation exercises. I found my teachers to be experienced and motivated, both studying for post-graduate degrees in linguistics.

While I was given the choice to study at any of the wonderful Dante schools in Italy, I chose *Firenze* because Dante himself lived there and it is the birthplace of the model Italian language. I also chose *Firenze* because of its historical significance in the arts, its location in one of the world's most amazing food and wine regions; yet the city itself is small enough to feel safe when travelling alone. Its central location allows easy transfer by fast train to both *Milano* and *Roma* and it is a city you can return to many times and still be surprised.

Here is a little list of the places off the beaten track for those who may already have visited *Firenze's* tourist locations:

1. Giardino di Boboli and the less known and more intimate Giardino Bardini, which has sweeping views of the city. Take *un panino* and *una bottiglia di vino*.
2. Farmaceutica di Santa Maria Novella, the first perfumery in Firenze 1612. Great for small gifts for family.
3. Attend Sunday mass at il Duomo with the locals (seats approx. 40 people), il Duomo is closed to the tourists. An amazing experience.
4. Lunch at il Mercato di San Lorenzo, Osteria Natalino, Ristorante Gabriella, Trattoria La Casalinga
5. L'aperitivo at Caff  La Terrazza, a small rooftop terrace located on the luxurious and famous shopping department store La Rinascente. The most exquisite views of Il Duomo.
6. L'aperitivo at the Savoy Hotel (built by Vincenzo Micheli) across from the la Piazza Della Repubblica, where famous scholars and artists met and clashed and the now famous carousel.
7. A short drive from Firenze is a small hill town, Fiesole. The locals are charming. We were dining at a small ristorante when we were invited to join a small wedding.

*Buonasera Firenze*, we will see each other again soon!

*Bianca Antonioli*



**Teachers Astrid Pennisi and Martina Medda show their Certificates to their classes. The President, Cav. Giovanna Santomauro presented the Certificate to Gerard Wilkes in Class as he was unable to attend to 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Function where the other Certificates were presented.**

**VENICE WITH LUISA** is going to **Carnevale**.

If Venice is on your bucket list then this is an amazing opportunity to join us in February.

Contact me for new details:

[venicewithluisa@gmail.com](mailto:venicewithluisa@gmail.com)

[www.venicewithluisa.com](http://www.venicewithluisa.com)

**AMICI DELLA DANTE**

Elena Pherhad, Maria Bowker-Perry, Ester Ceron  
E Delfina Bettega.

**PROSSIMO INCONTRO PER PRANZO  
MERCOLEDÌ 17 GIUGNO  
TUTTI BENVENUTI.**

**SOCIAL & CULTURAL NEWS**

**19 & 20 JULY- FRI & SAT - PUCCINI'S OPERA  
'MADAMA BUTTERFLY' HOTA , GOLD COAST  
7.30P.M.** Presented by OPERA AUSTRALIA with the  
CHAMBER ORCHESTRA and CHILDREN CHORUS  
Cost: \$65.00 – Seniors \$59.00 Students on application.

The opera is sung in Italian with English surtitles.

**Book directly with HOTA - 55884000**

**28 JULY – FRI - GIUSEPPE VERDI'S 'REQUIEM' –  
CONCERT HALL, QPAC – BRISBANE 4.00 P.M.**

(as part of Queensland Music Festival); Featuring:

Brisbane Chorale; Queensland Choir; Brisbane Concert  
Choir; Brisbane Philharmonic Orchestra – Cost: \$35.00 -

\$70.00 (concessions for seniors & children on

application). **Book directly with QPAC – Ph. 136246**

*Gli studenti di LCS dovevano ricercare un  
posto di interesse storico nella Gold Coast o nel  
QLD. Marica ha scelto Brisbane.*

**La casa del vecchio governo**

Dopo che il Queensland ottenne la separazione dal NSW  
nel 1859, il nuovo parlamento volle fornire una casa per il  
primo governatore. L'edificio doveva servire a due scopi:  
come residenza privata e come posto per godere la vita  
coloniale di Brisbane. La casa e' situata a Gardens Point  
vicino al giardino botanico.

la costruzione era iniziata nel 1860 e completata da Joshua  
Jeays nel maggio del 1862 a un costo di 17,000 sterline.  
Era costruito in pietra arenaria che veniva spinta giù dal  
fiume di Brisbane dalla cava di Goodna. Quando fu  
completato, il suo design imponente e la sua posizione in  
alto a Gardens Point hanno reso uno spettacolo  
impressionante per i visitatori e gli immigrati che  
arrivavano via nave.

Ora è un museo con esposizioni e mostre interattive. È  
aperto tutti i giorni tranne il sabato ed è gratuito. Le visite  
guidate sono condotte martedì, mercoledì e giovedì alle  
10:30 per la durata di un'ora.

*Marica Waite*

**\*83° Congresso Internazionale Società Dante  
Alighieri a Buenos Aires 18 – 20 luglio \***