

# Canberra

# Dante

# Review

*"To preserve and disseminate Italian language and culture"*

*July - August 2013*

ISSN 1441-8592 Periodico bimestrale del Comitato di Canberra della Società Dante Alighieri

2nd Floor Notaras Multicultural Centre 180 London Circuit Canberra City ACT 2601

Ph: 02 6247 1884 Email: [dantecanberra@ozemail.com.au](mailto:dantecanberra@ozemail.com.au) Web page: [www.dantecanberra.org.au](http://www.dantecanberra.org.au)

## Regular Events

**Conversation groups  
on Thursdays 7-9 pm**

**Term 2 ends on 1 August**

**Conversation sessions  
preceded by  
Dante Musica Viva  
rehearsals 5-7 pm**

### Inside

- News from the office 2
- Modi di dire 3  
*Francesca Foppoli*
- L'angolo della lingua 3  
*Yvette Devlin*
- L'angolo della poesia 4  
*Yvette Devlin*
- Cenno storico 5  
*Yvette Devlin*
- Frescoes and painting 6  
techniques in Italian art  
presented by A. Giovine  
*Yvette Devlin*
- Calendar of activities 8
- Casual vacancy position 8
- Ferragosto in Italia 9  
*Alessia La Cavera*
- San Gennaro, aiutaci tu! 10  
*Yvette Devlin*
- Cinepizza 11
- La Festa della Repubblica 12  
*Yvette Devlin*
- President's Report to AGM 13  
*Franco Papandrea*
- Enrolment form for Term 3 14
- 2013 Membership 16

**One of the greatest  
Italian painters is**

**TIZIANO VECELLI  
(TITIAN)**

**who lived and worked in Venice  
in the 16th century**

**His life and works are the subject  
of a presentation by**

**GORDON BULL**  
**Head of the School of Art, ANU**

**8 pm Thursday 18 July**  
**Function Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Notaras Multicultural Centre**  
**180 London Cct (entry via Civic Square)**

# News from the Office

## TO ALL MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE

The Dante Alighieri Society of  
Canberra Inc. office hours are:

**From 10:30am to 2:00pm  
Tuesday to Friday**

On Monday the Office will remain closed.  
We apologise for any inconvenience.

For enquiries please call the office on 6247 1884  
or visit our website:  
[www.dantecanberra.org.au](http://www.dantecanberra.org.au)

## LIBRARY

The Dante library is  
open during office hours.

It includes the following sections:  
Reading, Education, Literature, Youth,  
Geography, History, Art, Music, Cinema

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**President:** Professor Franco Papandrea

**Vice-Presidents:** Yvette Devlin; Sue Hancock

**Treasurer:** Mario Rosi

**Secretary:** Davide Lucchetti

**Committee members:** Vittorio Beltracchi,  
Cellina Benassi, Francesca Foppoli,  
Orlando Di Iulio, Nicola Patini

*Journal Editor:* Yvette Devlin

*Note:* The journal editor wishes to  
acknowledge the assistance of Alessia  
of the Dante office in compiling this issue.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| 4 July     | Conversation groups   |
| 5 July     | Cinepizza (see p. 11)   |
| 11 July    | Conversation groups   |
| 18 July    | Conversation groups, then<br>Gordon Bull on Tiziano (see p.1) |
| 25 July    | Conversation groups   |
| 30-31 July | Formal classes end (term 2)                                   |
| 1 August   | Conversations groups  |
| August     | Term break  |

## REMINDER ABOUT CONVERSATION EVENINGS

Numbers attending conversation evenings  
have been dwindling recently. Perhaps it's sea-  
sonal (are you hibernating?), perhaps there are  
other reasons. I would like to know if there is  
something new/different we can do to get you  
back.

Meanwhile, may I remind you that if you have  
not paid the \$100 fee for the year or \$40 fee for  
a full term, you need to write your name on an  
envelope and place the \$5 inside as a token fee  
for *ad hoc* attendance. Envelopes are in a box  
near the coffee counter.

See you on Thursday evenings!

Yvette Devlin

Vice- President

## Modi di dire

### *Sayings*

di Francesca Foppoli

---

**Green: the colour of hope, youth and nature... mostly...**

La città ha lasciato un'area verde dove è proibito costruire.

*The city set aside an urban open space where no development is allowed.*

Numero verde 1800 800 800. Siamo a vostra disposizione 24 ore su 24.

*Call toll-free – 1800 800 800. We are there for you 24 hours a day.*

Hai un giardino meraviglioso; devi proprio avere il pollice verde.

