Canberra Dante Review

SOCIETÀ DANTE ALIGHIERI
IL MONDO IN ITALIANO
COMITATO DI CANBERRA

November-December 2014

"To preserve and disseminate Italian language and culture"

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: info@danteact.org.au - Web page: www.danteact.org.au

Regular Events

Dante Musica Viva rehearsals every Thursday 5-7pm

Conversation groups 7-9 pm Thursdays until 13 November

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TWO FINAL CULTURAL EVENTS IN NOVEMBER

THE SQUILLO

THE SECRET OF THE GREAT ITALIANATE TENORS

Christopher Latham returns to Dante to reveal the secret of singing with power rather than force, using excerpts from Verdi's and Puccini's operas

8 pm 6 November 2014

END-OF-YEAR FUNCTION

Culinary competition

(make a cold dish using either rice or pasta)
Prizes for the best dish in each category

Entertainment

by the Dante Musica Viva choir

Refreshments

provided by the Society for all members

7 pm 20 November 2014

Venue for both:
Function Room, Notaras Multicultural Centre
180 London Circuit (entry via Civic Square)

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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

For enquiries please call the office on 6247 1884 or send us an email at **info@danteact.org.au**

Visit us at **www.danteact.org.au**

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

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; Tamsin Hong

Secretary
Davide Lucchetti

Treasurer
Mario Rosi

Committee members
Luigi Catizone, Orlando di Iulio, Francesca Foppoli, Alessia La Cavera, Nicola Patini, Bruno Santagostino

Journal Editor: Yvette Devlin

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

Upcoming Events

06 Nov	Conversation Groups and then **Christopher Latham** on *The squillo, the secret of the great Italianate tenors*
12 Nov	Formal courses: **end of Term 3**
13 Nov	Conversation groups: **end of Term 3**
20 Nov	End-of-year function (see pp.1 and 3)
15 Dec	The Dante Office closes for a break! (see below)

Dante Office Closure

Dear members

it's time to take a break!

Please note that the office will ***close*** *on Monday* ***15 December*** *and will* ***reopen*** *on Monday* ***12 January****.*

We would like to remind you that during this period you can always contact us via email at ***dantecanberra@gmail.com*** *or via Facebook!*

We will get back to you as soon as possible!

News from the Office

Important!

2015 Fees for Formal Courses

Reluctantly the Dante Committee recently agreed the need to increase the Formal Course fee for 2015 to $295 from the current $260. The 10% discount applying to continuing students will be maintained, bringing the reduced fee to $265.50.

As a not-for-profit society, we need to keep a vigilant eye on our costs which tend to increase each and every year, and ensure we do not trade at a loss.

Our last fee increase was in 2012. We have reviewed our fees and services vis-à-vis those of similar institutions in Canberra and can confirm that we are still competitive for comparable services.

Mario Rosi
Treasurer
Dante Alighieri Society Committee

Are you ready?

Are you ready to enter our great cooking competition? It will be fun!

Prepare a cold dish which is mainly rice or pasta,

and bring it together with the list of ingredients.

Please arrive no later than 7pm, preferably at 6:45pm

If you are unsure about the ingredients, do contact the office for advice.

We look forward to your participation!

Modi di dire

Sayings

by Francesca Foppoli

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

Vacca, toro, bue, vitello
Cow, bull, ox, calf

In tempi di vacche magre, i soci della cooperativa Castel Monte hanno scelto di rinunciare al compenso di otto giornate di lavoro per far fronte alle difficoltà finanziarie del gruppo [*http://www.oggitreviso.it/castel-monte-soci-rinunciano-8-giorni-di-stipendio-42688*].
Due to the recession, members of the Castel Monte co-operative have decided to donate eight days of paid work to the group to assist with its financial difficulties.

Mario prenderà il toro per le corna e chiederà a Luisa di sposarlo.
Mario is going to take the bull by the horns and ask Luisa to marry him.

Non riuscendo a decidere tra Emma e Claire, i genitori hanno tagliato la testa al toro e chiamato la loro bambina Emma Claire.
Undecided between Emma and Claire, the parents settled things once and for all and called their baby girl Emma Claire.

Secondo me stai mettendo il carro davanti ai buoi: non dovresti prenotare il volo prima di chiedere le ferie.
Aren't you putting the cart before the horse? You shouldn't book your flight before asking for leave.

Se Giuseppe dovesse tornare dall'Australia, suo padre ucciderebbe il vitello grasso.
If Giuseppe were to return from Australia, his father would kill the fatted calf.

Purtroppo il danno è fatto: è inutile chiudere la stalla quando sono scappati i buoi.
Unfortunately the damage is done; there is no point in locking the stable door after the horse has bolted.

L'angolo della lingua

Language corner

by Yvette Devlin

During my recent trip to Italy I read the *Corriere della Sera* every day and was struck (yet again) by the number of English words that have crept into the language. Many of the words are used by politicians (possible reasons: to sound learned, to obfuscate) with the most common being *austerity* and *spending review*. In the current economic climate, both made sense – to politicians, not to the ordinary person… Journalists also liked *escalation*, but possibly the most widely-used English term is *fans club*. However, do you know how they pronounce it? - funs cleb! *Selfie* and *pressing* (meaning pressure applied, lobbying) also were extensively used.

Here are other words I found in a single article dealing with fashion: *evergreen* (meaning clothes that last beyond one season), *fashion blogger*, *pattern* floreale, negozi *low cost*, *fashion victim*, *look casual* [note the order they use: noun first and then adjective; in English we say casual look], *outfit* più elegante.

