



DANTE NEWS GOLD COAST

March/marzo 2023



DATE CLAIMER

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

31st March
End of term

LETTERA DEL PRESIDENTE

Dear Members and Friends

Thank you to our Vice President, Gino Moro, for attending the welcome function in Brisbane to meet the new Italian Ambassador, H.E. Paolo Crudele. Gino's story of the evening is on **Pagina 5**. The Italian Ambassador, who is based in Canberra, had a very busy time at many events meeting community members and dignitaries.

Our Annual General Meeting was held on the 9th March. The new Committee is on **Pagina 2**. The President's report is on **Pagina 8**. Thank you to everyone who contributed articles for this newsletter.

Cordiali saluti

Giovanna

Cav. Giovanna Santomauro (Presidente, Societa` Dante Alighieri Gold Coast Inc.)



“L’Ambasciatore d’Italia in Australia Paolo Crudele incontra per la prima volta nel corso del Suo mandato la Governatrice del Queensland, the Hon. Dr. Jeanette Young AC PSM. Hanno condiviso idee sul ruolo degli italiani e della cultura italiana in Queensland.”

(dalla pagina Facebook *Consolato d’Italia in Brisbane*)

The photo is from the Italian Consulate’s Facebook page. In the photo is the Italian Consul, Luna Angelini Marinucci with the Ambassador and the Queensland Governor.

Società Dante Alighieri Gold Coast Inc

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Secretary: Anna Domaneschi 07 5526 0170

School Director: Rita Lo Presti 07 5527 0797

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Ciao

The semester is moving along relatively fast. I hope to meet you at our students function on Friday 24th March. It's a great opportunity to mix with other people who love Italy and enjoy some Italian food. We will also be able to get into teams and play bocce.

There will be no **mini-courses** this Easter break. Only catch-up classes for public holidays will be done.

Please ensure you are aware of the 2 week Easter break and the return date.

Easter break – 1st April to 16th April. Classes recommence from Monday 17th April

Last day of the semester- Friday 16th June

Italian for Travellers

We will see our biggest intake for Italian for Travellers coming to an end but many are choosing to continue on as Beginners 1. If you know of any friends who wish to learn Italian, we should have another intake after Easter.

Private classes

We are getting more people interested in private classes. There is a form on the website to complete. Please put in all the details including days and times suitable to you.

Library

To compliment your learning, we have DVDs, educational books and readers in our library. Take the time to borrow some of these resources. Library loans are of 2 weeks. Please see your teacher to record details.

Book exchange

In Aula 1, we have books on cooking, travel or novels that have something to do with Italy. Please take anything that interests you and/or leave your books there for others to take. They must have something to do with Italy.

Tea and coffee

Just a reminder that tea and coffee with a biscuit costs \$1. Please leave money in the container on coffee table.

Suggestions

If you have any suggestions, for example, a night when people who have studied in Italy tell us about the school they were at or ideas for functions and activities, I'd love to hear from you. Please email me. info@dantegoldcoast.com

Rita Lo Presti

School Director



Italian for Travellers Thursday night class with their teacher, Ilaria.

Comitato 9/3/23

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Giovanna Santomauro

VICE PRESIDENTE

Gino Moro

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Walter Antonucci, Mark

Hayward, Pat Hembrow,

Rita Lo Presti, Martina

Medda and Judith

Roberts



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS FOR JENNY ROGERS.

CORO NEWS

Coro gatherings have commenced again this year, and we are delighted to say that our first social gathering of the year was a dinner at the Club to celebrate a SPECIAL birthday for JENNY ROGERS (no numbers mentioned!)

As Jenny was born in Fiji we had a tropical theme for the night.(Those hula movements were most impressive)

On Friday, March 17th we will be visiting the group of folk who attend the COASIT gathering next to Dante to celebrate St Patrick's Day. There is singing , dancing and lots of laughing, and I have to say I come away feeling very uplifted.