*You have an amazing garden; you must have the green thumb.*

La Carta Verde è la carta sconto dedicata ai giovani di età compresa tra i 12 e i 26 anni non compiuti.

*The Green Card is a discount card for young people between 12 and 25 years of age.*

Disco verde dal Consiglio comunale per il nuovo progetto.

*Green light by the Council for the new project.*

In Italia, tutte le auto prodotte a partire dal 1994 utilizzano la benzina verde (senza piombo).

*In Italy, cars manufactured from 1994 onwards use unleaded petrol.*

Quando mi ha visto guidare la mia nuova Ferrari, Marco è diventato verde dall'invidia.

*When he saw me driving my new Ferrari, Marco became green with envy.*

Non posso uscire questa sera, sono al verde.

*I can't go out tonight, I am broke.*



## L'angolo della lingua

### *Language Corner*

di Yvette Devlin

---

Let's look at a few words that are similar in both languages but in fact have different meanings.

*To joke* in Italian is *fare degli scherzi*, *scherzare* and not *giocare*, which means *to play*. However, if you play a game it is indeed *giocare* (eg *Maria likes to play cards* = *a Maria piace giocare alle carte*) but if you play an instrument it is *suonare*. For ex: *i loro due figli suonano bene il pianoforte* = *their two children play the piano well*.



The English word *attitude* is translated as *atteggiamento* and not *attitudine*, which means *aptitude or skills*. Note these two examples: *I don't like her attitude* – *she's too negative* = *non mi piace il suo atteggiamento* – *è troppo negativa* compared with *Gianna ha una vera attitudine per il disegno* – *Gianna has real aptitude/ skill for drawing*.

Finally, the Italian word *bravo* means *clever*, *good at something* but can also mean *well behaved* eg *Oggi Pierino è stato molto bravo: ha aiutato la maestra ed ha risposto a tutte le domande di geografia che gli aveva fatto* = *Today Pierino was a good/clever boy: he helped the teacher and answered all of her geography questions*. On the other hand, the English word *brave* is translated with *coraggioso*, eg *the soldier had been very brave in distracting the enemy while his injured friend was being rescued* = *il soldato è stato molto coraggioso nel distrarre il nemico mentre il suo amico ferito veniva salvato*.

# L'angolo della poesia

## *Poetry Corner*

### di Yvette Devlin

---



Leonardo Sinisgalli founded and managed the magazine *Civiltà delle Macchine* (1953-1959), and was a member of the *Scuola Romana*. He also created two documentaries which consecutively won the Biennale di Venezia awards and edited radio broadcasting programs

Let's have a look at a 20th century poet, **Leonardo Sinisgalli**. Born in Basilicata in 1908, he studied engineering in Rome then worked in Milan on architectural and graphic design projects. He became a close friend of the poet Giuseppe Ungaretti and published several poetry collections between 1927 and 1978. His images and metaphors are drawn from nature. Sinisgalli was also a painter and was interested in philosophy and science: he analysed existentialism vis-à-vis realism and explored the scientific culture of the day. Sinisgalli died in Rome in 1981.

The following poem is taken from the collection *I saw the muses* translated by Rina Ferrarelli.

#### *Eri dritta e felice*

Eri dritta e felice  
sulla porta che il vento  
apriva alla campagna.  
Intrisa di luce  
stavi ferma nel giorno,  
al tempo delle vespe d'oro  
quando al sambuco  
si fanno dolci le midolla.  
Allora s'andava scalzi  
per i fossi, si misurava l'ardore  
del sole dalle impronte  
lasciate sui sassi.

#### *You stood straight and happy*

You stood straight and happy  
at the door the wind  
opened to the countryside.  
Drenched in light  
poised in the day,  
at the time of golden wasps  
when the elder's marrow  
sweetens.  
We walked barefoot  
through the ditches then,  
we measured the sun's  
heat by the prints  
left on the rocks.

#### ITALIAN LANGUAGE COURSES

The Dante Alighieri Society of Camerino  
(Marche region) offers Australian students  
discounts of up to 46% on their 2013 courses prices.

For only 922 Euros, you could have  
a four-week language and culture course,  
accommodation, cultural visits etc.  
Excellent value!

