

President's Letter

Dear members

The 2nd of June is an important date in Italy and for Italians all over the world as we celebrate the Italian Republic which celebrates 75 years. On the 2nd June 1946 Italians voted in a referendum to choose whether they wanted a Republic or a Monarchy.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our students, past and present for choosing to study our language and show your love for the Italian language and culture. Many of us travelled to Italy often and feel a void not being able to go at present. It is even difficult travelling in Australia. Last month, John and I, some good friends and family went on the postponed Canale Travel trip to Adelaide, and were thankful to come back to Queensland without any other border restrictions at that time.

We welcome our new members and new students and hope that one day soon we will be able to travel to Italy again. Your Dante card gives you discounts in Italy but for now you can show your card and get a 10% discount on bread at **Rustic Mill and Saamaria's Café & Deli**. Details are on Pagina 7. Please let me know of anyone else who may give our members a discount so we can advertise their business for free.

Thank you to Walter Antonucci, Jon DeSisto Barrett, Connie Canale, Virginia Lamb, Rita Lo Presti and Alessandro Masi for their contributions to this month's newsletter. Next month I will include photos taken at the Festa della Repubblica function. Please send me any articles you think may be of interest to our members maybe even some stories of your past Italian travels.

Buona Festa della Repubblica. Un Caro saluto a tutti voi. Viva l'Italia!!

Cav. Giovanna Santomauro
Presidente
Società Dante Alighieri Gold Coast Inc.

DATE CLAIMER

2nd June
Italy's National Day

25th June
End of Semester 1
Students' Dinner

12th July
Start of Semester 2

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President: Giovanna
Santomauro 07 5539 5528
Secretary: Anna Domaneschi
07 55260170
School Director: Rita Lo Presti
07 55270797

2021 ANNO DANTESCO - 700mo Anniversario



The Gold Coast Italo
Australian Club
18 Fairways Drive, Clear
Island Waters

Marco's Italian
restaurant

Entertainment

Phone 55751966 for
bookings.



SCHOOL NEWS

For the past year we have had no social events at all at the Dante. However, this end of semester, we are organizing a dinner at **Olivia Italian Eatery at Robina Town Centre for Friday 25th June**. There will be shared pizza and pasta platters. There will be more details and a booking sheet in the Dante rooms very soon. Start getting your classmates organized!

For those of you who have friends interested in Italian classes, information about Semester 2 classes are on the website.

Course Dates for Semester 1 2021

Semester 1

Course concludes - Friday 25th June.

Mid-semester break - 26 June - 11th July.

Semester 2

*Early bird payment ends - Fri 25th June

*Enrolment in our rooms- Tuesday 29th June
5:00-7:00pm

*Classes recommence- the week beginning
Monday 12th July

For further information on September holidays, please see the School Calendar.

End of semester Conversation classes

We regularly receive requests for more oral practice and conversation classes. SO....we will not be having any mini-courses as per usual. We are organizing conversation classes whereby students can pick morning and /or evening sessions. Each teacher will put their own ideas and topics in for discussion. You can do as many as you wish. This information will be available soon and you will be able to sign up both on the website and at the rooms.

Private Classes

Private classes are always available. Please contact me or complete the request form on the website.

Library

The Dante library will reopen in Semester 2.

Semester 2 Prices

Early Bird Special

\$430 for continuing students

\$450 for new students

The early bird special finishes on **Friday 25th June**

Semester price-18 weeks

From Saturday 26th June

\$450 (returning student from Sem 1 2021)

\$470 (new student including membership)

OR paying term by term

Term 1 (10 weeks) **\$300.00**

Term 2 (8 weeks) **\$240.00**

Please add \$20 membership to these prices if new student

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

Enrolments in our rooms

Tuesday 29th June 5.00 – 7.00pm only

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

Or *Email - info@dantegoldcoast.com*

Rita School Director



ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP

As mentioned in previous newsletters, if you are learning Italian to receive your B1 Certificate for Italian Citizenship, below are the dates set by Italian Government for the rest of this year. You need to register with the Brisbane Dante Alighieri Society who supervise these exams.

CALENDARIO ESAMI PLIDA

Mercoledì 16 giugno – B1, B2, C1

Sabato 23 ottobre – A1, A2, B1, B2

Mercoledì primo dicembre – A2, B1

Giovedì 2 dicembre – B2, C1, C2

Alessandro Masi, Segretario Generale della Società Dante Alighieri Sede Centrale, Roma.

