



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

Email: info@dantegoldcoast.com

Societa` Dante Alighieri Gold Coast
Marzo/March 2012

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear members,

What a wonderful evening we had for our Welcome Function "Una Serata in Maschera" wine and cheese. Thank you to the wonderful sponsors, Nino Miano, from Italian Wine Imports, Filippo D'Arra, from Italiquore, George, from Coco's Deli and Fresco Cheese for the bocconcini and baked ricotta at cost price.

Thank you to everyone who made the effort to come and didn't let the rain stop you. Thank you to the Committee ladies who prepared the food platters and the gentlemen who passed the wine around.

Thank you to the members who have renewed their membership. Please renew your membership to ensure you keep receiving the newsletter and support the Gold Coast Dante Alighieri Society.

Our next get together is the AGM on Thursday evening, 15th March at 7 p.m. This will be followed by a light supper. If you are unable to attend please give your proxy to someone who will be attending.

Regards
Giovanna



2012 MEMBERSHIP NOW DUE

COMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, 15th MARCH 7 p.m.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY 30TH MARCH – END 1ST TERM

31ST MARCH – 14TH APRIL – HOLIDAYS

15TH APRIL – SCHOOL RESUMES

22ND JUNE – END OF 2ND TERM

SATURDAY 3RD NOVEMBER
OPERA NIGHT - CARMEN

ATTENTION OPERA LOVERS:

Join the Dante Alighieri as we go and see 'CARMEN' by Georges Bizet (sung in French) Lead singers: Kirstin Chavez & Konstantin Andreyev **Sat. 3rd Nov. 2012**, Lyric Theatre, South Bank. Cost: "A" Reserve - \$124.00 – Balcony \$86.00. Bookings taken now with: Connie Canale ccanale25@hotmail.com - or call 5575 8882.

GOLD COAST ITALO AUSTRALIAN CLUB
Open for lunch and dinner from Tuesday to Sunday. Discount on meals to Dante members (show Dante card) Ph.

55751966

www.italoaustralianclub.com.au

PRESIDENT: Giovanna Santomauro 5539 5528

SCHOOL DIRECTOR: Rita Lo Presti 5527 0797



SCHOOL NEWS

Thank You to the many students who came to the evening organized especially for them- "The Italian Wine and Cheese in Maschera." It was a good chance to mingle socially while trying lots of different types of vino e formaggio! We also made the best effort with the masks which most people wore for the whole evening too. Thank you to our sponsors and to all those that assisted on the night

Classes have commenced well. Classes continue now up to the 30th March when we then break for two weeks for Easter.

Children's Class

Children's classes are commencing this week.

If you know anyone who has little ones wanting to learn Italian the times are

2-5 yrs Thursday 3.25 - 3.55pm.

6-10yrs Thursday 4.00- 4.45pm.

Could you please ask them to contact me.

Some scholarships from Italian language schools still available – Contact me or Giovanna for further details.

Any questions regarding the school, please call me- 55270797

Rita
School Director

Teachers – Ursula, Giovanna, Gilda, Rita and Danielle.



(More photos on our web)

Italian Playgroup on Monday mornings **Carnevale e coriandoli al playgroup.**

Loretta, Gianluca, Orlando, Azzurra, Siena, Lidia e Liam.



Martina, Azzurra, Gianluca, Loretta, Orlando, Lidia, Siena e Liam.

The special and unique bits and pieces of the *Real Venezia* by Luisa Liussi

“NATIVE*Language Teacher “ took on a new meaning for me when I gleaned some intriguing and fascinating aspects of the lives of our Italian teachers at the Venice Italian School, and several of their very talented friends.

I had read several articles of gloom and doom...”Venice is dying...; no one lives there anymore...; it belongs to the tourist now...” Added to that point of view, a survey on longevity showed that Venice now has the highest number of elderly people (per capita) in the world. *Pero`grazie alle attivita` della VIS* (Venice Italian School) our group of students (of Venice Udine tour 2011) met a lively, creative, working group of people between the ages of 25- 45: children of Venezia , school friends, who after studying *all`estero* are now undertaking a life in Venice, their city of birth. Diego and Lucia, brother and sister , and directors of the VIS ; Marco, his wife, and her sister, artisan glassblowers and jewelry-makers; Filippo and his brothers, following in the footsteps of their father`s grandfather at a *negozio Generi Alimentari* at Rialto.