If you intend to travel to Italy for an intensive  
course, contact the office for further details



# Cenno storico

## *A bit of history*

### di Yvette Devlin

---

**The sack of Rome** by the Visigoths took place on 24 August 410 and marks the symbolic ending of the Western Roman Empire. Most historians, however, place the ending of this empire in 476 when emperor Romulus Augustus was forced to abdicate to the Germanic leader Odoacer. (The Eastern Roman Empire, at the time known simply as the Roman Empire, continued until 1453 when Constantinople fell to the Ottoman Turks).

The **Visigoths** were one of the nomadic tribes of Germanic people who started spreading in Europe during the late Roman Empire. Under Alaric I the Visigoths invaded Italy and sacked Rome after which they began settling first in southern France (then called Gaul) and subsequently in Spain and Portugal where they founded the Kingdom of the Visigoths.

\*\*\*

Il **sacco di Roma** da parte dei Visigoti ebbe luogo il 24 agosto 410 e segna la fine simbolica dell'Impero Romano d'Occidente. Secondo gli storici, però, la fine di questo impero avvenne nel 476 quando l'imperatore Romolo Augusto dovette abdicare a favore del capo germanico Odoacre. (L'Impero Romano d'Oriente, allora conosciuto semplicemente come 'l'Impero Romano', continuò fino al 1453 quando Costantinopoli fu conquistata dai turchi ottomani).

---

The eagles on these fibulae from the 6th century were a popular symbol among the Visigoths and Goths



Sack of Rome by the Visigoths  
on 24 August 410 by Joseph-Noël Sylvestre

---

I **Visigoti** erano una delle tribù nomadiche del popolo germanico che iniziò ad espandersi in Europa durante il periodo finale dell'Impero Romano. Sotto Alarico I i Visigoti invasero l'Italia e saccheggiarono Roma. Cominciarono poi ad occupare altre parti d'Europa, prima nel sud della Francia (allora chiamata Gallia) e poi in Spagna e Portogallo dove fondarono il Regno dei Visigoti.

# Frescoes and painting techniques in Italian art

## *A presentation by Alessandro Giovine*

by Yvette Devlin

---

Italy's art treasures are one of the main attractions for overseas visitors, including our own Dante members. Therefore it seemed logical to take advantage of the posting at the embassy of Alessandro Giovine who not only loves to draw and paint but is also passionate about art theory and technique.

His passion and knowledge were on display Thursday 20 June when he outlined for us developments in oil painting and frescoes across the centuries. To illustrate these developments, he used images of actual artworks many of which are among the best known and most loved. Over forty people enjoyed his presentation.

Alessandro started with the **Renaissance** period when artists concentrated on naturalism and classical art. He gave us an intensive course in art practice, covering the mixing of pigments with either egg (giving tempera) or oil; the use of wood (heavier, less easily transportable) and canvas (more flexible) as a painting surface; primary colours; the use of 'verdaccio' (a greenish layer particularly suitable as an underlay before painting skin tones) and glazing (a succession of

thin layers over 'verdaccio').

We learnt that the use of oil on canvas had descended from the Netherlands to Venice, where it was eagerly adopted, and had then moved down to Florence.

Alessandro stressed that an important feature of the Renaissance style was the sketch before the application of the paint (ie there was no improvisation). We were shown sketches and paintings by Leonardo (including the famous *Mona Lisa* as we know it) and Raffaello (including the fresco *The School of Athens*). Interestingly, he told us that Leonardo – the genius – left many of his paintings unfinished because he would get quickly bored with them and was keen to move on to something new.

Towards the end of the Renaissance a new technique was adopted – 'a corpo' – in which a thicker amount of paint was placed on the canvas. Tiziano was one of the first adopters as he did not like glazing, which required more time and patience than he had.