Cara Giovanna,

Rispondo volentieri al tuo invito di scrivere qualche riga di saluto per i nostri amici del Comitato di Gold Coast in occasione dell'imminente Festa della Repubblica italiana e nell'anno delle celebrazioni del 700 anniversario della morte di Dante Alighieri. Lo faccio con immensa gioia, credimi. L'anno che stiamo vivendo è il secondo da quando la pandemia ci ha costretti ad isolarci, ad usare strumenti della tecnologia multimediale, a stare lontani, distanziati e a piangere i nostri morti.

Quando il Presidente Andrea Riccardi all'Assemblea dei Soci del 27 marzo 2020 annunciò l'avvio di una piattaforma globale che riunisse tutta la Dante del mondo, tutti pensammo che quello sarebbe stato il nostro vero monumento al Sommo poeta. E così è stato! Esattamente un anno dopo in Palazzo Firenze, sede storica della Società Dante, il Presidente Sergio Mattarella ha dato il primo clic alle nuove pagine della nostra storia, pagine che stavolta dovranno essere scritte su tablet, iPhone, computer, insomma le nuove tabule su cui incidere il nostro futuro. Un futuro per la lingua, con i corsi online, dei docenti, con la formazione e un futuro per Dante.

Ecco proprio su l'Alighieri abbiamo impegnato il massimo delle nostre forze lanciando il progetto del professore Giulio Ferroni, emerito dell'Università La Sapienza di Roma, con il suo libro L'Italia di Dante: 1225 pagine in cui raccontare tutti i luoghi citati da Dante, della sua bella Italia, dalla Sicilia al Trentino. Sarà anche un App per sviluppare a distanza un turismo consapevole e letterario. Insomma una Dante nuova con un cuore antico, è questa che noi doniamo al mondo con l'augurio di rivederci presto e stringerci la mano.

Alessandro Masi

**OPERA - THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO – QPAC BRISBANE – FROM 15TH TO 31ST JULY.
PLAYHOUSE – QPAC BRISBANE. SUNG IN ITALIAN WITH ENGLISH SURTITLES. MUSIC
BY THE QUEENSLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.**

COSTING: FRIDAY TO SUNDAY:

PREMIUM: ADULTS \$165.00
CONCESSIONS & STUDENTS \$149.00
CHILDREN: 83.00
“A RESERVE”: ADULTS \$145.00
CONCESSIONS & STUDENTS \$131
CHILDREN - \$73.00
“B RESERVE”: ADULTS \$105.00
CONCESSION & STUDENTS \$95.00
CHILDREN \$53.00
“C” RESERVE” ADULTS \$75.00
CONCESSION & STUDENTS \$68.00
CHILDREN \$38.00

COSTING: MONDAY TO THURSDAY

ADULTS \$145.00
CONCESSION & STUDENTS \$131
CHILDREN \$73.00

A TRANSACTION FEE OF \$7.20 APPLIES TO EVERY BOOKING. BOOK ONLINE OR CALL 136246

Buon 80mo Compleanno Maria DeSisto Barrett! By *Jon Desisto Barrett (Maria's son)*.

Many of you will know Maria Barrett, but you may not know she's just turned 80 (I know – she acts and looks younger!), or much about her Italian heritage, her family or her pre-retirement achievements. I thought I would pen a few words to tell you a little more about Maria, your Dante friend, to spark some more conversations with her when you see her at your next Dante event.

While Maria has had some small celebrations on the Gold Coast, she decided she wanted her 'big party' in Sydney, where she grew up and spent the first 50 years of her life. Liz (my wife) and I hosted about 50 family, paesani and friends at our house in Northbridge, only a few kilometres from where she grew up in Roseville, but she's travelled so far in between.

Maria grew up in a first generation Italian immigrant family, and she balanced being an Australian-Italian (or an Italian-Australian). Maria's parents, our Nonno and Nonna, Giuseppe Michele & Maria Lucia DeSisto, migrated to Australia in the 1930's and raised five children. Michele DeSisto owned and ran the DeSisto Greengrocer at Roseville. Maria's eldest sibling Margaret, our DeSisto family matriarch, born in Italy, was our special guest at the party and is now 94!

Her parents saw education as key to success in life – both formal and cultural. Maria attended Monte Sant' Angelo College, a Catholic girls high school, and is on the honour board. She went on to Sydney Teachers' College, and became a high school science teacher, married my wonderful father John, and had three children – Jon, Sonia and Damian.

