



SOCIETÀ DANTE ALIGHIERI
IL MONDO IN ITALIANO
COMITATO DI CANBERRA

Dante Review

"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 - Website: www.danteact.org.au - Issue: January/February 2015



Regular Events

**Dante Musica Viva rehearsals
on Thursday 5-7pm
from 29 January**

**Enrolments for Term 1 2015
close on Friday 13 February**

**Term 1 2015 begins
on 17 February**

**Conversation groups
on Thursday 7-9 pm
from 19 February**

Inside

• News from the office	2
• Our priorities - F. Papandrea	3
• Modi di dire - F. Foppoli	4
• L'angolo della lingua - Y. Devlin	4
• Cenno storico - Y. Devlin	5
• L'angolo della poesia - L. Luzzi	5
• Una Stella d'Italia tra noi - L. Catizone	6
• An hour with Chris - Y. Devlin	9
• Know your choir - V. Banyard	10
• What a party! - Y. Devlin	12
• 2015 Language Courses - F. Foppoli	15
• Enrolments are open!	17
• 2015 Calendar of activities	18
• 2015 Membership	20

Here is how we put an end to 2014!

**On 20 November there was fabulous
entertainment, great food and drink,
amiable company...
and a popular cooking competition!**

**Here is our competition manager with
the judges and the competition winners**



**Francesca Foppoli with Sandra,
Ottavio, Anna, Janette, Anna and Luigi**

Notice Board

Office Hours

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 to **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 (Tue-Fri, 10:30am-2:00pm). It includes the following sections: Reading, Education, Literature, Youth, Geography, History, Art, Music, Cinema. All members are welcome!

Committee Members

President

Professor Franco Papandrea

Vice-Presidents

Yvette Devlin; Tamsin Hong

Secretary

Vacant

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 of the Dante office in compiling this issue.

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 29 Jan | DMV rehearsals @5pm -
Notaras Multicultural Centre |
| 13 Feb | Enrolments for Term 1 close |
| 13-15 Feb | National Multicultural
Festival in the city |
| 14 Feb | Dante Musica Viva
will perform @10:30am |
| 17 Feb | Term 1 begins |
| 19 Feb | Conversation groups @7pm |
| 26 Feb | Conversation groups @7pm |
-

2015 Fees

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

Looking ahead to a new year of activities

by **Franco Papandrea**



The New Year promises to be an exciting one for the Dante Alighieri Society. 2015 not only coincides with the 750th anniversary of the birth of Dante Alighieri but also marks a half century of activities for the promotion of Italian language and culture by our Society in Canberra.

At the recent biennial congress of the Dante Alighieri Societies of Australia it was decided that such an important anniversary of Dante's birth should be appropriately commemorated by the Societies that bear his name. Preliminary plans are for a program of celebrations, coordinated by the Adelaide Committee, in all the cities with an active society. The feasibility of some exciting events is being considered and more information will be provided as planning progresses.

The Canberra chapter of the Society has been active for some 50 years. The Society began life as an unincorporated association in the early 1960s. The exact date it began operating is not known. The earliest references to a Dante Alighieri Society in Canberra that we have been able to verify date back to 1964 followed by more solid evidence of an active

Society in 1965. The idea that an active Society may have been established to coincide with 700th anniversary of Dante Alighieri is quite appealing and consequently we will be celebrating a half century of activities in an appropriate manner in the course of this year.

In addition to these special celebrations, plans are well advanced to extend the range of activities offered to members and students. The Society will seek to cooperate and coordinate its activities with other organisations engaged in the promotion of Italian language and culture in Canberra including the Italian Embassy, the Italo-Australian Club, schools and other cultural institutions. The aim is to provide our members and students with an enhanced range of opportunities to practise their Italian language skills and enjoy a richer and more varied cultural experience.

The Society will also be expanding the use of new technologies to communicate with members and the wider Canberra community. Plans are well advanced for the launch of an e-newsletter to augment the information distributed in our more traditional *Dante Review*. The focus of the e-newsletter will be on the distribution of timely information at substantially shorter intervals than is possible with the *Dante Review*. As the name implies, the e-newsletter will be available only via email to anyone, members and non-members alike, wishing to receive it and will provide information on all Italian activities and matters of interests in Canberra and not just those organised by the Society. Work will also be undertaken to enhance our online presence through improvements of our website and Facebook page.