In the **Baroque** period the Catholic Church be-



Dante members who enjoyed the art presentation

# Frescoes and painting techniques in Italian art

## *A presentation by Alessandro Giovine*

by Yvette Devlin

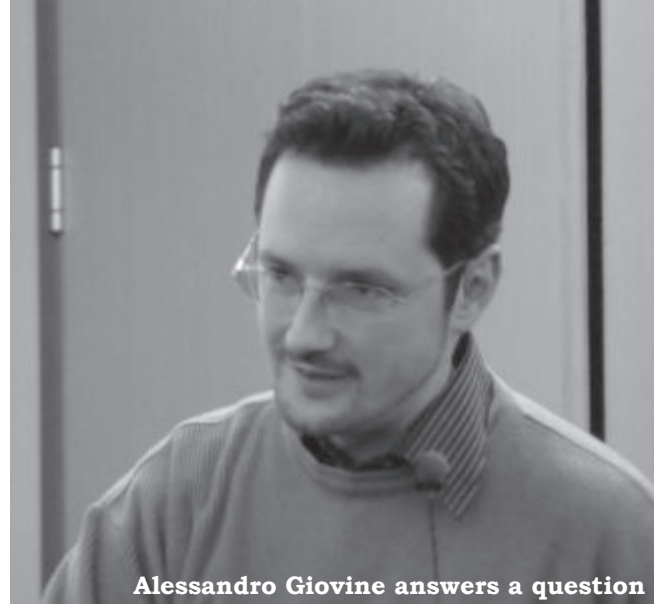
---

came a major promoter of art that expressed feelings therefore paintings of this period portrayed drama, action, energy and emotion. This was the period in which Caravaggio painted in his typical 'chiaroscuro' style, with the light reaching the subjects from holes in the ceiling or walls while the windows were covered. Paintings became very large and, being painted in separate section, were then sewn together. The technique 'alla prima' developed in this period. It required all paint to be put on canvas at the same time rather than layering. This technique produced great results but only very good painters could handle it.

Alessandro then spoke about **frescoes** in which the artist paints on fresh plaster. The most famous fresco artist is Michelangelo who, being a sculptor rather than a painter, portrayed powerful, muscular figures. We were shown what is arguably the best known piece of Italian art – Michelangelo's *Last Judgment* which is behind the Sistine Chapel altar.

We were told that there are four steps in fresco paintings: select a dry stone surface; place a grainy layer of mortar (arriccio); apply fresh plaster (intonaco); and finally apply a strong thick layer of colour. Alessandro explained that the chemical reaction happens in three hours therefore the painter needs to work very fast. In order to deal with very large works, the area is divided into segments and the same process is followed in each of these parts. To deal with the conjunction lines, tempera is often used to even up the finished work.

Alessandro then focussed on Leonardo's *Last Supper* (*L'ultima cena*) which is found on a refectory wall in Milan and is seriously damaged. Leonardo, who liked to experiment, had used tempera (with egg) and oil on two layers (gesso and intonaco) on the wall instead of fresh plaster. Additionally, he had added a wax as he expected the painting to be moved elsewhere. We



learnt that egg and oil as media are porous when dry; steam, coming from the refectory kitchen, entered the miniscule cavities and froze in Milan's cold winters and turned to water in summer, while dust and wax acted like a cork, trapping humidity. This meant that the volume of water in the cavities varied throughout the seasons, leading to the destruction of the painting. (Alessandro explained that this work is not strictly a fresco – "not all that's on walls is a fresco", he stressed). There are nine documented restorations of *The Last Supper*, the last one in 1999. There is now agreement that no further restoration of Leonardo's great work should be attempted, just preservation by ensuring the room has filtered air and no dust particles can further damage it.

Alessandro finished his presentation by showing photos of a contemporary artist – the Russian Oleg Supereco – in the process of painting frescoes in the Cathedral of Noto, Sicily. We saw how the large areas he was covering were being painted in small segments to cope with the rapidly drying plaster.

Alessandro answered comprehensively all questions put to him, demonstrating amazing knowl-

## **DANTE ALIGHIERI SOCIETY OF CANBERRA 2013 CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES**

### **FORMAL COURSES (6-8 pm Italo-Australian Club in Forrest or Dante Library, NMC, Civic)**

- Term 1    Tues 12 /Wed 13 Feb to Tues 16/Wed 17 Apr (10 wks then a 5-wk break to 21/22 May incl)  
Term 2    Tues 28/Wed 29 May to Tues 30/Wed 31 Jul (10 wks then a 5-wk break to 3 Sept incl)  
Term 3    Tues 10/Wed 11 Sept to Tues 12/Wed 13 Nov (10 wks)

### **THURSDAY CONVERSATION GROUPS (7-9 pm Function Room NMC, Civic)**

- Term 1    14 Feb to 18 Apr (10 wks then 5-wk break - 25 Apr; 2, 9, 16, 23 May)  
Term 2    30 May to 1 Aug (10 wks then 5-wk break - 8, 15, 22, 29 Aug; 5 Sept)  
Term 3    12 Sept to 14 Nov (10 wks). Total: 30 weeks

### **CULTURAL ACTIVITIES (8-9 pm Function Room, NMC, Civic)**

- 7 March    Gino Moliterno (Boccaccio's place in Italian literature)  
18 April    Gino Moliterno (Boccaccio's *Decameron* in Pasolini's film)  
20 June    Alessandro Giovine (Frescoes and painting techniques across the centuries)  
18 July    Gordon Bull (Tiziano) TBC  
19 Sept    Concetta Perna (Italian culture and the image of Italy in the foreign press)  
17 Oct    Chris Latham (Opera: the essential Italian art form)  
21 Nov    End-of year function: Dante Musica Viva; cooking competition; refreshments