Now let's change the subject and look at a **false friend**. The English word *appointment* can be translated as *appuntamento* [eg *abbiamo un appuntamento con l'avvocato alle 10 am = we have an appointment with the solicitor at 10 am*) but also as *nomina* eg *His appointment as Governor-General has been approved by the Queen = la sua nomina a Governatore Generale è stata approvata dalla regina*. In this case it would be wrong to use 'appuntamento'.

And, finally, a useful little expression for you. If you want to encourage a friend or a family member to do something with you, in English you would say *come on*… and in Italian you say *dai*… For instance: *come on, come with us to the beach! = dai, vieni con noi alla spiaggia!*

Per ridere un po'!

Un tizio seduto in un prato chiede ad un passante: "*Scusi, come posso andare a Milano?*". Il passante risponde: "*Per la strada signore, per la strada!*".

L'angolo della poesia

Poetry corner

by Yvette Devlin

Leonardo Sinisgalli in Alberobello, 1964

Leonardo Sinisgalli, a XX century poet and painter, was born in Basilicata in 1908 and died in Rome in 1981. He had moved to Rome to study engineering and mathematics but after graduating in engineering he moved to Milan where he worked as an architect and graphic artist. He was a close friend of Giuseppe Ungaretti (a poet) and of Scipione (a painter), and was a member of the Expressionist art movement *Scuola Romana*. In his early poetry, Sinisgalli focused on themes from ancestral myths, but later adopted a more relaxed style. His language is plain and his voice gentle. The following poem is set in Rome.

Strepita la campana

Strepita la campana al capolinea.
La tramontana spazza contro il fiume
la polvere delle case in rovina.
Eccoti sola e la piazza ti sperde
al bivio, e tu non sai
più vivere, non sai dimenticare.
Era verde il sambuco quella sera,
freschi i tumuli di terra
fuori della città lungo il declivio
che da Santa Sabina
scende a Bocca della Verità.
Ahi, ahi, stravolta (oggi l'anno ci coglie
così distanti per strade traverse)
tu cammini, io ti chiamo. Alle finestre
scroscia a sghembo la pioggia.
E ti sollevi l'ammasso di capelli
dagli orecchi, scrolli
i perduti ricordi: una nube
di corvi dal mio cielo
s'è posata stasera nel tuo specchio.

Here is a translation by Rina Ferrarelli. I have made two changes where I thought it had been incorrectly translated.

The Bell's Clanging

The bell's clanging at the end of the line.
The north wind sweeps against the river
the dust of the houses in ruin.
Suddenly you are alone and the piazza
loses you at the crossroads.
You no longer know how to live
no longer know how to forget.
The elder was green that evening
fresh the mounds of earth
outside the city along the slope
that goes from Santa Sabina
to Bocca della Verità.
Distraught (the year finds us today
far apart on crossroads)
you walk away, I call to you. Rain
slants hard against the windowpanes.
You lift the heavy hair from your ears, shake
the lost memories: a cloud
of ravens from my sky
has landed on your mirror tonight.

Cenno storico

A bit of history

by Yvette Devlin

It was on 1 November 1512 that Michelangelo Buonarroti's masterpiece – the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel – was first exhibited.

Michelangelo (1475-1564) was a sculptor, painter, architect, poet, and engineer of the Renaissance period. His two best-known sculptures, *the Pietà* (in St Peter's Basilica) and *David* (in Florence's Art Academy) were created before he turned thirty. Pope Julius II commissioned him to paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel and Michelangelo accepted despite having a low opinion of painting. He took four years (1508-1512) to paint the frescoes which present scenes from Genesis. The two most famous scenes are *The creation of Adam* and *Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden*. The ceiling frescoes cover an area of 500 square metres and contain over 300 figures.

As architect, he worked extensively on the plan of St Peter's Basilica, especially the dome. Together with Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo is widely seen as the archetypal Renaissance man.

