



DANTE NEWS Gold Coast

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Società Dante Alighieri Gold Coast Inc.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear members

We welcome new Italian Consul for Queensland and Northern Territory, Dr. Salvatore Napolitano. *Buona permanenza!*

There are a few events we have put in our calendar. Please read all the information in this newsletter.

Thank you to Martina Medda for the mini courses she ran in January. 1st Semester regular classes commence week starting 4th February. I would like to thank all renewing members and particularly welcome all our new members.

Thank you to Dr. Brian Bell who came to give our teachers training in using the defibrillator. More information about that session on *Pagina 4*.

Student Travels and Tips is on a separate sheet for your convenience.

Thank you to Tony for collecting the mail while I was on holidays and Gerard for helping me with the financials for the annual return to Sede Centrale, Rome



Thank you to *Le Nonne* June, Luisa and Rina for organising *La Befana* activities. Love the three Wise Men!



Cordiali saluti,

Giovanna

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

We are also on Instagram

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

DATE CLAIMERS

4 February 1st Semester start

12th February – Film

18th February – AGM

20th February – Amici della Dante

1st March – Student welcome

23rd March – afternoon tea with author

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.

Please phone Club for bookings.

COLLAS MORO ROSS

46 Watson Esplanade

SURFERS PARADISE 4217

PH. 07 55399099

Email: ginom@cmrlawyers.com.au

Web: www.cmrlawyers.com.au

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PRESIDENT: Giovanna Santomauro 5539 5528

SCHOOL DIRECTOR: Rita Lo Presti 5527 0797



SCHOOL NEWS

Buon Anno a tutti!

We have had a great response to our classes this year and we commence the year with approximately 100 students.

We welcome back one of our teachers who has been with us from the start of Dante on the Gold Coast- Luisa Liussi. Many of you will already know her.

If you have any suggestions for activities or courses, please let me know.

Spero che questo semestre sia prosperoso
Rita

Course Dates for Semester 1 2019

Semester 1

Monday 4 February - 5 April

Easter break- 6 April - 28 April

Term 2 commences - Monday 29 April

Course concludes - Friday 28 June

Security

Due to the incident last year, our policy now is that the classroom doors will be opened 15 minutes before the commencement of class. Please feel free to start your Italian conversation in the courtyard on the lounge or at the tables!

Before class

Before class, the teachers need to prepare the rooms, photocopy and organize themselves. This is not the time for a private lesson on your homework or a grammatical point you don't understand.

Teachers are finding it frustrating that they are not organized for their classes and are not able to greet all the students in the class. If you have a particular problem, it may be a problem that can be revised in class or may require you to book in for a private class.

Private Classes

Just a single class or multiple classes are available throughout the week. Please contact me if interested.

Student Welcome



Porchetta, Salsicce e Bocce!!

Venerdi 1 Marzo

Save the date for our first get-together.

More details soon!!

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

Or Email- info@dantegoldcoast.com

Rita School Director



School director, Rita Lo Presti with 2019 Teachers, Charlotte Petrucci, Luisa Liussi, Martina Barzan, Martina Medda, Giovanna Santomauro and Astrid Pennisi.

LA PAGINA DELLA CULTURA

The Sanremo Music Festival 2019 will be the 69th annual Sanremo Music Festival, a television song contest held in the Teatro Ariston of Sanremo and organised and broadcast by RAI.

Dates: Tuesday, 5 February 2019 - Saturday, 9 February 2019

Location: [Teatro Ariston Sanremo, Sanremo, Italy](#)

Race: 24 finalists. The winner will be eligible to compete in the Eurovision competition

Italian broadcaster RAI has announced the two dozen acts that will partake in the 69th edition of their legendary annual song festival. The winning artist will be given the opportunity to represent Italy at the 2019 Eurovision Song Contest in Tel Aviv.

Carnevale is an Italian word derived from the Latin *carnem* (meat) and *levare* (remove), corresponding to English "carnival". *Carnevale*, also known as carnival or *mardi gras*, is celebrated in Italy and many places around the world during the 40 days before Easter, and a final party before Ash Wednesday and Lent. *Carnevale* is one of Italy's biggest winter festivals and events often last for two to three weeks before the actual carnival day. Many Italian towns celebrate *Carnevale* the weekend before the last day of carnival, which is on Shrove Tuesday.