We moved for a few years to America, where Maria not only played mother to three young children, but studied Italian at university and received her Masters degree from the University of Oregon. On return to Australia, Maria continued her passion for teaching and learning, rising to Lecturer in Geography at a Catholic Teachers' College (now the Australian Catholic University). She combined her career with her passion for travel, leading student and group tours in Australia and Asia. I had the pleasure of joining one to China in 1988.

In 1989 my parents moved to the Gold Coast and began their passion for the Gold Coast lifestyle and Maria started her 30 year association with Dante on the Gold Coast! My father Dr. John Barrett was one of the first lecturers at the new Bond University, and professionally Maria made the switch from a university lecturer in Geography to a Real Estate Agent. I said she went from talking about places to selling them. Some of you may have bought or rented Maria's properties!

She also started travelling more, including many trips to Italy and Europe with my father John. Travel and geography have been one of Maria's passions. She's travelled to Europe and Italy many times, as well as Asia, North America, South America and Africa for my brother Damian's wedding. She's visited her ancestral village Raviscanina near Caserta many times, where both her parents were born, most recently with her close friend Teresa Ianni. Ask her about Roma, Sardinia, Lake Como, Filicudi or Siena (where she studied Italian for a month). Almost anywhere in Italy she's visited!

Family is Maria's #1 priority, and lucky for her, two of her children – my sister Sonia and brother Damian - also moved to the Gold Coast, and she's been lucky to have her grandchildren Bronte, William and Sanaa grow up close by. Today, she's Nonna to 6 grandchildren, two step-grandchildren and one step-great-grandchild Summer and Zia to 9 of my cousins, most of whom attended the big birthday party.

Dante Gold Coast has given Maria so much pleasure. A set of Italian-Australian friends in her new home on the Gold Coast. Italian lessons - teaching and learning, participation in the *La Locandiera* play, shared experiences about travelling to Italy, and currently her participation in the *Dante Coro* (choir). My father John has also enjoyed the companionship of Dante and the Italian Club. Let me finish by talking about the party. In these Covid times, it was just so wonderful to have over 40 family, paesani & friends spanning four generations, to come together in person in Sydney! We beat the latest lock-down by just a few days. For the few that couldn't be there in person, we setup a Zoom video call for our relatives across the globe in Munich, Perth, Brisbane and Coffs Harbour! Maria's birthday cake was an Italian 'Primavera' cake from Maggio's Bakery in Cammeray, the best on Sydney's north side – I'll take you there for a *caffè e torta* when you're next in Sydney!

Buon compleanno mia cara mamma

Buon compleanno mia cara mamma.



Maria cutting her 80th Birthday cake.

Jon Desisto Barrett (Maria's son).



Maria with her Dante Alighieri Society Diploma di Benemeranza for her role as Secretary of Dante Gold Coast (2014).