The Society wishes all its members and their loved ones a happy and prosperous 2015 with lots of opportunities to strengthen their interests in Italian language and culture.

Franco Papandrea
President
Dante Alighieri Society Committee

Modi di dire

Sayings

by Francesca Foppoli

Italian food and culture go hand in hand.

After so much cooking, eating and drinking during the festive season, it seems very appropriate to start 2015 with our Modi di Dire based on food.

Forza, bevi che il vino fa buon sangue!

Drink up. A glass a day, keeps the doctor away! (Lit. wine makes good blood).

Mi piacciono le persone che dicono pane al pane, vino al vino.

I like people who call a spade a spade.

Purtroppo si sono separati. Lui era buono come il pane, ma forse un po' immaturo.

Sadly they separated. He had a heart of gold but perhaps a bit immature.

Quel film è proprio una pizza: non ho mai visto qualcosa di così noioso.

I have never seen anything so boring like that movie.

I politici cambiano, ma i loro discorsi sono sempre la solita minestra.

Politicians change but their speeches are the same old stuff.

Ho abituato i miei figli a mangiare quello che cucino per tutta la famiglia. Il mio motto è: "O mangi questa minestra o salti dalla finestra".

I trained my children to eat what I cook for the whole family. My motto is "it's my way or the highway" (Lit. You either eat this soup or jump out of the window).

Massimo non si è ancora accorto che sua sorella sta approfittando della sua bontà. Pare che abbia le fette di salame sugli occhi.

Massimo has not yet realised that his sister is taking advantage of his kindness. It seems that he can't see what's right under his nose.

L'angolo della lingua

Language corner

by Yvette Devlin

Let's look at a tricky verb – *sentire*. It is one of those verbs that exist in the transitive form (ie they require a direct object, with the action falling somewhere else) but also in the reflexive form (the action falling on oneself). Here are some examples to illustrate this technical explanation: *sento bussare alla porta* = *I hear knocking at the door* but *mi sento bene* = *I feel well*. It is clear from these two examples that *sentire* means *to hear* whereas *sentirsi* means *to feel*. Other usages of the verb: *sento molto bene* = *I (can) hear very well*; *senti il cane che abbaia?* = *do you hear the dog barking?* Also, pay attention how 'barking' is translated – it would be wrong to say 'il cane abbaiano'. Another example: *Marco non si sente bene da qualche giorno* = *Marco hasn't been feeling well for days*.

Many students mix the following three Italian words: *buono*, *bello*, *bene*. While *bene* is an adverb and equivalent to *well*, the other two are both *adjectives* and have different meanings. *Buono* is generally used to suggest good-natured, well-behaved; *bravo* is generally used to suggest someone has ability, skill, but can also denote good behaviour.

Marisa è molto brava a scuola perché fa sempre tutti i compiti – *Marisa does very well (is very good ie gets good marks) at school because she always does her homework*.

Pierino è un buon bambino: obbedisce sempre ai genitori = *Pierino is a good child: he always obeys his parents*.

Per ridere un po'!

- "Papà, è vero che si possono pescare i treni?"
- "Ma cosa dici Marchino?"
- "E allora a che cosa serve la rete ferroviaria?"

Una bambina dice alla mamma:

- "Mamma mamma, lo sai che Luigino imita gli uccellini?"
- "Perché fa cip cip?"
- "No no, perché mangia i vermi".

Cenno storico

A bit of history

by Yvette Devlin

Giotto di Bondone known as **Giotto** was born in Florence in 1266 or 1267 and died on 8 January 1337. He was a major painter and architect of the Early Renaissance period – so highly regarded that he was on the payroll of the municipality of Florence.

Giotto is mainly famous for his frescoes in Padua's Scrovegni Chapel. This major commission was completed in 1305. The frescoes depict the life of the Virgin and that of Jesus, while the interior wall of the old façade is decorated with scenes of The Last Judgment.

Giotto broke with the traditional painting style, moving away from the Byzantine and Gothic way of presenting figures - stylized and elongated. Instead, he portrayed figures that were three-dimensional, had realistic faces and gestures, and were set against backgrounds that gave the illusion of space, providing perspective.

