



# DANTE NEWS Gold Coast

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Società Dante Alighieri Gold Coast Inc.

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Members,

August was another busy month for us. On the 1<sup>st</sup> August we had a visit from the Hon. Grace Grace, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Racing, Employment and Industrial Relations. The Minister met committee members, teachers and other Dante members and presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Vilma Andriani and Ester Ceron for their continued help for the Gold Coast Dante Society.

On the 13<sup>th</sup> August I presented the Italian awards at the MLTAQ Speech Contest held at Griffith University Gold Coast Campus. Rita Lo Presti is the Primary Schools Italian Convener. Thank you Rita, for all the work you do and thank you to the Dante members who were judges.

On 20<sup>th</sup> August was the "Matta Mattinata in Macchina" Car Rally organized by June and Gino Moro and Luisa and Maurizio Liussi. Thank you for all your work in organizing this. Thank you to the committee and teachers who helped and most important of all to the students who participated.

During the break there are some mini courses available. These are for all members, whether you are a current student or not. Details on the White Board in aula 1 and on Website.

We will send out a reminder about October events later.

Cordiali saluti,

*Giovanna*



Judy, Anna, Giovanna, Minister Grace, Connie and Gino.

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

**We are also on Instagram**

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

[www.ladante.it/associati](http://www.ladante.it/associati)

**(discounts in Italy for members)**

## DATE CLAIMER 2017

**20 September – 8 October Italian Film Festival**

[www.italianfilmfestival.com.au](http://www.italianfilmfestival.com.au)

**Sunday 8 October – Festitalia**

[www.festitalia.com.au](http://www.festitalia.com.au)

**Saturday 14 October 2 p.m.**

**La Settimana della Lingua Italiana**

**THE GOLD COAST**

**ITALO AUSTRALIAN CLUB**

**18 Fairways Drive, Clear Island Waters**

**Ph: 5575 1966**

[www.italoaustralianclub.com.au](http://www.italoaustralianclub.com.au)

**HOURS: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday**

**11 a.m. – 2p.m. 5 p.m. – 8.30 p.m.**

**Friday 11 a.m. till late**

**Saturday 4 p.m. till late**

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

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## SCHOOL NEWS

Thank you to all the students who participated or came to the Car Rally. It was a gorgeous day and a perfect location. Though I unfortunately could not come, I have heard lots of positive reports.

### ALL NOTICES

It is very important that students take a moment on their break time to personally check out the 'Notizie' in Aula 1 on the whiteboard. Everything that is coming up is advertised there and on the website. Students have been telling us "Oh, I didn't know about that!" though it had been on the whiteboard for weeks! Some events were nearly cancelled as not enough people replied to them.

### Mini-Courses Early September

Martina Medda has put together some Conversational courses for those who need a little extra Italian. \$20 per session

### **Beginners - Intermediate Conversation**

Wednesday 12.30-2.00pm 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Sept  
We are looking for a few more students for this course to go ahead. If interested contact me asap.

### **Advanced Conversation**

Tuesday 10.00-11.30am 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Sept  
Thursday 6.30-8.00pm 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Sept

### Course Dates for Semester 2 2017

September Break 16<sup>th</sup> Sept – 1<sup>st</sup> Oct  
Term 4= 8 weeks  
Course concludes- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November

### Private Classes

*Falling behind? Want some extra tuition??*

Teachers are available during the break for personalized classes. Contact me directly.

*If you have any questions or concerns-  
please call me on 55270797  
or Email- [info@dantegoldcoast.com](mailto:info@dantegoldcoast.com)*

*Rita School Director*

## **Mid-Semester Mini Courses this term**

There are several available:

### **1. Beginners- Intermediate Conversation**

*\$20 per session*

Day class- Wed 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Sept 12.00- 1.30pm

Night class - Wed 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Sept 6.30- 8.00pm



Teacher: Martina Medda

### **2. Advanced Conversation**

*\$20 per session*

Morning Class Wed 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> Sept 10 -11.30am

Night Class - Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Sept 6.30- 8 pm

Teacher: Martina Medda



### **3. SHOW AND TELL –**

*Places you have visited in Italy*

and

*A Journey to the ~~LESS~~ travelled locations in Italy!*

*\$20 per session*

Morning Class Only

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> Sept 10.00- 12.00noon

Teacher: Charlotte Petrucci

For further information go to the website. Please register in Aula 1-Dante rooms, email or ring me.