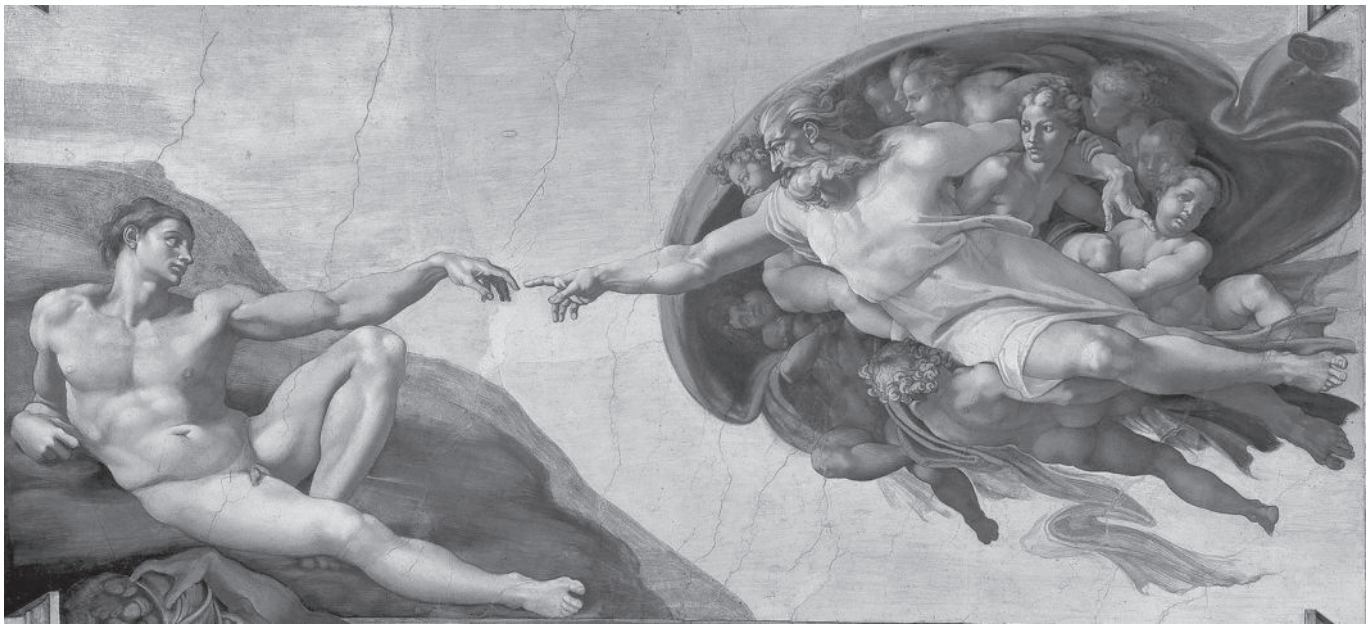
***

Fu il 1° novembre 1512 che il capolavoro di Michelangelo – il soffitto della cappella Sistina – fu esibito per la prima volta.

Michelangelo (1475-1564) è uno scultore, pittore, architetto, poeta ed ingegnere del periodo rinascimentale. Creò le sue due sculture più famose (la *Pietà* che si trova nella Basilica di San Pietro e il *David* nella Galleria dell'Accademia a Firenze) prima di compiere 30 anni. Papa Giulio II gli chiese di dipingere il soffitto della Cappella Sistina e Michelangelo accettò nonostante ritenesse la pittura una forma d'arte inferiore alla scultura. Impiegò quattro anni (dal 1508 al 1512) per completare il soffitto, che presenta scene dalla Genesi. Le due scene più famose sono *La creazione di Adamo* e *Adamo ed Eva nel Paradiso Terrestre*. Gli affreschi del soffitto coprono un'area di 500 metri quadrati e contengono oltre 300 figure.

Come architetto, lavorò molto sul disegno della Basilica di San Pietro, soprattutto sulla cupola. Assieme a Leonardo Da Vinci, Michelangelo viene considerato il tipico Uomo universale.

The Creation of Adam illustrates the Biblical creation narrative from the Book of Genesis in which God breathes life into Adam, the first man. The image of the near-touching hands of God and Adam has become iconic of humanity.



Italy in the summer of 2014 - Reflections

L'Italia nell'estate 2014 - Riflessioni

by Yvette Devlin

Nothing and no-one can diminish my annual enjoyment of this great country. I'm in the fortunate position of appreciating and loving its innumerable positive aspects (especially its great art and culture) and overlooking the negative ones because I visit it for the tourist season and then return to my home in Australia. Italians don't have that choice.

I spent some two months in my birth home in Friuli, a NE region bordering with Austria and Slovenia and blessed with breathtaking landscapes of mountain (the Julian Alps), lakes and beaches. Great wines and delicious prosciutto (San Daniele) are produced there.

But this region, like the Veneto region, is in the grips of structural change. A large percentage of small to medium enterprises have closed and many of the larger ones have moved to E. Europe or even China where labour is so much cheaper. Unemployment and underemployment are on the rise here and in the rest of Italy. For all ages, the unemployment rate is 12.6% (44% for young people, with the rate being higher for males than females).

These are some of the 'challenges' that Italy was facing at the time of my stay.

The **weather** was of great concern: it rained incessantly (on 25 days out of 31 in July), there were thunderstorms and hailstorms causing flooding, damage and great inconvenience. Worse still, it negatively impacted on the economy. Described by many as a 'black summer', tourism bookings at beach and mountain resorts declined by up to 20%; as a result many casual workers did not get the opportunity to work. In many areas wine grapes did not ripen and growers wondered whether they were worth picking.

The **economic crisis** that has been gripping Italy for years did not show signs of abating, quite the contrary: with consecutive negative growth data for the first two quarters of the year, Italy was technically in a recession.

Politically, the young PM Matteo Renzi made all the right noises about widespread reforms, but he does not have a majority in Parliament and is therefore dependent on the vote of Forza Italia to carry legislation. (Forza Italia is a centre -right party headed by Berlusconi who, while no longer in Parliament because of a criminal conviction, still exercises power through his party). Renzi has many enemies even within his own party (the centre-left Partito Democratico) especially the old Communists. Some of Renzi's proposed reforms are structural (eg he wants to abolish the Senate as a house of review but give the reduced number of senators, most of whom would represent regional assemblies, other tasks); others focus on better schooling, yet others aim for greater labour market flexibility with a view to increasing job opportunities for new entrants.

Comedian Beppe Grillo (head of the Movimento 5 Stelle but unelectable because of a criminal conviction) still shouts at public meetings but shuns interviews, and continues on his path of knocking the status quo and reform proposals while not being prepared to negotiate with the Government on any point. He has lost ground electorally but his party still won 21% of the vote at the 2014 European Parliament elec-

Italy in the summer of 2014 - Reflections (cont'd)

L'Italia nell'estate 2014 - Riflessioni

by Yvette Devlin

tions and is a thorn on the Government's side.

Boat people keep arriving from Africa and Syria: 61.500 landed in the first six months of 2014 while it is estimated that over 10,000 have drowned in the Mediterranean since 2008. *Mare nostrum* is a humanitarian Government initiative aimed at using Navy boats to rescue migrants in peril as their rickety boats approach S. Italy. Italy has officially asked the European parliament to share in the burden of dealing with the arrivals and only in mid October it started to get some indication of a preparedness to do so. Many Italians are sick and tired of the never-ending arrivals. Doing it tough themselves, they feel that the new (uninvited) migrants/refugees should not be allocated Government funding ahead of them.

Alitalia was in the process of being partly sold to Etihad, with the latter acquiring 49% of the shares and basically rescuing the Italian carrier from very deep debt. The partnership would offer direct flights from Abu Dhabi to Venice, Bologna and Catania.