Virginia Lamb
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LA PAGINA DI JAQUIE

Otranto è nella provincia di Lecce in Puglia. Situato sulla costa adriatica, è la città più orientale in Italia. Oggi, è un comune di 5.769 abitanti. Il monumento più importante della città è la cattedrale. Questa è stata costruita nel 1068 sui resti di un villaggio messapico. La sua architettura è una sintesi di diversi stili con caratteristiche bizantine, romaniche e paleocristiane.

La storia di Otranto è molto tormentata. Un evento storico più importante fu l'invasione dei Turchi nel 1480 quando una flotta ottomana fu inviata ad invadere Roma. Questa forza raggiunse le coste della Puglia il 28 luglio e la città fu catturata in due settimane. Tutti gli uomini furono massacrati. Dei 22.000 abitanti, solo 10.000 rimasero in vita. Circa ottocento cittadini, conosciuti come i 'Martiri di Otranto', furono massacrati nella cattedrale dai turchi perché avevano rifiutato di convertirsi all'Islam e rimasero fedeli al Cristianesimo.

Gli ottomani trasformarono la chiesa in una moschea. Dopo la riconquista di Otranto nel 1481, fu riconsacrata come chiesa. La cattedrale è famosa per: **Cappella dei Martiri** alla fine della navata destra. La ricostruzione comprendeva le ossa dei cittadini macellati, in un'area dietro l'altare di marmo costituita da 7 nicchie con vetrate. Anche dietro l'altare si trova la presunta 'Roccia del Martirio', una pietra dove, secondo la tradizione, furono uccise le ottocento persone.

Il rosone. Dopo le devastazioni turche, fu edificato il grande rosone a sedici raggi con finestrini gotici di forma rotonda.

Il mosaico sul pavimento che copre la navata centrale, le navate laterali, il presbiterio e l'abside. Creati da un monaco tra il 1163 e il 1165, sono i mosaici più significativi del Medioevo. Comprende l'albero della vita. Ci sono scene dell'Antico Testamento, anche dei cavallereschi e dalle storie medievali. Il mosaico rappresenta diversi concetti presenti nella Commedia dantesca e nella storia religiosa.

La Cripta risale al XI secolo. Ha tre absidi semicirculari e quarantotto campate sostenute da più di settanta colonne, semicolonne e pilastri presi da diversi edifici antichi e medievali. La decorazione comprende resti di affreschi risalenti al Medioevo fino al XVI secolo.

Nel luglio 1945 papa Pio XII elevò la cattedrale alla dignità di basilica minore.

Jacquie Shelton (LCS)

Otranto is in the province of Lecce in Apulia. Located on the Adriatic coast, it is the easternmost city in Italy. Today, it is a town of 5,769 inhabitants. The most important monument in the town is the cathedral. This was built on the remains of a Messapic village. It is a synthesis of various architectural styles, with Byzantine, early Christian and Romanesque elements.

The history of Otranto is very tormented. A most important historical event was the invasion of the Turks in 1480 when an Ottoman fleet was sent to invade Rome. This force reached the shores of Apulia on 28 July and the city was captured in two weeks. All the male inhabitants were slaughtered. Of the 22,000 inhabitants there were only 10,000 left alive. About 800 citizens, known as the 'Martyrs of Otranto', were massacred in the cathedral by the Turks because they refused to convert to Islam and remained faithful to Christianity.

The Ottomans turned the church into a mosque. After Otranto was retaken in 1481, it was turned back into a church. The cathedral is famous for: **Chapel of the Martyrs** at the end of the right aisle. The rebuilding included an area to house the bones of the slaughtered citizens in seven large, glassed recesses behind the marble altar. Also, behind the altar is the alleged 'Martyrdom Rock', a stone where, according to the tradition, the eight hundred people were killed.

The rose window. After the Turkish devastation, the large 16-ray rose window was built with fine round Gothic tunnels.

The floor mosaics which cover the nave, the aisles, the presbytery and the apse. Created by a monk between 1163 and 1165, they are some of the most significant mosaics of the Middle Ages. They depict the tree of life. There are scenes from the Old Testament as well as chivalric and medieval stories. The mosaic depicts different concepts present in Dante's Commedia and in religious history.