**LA SETTIMANA DELLA LINGUA ITALIANA**

**NEL MONDO.** This year's theme is:

**"L'ITALIANO AL CINEMA, L'ITALIANO NEL CINEMA".**

**Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> October at 2 p.m. Dante rooms.**

**\*Guest speaker, movie and afternoon tea \$5-00\***

**RSVP – class teachers, write your name on list in**

**Aula 1 or phone Connie Canale on 07 - 55758882**

**L'ANGOLO DELLA POESIA**  
(a cura di Connie Canale)

**PADRE, SE ANCHE TU NON  
FOSSI IL MIO PADRE.**

Padre, se anche tu non fossi il mio  
padre, se anche fossi a me un estraneo,  
per te stesso, egualmente t'amerei.  
Ché mi ricordo d'un mattin d'inverno  
che la prima viola sull'opposto  
muro scopristi dalla tua finestra  
e ce ne desti la novella allegro.  
Poi la scala di legno tolta in spalla  
di casa uscisti e l'appoggiasti al muro.  
Noi piccoli stavamo alla finestra.  
*Camillo Sbarbaro*

**Tanti auguri a tutti i papa'**  
**Domenica 3 Settembre 2017**

**GRIFFITH OPERA ON THE BEACH**  
presents **AIDA** BY GIUSEPPE VERDI

**COOLANGATTA BEACH**

SATURDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER 2017 – 6.30p.m.

DANTE ALIGHIERI GOLD COAST HAS  
OBTAINED 10 only TICKETS FOR THIS EVENT  
IN "A" RESERVE – COST - \$71.00 \* WHICH  
INCLUDES A HIGH-BACKED CHAIR IN A  
RESERVED AREA. BOOKINGS CAN NOW BE  
MADE WITH CONNIE CANALE - PH. 5575 8882  
AND MUST BE PAID AT TIME OF BOOKING.

**\*Please note that there are no refunds once  
ticket is paid for, even if it rains.**

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Web: [www.cmrlawyers.com.au](http://www.cmrlawyers.com.au)

**ITALIAN SPOKEN**

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

**LEARNING A FOREIGN LANGUAGE  
USING SOCIAL MEDIA**

Self-directed learning of a language through social media is a modern methodology, rich with resources, and certainly economic given that much of the material is free. At the same time, however, the information given to the student is sometimes excessive compared to their real need; or it could be limited, the material could be outdated, and grammar is not always explained the same way (depending on the point of view of who creates a blog). In addition, the student becomes a passive figure, very different from their role in a dynamic class. Here, the instructor can assist the student on their learning process and resolve any doubts they may have, for example in finding material which will satisfy their particular needs. In a class situation the student has the opportunity to have constant interaction with other students and this makes the learning more pleasant. There is no doubt that social media can help as an additional resource but it cannot take the place of interaction with real people, like the teacher and other students.

**IMPARARE UNA LINGUA STRANIERA  
ATTRAVERSO I SOCIAL**

L'autoapprendimento linguistico attraverso i social è una metodologia moderna, ricca di risorse e sicuramente economica essendo molti materiali gratuiti. Nello stesso tempo però, le informazioni fornite allo studente sono spesso eccessive rispetto alle sue reali necessità, il materiale è sparso, a volte poco aggiornato e le stesse spiegazioni grammaticali sono imprecise o discutibili (ricordiamoci che chiunque può creare un blog). Inoltre lo studente diventa una figura passiva, ben diversa dal suo ruolo all'interno di una dinamica di classe. Il tutor è una figura determinante nel processo di apprendimento linguistico: assiste lo studente nel suo percorso sia per risolvere un dubbio, sia nel trovare materiale utile che realmente soddisfa le esigenze dello studente. Quest'ultimo ha in classe la possibilità di monitorare il suo percorso di apprendimento e di verificare cosa sa fare. Inoltre l'interazione costante con gli altri studenti rende lo studio più piacevole e divertente.

Concludendo, ben venga il riscontro sui social sin tanto che questo venga considerato come risorsa aggiuntiva di un percorso di conoscenza guidata da una figura non virtuale ma reale qual'è l'insegnante.

**TOTO'**

2017 Marks the 50th anniversary of the death of the Italian actor, best known by his stage name of "Toto". He was nicknamed *il Principe della risata* ("the Prince of laughter"), was an Italian comedian, film and stage actor, writer, and singer-songwriter.

## MATTA MATTINATA IN MACCHINA – Students' comments

Vorrei ringraziare gli organizzatori per aver fatto un grande evento, "Il rally di Dante GC" *Matta Mattinata in Macchina*. Molte persone sono state coinvolte nel giorno e naturalmente nei giorni precedenti.

Avrei dovuto aiutare, cucinando la salsiccia sul BBQ. Però a causa del navigatore (io) non siamo arrivati in tempo. Tante grazie Giovanni e Gino.