Venice station has been refurbished BUT not to the benefit of train passengers. There is NO allocated space for passengers waiting to board trains – all available space has been given to commercial activity. Exhausted passengers are forced to sit on the floor along the large passage areas. When I complained, I was told that they intentionally did not set aside a waiting room because it "would have been filled by smelly dirty homeless people, in which case passengers would not have wished to use it". I found this justification pretty odd.

I also had many positive experiences. For instance, I visited the Venice Biennale of Architecture and the Venice Film Festival and took a vaporetto (water bus) ride on the Laguna to the gorgeous island of Burano – a very enjoyable outing. I also saw (again) Giotto's work in the

Lovely Burano, a little island near Venice

Italy in the summer of 2014 - Reflections (cont'd)

L'Italia nell'estate 2014 - Riflessioni

by Yvette Devlin

Cappella degli Scrovegni in Padua, and attended the opera *Aida* at the Arena di Verona – the opera was unfortunately cut short due to a sudden downpour.

An image from the Cappella degli Scrovegni in Padua, painted by Giotto

On the equivalent of ABC TV I saw the Australian drama *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries.* It was really strange to hear Italian dubbing and the use of what I considered some 'wrong' voices.

Italians can still enjoy themselves, especially outside the major cities. In my region alone there were *sagre* (festivals) for all sorts of reasons, apart from the religious ones (eg our Lady of the Assumption): frogs, geese, cheese, prosciutto, asparagus, blueberries, apples, potatoes…. At these festivals there is live music and dancing as well as eating and drinking. But organisers claim that fewer people are now eating out.

A few large companies in Friuli are still doing very well. One of the really large ones that has not moved elsewhere is Cimolai which manufactures large-scale metal infrastructure such as the Olympic Stadium in Athens and the National Stadium in Warsaw. Cimolai employs 2500 people.

Australia in general does not figure in the news in Italy but people know about it from TV shows and documentaries and are fascinated by this continent. Indeed interest in Australia is intensifying especially among the young, and I was repeatedly asked how people can migrate here. I did however read one negative article in the French newspaper *Le Monde* in which it was reported that Australia intended 'selling' its refugees to Cambodia. Rather embarrassing. It's when this sort of thing happens that I think it's best not to be talked about than to be talked about!

Ciao Italia – ci vediamo l'anno prossimo!

ARRIVEDERCI, ITALIA!

Siena - A presentation by Lyndall Heddle

Siena - Una presentazione di Lyndall Heddle

by Yvette Devlin

Lyndall Heddle, wearing the scarfe from her Siena contrada

On 9 October some sixty people attended Lyndall Heddle's comprehensive and fascinating presentation on this Tuscan city made famous by its *Palio* – a horse race run twice a year 2 July and 16 August) on the large square duly covered in sand for the occasion.

Lyndall took us through the streets of Siena, dwelling on its Etruscan and Roman history; the devastation of the black plague in 1348; the take-over by Florence in 1555; its 17 *contrade* (districts); the foundation of the oldest surviving bank in Italy – the Monte dei Paschi di Siena; its wine bars (*enoteche*), its restaurants and good food stores as well as tea rooms; its musical strength (there is a Jazz University for advanced musical training); its fortress where they now hold open-air cinema; its churches with particular reference to the 1266 Chiesa di S. Domenico and the famous Romanesque-Gothic Duomo (built between the 13th and 14th century) which features striped marble pillars and inlaid marble pavements; its fountains and medieval aqueducts; and its art.

Lyndall dwelt on *Il Campo* – the seashell-shaped large piazza on which the race is run. Built on a downward slope, it is split into nine sections. One of its imposing buildings is Siena's town hall and it features an 88 metre-high tower.

The city's religious angle was well covered, for instance Lyndall showed us the (rather gruesome) mummified head of St Catherine of Siena on display in the Basilica di San Domenico. Catherine, a theologian, had received the stigmata in 1375 and had worked for the unity of the church.

Lyndall stressed the importance of the *contrada* in the life of the Sienese: for the locals, the first allegiance is to the *contrada*, then to Siena and finally to Italy. Each *contrada* has its own costumes and banners, holds community dinners – and hates other *contrade* especially those that have won the most horse races. The *contrada* performs the role of a mutual aid society; the supportive environment limits the amount of

An aerial view of Siena which shows the narrow streets and the large piazza

Siena - A presentation by Lyndall Heddle

Siena - Una presentazione di Lyndall Heddle - cont'd

by Yvette Devlin

crime in its area; and it has the important task of raising funds for participation in the *Palio*.

The worldwide famous Palio of Siena

At each race, only ten *contrade* can take part. Bribery and corruption are rife – some of the jockeys (*fantini*) of other *contrade* are paid to lose the race. (Note that the jockeys are not necessarily drawn from the *contrade).* Palio festivities commence with a mass celebrated for the jockeys and then priests bless the horses. The piazza is festooned; the tension and excitement are palpable as the procession enters the piazza. Then the race is run – and it's all over in less than three minutes during which the horses go around the piazza three times. Post-race celebrations last well into the night.

The Duomo is a medieval church dedicated to *Santa Maria Assunta* (Holy Mary, Our Lady of the Assumption)

Lyndall showed us many photos of her enjoying life in Siena in the same way as locals do – particularly with good food, wine, culture and music. She also told us that the ANU has links with the University of Siena which happens to be the first publicly-funded university in Italy (it was funded by the city council). There are now 20,000 university students in town.

