

*“To preserve and disseminate Italian language and culture”*

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**The Dante Musica Viva choir has had a very busy year promoting Italian language and culture through music. Here it is pictured after giving an outstanding performance at the High Court of Australia in December 2013. By request, it will return to the High Court on 16 March 2014**



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## Regular Events

**Dante Musica Viva rehearsals  
on Thursday 5-7 pm  
from 30 January**

**Enrolments for  
Term 1 2014 close  
on Wednesday 5 February**

**Term 1 2014 begins  
on 11 February**

**Conversation groups  
on Thursday 7-9 pm  
from 13 February**

# 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**

From January 13th to February, 10th the office will also be open on Monday.

For enquiries please call the office on 6247 1884 or visit our website:

**[www.dantecanberra.org.au](http://www.dantecanberra.org.au)**

We are also on **Facebook**:  
click '**I like**' to be up-to-date!

Our email address has changed;  
please use the new one:

**[info@dantecanberra.org.au](mailto:info@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

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 30 Jan        | Dante Musica Viva rehearsals<br>(from 5pm to 7pm at the<br>Notaras Multicultural Centre) |
| <b>5 Feb</b>  | <b>Enrolments for Term 1 close</b>   |
| <b>11 Feb</b> | <b>Term 1 2014 begins</b>  |
| 13 Feb        | Conversation groups  |
| 20 Feb        | Conversation groups  |
| 27 Feb        | Conversation groups  |

## ITALIAN LANGUAGE COURSES IN ITALY

*Are you thinking about  
studying in Italy?  
Don't miss this opportunity!*

*The Dante Alighieri Society  
of Camerino (Marche region)  
offers Australian students  
discounts of up to 46%  
on their 2014 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 or visit  
[www.scuoladantealighieri.org](http://www.scuoladantealighieri.org)*

# News from the Office

## OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2014

Our past year has been particularly busy, especially if we take into account the ever-increasing number of performances by the Dante Musica Viva choir. We have held seven cultural events covering literature, cinema, music, art and social issues; student enrolments in our formal courses and attendance at conversation evenings have been quite good; and we have published six issues of the newsletter. Our membership has held up well so overall we've had a successful year.

But we had one unfortunate incident on 30 November: all of our sound system and keyboard were stolen from a member's car (it was there in anticipation of installing the equipment the following day for a choir performance at the Italo-Australian Club). Then, thankfully, ten days later the police found the abandoned car with all of our equipment still in it! In the meantime, we had to buy a new keyboard for a major performance that week, and found this new instrument superior to the old one so the choir will keep both and fund raise to repay the loan to the Society. Our emotions went on a bit of a yo-yo ride during this period but all is well now.

Apart from holding a DMV concert to pay for the new keyboard, in 2014 we will continue our program of varied cultural events, our formal courses (larger classes at the Italo-Australian Club and smaller ones in our Library) and the informal conversation groups on Thursday evenings. And every two months you will receive our newsletter. We look forward to your involvement!

***Yvette Devlin***

***Vice-President (and member of the choir)***

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## ***Important!***

**Dear students,**

are you afraid of having forgotten what you have learnt during last term? Don't worry! You can go online and keep practising before the beginning of this new term! Here are some useful websites:

<http://parliamoitaliano.altervista.org/>

<http://www.uvm.edu/~cmazzoni/3grammatica/grammatica/index.html>

<http://venus.unive.it/italslab/quattropassi/help.htm>

[http://www.oneworlditaliano.com/italiano/esercizi\\_corso\\_di\\_italiano.htm](http://www.oneworlditaliano.com/italiano/esercizi_corso_di_italiano.htm)

<http://www.wordreference.com>

<http://www.ladante.it/servizi/esercizi/>

<http://http://www.italiano.rai.it/>

# Modi di dire

## *Sayings*

by Francesca Foppoli

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Animals play a big role in our lives and our close relationship with them is reflected in the language and culture.

***Dogs are not our whole life,  
but they make our lives whole.***  
(Roger Caras)

*I cani non sono tutto nella vita,  
ma riempiono la nostra esistenza.*

Oggi fa un freddo cane.

***It's freezing today.***

Non penso che l'incontro con Marta sia andato bene. È tornato a casa come un cane bastonato.