È stata un'occasione per incontrare gli studenti delle altre classi, anche alcuni dei loro partner in un modo informale e rilassante. Ringraziamo i cantanti della Dante GC e tutti gli altri che si sono uniti per cantare insieme.

Per questa occasione, Hayley indossava qualcosa di originale, una gonna con i colori dell'Italia su un paio di collant, l'abito di Luisa era di una Jillaro, le ragazze della classe di Astrid erano vestite come gondoliere, molto chic. Le gondoliere hanno ricevuto un regalo per la loro originalità.

Più tardi nel pomeriggio alcune persone hanno preso parte in un gioco di bocce.

E' stata una grande giornata, vi ringrazio di nuovo.

*Peter Mignani*

On Sunday the 20th of August the bi-annual "Matta mattinata in macchina" was held and fun was had by all. 16 teams set off from the Dante at 3 minute intervals, just after 9:30 and had to follow directions that were in Italian and also answer a series of questions along the way. The directions took us on a scenic Sunday drive which eventually led us to Gold Coast Hinterland Regional Park at Mudgeeraba. My team "Il pazzi cantanti" arrived first but as we misinterpreted a few of the questions we were a long way down the winners list. The first place honors went to Maria & Michael Bowker-Perry

Once all the teams arrived we celebrated with a picnic lunch and delicious Italian sausages. The *Dante Cantanti* then led a sing-a-long of some favourite songs such as *Volare* and *That's amore*.

We all enjoyed the sunshine and relaxing atmosphere of the day. I look forward to the next *Matta mattinata in Macchina* and if you couldn't make it this time be sure not to miss it in the future. Molto divertente! *Hayley Wills*

“E' stata una buona giornata”. *Kathy Archibald* “I really enjoyed the day - and was grateful that Kathy joined our car, otherwise we might still be driving around”. *Diana Frost*

Il Dante Car Rally è stato un altro grande evento. Grazie Dante! La giornata è iniziata al parcheggio della Dante. Dopo aver risposto molte domande finalmente siamo arrivate alla nostra destinazione! Jamie, Sue and io abbiamo preso secondo premio - ma solo sui chilometri! Abbiamo poi apprezzato il prosecco, la salsiccia nel panino. Grazie a tutti che hanno contribuito ad organizzare l'evento! *Jan Kinhead*



Best dressed group with the organizers.



Astrid Pennisi with the winners of the "Tartaruga"

**MORE PHOTOS ON THE FACEBOOK PAGE – DANTEGOLDCOAST , INSTAGRAM AND ON OUR WEBSITE: [www.dantegoldcoast.com.au](http://www.dantegoldcoast.com.au)**

### MATTA MATTINATA IN MACCHINA

Domenica 20 agosto, Luisa e Maurizio Liussi insieme a June e Gino Moro hanno organizzato per studenti della Dante Alighieri Gold Coast un rally biennale, con istruzioni preparate appositamente in italiano. Gli studenti dovevano trovare il luogo del picnic, rispondendo a delle domande sul tragitto.

Giunti a destinazione, venivano accolti dagli organizzatori e dai soci della Dante, che avevano preparato un pranzetto con antipasto, verdure e salsicce italiane.

Dopo il pranzo, il coro della Dante ha intrattenuto i presenti cantando canzoni italiane chiedendo la loro partecipazione felicemente accettata.

Gli organizzatori hanno poi premiato i primi tre gruppi che avevano terminato il percorso è che avevano risposto esattamente alle domande preparate.

È stata una bellissima giornata, calda anche se siamo ancora in inverno.

*Anna*

### Matta Matinatta in Macchina

Car Rally held Sunday 20 August - Thank you so much to all who attended our Matta Matinatta in Macchina – it was a wonderful turnout.

From 9.30am Gino & John flagged off 16 cars for the challenge, mystery, and language workout on the road ahead.

With the addition of those who attended just for the picnic we had over 60 to enjoy the secret destination of the Hinterland Regional Park, Hardy's Road, Mudgeeraba.

Thank you Mauri for being up at first light (on a very cold and windy morning) to secure the picnic tables in the park for our group and to flag in the finishing cars and assist marking all the question sheets.

We had a tie for first place with 28/30 questions answered correctly but on a 'count back' on the mileage we were able to announce the winners Maria & Michael Bowker-Perry, and 2<sup>nd</sup> place, also with 28/30 but a few extra miles on the speedometer – Sue Blum, Jamie Howie & Jan Kinkead. CONGRATULATIONS.