Nearly 30 years after finishing the Scrovegni Chapel Giotto the architect designed the bell tower of the Florence cathedral consistent with its polychromy features with the result that the tower seems 'painted'.

Giotto di Bondone, conosciuto come Giotto, nacque a Firenze nel 1266 o 1267 e morì l'8 gennaio 1337. È un pittore ed architetto del primo Rinascimento ed era tanto ammirato che percepiva uno stipendio dal Comune di Firenze.

Giotto è soprattutto famoso per i suoi affreschi nella Cappella degli Scrovegni situata a Padova. Completò questa importante commissione nel 1305. Gli affreschi rappresentano la vita della Vergine e quella di Gesù, mentre la parete interna della vecchia facciata è ricoperta di scene del Giudizio Universale.

Giotto abbandonò il tradizionale stile

pittorico – quello bizantino e gotico in cui le figure sono ritratte stilizzate ed allungate. Egli invece le dipinse tridimensionali, con visi e gesti realistici, poste in sfondi che davano l'illusione di spazio e quindi prospettiva.

Quasi 30 anni dopo aver completato la Cappella, l'architetto disegnò il campanile della cattedrale di Firenze adottandone la policromia tanto che il campanile sembra dipinto.



L'angolo della poesia

Poetry corner

by Lea Luzzi

Instead of presenting a poem written by a famous Italian poet, this time I include a short but delightful poem written as an assignment by Lea Luzzi, a student attending the Continuing Italian 2 course at the Australian National University. As she put it, her main message is 'nothing is too difficult, one can always find a solution'.

Dopo la fine

Fuori è troppo difficile da capire,
come qualcosa così perfetto può finire.
Le memorie corrono nei torrenti,
con sogni perduti e risi mesti.

Dentro non sarà mai più sereno
Quando si sentiva talmente raro,
la facilità del presente scompare,
e una forza nascosta appare.

Una Stella d'Italia tra noi

Riconosciuti e premiati la passione e l'impegno di Yvette

di Luigi Catizone

Il primo dicembre 2014, in occasione della cerimonia dello scambio degli Auguri Natalizi presso l'Ambasciata Italiana, è stato conferito l'Ordine della Stella d'Italia a Yvette Alberti Devlin e ad Angelo Damiano dall'Ambasciatore d'Italia in Australia, S.E. Pier Francesco Zazo, a nome del Presidente della Repubblica Italiana.



L'ambasciatore Pier Francesco Zazo legge la motivazione dell'onorificenza conferita ad Yvette Alberti Devlin

È questa un'istituzione onorifica della Repubblica Italiana, la seconda onorificenza civile dello Stato, assegnata dal Presidente della Repubblica su proposta del Ministro degli Esteri. Rappresenta un particolare attestato in favore di tutti *“coloro che, italiani all'estero o stranieri, hanno acquisito particolari benemeritenze nella promozione dei rapporti di amicizia e collaborazione tra l'Italia e gli altri Paesi e nella promozione dei legami con l'Italia”*.

Sono certo che a tutti gli iscritti alla Dante Alighieri e a molti cittadini di Canberra, e non solo, sia noto il nome, il bel volto, la passione e l'impegno di Yvette Alberti Devlin.

Tra le prime persone che mia moglie Sandra ed io conoscemmo quando arrivammo a Can-

berra, poco più di un anno fa, c'era Yvette. Venimmo subito affettuosamente “costretti” (ma molto volentieri) a partecipare alle attività della Dante Alighieri. Avevamo anche noi molta voglia di conoscere persone e realtà nuove e a non immalinconirci per la lontananza dall'Italia. Yvette fu veramente il modo migliore per raggiungere questo obiettivo.

Ho così potuto toccare da vicino la sua vivacità e il suo spirito di iniziativa. Mai ferma e sempre con idee nuove e coinvolgenti. Troppo esuberante e piena d'iniziativa per fare la gregaria. E così ho saputo di quante cose ha fatto professionalmente e da volontaria, con un curriculum ponderoso e onorevole che l'ha portata ad ottenere questo prestigioso riconoscimento della Repubblica Italiana, tanto che penso valga la pena di richiamarlo brevemente.