Some sixty people attended Lyndall's presentation on Siena

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Peppino Impastato, un eroico uomo libero

Peppino Impastato, a heroic free man

di Luigi Catizone

Un altro italiano di cui andare orgogliosi è certamente Giuseppe Impastato, detto Peppino, morto assassinato dalla mafia all'età di 30 anni e la cui storia è rimasta a lungo poco conosciuta.

Peppino nacque a Cinisi (provincia di Palermo) il 5 gennaio del 1948 da una famiglia mafiosa: il padre Luigi, lo zio e altri parenti erano mafiosi. Ancora ragazzo venne cacciato da casa dal padre, capo del piccolo clan familiare e membro di un clan più vasto, che si sforzava, invano, di imporre a Peppino le sue scelte e il suo codice comportamentale mafioso.

Cinisi è un Comune italiano di 12.200 abitanti

Nel novembre 1965 Peppino si avvicinò alla politica, iniziando un'attività politico-culturale antimafiosa e fondando il giornalino *L'idea socialista*. Dal 1968 in poi partecipò, con ruolo di dirigente, alle attività dei gruppi comunisti di sostegno alle lotte degli edili [building workers], dei disoccupati e dei contadini espropriati per la costruzione della terza pista dell'aeroporto di Palermo.

Nel 1975 costituì il gruppo culturale "*Musica e cultura"*, dove trovavano anche spazio il "Collettivo Femminista" e il "Collettivo Antinucleare". Nel 1976 fondò *Radio Aut*, radio libera e autofinanziata. Dai microfoni di questa radio, Peppino denunciava costantemente e caparbiamente i delitti e gli affari dei mafiosi di Cinisi e Terrasini (primo tra tutti quelli del capomafia Gaetano Badalamenti) che avevano un ruolo di primo piano nei traffici internazionali di droga, attraverso il controllo dell'aeroporto di Palermo.

Nel 1978 si candidò nella lista di Democrazia Proletaria alle elezioni comunali, ma venne assassinato nella notte tra l'8 e il 9 maggio del 1978. Con il suo corpo, dilaniato da una carica di tritolo [dynamite] sui binari della linea ferroviaria Palermo-Trapani, fu creata una macabra scena per farla apparire come la morte di un attentatore suicida. Pochi giorni dopo, venne comunque eletto simbolicamente in Consiglio comunale.

L'uccisione passò quasi inosservata perché la mattina del 9 maggio avvenne il ritrovamento a Roma del corpo di Aldo Modo (l'uomo politico italiano rapito e assassinato dalle Brigate rosse). Tutta l'attenzione dei mezzi d'informazione e dell'opinione pubblica venne rivolta a questo gravissimo episodio che aveva tenuto l'Italia con il fiato sospeso per settimane. La morte di Peppino venne rapidamente archiviata, dopo indagini frettolose, come "*attentato terroristico consumato dallo stesso Impastato o, in subordine, come suicidio eclatante*".

Peppino Impastato morì nella notte tra l'8 e il 9 maggio, ma la sua morte passò quasi inosservata poiché il 9 maggio avvenne il ritrovamento del corpo di Aldo Moro, lo statista italiano ucciso dalle Br dopo 55 giorni di prigionia

Peppino Impastato, un eroico uomo libero

Peppino Impastato, a heroic free man - cont'd

di Luigi Catizone

Da quel momento, grazie all'attività della madre Felicia, del fratello Giovanni e del *Centro siciliano di documentazione* di Palermo (dal 1980 intitolato proprio a Giuseppe Impastato), iniziò una grande attività per fare riaprire le indagini e portare, con nuove prove documentali, ad individuare la matrice mafiosa del delitto.

Il 9 maggio del 1979, primo anniversario dell'uccisione di Peppino, venne organizzata per le strade di Cinisi la prima manifestazione nazionale contro la mafia della storia italiana, a cui parteciparono oltre 2.000 persone provenienti da tutta Italia.

La storia giudiziaria fu comunque molto lunga e complessa. Vi fu un grande coinvolgimento dell'opinione pubblica italiana ed anche una petizione popolare per far riaprire il caso, ma fu in seguito a dichiarazioni fatte dal mafioso pentito Salvatore Palazzolo (che indicava in Badalamenti il mandante dell'omicidio assieme al suo vice Vito Palazzolo) che l'inchiesta venne formalmente riaperta nel giugno del 1996.

Il 5 marzo 2001 la Corte d'Assise riconobbe il mafioso Vito Palazzolo colpevole dell'assassinio di Peppino Impastato, condannandolo a 30 anni di reclusione e l'11 aprile 2002 il capomafia Gaetano Badalamenti venne condannato all'ergastolo [life imprisonment] come mandante del delitto.

Alla vita di Peppino, nel 2000, è stato dedicato il film di Marco Tullio Giordana *I cento passi* - i "cento passi" sono quelli che separavano la sua casa da quella del boss Tano Badalamenti, una distanza simbolica a significare la lontananza di Peppino dalla mentalità mafiosa. Il film non guadagnò nessun Oscar negli USA, ma in Italia vinse cinque prestigiosi premi.

Oggi Peppino Impastato è ricordato nelle scuole italiane e in moltissime manifestazioni nazionali. Su di lui vi è una vasta bibliografia e anche la musica lo ricorda con canzoni che spesso utilizzano come testo le sue poesie. Basta visitare il suo sito (www.peppinoimpastato.com) e quello della Casa Memoria Felicia e Peppino Impastato di Cinisi (http:www.casamemoria.it) per rendersi conto di come Peppino sia una memoria viva e di come sia uno dei simboli principali dell'Italia che si oppone alla mafia.

Radio Aut, radio libera e autofinanziata, fu fondata nel 1976

Una pagina nera quindi della storia italiana, ma illuminata e riscattata dal sacrificio di un uomo libero come Peppino Impastato e di quanti, numerosissimi, con la madre e il fratello in testa, seppero opporsi, con tenacia e per anni, alla vergognosa soluzione dell'archiviazione senza colpevoli [filing away of the case without punishment for the culprits].