***I don't think the date with Marta was successful. He came home with a hangdog expression on his face.***

È pericoloso che parli ai giornalisti – è un cane sciolto.

***We can't trust him to talk to the press – he's a loose cannon.***

Faceva una vita da cani: si alzava all'alba e tornava a casa di notte.

***It was a dog's life: waking up at dawn and getting home at dark.***

Quel pover'uomo! La moglie lo tratta da cani!

***Poor man! His wife treats him like a dog!***

Sabato sera sono rimasto a casa solo come un cane.

***I spent Saturday night at home totally alone.***

Lo sciopero è stato un fiasco perché non c'era nemmeno un cane.

***The strike was a total failure because there wasn't a living soul.***

È un bel ristorante, ma si mangia proprio da cani!

***It's a nice restaurant but the food is disgusting!***

Non fiatare! Ho fatto una figura da cani!

***Don't ask! I made a real fool of myself.***

Smettila di menare il can per l'aia e andiamo al dunque!

***Please stop beating around the bush and tell me what the problem is!***

# L'angolo della lingua

## *Language corner*

by Yvette Devlin

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The Italian word *perché* can be translated as *why* or *because* depending on whether you ask a question or answer it. However, you cannot use *perché* every time you want to translate *because*. At the start of a sentence you probably need to use *dato che* as in the current example: *because there was no time to finish the game, we declared it a draw* = *dato che non c'era più tempo per finire il gioco, abbiamo dichiarato pareggio*.

Among tricky words to translate into Italian is *engagement*. Consider the following examples: *their engagement took place a year before the wedding* = *il loro fidanzamento ebbe luogo un anno prima del matrimonio*; *the rules of engagement were well understood by both parties* = *ambedue le parti capivano benissimo le regole d'ingaggio*; *I cannot accept your invitation because of another engagement* = *non posso accettare l'invito per via di un altro impegno*.

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### ***La differenza tra un fidanzamento (con relativa proposta di matrimonio) ed un impegno...***

Per fortuna l'uomo accettò l'invito e nessun altro impegno lo tenne lontano da quello che si preannunciava il giorno più importante della sua vita!





# L'angolo della poesia

## *Poetry corner*

by Yvette Devlin

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**Salvatore Quasimodo** was born in Sicily in 1901 and died of a cerebral hemorrhage in Naples in 1968. For the latter half of his life he chose to live and work in Milan. Despite pursuing engineering as a vocation, he devoted himself to full-time writing from the age of 37, translated Greek and Latin authors, and contributed to literary reviews and reputable publications. Together with Eugenio Montale (a Nobel Prize winner for Literature in 1975) and Giuseppe Ungaretti, Quasimodo is one of the major Italian poets of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. He was part of the Hermetic Movement which was characterised by obscure poetry, subjective imagery, and a focus on the suggestive power of the sound of the words. In 1959 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature “for his lyrical poetry, which with classical fire expresses the tragic experience of life in our own times”.

In this poetry he was often inspired by images of the South. In this issue I include the poem *S'ode ancora il mare*, and in the next edition I will include *Lamento per il sud*. The translation is by Canberra poet Geoff Page and Loredana Nardi-Ford.

### *S'ode ancora il mare*

Già da più notti s'ode ancora il mare,  
lieve, su e giù, lungo le sabbie lisce.  
Eco d'una voce chiusa nella mente  
che risale dal tempo; ed anche questo  
lamento assiduo di gabbiani: forse  
d'uccelli delle torri, che l'aprile  
sospinge verso la pianura. Già  
m'eri vicina tu con quella voce;  
ed io vorrei che pure a te venisse,  
ora, di me un'eco di memoria,  
come quel buio murmure di mare.

### *Still hearing the sea*

For several nights already / we can hear the sea,  
still / lightly, lift and fall along smooth sands. /  
An echo of a voice within the mind / that rises  
from the past once more; and also this / assidu-  
ous lament of gulls; birds / from the towers per-  
haps that April / forces to the plain. Once / with  
that voice you were beside me / and I would like  
you too to have / an echo now of memory from  
me / like that dark murmur of the sea.