Because the date of Easter changes yearly, so do the dates for carnival festivals, which can be anywhere from 3 February to 9 March. If you're planning to go to Italy for a *Carnevale* celebration, especially in popular cities such as [Venice](#) and [Viareggio](#), which is famous for its elaborate parades, you'll need to make reservations for hotels and some special events at least several months ahead of time. 5th March is the last day of *Carnevale* festivities.

Note: Most places in Europe and around the world that hold carnival festivals will have the same dates.

Venice Carnival 2019 16 February - 5 March, Veneto region

Venice is a magical city at any time of year, and while it's popular all year round, it becomes sensational during the carnival days. It is a must-see event where the costumes, the traditional local allure and the celebrations will make you feel you are suspended between past and present.

Viareggio Carnival 2019 9 February - 5 March, Tuscany region

The "Carnevale di Viareggio" is considered among the most renowned carnival celebration in both Italy and Europe. The 146 year old event is the perfect testimony to the artistic and organizational abilities of the Italian people.

www.ladante.it/associati
(discounts in Italy for members)

From Facebook "Consolato d'Italia in Brisbane":



Consolato d'Italia in Brisbane

4 hrs · 🌐

Il Consolato d'Italia a Brisbane e' lieto di annunciare che il nuovo Console per il Queensland ed il Territorio del Nord, Salvatore Napolitano, ha preso servizio il 7 gennaio 2019, in sostituzione di Ludovico Carlo Camussi.

The Consulate of Italy in Brisbane is pleased to announce that the new Consul representing the Italian Republic in Queensland and the Northern Territory, Mr. Salvatore Napolitano, has taken office on January 7th 2019, succeeding Mr. Ludovico Carlo Camussi.

STUDENTS' PAGE**The Conversation Mini Courses held December 2018 and January 2019 with Martina**

During the holiday break Martina Medda conducted 3 classes mainly centred on “*Conversazione italiana*”. We had a small class of 6 students which is an excellent number to manage. As is usual with Martina’s classes the learning was most enjoyable with plenty of good humour and education. We learnt some interesting Italian idiomatic phrases and conversed mostly in Italian about many different topics. All students were given a good opportunity to speak their opinions and read from the notes provided by Martina. I would recommend to all the students of Dante, that if possible, they should try to attend the mini courses provided by our excellent teachers. Practising *la bella lingua* is the best way to become more fluent and you have the opportunity to make some more friends with our lovely students.

Gerard Wilkes

I was very fortunate to have the opportunity to attend the Conversation Mini Courses over the Christmas/New Year break. Thank you Martina for conducting these classes – it is obvious there is much preparation and a lot of thought which goes into these classes. Rest assured your hard work has paid off as I am sure we would all attest to now having an improved level of Italian speaking and understanding. The classes included a wide variety of subjects and situations – which resulted in interesting and diverse learning. Martina managed to easily cater to a variety of knowledge levels. She balanced us remembering what we should know while ensuring new information was continually added.

Possibly the debating sessions were the most enjoyable for me –so many new Italian words to remember! The passion of the debates was hysterical – all that was missing were arms waving wildly around and I would have thought I was in Italy. The classes have really helped my conversation skills, improved my grammar and ability to construct a sentence with the words I currently know. I look forward to another year of learning, laughing and enjoying the company of my fellow class friends.

Baci Baci,

Nerida aka Felicita’

The mini courses ran by Martina that I attended were not only extreme fun, but a brilliant revision of all the basic Italian which is so easily forgotten during long mid term breaks. The people who attended these courses were so nice, so any fears of not being up to the standard of the others were soon blown away. I for one wish there had been more mini courses, I would have attended them all without hesitation. As a lover of the Dante Alighieri School, I really hope that between terms in future the school will offer longer and more intense mini courses to reinforce and go over what we learn in the weekly two hours lessons. Grazie mille Martina .

Roger

**New Defibrillator for Dante**

The Dante was fortunate to receive an automatic defibrillator for free from the Commonwealth Games organisers. Defibrillators are used in an emergency situation when someone collapses after having a cardiac arrest.