La storia di Cinisi affonda le sue radici nel 1382 quando il giudice Fazio ne diede in concessione ai monaci benedettini di San Martino delle Scale il territorio. Il toponimo Cìnisi deriva dall'arabo cins, da cui kinisia che significa «territorio appartenente alla Chiesa». Grazie al paziente ed attento lavoro dei monaci il paese iniziò il suo sviluppo, trasformandosi da piccolo feudo in un agglomerato sempre più popolato. La corte benedettina, insieme alle torri di avvistamento che facevano parte del sistema di avviso delle Torri costiere della Sicilia, costruite su indicazione dell'architetto fiorentino Camillo Camilliani, sono le costruzioni più antiche e ricche di storia.

Dante Musica Viva - Know your choir

Another profile - Saverio (Sam) Palma

by Saverio Palma

My Italian father was a boot maker migrated to Australia in 1926. He was an accomplished musician and was well known amongst the Italian community. His main instrument was the tenor saxophone but he also played a host of other instruments including guitar, mandolin, violin, piano accordion and a number of brass instruments. He was able to play the trumpet as well as the saxophone which is pretty rare given that the embouchures are quite different. He was still actively playing the mandolin with the church choir the year that he died at the age of 91.

My father started teaching me to read music when I was about five years old and he started me on the soprano saxophone a couple of years later. When I was about 8 years old he brought home a cornet, a shorter version of the trumpet and after a short period I joined the Shepparton youth club band as a third cornet player. My interest in all things musical then diminished somewhat for a few years but returned just before I joined the air force as an engineering apprentice in 1959 at the age of sixteen.

I started my apprenticeship at the RAAF school of Technical Training at Wagga that year and was pleasantly surprised to learn that they had a brass band on the base, and I duly joined it. Within a short time I rose to the rank of first cornet. By the time that I left Wagga some three years later I occasionally got to play solo cornet with the big guys.

Saverio playing the trumpet during a DMV performance

When I completed my apprenticeship, I was posted to RAAF Base Laverton in Melbourne and then to Sale where I met my lovely wife Margaret. A posting to Darwin in December ‘63 forced us to make a decision to marry in November ‘63 and after the birth of our first child in the Darwin base hospital, the next posting found us in the RAAF base at Richmond. Apart from having a large ground engineering complex, the base was also the home of the air force’s largest volunteer brass band, the then famous RAAF Richmond band. I very quickly applied to join and spent the next four and a half years as one of 3 or 4 solo cornet players. This didn’t mean that I was a virtuoso, it meant that I could generally read and play what was put in front of me reasonably well. The principal cor-

Dante Musica Viva - Know your choir

Another profile - Saverio (Sam) Palma - cont'd

by Saverio Palma

net player was streets ahead of me in ability and confidence, but it was a pleasure to be considered good enough to be able to play alongside him in a band that had a great name and reputation.

The band eventually became a full-time professional military band and because I was lacking in actual musical qualifications, I didn't apply to join, however, because they were having difficulty recruiting a euphonium player I was asked to fill this role until someone could be found. I had played this instrument previously and quite enjoyed the challenge and diversity. I also considered it a great vote of confidence in me and a complement to be asked, albeit for the remaining ten months before my next posting.

The three tenors of DMV choir: Saverio, Giovanni, and Livio

Whilst in this region I also played solo cornet for the Penrith city band and on one occasion was asked to play the bass drum for the Anzac day parade in the absence of the regular drummer. I thought that this be would extremely easy for a man of my calibre, after all, all you have to do is march with the drum and keep the beat. What I didn't realise was that the usual drummer would have developed calluses after years of playing and I soon discovered that after about a kilometre of beating, my hands were starting to hurt and I was starting to develop blisters. It was another great experience however and again I considered it a complement to be asked.

The postings that followed found me in areas where there weren't air force bands however I answered the call from a couple of ex-bandsmen to form a dance band where I played trumpet in one and, when that one disintegrated because of postings, I helped form another where I played trumpet and bass guitar.

I was particularly happy to be an inaugural member of the DMV and also to have been conductor albeit for only a short time. I particularly enjoyed the opportunity to resurrect my trusty old trumpet which for years only saw the light of day on Anzac days when I would play the Last Post. I'm also extremely happy with the progress that the choir has made in its almost 10 years of existence. It's full of absolutely lovely people and "mi sono innamorato di tutti quanti".

Nostalgia d'Italia

The first CD of the DMV choir is available for sale at the Dante Office

$15 for one, $25 for 2, $10 each
(if purchased when joining the society)

Ed's note: Saverio is the choir manager and also stands in as choirmaster when Francesco Sofo is away. He is also one third of 'The 3 tenors' (the other two are Livio Chicco and Giovanni Andriolo)

Il presepe in Italia
Nativity in Italy
di Julia Church

Nel 1223, a Greccio, San Francesco d'Assisi realizza la prima rappresentazione della Natività, così descritta: "*Si dispone la greppia, si porta il fieno, sono menati il bue e l'asino. Si onora ivi la semplicità, si esalta la povertà, si loda l'umiltà e Greccio si trasforma quasi in una nuova Betlemme*". Alla rappresentazione, però, mancano i protagonisti principali: la Vergine Maria, San Giuseppe e Gesù Bambino.

Nello stesso secolo escono i primi presepi così come li conosciamo oggi: con statue di protagonisti umani e animali. Il più antico presepe che rimane di questo periodo si trova nella Basilica di Santo Stefano a Bologna.