**Salvatore Quasimodo with Eugenio Montale and Giuseppe Ungaretti**



# Cenno storico

## *A bit of history*

by Yvette (Alberti) Devlin

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**LEON BATTISTA ALBERTI** was born 610 years ago - on 14 February 1404 and died on 20 April 1472 in Florence. A typical 'Renaissance man', Alberti distinguished himself primarily as an architect (together with Brunelleschi, he was considered the greatest architect of the XV century) but also as a writer and linguist (he wrote both in Latin and in Italian – the so-called 'vulgar' language, ie used by the people). He also delved into archaeology, mathematics, the sciences, music and figurative arts theory.

His major architectural work is the church of Santa Maria Novella in Florence.

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Leon Battista Alberti nacque 610 anni fa – il 14 febbraio 1404, e morì il 20 aprile 1472 a Firenze. Tipico 'uomo universale', Alberti si distinse soprattutto come architetto (assieme a Brunelleschi è considerato il maggior architetto del XV secolo) ma anche come scrittore e linguista (scrisse sia in latino che in 'volgare' cioè la lingua usata dalla gente). Il suo ingegno lo condusse anche in altri campi - archeologia, matematica, scienze, musica e teoria delle arti figurative.

La sua più famosa opera architettonica è la chiesa di Santa Maria Novella a Firenze.



Santa Maria Novella: the vast interior is based on a basilica plan, designed as a Latin cross and is divided into a nave, two aisles with stained-glass windows and a short transept. The large nave is 100 metres long and gives an impression of austerity



## *Cultural Tour of Italy in 2014*

*Ottavio Bagozzi is organising a cultural tour of Italy starting in Rome on 30 May and finishing in Venice on 23 June. In between participants will visit Tivoli, Ostia Antica, Capri, Naples, Taormina, Catania, Siracusa, Noto, Ragusa, Piazza Armerina, Agrigento, Palermo, Pompei and Bari. The tour also includes a six-day cruise along the Mediterranean and Adriatic Sea.*

*For further information on contact details, costs and itinerary, ask the office where Ottavio has left some material.*

*[NB: this is not a Dante or Dante-sponsored tour. Ottavio is a life member of the Society and we are simply publicising his tour].*





# **We had a lot of fun!**

## ***Ci siamo divertiti molto!***

**by Yvette Devlin**

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On 21 November we concluded the 2013 academic year in a very entertaining way. The wonderful Dante Musica Viva choir provided most of the entertainment, singing seven pieces (*Il tango delle rose*, *E qui comando io*, *'O surdato 'nnammurato*, *Funiculi funiculà*, *Il coro degli zingari* (the Anvil Chorus), *'O sole mio* and the Christmas song *Tu scendi dalle stelle*).

The 'stars' of the choir, soprano Virginia Banyard and tenor Livio Chicco sang two great duets (*Quando sento che mi ami* and *Il mio mondo*) which tested and displayed their wonderful vocal skills, particularly Virginia's high range.

Rod Fenwick (who accompanies the choir on the guitar) and David Wilson (who sings in the choir but also learns the guitar) played a short piece for us and then our inimitable choir leader/musician treated us to *La Spagnola* with his piano accordion.

We also had two unscheduled appearances: Giovanni Andriolo (one of the 'three tenors' of the choir) had brought his grandchildren to whom he's teaching Italian songs. James, Annabel and

Oliver sang *E qui comando io*; and then little Chloe sang the first verse of *La mula de Parenzo*, helped by 'nonno' and accompanied by Rod.



Marie Carmen and Luis dance the Sevillanas



Francesco plays La Spagnola on his piano accordion

The entertainment concluded with the dancing of Spanish *Sevillanas* by our member Marie Carmen Prego and her friend Luis Bonilla. Marie Carmen looked resplendent in her floral green ruffled dress and Luis looked very dapper in his black outfit which included bolero waistcoat, red sash and black hat. Marie Carmen has learnt Spanish folk dancing since she was a child, and continues to dance whenever the opportunity arises.

The 80+ people present for the celebration also enjoyed the variety of food on offer: the Society had arranged pizzas, dips, nibbles and panettone as well as drinks, but a great number of members brought a plate to share with others. Particularly

# **We had a lot of fun!**

## ***Ci siamo divertiti molto! - cont'd***

**by Yvette Devlin**

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Francesco Sofo ready to direct the musicians and the choir

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popular was Vittorio Monteleone's dessert that, despite its large size, disappeared in a flash.