**AGM (8-9 pm Function Room, NMC, Civic): 4 April**

**CHOIR REHEARSALS (5-7 pm Function Room, NMC, Civic): every Thurs from 24 Jan to 12 Dec.**

### **PUBLIC HOLIDAYS**

**Easter:** Good Friday on 29 March; Easter Monday 1 April / **Anzac Day:** Thursday 25 April

Notes: NMC = Notaras Multicultural Centre

This year we have ten full weeks of conversation in Term 3, with final event a week later.

## **The DANTE ALIGHIERI SOCIETY OF CANBERRA**

has a **casual vacancy** for an

### **ADMINISTRATOR**

available for **two days a week** (10.30 am – 2 pm)

**\$27 ph plus super**

Admin work includes: dealing with correspondence, members, students, teachers; managing databases and maintaining statistical tables; accepting payments; updating the website.

**Skills req.:** Word, Excel, Access, Publisher; reasonable Italian

**Enquiries:** 6247 1884 (Dante), 6254 9171 (Cellina) or

[dantecanberra@ozemail.com.au](mailto:dantecanberra@ozemail.com.au)



# Ferragosto in Italia

## *The 15th August in Italy*

di Alessia La Cavera

---

Nata come festa pagana istituita dall'imperatore Ottaviano Augusto (la parola deriva dal latino *Feriae Augusti* – ferie di Augusto), le origini del Ferragosto risalgono al 18 secolo a.C.

A quei tempi, per festeggiare la ricorrenza, era tradizione organizzare corse con i cavalli ed animali da tiro che venivano risparmiati dal lavoro ed abbelliti con fiori e decorazioni; alcune di queste tradizioni, come il Palio dell'Assunta di Siena, sono sopravvissute nel corso dei secoli; altre, invece, sono andate perdute.

In Lombardia e in Piemonte, ad esempio, fino ai primi decenni del XX secolo era solito “*dare il ferragosto*” che consisteva nel donare emolumenti in denaro o in beni commestibili alle maestranze [dipendenti, lavoratori], da parte dei datori di lavoro, in modo che le famiglie potessero trascorrere lietamente il giorno di Ferragosto.

Nei cantieri edili, verso la fine di luglio, veniva fissato dai muratori un grande ramo d'albero sulla parte più elevata del fabbricato in costruzione, detta *pianta del faravóst*, che serviva scherzosamente a ricordare all'impresario l'imminente esborso della tradizionale mancia.

A Torino, fino alla metà del XX secolo, molti cittadini si recavano per pranzare nei ristoranti o al sacco [picnic] nei parchi in riva al Po adiacenti la chiesa della Madonna del Pilone. Tale usanza era chiamata “*Festa dele pignate a la Madona dél Pilòn*”, ossia “*Festa delle pentole alla Madonna del Pilone*”.

Ciò che di sicuro non è andato perduto è lo spirito con cui oggi si trascorre il giorno di Ferragosto. Non importa se al mare, in montagna o al lago: a prescindere dalla meta, il 15 agosto è infatti l'occasione per trascorrere nel più assoluto relax questa giornata.

È praticamente impossibile tenere il conto di tutte le sagre, gli spettacoli, i concerti e i mercati che si tengono su e giù per la Penisola. Cosa scegliere con un simile ventaglio di possibilità? Meglio una gita in battello o un torneo di castelli di sabbia come quello organizzato lo scorso anno in riva all'Arno? A Roma, sempre lo scorso anno, non c'era che l'imbarazzo della scelta: tra picnic in pineta, tintarella sulla spiaggia libera di Ostia e musei (quasi tutti) gratis, i romani hanno potuto trascorrere un Ferragosto all'insegna del low cost. Sono perlopiù gratis anche i concerti che si susseguono sulle piazze principali delle città e i dibattiti pubblici sui temi i più svariati organizzati pensando a chi, volente o nolente, è rimasto in città.