Il più antico presepe dell'epoca medievale si trova nella Basilica di Santo Stefano a Bologna

Nel Settecento nascono le grandi tradizioni dei presepi napoletano, bolognese e genovese. È a partire da questo secolo che i presepi si diffondono anche nelle case dei nobili e della ricca borghesia. A Napoli le famiglie delle classi alte gareggiano su chi possiede il più bel presepe.

Alla fine dell'Ottocento presepi più semplici arrivano negli appartamenti del popolo. Oggigiorno si possono trovare presepi fatti di legno, metallo, terracotta e perfino plastica. Ci sono anche presepi meccanici, con movimento sincronizzato. A Napoli e in altre città si può anche vedere il presepe vivente, una rievocazione francescana che consiste di una breve rappresentazione teatrale della nascita di Gesù.

Il presepe napoletano si distingue per i suoi pastori di terracotta. Tutte le famiglie che conosco a Napoli conservano a casa i loro propri antichi presepi. Quando un pezzo si rompe irrevocabilmente, viene sostituito da uno nuovo comprato dalla famosa via dei presepi - Via San Gregorio Armeno, conosciuta tra gli inglesi come Christmas Alley. Lì si trova una miniera di presepi, tutti fatti in artigianato locale. Tra le statuette classiche ci sono pastori raffiguranti personaggi moderni come, ad esempio, Totò e Pulcinella tra il bene, e Berlusconi e Alessandra Mussolini tra il male.

La celebre Via San Gregorio Armeno, un must per chiunque abbia bisogno di comprare un pezzo del presepe

Simbologia nel presepe napoletano

Nel presepe napoletano tutto è simbolico. Il sacro è mescolato con il profano nelle rappresentazioni della vita quotidiana. Il presepe connette la gente di oggi con quella tra la quale nacque Gesù - pastori e venditori ambulanti, locandiere, ubriachi, preti, calciatori, politici, gente ricca e povera, onesta e imbrogliona. È

Il presepe in Italia

Nativity in Italy - cont'd

di Julia Church

Una veduta panoramica del Golfo di Napoli da Posillipo

evidente che Gesù nacque tra le vie e i vicoli di Napoli...

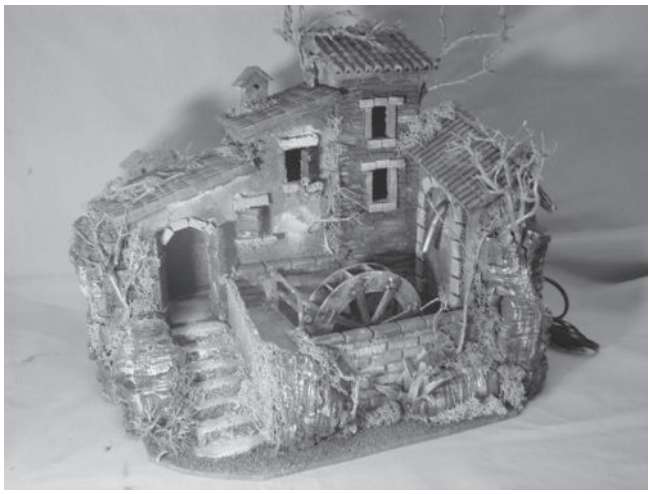
La struttura del presepe è rigorosamente osservata: lo 'scoglio' (realizzato in legno, sughero, cartapesta o gesso e concepito con primi e secondi piani) circonda le diverse scene del presepio - la Natività, l'annuncio ai pastori, il corteo degli orientali, la taverna e il popolo. Ad esempio, ci sono giocatori di carte - i due compari zi' Vicenzo e zi' Pascale - che simboleggiano il carnevale e la morte. A Napoli, la gente si rivolge a loro per pronosticare il gioco del Lotto.

I napoletani grandi e piccoli conoscono i significati pagani e cristiani di ogni personaggio ed elemento del presepe napoletano, personaggi ed elementi spesso collegati a miti contradditori. Il vinaio Cicci Bacco, ad esempio, il simbolo del vino e del pane con i quali Gesù farà l'Eucaristia diffondendo il messaggio di morte e resurrezione, è anche la figura dell'antico dio pagano del vino.

Tra gli oggetti ricchi di simbolismo c'è il mulino: le ruote o pale che girano come raffigurazione del tempo alludono al nuovo anno; e la farina diventa pane, l'alimento fondamentale che Cristo chiama 'il pane della vita'. Nel senso infero, la macchina produce farina bianca, l'antica simbologia della morte.

Tra le figure sacre c'è il pescatore, l'antico simbolo del pescatore di anime, figura di Dio e della divinità. Tra gli altri personaggi immancabili ci sono il monaco, la zingara, Stefania e la meretrice. Il monaco è il simbolo dell'unione tra il sacro e il profano. La giovane zingara in grado di predire il futuro è per Gesù un simbolo di sventura e dolore: porta con sé un cesto di arnesi di ferro, il metallo usato per forgiare i chiodi della crocifissione. Stefania è una giovane vergine che, alla presenza di Maria e con l'aiuto di un sasso, diventa la madre di Santo Stefano il cui compleanno si festeggia il 26 dicembre. La meretrice rappresenta il contrasto erotico - si colloca nelle vicinanze dell'osteria, con la Natività alle spalle.

Le pale del mulino che girano sono una raffigurazione del tempo e alludono al nuovo anno



I re magi rappresentano il viaggio notturno della stella cometa che congiunge la nascita del nuovo sole-bambino e la conversione del popolo europeo, africano ed asiatico.I venditori sono la personificazione dei mesi: gennaio (macellaio o salumiere), febbraio (venditore di ricotta e formaggio), marzo (pollivendolo), aprile (venditore di uova), maggio (una donna che vende ciliegie), giugno (panettiere), luglio

Il presepe in Italia
Nativity in Italy - cont'd
di Julia Church

I Re magi rappresentano il viaggio della stella cometa

(venditore di pomodori), agosto (venditore di cocomeri), settembre (contadino o seminatore) ottobre (vinaio), novembre (venditore di castagne) e dicembre (pescivendolo).