As MC for the evening, I took the opportunity to express the Society's gratitude to a number of people: the choir singers and musicians (Louise, Angela, Rod and Ben) with a special mention for Francesco Sofo as leader and musician and Saverio as Manager and also trumpeter; to David Wilson for managing the

sound system for choir performances and for technical support for our cultural events; to formal course teachers and conversation group leaders; to Sue for making our coffee and tea each Thursday evening; and to all members for their continued support of the Society. I expressed the hope that current members will continue their association with us next year, and wished everyone a happy festive season.

Rod and David play a guitar piece during the musical interlude

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**We had a lot of fun!**  
***Ci siamo divertiti molto! - cont'd***  
**by Yvette Devlin**

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**A view of the Function Room during the entertainment.  
Livio and Virginia are performing their duets**



**Enjoying refreshments and the opportunity to chat**



**Time for members to socialise**

# Italian Trivia

## *At the Italo-Australian Club*

by Yvette Devlin

The Dante Society has run an Italian Trivia evening in 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2012. Some committee members asked that we run a similar event this year but at the Italo-Australian Club to try and involve a broader range of participants. It was then decided that this event could follow the pattern of the Cinepizza (that we co-organised) held in May, June, July and September. In other words, participants would enjoy a pizza meal first and then exercise their brains.



The two judges of Italian Trivia 2013, Alessandro Giovine and Francesca Foppoli

The event took place on 25 October and attracted over sixty participants sitting at eight tables. About a third had booked through the club with the rest being our faithful Dante members. Among those present, there was the president of the club Board Claudio Ciuffetelli, and our own president Franco Papandrea.

The about-to-depart First Secretary of the Italian Embassy Alessandro Giovine and Francesca Foppoli were the judges who scrutinised answer sheets and allocated marks; Catharina Koopman and husband Orlando Di Iulio collected the answer sheets and kept the score on a whiteboard,

and I read out the questions and answers – a total of 86 – which I had put together with some suggestions from Alessandro Giovine, Pierluigi Simonetti and Francesca Foppoli.

The questions were sorted into nine categories: History, Geography, Art/Architecture, Literature, Sport, Entertainment, Music, Food/Cuisine, and Miscellanea. There was also a ‘Who am I?’ question to allocate a prize made available by the President of the Accademia Italiana della Cucina Raffaele Iannizzotto.

The winning table (named ‘Non lo so’) was composed of Franco Foppoli, Janette and Phil Gray, Julia Church, Tina Bain, Sue Hancock, Carmen Zanetti and Alistair Drake. They won by 2.5 points. Each participant won a \$25 voucher from the Italo-Australian Club to use at its restaurant.

However, the moral winner of the evening was another table - ‘Super Mario’, mostly comprising students in my conversation group. The table comprised Susan Reye, Tamsin Hong, Sophia Talotta, Antonia Curcio, Catherine and Daniel Caruso – **six** people only, almost all young, and

Yvette asking the questions at the 2013 edition of the Italian Trivia held at the Italo-Australian Club





# Italian Trivia

## *At the Italo-Australian Club - cont'd*

by Yvette Devlin

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Some of the participants, listening to Franco Papandrea at the end of the night

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not a single Italian among them! Technically they would have won the second prize if there had been one. An Italian couple was meant to join this table but had had a medical emergency that afternoon and so could not make it. Susan and Co: you would definitely have won if the other two had been able to join you. Bravissimi!

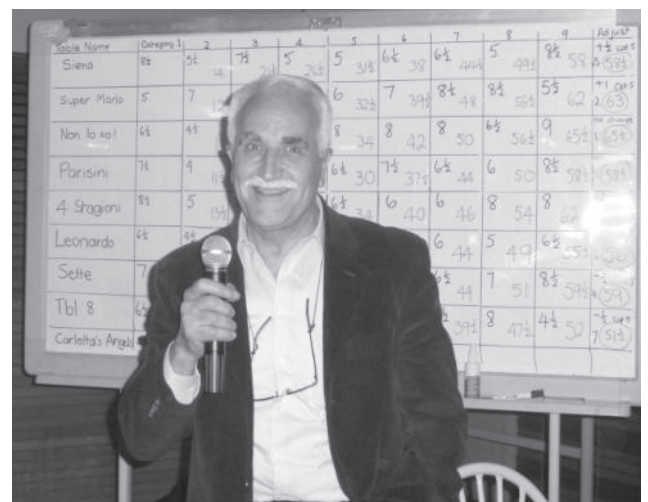
Anne-Hélène Kabucz, who is Alessandro Giovine's partner, was the first to correctly identify the mystery person described in the 'Who am I?' question and therefore won the Accademia prize. However, given that she's about to leave Canberra, she kindly donated it to another participant who will make use of it.