È orgogliosamente Friulana di Vivaro (Pordenone), dove ha ancora una casa e dove si reca per qualche mese ogni anno. Cinquant'anni fa, giovanissima, viene in Australia per raggiungere la famiglia. Ha già il titolo di Segretaria multilingue conseguito a Roma, a cui aggiunge il Bachelor of Arts (con lode) a La Trobe University di Melbourne. Diviene



Una Stella d'Italia tra noi

Riconosciuti e premiati la passione e l'impegno di Yvette

di Luigi Catizone - continua

presto funzionaria nei Ministeri Federali dal 1972 al 1999. La sua ultima carica è stata quella di *Director of Quality and Equity in Higher Education*. Lasciato il Ministero, ottiene varie consulenze per l'Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee e per cinque università (2000-2005). Una di queste consulenze ha portato ad un'inchiesta parlamentare sulle condizioni finanziarie precarie degli studenti universitari.

La sua attività di volontaria, a partire dal 2000, è almeno altrettanto importante e ovviamente mai retribuita. È stata per tre anni insegnante d'inglese per il Migrant Resource Centre. In questo periodo ha aiutato un'anziana signora serba a scrivere le sue memorie, in seguito pubblicate da Ginninderra Press.

Nello stesso anno inizia la sua attività, che continua tuttora, presso la Società Dante Alighieri di Canberra. È leader di un gruppo di conversazione; dal 2001 è quasi ininterrottamente membro del comitato della stessa Società, di cui, negli ultimi 8 anni, è Vice-Presidente. Ha la responsabilità delle attività culturali, del coordinamento delle classi formali (onere passato a Francesca Foppoli a partire dalla fine del 2014) e dei gruppi di conversazione, dei workshop e della preparazione risorse per insegnanti come pure la valutazione dei corsi. È Editor della rivista bimestrale *Canberra Dante Review*, scrivendo anche molti ed interessanti articoli di varia cultura. Dieci anni fa ha partecipato alla fondazione del coro Dante Musica Viva di cui è tuttora membro attivo. Collabora con altre istituzioni cittadine come l'ANU, i ComItEs e l'Ambasciata d'Italia.

È stata anche Vice-presidente, con responsabilità amministrative, del comitato "Appello pro terremotati Abruzzo" nel 2009. È Segretario del Fogolar Furlan di Canberra.

Non meno importante è l'impegno assunto nel 2010 come Membro del Consiglio d'Amministrazione del Villaggio Sant'Antonio (struttura per anziani situata a Page) e come Membro del Villaggio Board Human Resources Sub-Committee.

Molto ampia è anche l'attività pubblicistica, dato che dal 2006 è cronista per il giornale *La Fiamma* su eventi nazionali o della collettività italiana di Canberra e Queanbeyan.

Tutto questo aveva già avuto risonanza nella Regione di Yvette, il Friuli. Infatti nel 2004 la Camera di Commercio di Pordenone le aveva conferito una medaglia d'oro per essersi distinta all'estero con il suo lavoro.

È motivo quindi di grande orgoglio per tutti gli Italo-Australiani di Canberra, e non solo, e per la Società Dante Alighieri, il prestigioso riconoscimento ottenuto, come è sottolineato

Yvette con l'ambasciatore Zazo dopo il conferimento



Una Stella d'Italia tra noi

Riconosciuti e premiati la passione e l'impegno di Yvette

di Luigi Catizone - continua

nella motivazione del conferimento dell'onorificenza. In essa, dopo aver ricordato tutte le meritorie attività svolte, si sottolinea soprattutto che *"Yvette Alberti-Devlin ha saputo divenire una figura di riferimento della comunità italiana a Canberra e nell'ACT per i molteplici ambiti del suo sempre attivo e prezioso impegno"*.

Siamo certi che Yvette sarà ancora molto attiva tra noi e darà il suo contributo essenziale a tutte le iniziative della comunità italiana e della Dante Alighieri. Le siamo tutti molto riconoscenti per quanto ha fatto e farà ancora.

Yvette, affettuose congratulazioni e... ad maiora!