E sarà poi vero che “*a Ferragosto si mangiano i piccioni arrosto*”, così come recita il famoso detto popolare? Più o meno: se è vero che il piatto tradizionale del pranzo di Ferragosto era il piccione arrostito, è altrettanto vero che oggi questa usanza sopravvive soltanto in alcune zone d'Italia. In Sicilia, sempre in tema di tradizioni culinarie, si usa preparare il ‘*gelu di meluna*’ decorato con foglie di limone e fiori di gelsomino, mentre a Roma il piatto tradizionale è il pollo in umido con peperoni, spesso preceduto dalle fettuccine ai fegatelli e seguito da cocomero ben freddo. Insomma: ce n'è per tutti i gusti e per tutti i palati!



# San Gennaro, patrono di Napoli e della Campania

di Yvette Devlin

---

Questa è una simpatica barzelletta trovata da Julia Church, socio della Dante che ha vissuto per due anni a Napoli e che ama quella città e la sua gente. Julia afferma che, come dimostrato da questa barzelletta, anche i santi possono essere competitivi. Si potrebbe aggiungere che possono essere anche birichini, soprattutto se vengono dalla parte opposta dell'Italia!

Un napoletano vive in un sottotetto. Un giorno l'abitazione prende fuoco. Il napoletano urla: "San Gennaro, San Gennaro, aiutami tu!".



Dall'alto compare una figura: "Ciro, apri la finestra e lanciati di sotto".

"Ma San Gennaro, e come posso salvarmi così?".

"Fidati, ti salverò io con la mia mano".

Allora, si lancia dalla finestra, ma si sfracella al suolo.

Arrivato in Paradiso, San Pietro gli dice: "Ma, che ci fai qui? Ti aspettavamo tra vent'anni." E, lui: "È colpa di San Gennaro: la

mia casa ha preso fuoco, lui mi ha detto di buttarmi, ma non mi ha afferrato come promesso!".

San Pietro è perplesso. Allora porta, lui, nella stanza dei santi e gli dice di indicare San Gennaro. E, lui: "Eccolo, è lui!".

San Pietro va verso il santo e gli dice: "Ambrogio di Milano, quand'è che la smetti di fare scherzi ai terroni?!".

[Ed: "terroni" = people from Southern Italy. People from the North are jokingly referred to as "polentoni" because they eat polenta. "Smetterla di fare qualcosa" means to stop/quit/cease doing something].

---

**Siamo lieti di presentarvi Oscar Sofò,  
un giovane lettore (forse il più giovane???)  
della nostra newsletter!**



# **Cinepizza**

## **Pizza e cinema italiano**

**1st floor, Italo-Australian Club  
Franklin Street, Forrest**

### **5 July Happy family**

*Comedy (2010) - Gabriele Salvatores*

**Two 16 yo are determined to marry against the wishes of their neurotic families.  
These are characters in a story being created by a Milanese writer.  
With Margherita Buy, Fabio de Luigi and Diego Abatantuono**

### **13 September La prima cosa bella**

*Drama (2010) - Paolo Virzi*

**A young mother (Stefania Sandrelli) wins a beauty contest with negative consequences. Her son Bruno reconciles with her 30 years later as she's close to death**

### **Organised by**

**Accademia Italiana della Cucina,  
Dante Alighieri Society of Canberra and Italo-Australian Club**

### **Time**

**7 pm for pizza and conversation (in Italian if you wish) followed by film at 8 pm**

### **Price**

**\$ 25 for pizza, a drink (beer, wine or coffee) plus the movie**

***Bookings essential* by cob previous day - to have the pizza ready on arrival**



### **Advise**

**ceo@italoclub.com.au,  
raffaeleianizzotto@gmail.com  
or  
yvette\_devlin@iprimus.com.au**



**Put this date in your diary**

**7 pm Friday 25 October at the Italo-Australian Club**

**ITALIAN TRIVIA**

**Food, prizes, lots of fun**

**More details in our next newsletter**

# **Celebrata la Festa della Repubblica**

## ***Italy's National Day***

### **di Yvette Devlin**

---

Domenica 2 giugno la comunità italiana si è incontrata al Centro Culturale Italiano di Forrest per celebrare la festa nazionale – il 67esimo anniversario della Repubblica.

Frutto della collaborazione di alcune associazioni italiane della capitale che avevano messo in vendita cibo, caffè, dolci e biscotti oltre che caldarroste e pizza, gli organizzatori della festa (il ComItEs e il Centro Culturale) avevano organizzato anche dell'intrattenimento. Per primo, si sono esibiti in due canzoncine italiane i bambini che studiano l'italiano con la scuola del sabato; poi ha ballato la tarantella un gruppo di bambini di origine calabrese; ed infine si è esibito il coro Dante Musica Viva con l'Inno di Mameli seguito da nove brani di cui due arie, quattro canzoni napoletane, due friulane ed una calabrese. Come al solito, il pubblico ha molto apprezzato la nostra performance e dal canto suo il coro è sempre felice di promuovere la cultura musicale italiana a manifestazioni come questa.