Thanks to Alessandro, Francesca, Catharina and Orlando who greatly contributed to the success of the evening. There were even protests and counter-protests that we had to sort out!

The feedback has been very positive: people enjoyed the challenge and also learnt a few facts on the way. Many participants stayed on quite some time to talk about the questions and socialise.

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Franco Papandrea concludes the Italian Trivia night of Oct 2013. Behind him the final score





# Il carnevale in Italia

## *Carnival in Italy*

### di Lucrezia Samory

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E anche quest'anno siamo giunti all'appuntamento col carnevale.

Carnevale è una delle feste più antiche della storia e del folclore italiano. L'etimologia del termine 'carnevale' deriva, con ogni probabilità, dal latino *carnem levare*, cioè togliere la carne. Anticamente, infatti, l'espressione indicava il banchetto che si teneva l'ultimo giorno subito prima della Quaresima, periodo che precede la celebrazione della Pasqua (pratiche tipiche della Quaresima sono il digiuno e altre forme di penitenza, la preghiera più intensa e la pratica della carità). I festeggiamenti cominciano un paio di settimane prima della Quaresima per culminare il giorno di 'martedì grasso', durante il quale si svolgono spesso pubbliche parate in cui l'elemento dominante è il mascheramento.

Le maschere tradizionali italiane sono il prodotto della Commedia dell'arte, il fenomeno

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Arlecchino, una delle maschere più amate, soprattutto dai più piccini



teatrale che si sviluppa alla fine del 1500 in Italia. Una delle rappresentazioni più gettonate di queste commedie era la 'beffa del servo', una sorta di rivincita concessa all'umile nei confronti del potente. Innumerevoli sono le rappresentazioni, specie sui palcoscenici della Repubblica veneziana, che hanno come tema il contrasto tra il servo, lo Zanni, e il padrone vecchio e rincitrullito, il Magnifico. Nel corso degli anni, lo Zanni ha subito modifiche sostanziali, diventando sempre più simpatico e originale, fino ad arrivare ai giorni nostri come una figura spiritosa. Un esempio è il celeberrimo Arlecchino, personaggio che proviene da Bergamo, molto conosciuto per il suo vestito dai cento colori, formato da losanghe a colori alterni. Ha una maschera nera e una spatola di legno. È stravagante, astuto, coraggioso e molto pigro!

Tanti altri personaggi della tradizione sono riusciti a sopravvivere e ancora oggi dominano le pubbliche parate e le feste mascherate.

Carnevale, oggi, è la festa dei bambini e un modo per gli adulti di condividere allegria e spensieratezza con i loro figli, ma inevitabilmente tutti vengono in qualche modo contagiati da questo clima di festa. Durante il carnevale tutto è permesso: allegria, balli, divertimenti e quantità sconsiderate di cibo. In tutte le regioni d'Italia viene festeggiato con sfilate e balli in piazza, maschere tradizionali e non, coriandoli e stelle filanti. Ma in alcune città i festeggiamenti sono tanto originali e maestosi da richiamare turisti e visitatori provenienti da ogni parte del paese e del mondo, come nel caso del carnevale di Venezia, le cui maschere sono famose in tutto il mondo; il carnevale di Viareggio, famoso per i carri realizzati in cartapesta e pieni di fiori; o il carnevale di Foiano, considerato il più antico d'Italia.

Parlando di questa festa, non posso non tornare indietro nel tempo e ricordarmi del mio

# Il carnevale in Italia

## *Carnival in Italy - cont'd*

di Lucrezia Samory

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carnevale da bambina. Il carnevale suscita in me ricordi lontani e tanto belli, sensazioni particolari di un'infanzia che non torna più.