Sopra: cantare nel coro Dante Musica Viva è un'altra delle grandi passioni di Yvette. Con gli altri membri del coro si è esibita in molteplici occasioni

In basso: Yvette con i soci della Dante presenti al rinfresco dell'ambasciatore S.E. Pier Francesco Zazo



An hour with Chris Latham

Un'ora con Chris Latham

by Yvette Devlin



Chris Latham talks about the Squillo

On 6 November we welcomed for the second time Chris Latham, Artistic Director of *Voices in the Forest* and WWI-related projects. This time he came to talk to us about the 'squillo', which is "a technical term for the resonant, trumpet-like sound in the voices of opera singers. It is easily recognizable by the distinctive brilliant, ringing quality in the timbre of the voice". Chris went on to say that this was the secret of great Italianate tenors (eg Giuseppe Di Stefano, Luciano Pavarotti) who were able to sing with power rather than force so as to be heard above orchestration. The pitch has to be at a certain frequency to be effective. Chris talked about harmonics and demonstrated resonance and voice projection by effectively using his diaphragm. We discovered he has a very good voice too – he is actually a violinist by profession.

Chris also played excerpts from opera arias sung by the three main singers who were to be featured at *Voices in the Forest*, an event

scheduled for 30 November at the National Arboretum. The singers were NZ tenor Simon O'Neill, baritone Peter Coleman-Wright and the amazing Latvian soprano Inessa Galante.

Inessa is internationally famous for her interpretation of Caccini's *Ave Maria*. If magical singing moves you and you appreciate limpid soaring notes, then I highly recommend listening to this piece on YouTube. You may then wish to listen to the same *Ave Maria* sung by Andrea Bocelli. When I checked both in mid December, I was amazed to discover that Bocelli's rendition had attracted nearly 3 million hits compared with Inessa's 433,000. There is a world of difference between the two interpretations and without hesitation I opt for Inessa's.

Chris Latham's presentations are always much appreciated by Dante members as he's an engaging, disarming, knowledgeable and interesting speaker. He will return during 2015.



People attending the presentation listening attentively to Chris while he demonstrates resonance

Nostalgia d'Italia

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

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

Dante Musica Viva - Know your choir

Profile of Virginia Banyard



***As part of the series
'Know your choir'
this time we feature our
star soprano Virginia Banyard***

Music in my life

I joined the Dante choir at a time when I was 'between choirs' and thought it might fill a gap for a while, but somehow that time has stretched out to 5 years, and it has become an important part of my life. It has certainly been the most welcoming group I've belonged to, and I have found extra enjoyment in singing some solo parts and in helping with warm-up sessions and on the committee. It's also the most democratic choir I've been in, and, with many members being Italian, we often have lively 'discussions' about how songs should be sung! Not being of Italian heritage, I have learned a lot about Italian language and culture.

I can't remember a time when someone in my family wasn't singing. Both my grandfathers were conductors of choirs, and my aunt, a

soprano, went to the Sydney Conservatorium of Music to study singing. My parents played records at home and I would learn the old wartime Vera Lynn favourites as a child, lying in bed listening into the night.

At primary school in those enlightened days when music was an important part of the curriculum and teachers had to be able to play an instrument, usually the piano, I learned many songs, traditional English ones like 'Drink to me only with Thine Eyes' and even French ones, such as 'Sur le Pont d'Avignon'. At this stage I took the part of Dickens' Tiny Tim in "A Christmas Carol" and sang 'Good King Wenceslas!'.

Piano lessons started when I was at boarding school so this was an invaluable part of my education, along with having music specialists who taught us singing. I participated in Eisteddfods and musicals and sang wonderful songs like 'Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring' and 'The Ships of Arcady'.

Unfortunately for me, although I have a soprano voice, at choir I was mostly asked to sing alto, being able to hold a part in tune! At the Tamworth Town Hall I saw my first Gilbert and Sullivan operetta, which was a revelation to me, especially as my singing teacher was the female star. From then on, singing was my passion and gradually, in addition to the popular songs of the day, I came to love opera, with some of my present day favourites being Angela Georgiou, Bryn Terfal, and Marcelo Alvarez. All songs tell a story, and the emotions and sounds are uplifting and to me, essential to the spirit.

Teaching had always been my last choice as a career, but on receiving a Commonwealth Scholarship in the '60s, this was an offer too good to refuse. I chose Fine Art and History

Dante Musica Viva - Know your choir

Profile of Virginia Banyard - cont'd

as my main subjects, and later took some units in French through Armidale University - though I have only recently studied Italian I have always had a love of languages, and French has many similarities to Italian. I largely put singing aside for the years teaching and raising a family, although I did join the Orpheus choir in Sydney and a choir in Oxford where my husband was doing post-doctoral work in the 80's. Back in Canberra I joined the ANU Choral society, and later the Canberra Choral Society and ACT Singers where I sang some solos.