3<sup>rd</sup> place groups correctly answered 27.5 – Diana Frost, Deirdre Pullen, Rhonda Carter & Kathy Archibald

'I Quattro d-oro' car of Belinda Sina, Patrizia Simpson, Cristina Grehan & Lyn Kirwan (Astrid's U3A students) did the 30 kilometres the hard way.... Clocking up 61 kilometres in 2 ¼ hours (the rally was 30 kms taking most 1 hour) and even accidentally stumbling across the picnic spot and then continuing the rally – what Troupers!!!. They were awarded the special 'Tartaruga' award.

The best 'Themed Car' went to Diana Frost, Deirdre Pullen, Rhonda Carter & Kathy Archibald – beautifully decked out as 'I gondolieri'.

We enjoyed great companionship, food & singing at a lovely picnic spot – thank you to the Choir – Cantanti Danti for putting Italianess into the air.

Thank you to Connie Canale, Anna Domaneschi & all who helped with food preparation and John & Gino for being BBQ Chefs.

Once again a special thanks to the Dante members & guests who participated in the day.

*June & Luisa*



1<sup>ST</sup>



2<sup>ND</sup>

## NOTABLE AUSTRALIANS OF ITALIAN HERITAGE ( 8 )

### PIETRO PAOLO GIOVANNI ERNESTO BARACCHI (1851-1926)

Pietro Baracchi was an astronomer who was born in Florence, Italy, in 1851, the son of Giovanni Battista, an Army Officer, and mother Anna. He was educated in Florence where he studied mathematics and astronomy. He also studied civil engineering, and worked for a while in the Italian Army as an engineer.

In 1876 with his friends Carlo Catani \* and Ettore Cecchi \*, he decided to migrate to New Zealand due to few work prospects in Italy at that time. In New Zealand, however there was little work in their professions, so having heard of more opportunities in Australia they decided to migrate to Melbourne. Within a few weeks all three friends had found jobs within the Victorian Public Service, Baracchi as an assistant at the Melbourne Observatory, and his friends with the Department of Lands and Survey.

The following year Baracchi joined his friends at the Victorian Public Service as a draftsman. In 1880, he passed his land surveyor's exam and in 1882 was transferred back to the Observatory. The then Government astronomer R.L. Ellery selected him to go to Port Darwin to take part in a project to determine Australian longitudes. After completing this task, he returned to Melbourne in 1883 and then became third assistant in charge of the Great Melbourne Telescope, undertaking a review of the Southern Nebulae. In Melbourne, he met Catherine Petty – who came from a well to do family - and married her in 1886. They had one son Guido.

In 1892 Baracchi was promoted to first assistant, and when Ellery retired in 1895 he became acting Government astronomer. But a difficult time was ahead as his position was not confirmed until 1900 nor was a chief assistant appointed to replace Ellery until 1907. Baracchi lamented that there was only a small band of four carrying out all meridian and astro-photographic work with no funds to publish the Observatory's records. The public knew Baracchi as the official weather- forecaster for the colony. 'Popular meteorology was of little practical value except as an amusement and of doubtful credit to science' he would say of this period.

In 1902, he supported the opinion that meteorological work carried out by astronomical observatories should be placed under Commonwealth control, and that the observatories relieved of these duties should remain independent State institutions. In 1906 the Meteorology Act gave control of weather services to the Commonwealth and in 1907 the Melbourne Observatory was freed of its meteorological function.

In 1910 the Commonwealth government invited Baracchi, with four others, to the Yass/Canberra area to select a suitable site for an astronomical observatory. With a 9inch refractor donated by J. Oddie, Baracchi established a small observatory on Mount Stromlo in May 1911. He and a colleague named Baldwin, alternately spent one week in six testing the site until May 1913. A month later Baracchi reported that it fulfilled the most essential requirements for any class of delicate astronomical work. He led expeditions to observe solar eclipses to Bruny Island, to Tasmania in 1910, and in 1911 to the Tongan Archipelago. In 1914, he wrote a chapter in "Astronomy and Geodesy in Australia" for the Federal Handbook of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

Pietro Baracchi was elected a fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1884, and in 1897 Italy appointed him a "Commander of the Order of the Crown of Italy". After that Baracchi was referred to as "Commendatore". He had become an Australian citizen in 1895, and a Member of the Royal Society of Victoria in 1887, president 1908-1909, and trustee 1914-1922. Ellery had written of him "Baracchi's attainments in all branches of science involved in Observatory work are of the highest order".

Baracchi retired in 1922, went back to visit Europe for two years, and then returned to Melbourne. He died in Melbourne 1926. His only son Guido Baracchi (1887-1975) was a foundation member of the Communist Party of Australia.

\* Carlo Capitani's story in coming editions of Dante Newsletter.

\* Ettore Cecchi's story in coming editions of Dante Newsletter.

*Connie Canale.*