At the last Teachers’ Meeting, the teachers received instruction from student Dr. Brian Bell on how to use the defibrillator. It will be stored in Aula 1 and students should familiarise themselves as to where it is stored, should they need to fetch it for one of teachers. If any student wants to know more about how it works, then a short YouTube video can be found at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3uhZPzvyu10>

STUDENT TRAVELS AND TIPS

There is so much useful information in this month’s article that we have put it on a separate attachment so you can print it and take with you on your travels. Thank you Deanna for organising this section.



SATURDAY, 22ND JUNE

“TOSCA”

Opera

by Giacomo Puccini

This opera is often described as the greatest opera of them all. **Tosca** embraces the grand themes of the human spirit brought to life by one of the greatest composers of them all, **Giacomo Puccini**.

Tosca is a famous singer and devoted to the artist Cavaradossi, but Scarpia, the Chief of Police, has other plans, and shows no remorse in his intent to destroy their love. **Tosca** is a strong woman in a male dominated world. Refusing to submit to a system that wants to mercilessly exploit her, she works to tear it apart, but there is a terrible cost. This is an opera where women are not afraid to fight for their right to be equal.

The following is the superb cast:

Tosca **Rachelle Durkin** - Cavaradossi **Angus Wood** - Scarpia **José Carbó** - Sciarrone

David Hibbard - Angelotti **Sam Hartley** - Sacristan & Jailer **Shaun Brown**

Accompanied by **QUEENSLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**

Backed by **OPERA QUEENSLAND CHORUS**.

Sung in Italian with projected English Translations.

Join the **DANTE ALIGHIERI SOCIETY – GOLD COAST**

Saturday 22nd June for a 1.30p.m. matinee session.

LYRIC THEATRE – QPAC – BRISBANE.

Cost: Dante group price: “B” Reserve \$\$105.00. Payment due by 16th April.

Bookings are now open with Connie Canale – ccanale25@hotmail.com – or call **0428155515**.



SOCIAL & CULTURAL NEWS

TUESDAY, 12TH FEBRUARY, 9.30 a.m.
Morning tea and Italian film in the Dante rooms
RSVP Giovanna 55395528

MONDAY, 18TH FEBRUARY 6.30 p.m.
A.G.M. in Dante rooms

WEDNESDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY, noon
AMICI DELLA DANTE
Looking forward to seeing you at the next get together at the Gold Coast Italo Australian Club. All Dante members and friends are welcome. For further information please contact Maria Barrett on 0418750232



Sitting – Maria Barrett, Ester Ceron and Linda Maruca. Standing – Anna Domaneschi, Teresa Mennella and Gilda La Rocca

SATURDAY 23RD MARCH 2.30 p.m.
\$5.00 Afternoon tea with guest author Marisa Piergiovanni (Parker) Flyer attached.

DANTE LIBRARY

Thank you to our librarian Yen Musgrove and her assistant Adolfo Matthews for their hard work cataloguing and keeping the library updated .

We have a good selection of books, DVDs and CDs in our library. These are available for borrowing by all members. Your class teacher can show you how to write up what you choose to borrow. Non student members can contact Giovanna on 55395528 or Luisa on 0408344148 to arrange a suitable time to come browse and borrow. A list of all items is also available on our website: www.dantegoldcoast.com.au



Students Judith Roberts and Nell Rosolen show some of the books in our library.

SATURDAY, 27TH APRIL 2019
GIUSEPPE VERDI'S - 'REQUIEM'
HOTA – GOLD COAST – OUTDOOR STAGE.
Cost: "A" Reserve from \$85.00; "B" Reserve from \$75.00; General Admission from \$50.00 (no chair supplied). Dante will not be organizing a group. Anyone interested can book directly with HOTA – 5588 4000 (Pensioner & student discounts on application).

FRIDAY, 24TH MAY 7.30 p.m. 10 TENORS
at HOTA Gold Coast - Singing opera and contemporary songs. Cost: "A" Reserve \$95.00 "B" Reserve \$85.00. Anyone interested can book directly with HOTA – 5588 4000

STUDENT TRAVELS AND TIPS

HUNDREDS OF CITIES ... BUT ONLY ONE FIRENZE

BY DEANNA NOTT

When we were last together, I told you about my father's hometown of Vasto in Abruzzo on the Adriatic. After having a delightful time in this superb spot, we took to the road for what was a rather big day of sight-seeing and driving. We headed up the coast to the famous hilltop town of San Marino, which interestingly is a Republic! It is microstate on north-eastern side of the [Apennine Mountains](#). It about 61 km² and you need to have an iron clad stomach to make it up to the top – in fact I think our entire family got a touch of car sickness going up...but only our daughter needed to step out of the car for a little moment ;) We had a memorable few hours atop San Marino. Our big learnings:

1. You can put a little sign on the dashboard of your car to display the time you arrived so you receive 15 minutes of free parking.
2. San Marino has timed public toilets and it is absolutely essential to know that if two people go in – let's say an adult and a child – that if one leaves then the entire toilet will disappear into the wall from under you and high pressure water will come from nowhere leaving the person left inside soaked through!
3. Burgers are better when you are in San Marino – there were about 6 different burger joints
4. The views from the top are dramatic – it is worth going as high as you can on foot.

After San Marino, we headed down to the beach to see Rimini. We were only there for a very short while. We quickly realised it was a bustling, expensive resort town...and people there have plenty of cash to splash around. It seemed to be a locals' hang. While there were tourists, many were Italians seeking fun in the sun.

We had to rush away to make a 4pm personal tour of the Lamborghini Museo near Bologna. We arrived a few minutes late but there wasn't any fuss. We just slotted in and while our time with these high-performance cars flashed past like an Aventador on steroids, it was worth the 80 Euros.

And then we headed to Florence. We had been there several times yet this time it felt so different. It is possible to write a doctoral thesis 100 times over about Firenze. Firenze e la citta piu bella d'Italia. While this is molto difficile, here are my top tips for Florence (and surrounds)

1. If you want to try the ULTIMATE Bistecca Fiorentina, visit Perseus - <http://www.casatrattoria.com/en/ristorante-perseus-florence/>

I should point out that if you are a 'well done' type of steak person, this place is definitely NOT for you. When served, the steak looks rare but is actually medium rare in taste as the meat has been aged for many, many moons. It is delicious, melt-in-the-mouth and we dream about it every time we walk past a butcher! Book online in advance.

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2. If you have been before, go again to see the Statue of David inside the Galleria dell'Accademia. My husband and I had seen it before ... but this time, with more of an understanding of Italian history, culture and language, it took our breath away. Even with tickets, be prepared to line up – and if not on an organised tour, book through the official site - http://www.b-ticket.com/b-ticket/uffizi/default_eng.aspx
 3. Spend at least a few hours in the Galleria degli Uffizi. It is one of the world's leading museums, dates back to 1560, and has pieces of art that are so intricate it makes you want to paint! Again – book WELL in advance for this one - http://www.b-ticket.com/b-ticket/uffizi/default_eng.aspx
 4. Book yourself on a Tuscan tour. I know that day trips are not for everyone...and if you have money to spare, then personalised ones are the way to go. For a family of four, this was absolutely ideal <https://www.viator.com/tours/Florence/Tuscany-in-One-Day-Sightseeing-Tour/d519-5070TUSCANY> We booked this tour prior to departure from Australia – not only did we have a spectacular lunch and unlimited vino at a genuine operating vineyard, we also visited Siena, San Gimignano and Pisa. We couldn't believe our luck...we just happened to be in Siena on the day of the Palio. The Palio di Siena is a horse race that is held twice each year on 2 July (when we were there!) and 16 August. Ten horses and riders, bareback and dressed in the appropriate colours, represent 10 of the 17 contrade, or city suburbs. Truly amazing!
 5. Stay in the centre of it all (we had an apartment overlooking the Duomo and funnily enough, my review is there on Booking.com) <https://www.booking.com/hotel/it/duomo-terrace-firenze.en-gb.html?label=gen173nr-1FCAEoggl46AdIM1gEaA-IAQGYAQm4AQfIAQ3YAQH4AQH4AQulAgGoAgM;sid=8d3e3fa2133828955b1f3b7bd207e368>
 6. While in Florence, I highly recommend you head to the Mercato Centrale for dinner or lunch or both at least once! <https://www.mercatocentrale.com/format/> It saw us mixing with the locals (and other tourists) and provided a great opportunity to order in Italian and enjoy local delights at a reasonable price. We just loved it.

Next stop – Cinque Terre

If you have a story to share on a recent trip to Italy, please send me a few words to inspire our friends! deanna@wingspr.com.au