I preparativi erano in un certo senso eccitanti. Si cominciava a parlare di carnevale e travestimenti dopo la befana (il 6 gennaio) e ogni bambino sceglieva il suo costume preferito, prendendo spunto dai cartoni animati o dai costumi della tradizione. Alcuni lo compravano direttamente dal negozio, altri invece avevano nonne e mamme pazienti che confezionavano personalmente il vestito da sfoggiare alle feste in maschera. Alcune di queste addirittura prendevano spunto dai vecchi abiti gelosamente conservati nelle vecchie scatole in soffitta.



Alcune delle maschere che è possibile ammirare durante il celebre carnevale che si svolge a Venezia

Mi tornano in mente le sfilate dei carri mascherati che rallegravano il centro storico del mio paese (Faenza, in provincia di Ravenna). Noi bambini li aspettavamo con impazienza, partivamo tutti insieme da casa, nei nostri bei costumi e, carichi di coriandoli e stelle filanti, andavamo a piedi in centro per assistere alla sfilata di carnevale. Un altro appuntamento fisso era la festa a scuola, dove difficilmente spiccava un costume su un altro, ma era comunque divertente - era un modo per evadere dalla normalità.

Sono sempre stata golosa e carnevale era un motivo in più per mangiare senza alcun ritegno! Si partiva dal 'giovedì grasso' che dava il via ai 6 giorni di festa carnevalesca vera e propria. Un nome... un programma... detto 'grasso' perché apre le abbuffate di cibo che più grasso non si può, in previsione dell'astinenza quaresimale (che in realtà non c'è più).

A casa mia, tutti i cestini di vimini si riempivano di castagnole, ovvero piccole frittelle dolci dal soffice interno che ricordano la forma delle castagne. Nonostante la loro origine sia in Romagna, vengono preparate e gustate in molte regioni d'Italia anche se con nomi differenti e con piccole variazioni di ingredienti. Lo stesso accade per altri dolci tipici, come nel caso delle sfrappole, ovvero i dolci di maggior successo conosciuti in tutta Italia anche se con nomi diversi: in Friuli si chiamano crostoli, in Veneto galani o crostoli, nelle Marche frappe, cenci in Toscana, chiacchiere in Campania. La variante, nelle varie ricette regionali, è costituita dal liquore utilizzato: marsala, vino bianco, acquavite o liquore all'anice, ma in tutti i casi sono buonissime, croccanti e si sbriciolano solo a guardarle!

Insomma, non c'è niente di più bello che mascherarsi e godere di tutti i divertimenti e le prelibatezze che offre il carnevale!

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Avete mai assaggiato le castagnole? Sono piccole frittelle dolci dal soffice interno... una bontà!



# Vision, revision and realisation

## *Dante Musica Viva: 2013, the year that was...*

by Professor Francesco Sofo, Director\*

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There was no vision before the choir began as a choir. It emerged slowly and unintentionally. Beginnings are important and so are endings. It is not absolutely clear exactly when the choir began as a choir; perhaps it was when a group of us singing some enjoyable Italian songs in 2004 were asked if we would sing them for an occasion. We accepted the invitation. Other invitations followed and so it has been for the past nine years. At the beginning a group of us decided to sing regularly after Italian conversation classes, from 9 to 11 pm on Thursdays, just for the enjoyment of singing Italian songs we loved. Everyone was welcome to join. Additional musicians were welcome to provide the important accompaniment so needed. Louise Ibbotson appeared with her 100 year old mandolin. She is also an excellent singer. Many singers have come and gone but the core dozen or so, (apostles if you like) remain to this day. The beginning became the middle fairly quickly and since we have no idea if and when the choir will disband, it seems we are stuck in the middle for a long time.

‘Stuck’ is not the right word because people freely enter and leave and also we do not just repeat the same things. The middle is where we

started to reflect on what we have been doing and how we might continue to do it and improve. This is where our vision began to emerge and became refined over the years. We decided that recording a CD would be a good idea; and so we did. We have decided that recording another CD will be a good idea and so we hope to in 2014. We decided to enter the National Eisteddfod competition for multicultural choirs and we have done that twice, once winning the first national prize. We don’t know if we are like a rising market that peaked and will continue to trend or if we are like a gum tree that reaches its prime then slowly wanes. How is it possible to do that when there is no quality control of who enters the choir, who provides the music and the standards needed to sing as a choir? Sometimes the workings of groups are mysterious. We have a committee who is democratic and seeks opinions from choir members.