La giornata al Centro Culturale era iniziata con due brevi discorsi: uno (in inglese) da parte di Alessandro Giovine in rappresentanza dell'ambasciata, e l'altro (in italiano) da parte di Vicki Dunne dell'ACT Legislative Assembly. Brava Vicki!



Mario Donda (Ass. Giuliani), Cellina Benassi (Fed. Anziani e Pensionati) e Nicola Patini (Dante Alighieri) alla bancarella informativa

Poi il 4 giugno all'ambasciata d'Italia c'è stato il ricevimento ufficiale per rappresentanti del governo australiano, del corpo diplomatico, del mondo degli affari, della comunità italiana ecc. Oltre 250 persone erano presenti a questa celebrazione che era iniziata con due brindisi: uno al presidente e al popolo italiano, e l'altro alla regina e al popolo australiano. L'ambasciatore ha colto l'occasione per sottolineare i forti legami tra i due paesi soprattutto negli scambi commerciali precisando che il valore di questi scambi nel 2012 è stato di ben 6,2 miliardi di dollari. Ha pure menzionato che ci sono 320,000 persone che studiano l'italiano in Australia. Di questi, solo una piccola percentuale è di origine italiana.



**Il Coro Dante Musica Viva canta l'Inno di Mameli**



# **Dante Alighieri Society:**

## **President's Report for AGM 2013**

**by Franco Papandrea**

---

I am pleased to provide a report to members on the Dante Alighieri Society's activities in 2012. The past year has been one of consolidation for our Society. We have had to devote considerable efforts to ensure a close alignment between our operating costs and our reduced revenues following the loss of support from the Italian government. Our enrolments were also lower, further reducing our revenues. As part of our action to realign revenues and costs we reluctantly introduced a very modest fee for those attending conversation groups. I am pleased to report that our efforts were effective and enabled us to conclude the year with a reasonably balanced outcome.

Looking forward, we do not anticipate the situation will improve in the year ahead. Our initial enrolments for this year are somewhat lower than those in the first term last year. But we are confident that with careful and prudent management of our operations the Society will be able to operate successfully and continue to provide a rich program of activities for the benefit of members. Those of you attending grammar classes or conversation groups may have noticed that we are no longer providing free copies of the Italian language newspaper, *La Fiamma*. We were able to do this for several years because of a generous sponsorship arrangement with Italian Media Corporation, the publishers of the newspaper. Unfortunately, like us, they too have had to absorb a cut in support from the Italian government and consequently have advised us of their inability to continue with the arrangement at least for the time being. I take this opportunity to publicly express our gratitude to Italian Media Corporation for their generous support to the Society.

Another change introduced earlier this year has been the relocation of our grammar classes from Telopea Park School to the Italo-Australian Club on a trial basis. Following our evaluation of the trial we will determine whether this can

become a permanent arrangement. A major factor motivating the trial is our desire to better align our activities with those of other major Italian community organisations and enhance benefits to our members through the consequential synergies.

The monthly cultural program organised over the past year offered an attractive and appealing range of activities and was well attended by members. A similar program has been planned for this year. Last year we were also the host of the National Conference of the Dante Alighieri Societies of Australia.

Thanks to the efforts of its organisers, musicians and members the success of our Choir continues unabated and acts as a wonderful ambassador for the Society at its many public performances. I take this opportunity to congratulate the Choir for its excellent performance in gaining first place in the ACT multicultural and community choir section at the 2012 National Eisteddfod.

The Society is well served by the dedicated group of people that serve on the Committee. Each and every one of them makes a substantial contribution to the management of the Society's affairs. In particular I thank our two vice presidents Yvette Devlin and Sue Hancock and our Treasurer Mario Rosi for their efforts and dedication to the Society. I also thank the other members of the Committee, Franco and Francesca Foppoli, Cellina Benassi, Vittorio Beltracchi and Orlando di Iulio for their help and support in the management of the Society.

I would also like to acknowledge the support of our formal class teachers and particularly of our volunteer conversation group leaders and of our office staff.

Last, but not least, I thank all the members of the Society for their continued support of the Society's efforts in Canberra.

Receipt No.....