The crypt which dates from the 11th century. It has three semi-circular apses and forty eight bays supported by more than seventy columns, semi columns and pillars taken from different ancient and medieval buildings.

The decoration includes remains of frescoes dating from the Middle Ages through the 16th century. In July 1945, Pope Pius XII raised the cathedral to the dignity of a minor basilica.

(pictures on pagina 5)

OTRANTO



GINO MORO AT WELCOME FUNCTION

I report on a very enjoyable evening meeting Italian Ambassador Paolo Crudele and Brisbane Consul Luna Angelini Marinucci at the Brisbane City Soccer Club on Monday, 20 February 2023. It was an excellent opportunity of sharing and reconnecting with the Italian community in Brisbane and the Gold Coast. Walter Antonucci from our committee also attended.

Ambassador Crudele spoke of the close business trade and community contact between Italy and Australia.

The Ambassador also made a particular point of emphasising the significant role Dante Alighieri Society has in promoting Italian language and culture.

A supper was provided of tasty tramezzini and Italian dolci with Prosecco."

Gino Moro (Vice President)

Ho avuto l'opportunità d'incontrare, il 20 febbraio scorso, al "City Soccer Club" il nuovo Ambasciatore Italiano In Australia, Dr. Paolo Crudele ed il Console Italiano a Brisbane Dr.ssa Luna Marinucci.

E' stata una gradevole serata ed una eccellente opportunità ' per riallacciare e condividere l'evento con la comunità' italiana di Brisbane e della Gold Coast. Walter Antonucci era anche presente

L'Ambasciatore nel suo discorso ha parlato dei rapporti commerciali tra l'Italia e l'Australia. Ha inoltre voluto enfatizzare l'importanza del lavoro svolto dalla Società Dante Alighieri nel promuovere la lingua e cultura italiana.

La serata si e' conclusa con un rinfresco di tramezzini, dolci e prosecco.

Gino Moro (Vice Presidente)

INTERVISTA AD ANNA MARIA NICOLE

Come ti sei coinvolta con la Dante Alighieri? I have always loved and been interested in all things Italian as it is my heritage. From a very young age my father would teach me Italian. He would buy the Italian newspaper every Thursday (La Fiamma – Sydney) and would listen to me reading the interesting articles out loud in Italian. I first heard of the “Dante Alighieri” school at university in Sydney. I attended their school in Sydney and when I discovered it was also on the Gold Coast I immediately made inquiries to join.

Dove sei nata? I was born in Rome Italy and lived there initially the first 5yrs of my life before migrating to Australia. I returned to live and work in Rome at the age of 20yrs for a period of 18months.

Lavori Ancora? I retired from work July 2022 after 30 years of full-time employment.

Qual era il tuo lavoro? I completed my studies in forensic psychology and was employed as a Forensic psychologist and/or the co-ordinator of the Mental Health Screening Unit at the maximum security facility - Silverwater Remand and Reception Centre assisting all new intakes. After 10 years of working with the saddest, baddest, maddest offenders I decided to open my own private psychology practice which I maintained until I transferred to the Gold Coast in 2020.

Dove abiti? All my life I lived in Sydney until my husband convinced me to move to the Gold Coast in 2020. We purchased a home in Hope Island where we continue to live.

Sei sposata? I have been married to my husband since 1979 – 44yrs. **Hai Figli?** I have 3 living children, two sons and a daughter. I have a son who tragically passed away at the age of 2yrs.

Dove Abitano? My oldest son lives in Sydney. My second son currently lives in Torino as he won a university scholarship to complete a Masters Degree in car design. My daughter lives in Clear Island Waters on the Gold Coast.

Come mai hai deciso di vivere in Australia? When my parents migrated to Sydney Australia I was 5yrs old and as such had no say in the matter. However, I am truly grateful to my parents every single day for having the courage and foresight to leave all behind in Italy and start a new life in this beautiful country.