In recent years, lucky enough to be in Canberra where there are so many musical opportunities, I have studied singing with wonderful teachers like Andrea Orwin, Louise Page and Michael Politi. This led to a

lot of solo work at concerts and social functions. In 2010 I teamed up with tenor Livio Chicco, whom I met in the Dante choir, and with either an accompanist or with backing music, we have sung regularly since then, both in Italian and in English, occasionally French and Spanish or even German! We have found that between us we know hundreds of songs, and it is a treat to be able to sing songs of our own choice, which come from a range from Elvis to Mozart, depending on the audience. We have yet to give our duo a name but haven't come up with anything so far!

Music is an important aspect of Italian culture, and for me it is very satisfying to help bring enjoyment to the Italian community and to others through singing.



What a party we had to finish the year!

Che bella festa per chiudere l'anno

by Yvette Devlin

On 20 November 2014 we wrapped up the year in real style – over 100 members were in attendance including 21 people who had arrived with entries for the culinary competition which this year called for cold dishes based on pasta or rice (not necessarily Italian).

While the three competition judges (Ottavio Bagozzi, Anna Capezio and Sandra Catizone) were evaluating each entry, the entertainment commenced. First up was a surprise appearance: our Treasurer Mario Rosi revealed his outstanding accordion-playing skills as he performed three beautiful pieces – playing both sides of the accordion and without the need to read music, just as accomplished musicians do. (He later explained that he's been playing since childhood, a secret he had kept... quite secret).



Anna and Sandra while tasting the pasta dishes

The Dante Musica Viva choir provided the major part of the entertainment, performing a variety of pieces including the much-loved carol *Tu scendi dalle stelle* and three opera arias composed by Giuseppe Verdi (*Noi siamo zingarelle*, *Il coro degli zingari* and *Libiam*, this latter featuring our tenor Livio Chicco and soprano Virginia Banyard). The choir's musical director/leader Francesco Sofo conducted the choir in his typical ebullient style and told the appreciative audience

that DMV had just recorded its second CD which would be available in the first quarter of 2015. He also announced that the choir would hold its third annual concert in April/May.

On behalf of the singers, I presented gifts of appreciation to the choir musicians (Angela – piano; Louise – mandolin; Rod – guitar; Genevieve – violin; and Wal – mandolin and also piano. (Big) Ben on the double bass was currently overseas). I then proceeded to present gifts on the Dante Committee's behalf to three key people: Francesco Sofo who has been the choir's instigator and musical director/conductor since its foundation – and stands in for absent musicians but also plays the piano accordion when required; Saverio Palma who manages rehearsals and performances and also conducts some of the pieces and plays the trumpet when necessary; and David Wilson who carries and sets up the sound system, is responsible for the technical aspects of cultural events and generally lends a hand when one is needed. All three people have been with the choir since its foundation ten years ago. Franco Papandrea then presented me with a gift for my long-term commitment to and multi-faceted roles in the Society (thanks Dante Committee! I'll drink the good wine on a special occasion).

There was the usual tension when the cooking **competition winners** were about to be announced by Francesca Foppoli who had managed the entries and the scores. Here they are:

First for the Pasta: **Luigi Catizone** with 'insalata di pasta radiatori' [the type of pasta]
First for the Rice: **Anna De Franceschi** with an Asian salad; and
Additional prize: **Janette Gray** for a dessert prepared with home-made tagliatelle

It should be noted that the amazing Janette manages to take out a prize each time a cooking competition is run. She must indeed be a clever cookie! (I wish to reassure everyone that no bribes are accepted, and that the judg-

What a party we had to finish the year!

Che bella festa per chiudere l'anno - cont'd

by Yvette Devlin

es have no idea who prepared what because each entry just carries a number – and the judges do not receive the entries)

Everyone then enjoyed the convivial atmosphere and good food – the competition entries were devoured as well as the traditional pizza and panettone provided by the Society, all watered down with good wine.

In the pictures:

Picture 1: some of the members listening to the speeches and presentations.