There are some values the choir has as an entity. We value singing to our best, whatever that might be. We value encouragement regardless of our skills and acceptance of mistakes without criticism. Sometimes good enough is as good as the song will be. We select carefully what we learn and what we sing. We have great mentors

Dante Musica Viva - winners of the Multicultural section, The Australian National Eisteddfod - Choirs 2012



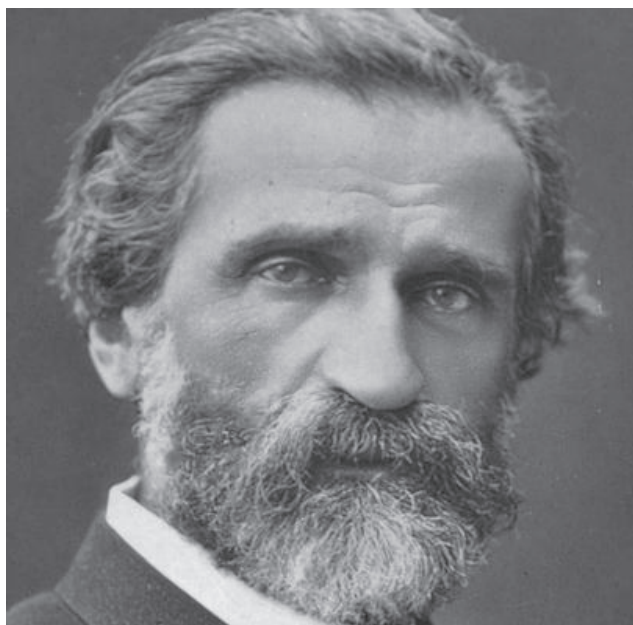


# Vision, revision and realisation

## *Dante Musica Viva: 2013, the year that was... - cont'd*

by Professor Francesco Sofo, Director\*

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Songs from Giuseppe Verdi have been adapted to make them achievable by our choir members

in the choir who provide vast knowledge of songs and singing. Our repertoire is no accident. Patricia Doyle has contributed the most folk songs we have learned while Livio Chicco has contributed the most classical pieces especially arias from Verdi which we have adapted to make them achievable by our choir members. Virginia Banyard with some impressive singing history is our coach and 'warm-up the voices'

person. We lay claim to having a unique '3 tenors' (Livio, Giovanni and Sam). Then of course any successful entity has its champions. Yvette Devlin the Vice-President of the Dante who is a member of the choir and is an indefatigable worker has championed the choir from its slow emergence through all its success and difficulties.

Recently I asked members of the choir to describe in one or two words their experience of the choir in 2013 and here is what was said to me: aspiring still; enjoyable, very; enlightening; challenging and fun; uplifting; camaraderie; chaotic; happy chaotic; happiness; harmony; singing well; need more practice; love from the audience; busy, good; wonderful; we are more like a choir now; lively; improved voices. This is the realisation that enjoyment is important in life and sharing that through singing and music is a privilege.

[Ed's note: Francesco has been with the choir from the very start and was one of the initial driving forces. At first he was the choir's musician then when other musicians joined the group he became the main conductor while continuing to play a variety of instruments when required]

## NOSTALGIA D'ITALIA

*The first CD of the Dante Musica Viva choir launched in November 2010 is available for sale at the Dante Office.*

*Prices are \$15 for one, \$25 for 2, \$10 each if purchased when joining the society. Hurry!*

# Another delightful year

## *Un altro anno delizioso*

by Marie Wright\*

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Yes, 2013 was another delightful year for Dante Musica Viva. I've had a wonderful time and I truly believe that music (in my case singing) is food for my soul. I invariably come home after practice or a performance humming away at peace with the world. Sure, sometimes there can be frustrations but generally perseverance leads to better performances. Last year I suspect we broke all records with 23 gigs.