**ENROLMENT FORM FOR TERM 3 2013**  
**COMMENCING SEPTEMBER 10, 2013**  
**ENROLMENTS CLOSE WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 4, 2013**

(NB: Students must be financial members of the Dante Alighieri Society of Canberra)

**PLEASE SELECT COURSE LEVEL**

- ☐ **Beginner 1**    ☐ **Beginner 2**    ☐ **Beginner 3**    ☐ **Beginner 4**
- ☐ **Pre-intermediate**    ☐ **Intermediate**    ☐ **Advanced**

Larger classes are held at the **Italo-Australian Club** (Corner National Cct & Franklin Street, Forrest)  
and smaller classes in the **Dante Alighieri Library** (London Cct, City) and consist of 10x2 hour sessions

Inquiries: Office - Tuesday to Friday from 10:30 am to 2:00 pm Ph: 6247 1884

**Surname and Given Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **Postcode** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Numbers** \_\_\_\_\_ (h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_ (mob)

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about this course? ☐ Newspaper ☐ Internet ☐ Friend/Family ☐ Previous Course ☐ Other

**Full course fee: \$260.00**

**Discounted course fee: \$234.00 (CONTINUING STUDENTS)**

**Textbook for Beginners and Pre-intermediate: *Italian Espresso 1*, \$70.00**

**Textbook for Intermediate and Advanced: *Italian Grammar in Practice*, \$25.00**

**Payment by cash, cheque or deposit**

*Please make cheque payable to: “Dante Alighieri Society of Canberra Inc”  
or deposit at the National Australian Bank*

**Account name: Dante Alighieri Society    BSB: 082 902    A/c No: 515 003 825**

Please include your surname and initial as the reference when paying by EFT or send the deposit slip with your enrolment form. Your enrolment will be completed only when payment confirmation is received.

We regret no refund, deferment or credit will be allowed (qualified cases considered according to the policies)

**Paid \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_  
(signature of student)

**Received by** \_\_\_\_\_  
(for the Società)



**Commercial Cleaning and Maintenance**  
**Unit 5, 89 Tennant Street**  
**Fyshwick Tel: 62281777**



***Canberra's best Italian***  
***ristorante, caffè and bar***

**Open breakfast, lunch and dinner**

**Corner of London Circuit  
 and East Row  
 Canberra City**

**Phone: (02) 6247 4317**

***www.tosolinis.com.au***



Think **COSMOREX**  
 for **beans 'n coffee** machines.



- ☒ Buy direct from the roaster
- ☒ Public welcome
- ☒ Wide range of cappuccino machines and coffee grinders
- ☒ Freshly roasted coffee
- ☒ Coffee making classes
- ☒ Agents for Yorkshire Teas.

**44 Kembla St. Fyshwick, ACT. p:02 6280 7511**  
**[www.cosmorexcoffee.com.au](http://www.cosmorexcoffee.com.au)**



**OPEN**

**Each Thursday to Sunday**  
**8am to 5:30pm**

Serving the freshest & most  
 competitively priced produce  
 in the Canberra Region

**FREE PARKING**

**PROUDLY SPONSORING**

*National Multicultural Festival : Australia Day*  
*Breakfast : Hartley Lifecare Ability Challenge : Women*  
*& Girls Triathlon : Indigenous Sporting Events:*  
*Canberra Times Fun Run*

# 2013 Membership

## Dante Alighieri Society One Year Membership

Dante Alighieri Society of Canberra Inc.

PO Box 979

CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608

Receipt No.....

### Subscription for membership for one year commencing 1/1/2013:

☐ INDIVIDUAL \$30                      ☐ CONCESSION \$15 (student/pensioner)

☐ CHOIR \$10 (in addition to membership)

(Please print)

Surname.....

Given Name.....

Address.....

Suburb..... Postcode .....

Phone .....(h) .....(w) .....(mob)

E-mail .....

### Our newsletter is automatically made available to members electronically.

However, if you prefer the paper version, please tick this box. ☐

Is this a renewal? Yes/No

Are you interested in assisting with the activities of the Society? Yes/No

**I agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the Dante Alighieri Society.**

**Copies are available from the Dante office on request.**

**SIGNED..... DATE.....**

*Please make cheque payable to: "Dante Alighieri Society of Canberra Inc"*

*or deposit at the National Australian Bank*

Account name: **Dante Alighieri Society**    BSB: **082 902**    A/c No: **515 003 825**

**Please include your surname and initial as the reference when paying by EFT**

**or send the deposit slip with your membership application form.**

**Your subscription will be completed only when payment confirmation is received.**