Picture 2: now it's time to eat and chat!



Torta di tagliatelle: la ricetta

The recipe

di Janette Gray

INGREDIENTI

Pasta Frolla

300 g di farina
60 g di zucchero di velo
170 g di burro
1 tuorlo d'uovo
scorza di limone grattugiata
acqua fredda q.b.

Ripieno

150 g di mandorle tritate grossolanamente
150 g di burro
150 g di zucchero
150 g di amaretti sbriciolati
2 uova (tuorli e chiare separati)
1 bicchierino di liquore (Disaronno)
125 g di taglioni all'uovo (ho usato capelli d'angelo)

METODO

La pasta frolla

Mettete la farina, lo zucchero, la scorza di limone e il burro a cubetti nel robot da cucina e pulsate fino ad ottenere un composto simile alla briciola del pane. Aggiungete il tuorlo d'uovo e un paio di cucchiaini di acqua e pulsate per 30 secondi per volta fino ad ottenere un'unica massa di pasta.

Mettete la pasta sulla spianatoia leggermente infarinata e impastate velocemente fino ad ottenere una pasta liscia. Formate una palla, schiacciatela fino ad ottenere un disco di circa 20 cm, avvolgetelo nella pellicola da cucina e mettetelo in frigorifero per 30 minuti.

Il ripieno

Mettete i tagliolini in una scodella e versatevi sopra acqua bollente. Aprite bene le matasse e quando i tagliolini saranno morbidi – 1 minuto circa – scolateli e poi spandeteli su un telo ad asciugare un po'.

Mettete il burro in una terrina e lavoratelo

con lo zucchero fino ad ottenere un composto liscio e ben montato. Aggiungete i tuorli d'uovo, il liquore e mescolate bene. Aggiungete le mandorle e gli amaretti e mescolate bene.

Montate a neve le chiare d'uovo e aggiungetele al composto, mescolando bene.

La Torta

Stendete la pasta frolla per uno spessore di 5-8 mm. Imburrate bene bene i lati di una tortiera e foderatene il fondo con carta da forno. Mettete la pasta nella tortiera e tagliate l'eccesso. Mettete un primo strato di taglioni (circa 1/3), poi mettete il ripieno ed infine i rimanenti taglioni. Infornate a 160-180 gradi per circa 40 minuti.

Servite la torta fredda. Irroratela con un po' di liquore e cospargetela di zucchero a velo prima di servirla.



To Stave Off Alzheimer's, Learn a Language?

news.nationalgeographic.com.au

Scientists already knew that bilingual young adults and children perform better on tasks dictated by the brain's executive control system.

Located at the front of the brain, this system is "the basis for your ability to think in complex ways, control attention, and do everything we think of as uniquely human thought," said Ellen Bialystok, a psychologist at York University in Toronto, Canada.

Now studies are revealing that advantages of bilingualism persist into old age, even as the brain's sharpness naturally declines, Bialystok told a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Washington, D.C.

Bialystok and colleagues examined 102 long-time bilingual and 109 monolingual Alzheimer's patients who had the same level of mental acuity. About 24 million people have dementia worldwide, with the majority of them suffering from Alzheimer's, according to Sweden's Karolinska Institutet medical university.

The bilingual patients had been diagnosed with the Alzheimer's about four years later than the monolingual patients, on average, according to Bialystok's most recent study, published in November in the journal *Neurology*.

This suggests bilingualism is "protecting older adults, even as Alzheimer's is beginning to affect cognitive function," Bialystok said. [...] Apparently, the bilinguals' brains are somehow compensating, she said. "Even though the 'machine' is more broken, they can function at the same level as a monolingual with less disease," she said. [...]

If you want to read the full article written by Christine Dell'Amore for National Geographic News please visit:
<http://news.nationalgeographic.com.au/news/2011/02/100218-bilingual-brains-alzheimers-dementia-science-aging/>

Why Italian?

Perché studiare italiano?

by Francesca Foppoli

They say Italians are like parsley because they are found everywhere you go (just like parsley in Italian cooking).



What about the amount of Italian found in English?

Did you know that you already speak some Italian every day?

Allegro, bravo, piano, forte, lento, fiasco, finale, soprano, tenore, diva, bel canto, fresco...
Pergola, tombola, patio, al fresco, al dente
and that's not including Italian food...