We rarely say no to a request to sing, however, requests from the Italian community will always have priority. Frequently from a predominantly Italian group there is audience participation and this will spur us on to greater heights. However, I do remember one gig at the Mirinjani Retirement Village where hardly anyone spoke Italian. The area allocated to us was quite small, so with a record turn up from the Village, plus friends, choir and musicians it was a tight squeeze. As a result our audience behaved as if they were part of the choir and the crowning glory was Yvette dancing (while singing) with one of the elderly gentlemen. (What will we do

when she leaves us?)

In my memory the usual favourites stand out. I particularly enjoy singing at the Italian Club, so thank you to the Club for inviting us to your 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Also thank you for the Friulani picnic, Villaggio San Antonio, the Giuliani Society, the Vicentini Society and the Italian Community concert in Queanbeyan. I also enjoyed singing again at the Fyshwick Markets.

If you are learning Italian I suggest that singing with the choir will help with your vocabulary. Mind you there is a small proviso to this statement. The words that stand out for me are *profumare, amore, prendimi, palpito* and *malinconia*. Romantic lot those Italians!

The other side of the coin is that we also sing in dialect. Guess what *sul pajeon, ciuri, mula* or *fornarina* mean. Confusing lot those Italians!

Hope very much to see and hear you next year. All the best.

[Ed's note: Marie is an 'original' member of the choir]

**Dante Musica Viva at Italy's national day celebrations - June 2012**



Receipt No



**ENROLMENT FORM FOR TERM 1 2014**  
**COMMENCING FEBRUARY 11, 2014**  
**ENROLMENTS CLOSE WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 5, 2014**

(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

Enquiries: 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 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)



# DANTE ALIGHIERI SOCIETY OF CANBERRA 2014 CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

## FORMAL COURSES

**(6-8 pm Italo-Aust Club in Forrest or Dante Library, NMC, Civic)**

Term 1	Tues 11/Wed 12 Feb to Tues 15/Wed 16 Apr ( <i>10 wks then a 5-wk break to 20/21 May incl</i> )
Term 2	Tues 27/Wed 28 May to Tues 29/Wed 30 Jul ( <i>10 wks then a 5-wk break to 2-3 Sept incl</i> )
Term 3	Tues 9/Wed 10 Sept to Tues 11/Wed 12 Nov ( <i>10 wks</i> )

## THURSDAY CONVERSATION GROUPS

**(7-9 pm Function Room NMC, Civic)**

Term 1	13 Feb to 17 Apr ( <i>10 wks then 5-wk break - 24 Apr; 1, 8, 15, 22 May</i> )	
Term 2	29 May to 31 July ( <i>10 wks then 5-wk break - 7, 14, 21, 28 Aug; 4 Sept</i> )	
Term 3	11 Sept to 13 Nov ( <i>10 wks</i> )	<i>Total: 30 weeks</i>

## CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

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

6 March	Jeff Brownrigg: <i>Australian Legend - Dale Trendall and Ancient Pottery of Southern Italy</i>
3 April	Gordon Bull: <i>Bernini - genius of Baroque Rome</i>
18 June	Gino Moliterno: <i>Fellini</i>
17 July	Franco Papandrea: <i>Italy as portrayed in the Aust media - findings of a 2013 survey report</i>
9 Oct	Lyndall Heddle: <i>Siena</i>
20 Nov	End-of year function: Dante Musica Viva + other entertainment; cooking; refreshments

## AGM: 17 April

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

## CHOIR REHEARSALS

**(5-7 pm Function Room, NMC, Civic)**

**Every Thursday from 30 January to 11 December**

## PUBLIC HOLIDAYS (all during our term break)

**Easter:** Good Friday on 18 April; Easter Monday 21 April

**Anzac Day:** Fri 25 April

Notes: NMC = Notaras Multicultural Centre

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

We have two cultural events per term.



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 Breakfast : Hartley Lifecare Ability Challenge : Women &  
 Girls Triathlon : Indigenous Sporting Events:  
 Canberra Times Fun Run*

# 2014 Membership

## Dante Alighieri Society Membership

Dante Alighieri Society of Canberra Inc.  
PO Box 979  
CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608

Receipt No

### Subscription for membership for one year commencing 1/1/2014:

- ☐ INDIVIDUAL \$30  
☐ CONCESSION \$15 (student/pensioner)  
☐ CHOIR \$10 (in addition to membership)

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 when payment confirmation is received.**