Come passi il tempo libero? I love to cook. I love to stay very connected with my Italian relatives in Rome and Sicily. We chat daily, weekly which offers me a wonderful opportunity to practice my Italian. We exchange recipes and horticultural tips. I am also involved with my local church as a member of St. Vincent de Paul. I hope to also become involved with the Dante Alighieri school and Sacred Heart church.

C'e` qualcosa che ti manca dell'Italia? I truly miss the passion with which Italians live and love!! I miss the company of my friends and relatives and the lifestyle of everyone gathering together and sharing whatever we have. It's truly such a beautiful loving passionate culture.

Hai un ristorante preferito? I have found it very difficult to locate a truly good authentic Italian restaurant on the Gold Coast – so sadly no; still searching for the perfect calamari fritti, arancini and of course pizza a legna.

Ti piace leggere? Cosa? I used to love reading my assigned Italian authors when at university. I have never been so deeply moved by the written word, until I began reading Italian literature. I have promised myself to find my novels and re read them. I love anything written by Pirandello.

Ti piace guardare la TV? Hai un programma preferito? My darling husband at times expresses deep concerns regarding my choice of programs – they are usually crime, Psychological thrillers and contain violence. I love solving the plot and “who did it” I like to psychoanalyse the characters. I also love love love travel programs such as Getaway, House Hunters International, Escape to the Country and Escape to the Chateau. A bit of a contrast between the two genres????

Secondo te, “La vita e`?” In my mature years I have come to understand that for me life is one big amazing adventurous journey in which every moment must be savoured, enjoyed and shared.

Anna Maria Nicole

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Dante website

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

DANTE CORO

The Coro is back for 2023!

We are back in the Italian club 5-6pm on Wednesday nights. All are welcome to join us and sing along to Italian classics like Volare and L'Italiano. A fun way to practice your Italian, all are welcome no singing skills required! A number of ladies stay on for dinner afterwards at the club and have been enjoying the new menu.

We recently celebrated Lydia and Ester's Birthday. We enjoyed a glass of Prosecco and Heather made a beautiful homemade Italian cake- Delizioso!

Hayley Wills



Our singing group meet in the Club every Wednesday night from 5:00-6:00 pm & a group usually stays for a meal afterwards. Our total numbers are about 18 with no auditions required. If you feel so inclined give me a call on my number below. You could come along and give it a try. No pressure. We have some members who do not speak any Italian, so all welcome.

Remember to give me a call if you would like to give Coro a try.

Virginia Lamb
Ph...0416167900

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 9/3/2023
PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Welcome to our Annual General Meeting. I would like to thank the committee, Gino, Anna, Gerard, Rita, Martina, Connie, Judith, Pat, Walter and Mark for their continuing support and their commitment to promoting the Italian language and culture. It is a privilege working with such wonderful people. Thank you to our Life Member, Brian Bell for his efficient work on the Web, emailing the newsletters and all the information as required. Thank you to Life Member Astrid Pennisi for her admin work and Martina for the Dante Facebook page and Instagram. A big Thank you to Ester Ceron for the work she does to make our Piazza plants thrive.

We had 6 teachers 13 regular courses, mini courses and private lessons during the year. In 2022 we had 186 members (7 Life Members, 137 Student members and 42 Non student members). Thank you to our students who continue supporting the Dante by coming to classes.

We applied for a Grant from the Gold Coast City Council for Seniors Month and put on an afternoon of entertainment at the Gold Coast Italo Australian Club on the 1st October. The new Italian Consul, Luna Angelini Marinucci visited the Dante rooms and was our guest at refreshments at the Dante before going to the Concert.

I would like to thank our web and newsletter sponsors: Solicitor Gino Moro from Collas, Moro Ross and Accountant Gerard Wilkes from Gerard Wilkes & Associates.

We have a good relationship with the Sede Centrale, the Italian Consulate, Com.It. Es., the Italian Chamber of Commerce, The Gold Coast Multicultural Society, the Gold Coast Italo Australian Club, Co. As. It., the Brisbane Dante Alighieri Society and other Dante Societies in Australia.

2022 activities are listed separately. Hopefully this year we will be able to once again start organizing more cultural and social events.

Once again, I thank you all.

Giovanna Santomauro