And the elderly? I met several of them: Signora Paola working at her son`s fruit and veg stall, (before racing home to cook lunch for her family); “the miserable man”, on his floating market barge, and his 2 brothers in the adjacent *fruttivendolo*. *Le simpaticissime signore* who met in the cool of the evening, under the tree at Campo Santa Margherita. Well-groomed, in their 80s, and no doubt *amiche strette* , they enjoyed watching the activities in the *campo* before parting to cook dinner.

I joined them for *una chiaccherata* every evening of the first week I was there, late September. And they, who had never been outside of Italy, were more interested in why would a group of us, women *di una certa eta`* want to leave their home and their family in Australia, to come to Venice. I couldn`t give them a satisfying answer ... not this time.

Any suggestions?

This passage is from Fiorita Levi`s book of memoirs, written by her before she passed on.

....."On **MARTEDI' GRASSO** the end of Carnevale in every house the women made **CROSTOLI**, baskets full, and many groups of **maschere** used to visit the houses. The **BELLE** maschere used to dance, they were well dressed, had nice masks on, the **BRUTTE** were really ugly and scary and chased children, so we used to go and look at them from the bedrooms which usually are one floor above and they could not reach us. Every family gave them wine, crostoli, eggs or salame and polenta flour so at the end of the day all together they will have a dinner of polenta, frittata with salsiccia and crostoli, then finish the day with a dance: usually the orchestrina was: fisarmonica, violino, clarinetto and basso (Fortunato with fisarmonica, Alfonso with violino, Bastiano with clarinetto, Gino col basso) (All of them are dead now!), we children were not allowed to that festa.

After 40 days of Quaresima there is Easter, the biggest festa for Christians. The week before Easter is called "Settimana Santa" so in every house its spring cleaning, painting the walls, washing the wooden floors of the bedrooms with bleach in the water and every object is dusted (spolverato)because also the Priest will go house by house and impart a benediction in every room of the house. On the Thursday there is a grand Mass and lots of ceremonial (very boring for us children as it was said all in latin and we did not understand the words) then the Priest take away the Sacrament from the Altar leaving the door open. On Good Friday there is no Mass, just the Stations of the Cross and procession with the torches and toys which make noises, and we loved that. No bells would ring on Good Friday , all is sombre and quite. On Saturday morning at 10 a.m. on the dot all the bells of all Churches would ring and everyone will wash his face. The atmosphere its beautiful, Tarcento, Coia, Sammardenchia, Stella, Zomeais, Ciseriis,Ramandolo's Church bells are ringing together, by then the houses are clean, bunches of flowers in vases, usually the weather is good and good smell of food and focaccia are in the air. Mothers are very busy making focaccia and children in painting the eggs for the tomorrow benediction and the **MERENDA** on Easter Monday.

After Easter all excitement is finished and life becomes the same again"

Societa` Dante Alighieri Gold Coast Inc.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
7 p.m. Thursday 15th March 2012

**Dante Rooms, rear of Gold Coast Italo Australian Club,
 18 Fairway Drive, Clear Island Waters**

Nominations for 2012 Committee

Members are invited to nominate for election to the Committee. The two nominators and the nominee must be financial members.

At this meeting, officers will be elected to the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and general Committee Members. All Nomination Forms must be in the hands of the Secretary seven (7 days) before the Annual General Meeting. (8th March 2012)

**Nomination forms are available, on request,
 from the Dante office or at www.dantegoldcoast.com**

**RENAISSANCE PAINTINGS AT THE NATIONAL
 GALLERY OF AUST. - CANBERRA**

Anyone who will be visiting Canberra is encouraged to visit the National Gallery of Australia to view these paintings on loan from their home at The Accademia Carrara in Bergamo. The paintings are by Renaissance artists such as Raphael, Botticelli Ballini, Titian and others.

It is the only time they have been outside of Italy and we are fortunate to have them in Australia.

Paintings on show from now till 9th April 2012. Cost \$25.00. There is limited entry at one time. Book a date and time at: www.nga.gov.au

Hanno detto ,,,,

La parola comunica il pensiero, il tono le emozioni.
Ezra Pound

C'e` un solo bene: il sapere, e un solo male: l'ignoranza.
Socrate

Il tempo e` la cosa piu` preziosa che un uomo puo` spendere.
Teofrasto

Una Serata in Maschera



More photos on our web –
www.dantegoldcoast.com