Maria (2nd from the right) in the 'La Locandiera' (The Innkeeper) play (2005).

~~~~~  
(below)

*Maria celebrating her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday with the ladies in the Coro at Elena's place.*



## CORO NEWS

Last week our little group of songbirds gathered together to celebrate Maria Barrett's BIG birthday. What an amazing supportive sisterhood we have become. Ranging in age from 38 to 90 years we have developed strong friendships whilst sharing our love of singing. After a few glasses of Prosecco at the birthday celebration, our singing evolved into dancing to the rhythmic beat of *La Luna Mezz'ò Mare!!* So much laughter: great for the soul. Thank you to Elena Perhard who so graciously hosted the occasion and to all the ladies who brought along the delicious food. Ester's *frittelle* were to die for!

If you feel inclined to join us, remember there are no auditions required. We are very informal and we are more of a sing-along group than a choir. We were delighted to have a new member Catherine join us a few weeks ago. We meet on a Wednesday at 5:30pm for an hour in the Dante classrooms. Feel free to give me a call on 0416167900 if you are interested.

*Virginia Lamb*



*Virginia Lamb with Elena Pherhad*



*Hayley Wills, Deb Heiner, Delia Piccoli  
and Catherine Johnson*

### PATRONATO ITAL –UIL

**Per informazioni contattate:**

**Giuseppina Zanda**

Cellulare - 0413953528

Telefono Ufficio – 33579141

Email:

[brisbane\\_italuil@italuilqld.com.au](mailto:brisbane_italuil@italuilqld.com.au)

### PATRONATO INAS

**Per informazioni contattate:**

3832 1306 / 0402 358 421

Email: [brisbane@inas.com.au](mailto:brisbane@inas.com.au)

**BIGGERA WATERS: CENTRELINK,  
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*Walter Antonucci sent this for the May newsletter but I didn't have space for it. Alessandro Manzoni was an Italian poet and novelist. Among his works was the ode "The Fifth of May" written on the death of Napoleone Bonaparte in 1821. It was translated into many languages but I am leaving it in the original.*

### IL TESTO COMPLETO DEL "5 MAGGIO" DI MANZONI

Ei fu. Siccome immobile,  
dato il mortal sospiro,  
stette la spoglia immemore  
orba di tanto spiro,  
5     così percossa, attonita  
la terra al nunzio sta,  
muta pensando all'ultima  
ora dell'uom fatale;  
né sa quando una simile  
10     orma di piè mortale  
la sua cruenta polvere  
a calpestar verrà.  
Lui folgorante in solio  
vide il mio genio e tacque;  
15     quando, con vece assidua,  
cadde, risorse e giacque,  
di mille voci al sonito  
mista la sua non ha:  
vergin di servo encomio  
20     e di codardo oltraggio,  
sorge or commosso al subito  
sparir di tanto raggio;  
e scioglie all'urna un cantico  
che forse non morrà.  
25     Dall'Alpi alle Piramidi,  
dal Manzanarre al Reno,  
di quel sicuro il fulmine  
teneva dietro al baleno;  
scoppiò da Scilla al Tanai,  
30     dall'uno all'altro mar.  
Fu vera gloria? Ai posteri  
l'ardua sentenza: nui  
chiniam la fronte al Massimo  
Fattor, che volle in lui  
35     del creator suo spirito  
più vasta orma stampar.  
La procellosa e trepida  
gioia d'un gran disegno,  
l'ansia d'un cor che indocile

40     serve pensando al regno;  
e il giunge, e tiene un premio  
ch'era follia sperar;  
tutto ei provò: la gloria  
maggior dopo il periglio,  
morir d'un giorno inerte,  
45     la fuga e la vittoria,  
la reggia e il tristo esiglio;  
due volte nella polvere,  
due volte sull'altar.  
Ei si nomò: due secoli,  
50     l'un contro l'altro armato,  
sommessi a lui si volsero,  
come aspettando il fato;  
ei fe' silenzio, ed arbitro  
s'assise in mezzo a lor.  
55     E sparve, e i dì nell'ozio  
chiuse in sì breve sponda,  
segno d'immensa invidia  
e di pietà profonda,  
d'ineinguibil odio  
60     e d'indomato amor.  
Come sul capo al naufrago  
l'onda s'avvolge e pesa,  
l'onda su cui del misero,  
alta pur dianzi e tesa,  
65     scorrea la vista a scernere  
prode remote invan;  
tal su quell'alma il cumulo  
delle memorie scese!  
Oh quante volte ai posteri  
70     narrar sé stesso imprese,  
e sull'eternità pagine  
cadde la stanca man!  
Oh quante volte, al tacito  
morir d'un giorno inerte,  
75     chinati i rai fulminei,  
le braccia al sen conserte,  
stette, e dei dì che furono  
l'assalse il sovvenir!  
E ripensò le mobili  
80     tende, e i percossi valli,  
e il lampo de' manipoli,  
e l'onda dei cavalli,  
e il concitato imperio,  
e il celere ubbidir.  
85     Ahi! Forse a tanto strazio  
cadde lo spirto anelo,  
e disperò; ma valida  
venne una man dal cielo  
e in più spirabil aere

90     pietosa il trasportò;  
e l'avviò, pei floridi  
sentier della speranza,  
ai campi eterni, al premio  
ai campi eterni, al premio  
che i desideri avanza,  
95     dov'è silenzio e tenebre  
la gloria che passò.  
Bella Immortal! benefica  
Fede ai trionfi avvezza!  
scrivi ancor questo,  
allegati;  
100     ché più superba altezza  
al disonor del Gogota  
giammai non si chinò.  
Tu dalle stanche ceneri  
sperdi ogni ria parola:  
105     il Dio che atterra e  
suscita,  
che affana e che consola,  
sulla deserta coltrice  
accanto a lui posò.

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### \* 10% DISCOUNT ON BREAD FOR DANTE MEMBERS



*They use flour from Italy.*

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