Do you recognise these Italian words?
-zione -> -tion/-ction

Addizione, sottrazione, collezione, operazione protezione, frazione, donazione, vocazione, petizione, collaborazione, produzione, ispirazione, coalizione

and these:
-bile -> -ble

Abile, potabile, probabile, terribile, incredibile, orribile, impossibile, invisibile

and these:
-ttore -> -ctor

Attore, conduttore, direttore, dottore, protettore

**YOU KNOW MORE
THAN YOU THINK**

**COME AND LEARN THE REST
WITH US AT THE DANTE!!!**

**Enrolments close
on 13 February... Hurry!**

Studying Italian in Italy

Dante Alighieri Society of Camerino

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

Il Faro

The School of Italian Language IL FARO offers two Scholarships for a four-week Italian Intensive Language Course in the summer 2015 (courses are only run between 15 June and 25 September 2015).

Each scholarship equals to 50% reduction in tuition fees, thus the course will cost 450 Euros rather than 900 Euros. Price includes: VAT, twenty lessons per week for the language courses, all course materials (travel and accommodation are not included). No registration fees required.

The language course is structured in 4 daily lessons for a total of 20 weekly lessons. Classes are held exclusively in Italian and have a maximum of 6 students. All teachers are native speakers, with degrees from Italian universities as well as extensive experience in teaching Italian as a foreign language.

Centro IL FARO is located in the town of Caorle, known as a "miniature Venice," a charming seaport town, rich in culture, history and traditions, only 50 kilometres from Venice, and Venice International Airport. Its enchanting beaches and picturesque historic centre make it an exquisite location for a learning experience in a relaxing atmosphere.

Caorle is an ideal location also for daytrips to many cities in Veneto and Friuli Venezia Giulia regions, from Venice to Verona, from Trieste to Udine, all easily reachable by train or bus. Because our language classes run in the morning, students have the afternoon free either to relax or to participate in the excursions in the territory we organise, or travel on their own.

Accommodation: Centro IL FARO is available to help finding the best accommodation during the stay in Caorle at competitive price, in hotels, in private apartments or host families. For any enquiries: info@ilfarolingua.it



Enrolment form for Term 1 2015

Commencing February 17, 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 (10:30am-2:00pm) Ph: 6247 1884 Email: info@danteact.org.au

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 _____
(signature of student)

Received by _____
(for the DAS)

2015 CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

FORMAL COURSES

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

Term 1	Tue 17/Wed 18 Feb to Tue 21/Wed 12 Apr (<i>10 weeks then a 5-wk break to 26/27 May incl</i>)
Term 2	Tue 2/Wed 3 June to Tue 4/Wed 5 Aug (<i>10 weeks then a 5-wk break to 8/9 Sept incl</i>)
Term 3	Tue 15/Wed 16 Sept to Tue 17/Wed 18 Nov (<i>10 weeks</i>)

THURSDAY CONVERSATION GROUPS

(7-9 pm Function Room NMC, Civic)

Term 1	19 Feb to 17 Apr (<i>10 weeks then 5-wk break</i>)	
Term 2	4 June to 6 Aug (<i>10 weeks then 5-wk break</i>)	
Term 3	17 Sept to 19 Nov (<i>10 weeks</i>)	<i>Total: 30 weeks</i>

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

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

5 March	To be advised
9 April	To be advised
18 June	Dante's 750th birth anniversary
16 July	To be advised
1 October	Dr Mathew Trinca, Director of the National Museum of Australia
29 October	Christopher Latham (artistic director of Voices in the Forest): <i>Puccini - the populist revolutionary</i>
26 November	End-of-year function: Dante Musica Viva + other entertainment; culinary competition; refreshments

AGM: 23 April

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

CHOIR REHEARSALS

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

Every Thursday from 29 January to 10 December

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS (all during our term break)

Easter: Good Friday on 3 April; Easter Monday 6 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 in each of Term 1 and 2, and three events in Term 3.



***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



CITY
6249 6666
55 NORTHBOURNE AVE
CANBERRA CITY

WODEN
6162 0366
38 CORINNA STREET
PHILLIP

www.cataldos.com.au



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



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*

2015 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 1/1/2015:

- ☐ 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