Anche i luoghi sono importanti nel presepe napoletano. Il mercato è il simbolo del mondo quotidiano e profano. Il ponte è il collegamento con la magia e il passaggio tra il mondo dei vivi e quello dei morti. Il forno, dove è fatto il pane, è il simbolo della dottrina cristiana e dell'Eucaristia. L'osteria è il simbolo dei vizi e delle cattiverie del mondo e anche del rifiuto delle osterie di dare ospitalità alla Sacra Famiglia.

Il fiume rappresenta il liquido del feto materno, ma d'altra parte anche il fiume degli inferi su cui vengono traghettati i dannati. Il pozzo è il collegamento tra la superficie e le acque sotterranee. La sua acqua contiene spiriti diabolici capaci di possedere la persona che la beve. I tempi greci e romani sono simboli del trionfo del cristianesimo sul paganesimo.

Ci sono altre figure particolari messe sugli scogli fuori della città immaginaria del presepe, come il lupo mannaro, la monaca con la testa mozza dell'amante decapitato, i suicidi che da lì si sono gettati e i morti ivi giustiziati.

Il rituale

Agli inizi di novembre le famiglie cominciano la costruzione dei presepi in casa. Le chiese invitano il pubblico a visitare i loro presepi in costruzione. Come ricorda un'autore napoletano: "*... è occasione ottima e gradevole per un approccio di cultura, di storia, di morale, di socialità…*".

Tra i presepi classici si possono anche trovare presepi moderni in miniatura, presepi all'interno di una cozza o una lampada, all'interno di una lenticchia e su una testa di spillo, tutti fatti da giovani artisti di oggi.

Finiamo con una barzelletta in tema: *c'è un bambino che per Natale vorrebbe tanto le scarpe e la maglietta della Nike. Così per Natale prepara un presepe e ci mette Gesù, Giuseppe e la Madonna. Poi scrive un bigliettino: "Caro Gesù, quest'anno per Natale vorrei le scarpe e la maglietta della Nike", ma per Natale gli arrivano i soliti giochetti orribili. L'anno dopo la scena si ripete: il bambino fa di nuovo il presepe, ma più bello con anche il bue, l'asinello e i re magi. Riscrive il bigliettino: "Caro Gesù, quest'anno per Natale vorrei le scarpe e la maglietta della Nike", ma gli arrivano i soliti noiosissimi giochi. L'anno seguente costruisce un grande presepe bellissimo con i pastori, le pecore, gli angioletti, la stella... Poi inizia a scrivere il bigliettino: "Caro Gesù...", ma cambia idea, prende Gesù dal presepe e scrive: "Cara Madonna, se vuoi rivedere il tuo bambino quest'anno per Natale mi devi portare...".*

Buon Natale!

We would like to wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our members!

Why study a foreign language?

To impress people around you
To meet new people
To increase your brain power
To develop confidence
To improve your employability
To study or live overseas
To become more open-minded
To discover a new culture
To completely transform your travel experience

Italian occupies a special position in Australia being a language of high culture as well as the language spoken by one of the largest ethnic communities in the country.

Students who learn Italian have access to one of the richest European culture traditions, from the Renaissance to the present day: the language of opera, film, architecture, fashion and industrial design.

Italy is today one of Australia's largest trading partners and Italian is one of the official languages of the European Union.

Learning Italian is, therefore, advantageous for students interested in international law, trade, commerce and economics.

In addition, because of the large number of Italian speakers in Australia, Italian is relevant to such areas as migrant studies and sociology.

What are you waiting for?

Receipt Number

Enrolment form for Term 1 2015

Commencing February 10, 2015

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)
Smaller classes at the **Notaras Multicultural Centre** (London Cct, City) and consist of 10x2 hour sessions

Enquiries: Office - Tuesday to Friday from 10:30am to 2:00pm 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: $295.00
Discounted course fee: $265.50 (CONTINUING STUDENTS)
Textbook for Beginners and Pre-intermediate: *Italian Espresso 1*, $70.00
Textbook for Intermediate and Advanced: *Italian Espresso 2*, $70.00
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** Ac 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 _____ Received by _____
(signature of student) (for the DAS)

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 *(10 wks then a 5-wk break to 20/21 May incl)*
Term 2	Tues 27/Wed 28 May to Tues 29/Wed 30 Jul *(10 wks then a 5-wk break to 2-3 Sept incl)*
Term 3	Tues 9/Wed 10 Sept to Tues 11/Wed 12 Nov *(10 wks)*

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

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

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

6 March	Jeff Brownrigg: *Australian Legend - Dale Trendall and Ancient Pottery of Southern Italy*
3 April	Gordon Bull: *Bernini - genius of Baroque Rome*
19 June	Gino Moliterno: *Fellini*
17 July	Franco Papandrea: *Italy as portrayed in the Aust media - findings of a 2013 survey report*
9 Oct	Lyndall Heddle: *Siena*
6 Nov	Christopher Latham: *The Squillo, the Secret of the Great Italianate tenors. Singing with power rather than force in Verdi's and Puccini's operas*
20 Nov	End-of year function: *Dante Musica Viva & other entertainment; cooking competition; 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.

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 2015 course 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***

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

2015 Membership

Dante Alighieri Society Membership Receipt No
Dante Alighieri Society of Canberra Inc.
PO Box 979
CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608

Subscription for membership for one year commencing 1/1/2015:

☐ 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** Ac 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