



SOCIETÀ DANTE ALIGHIERI
IL MONDO IN ITALIANO
COMITATO DI CANBERRA

Dante Review

"To preserve and disseminate Italian language and culture"

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Canberra City ACT 2601 - Ph: 02 6247 1884 - Email: info@danteact.org.au - Website: www.danteact.org.au - Issue: January/February 2016



Clinica mobile

is a mobile hospital housed in a truck specifically equipped to provide medical support to motor bike riders at races all over the world

Dr Michele Zasa

will talk about how and where the clinic operates and of his experiences with famous riders

7pm Wednesday 24 February

Italo-Australian Club, 78 Franklin Street - Forrest

The videoconference will be in English



Regular Events

**DMV rehearsals
on Thursday 5-7pm
from 28 January**

**Enrolments for
Term 1 2016
Close on Friday
29 January**

**Term 1 2016 begins
on 2 February**

**Conversation groups
on Thursday 7-9pm
from 18 February**



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News from the office

Office Hours

The office hours of the Dante Alighieri Society of Canberra Inc. are:
10:30am - 2:00pm Tuesday to Friday.

During the month of January the office will also be open on Monday.

For enquiries about our courses 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. 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

Treasurer

Mario Rosi

Committee members

Luigi Catizone, Francesca Foppoli, Alessia La Cavera, Nicola Patini, Bruno Santagostino Baldi

Journal Editor: Yvette Devlin

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

Upcoming Events

28 January: DMV rehearsals begin @5pm

29 January: enrolments for Term 1 close

2 February: Term 1 begins

13 February: Dante Musica Viva at the National Multicultural Festival (see details below)

18 February: conversation groups @7pm

24 February: *Clinica Mobile* - a videoconference from Italy @7pm at the Italo-Australian Club in Forrest (see p.1)

25 February: conversation groups @7pm

*Come and listen to our choir's
first public performance in 2016
Dante Musica Viva at the
National Multicultural Festival*

*Saturday 13 February
at 11:10 am for 40 minutes
Performance Platform 2*

Thank you!

Cara amica e caro amico della Dante,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support over the past year and to remind you of some of the benefits of being part of our vibrant society that promotes Italian language and culture.

First of all, you get the opportunity to enrol in our Italian language courses and conversation groups, but also the opportunity to attend our cultural activities; then you can access our Italian language library; receive our bimonthly newsletter and join our choir, the Dante Musica Viva!

Your financial support in the past year has been really important for us and we hope that you will be part of the Society this year as well!

Looking ahead to a new year of activities

Franco Papandrea, President of the Dante Alighieri Society

With the holiday season behind us, we look with some excitement to the start of a new year and the exciting services and activities being planned for Dante Alighieri Society members in the months ahead.

During the past year, we successfully relocated our formal language courses to the Yarralumla English-Italian bilingual school to take advantage of the obvious synergies between the school and the Society. Despite some minor initial teething issues, we are pleased with the success of the move and the enhanced collaboration and mutual support that is developing between the two institutions. We look forward to strengthening that success in the year ahead.

Other developments of interest that will add to future benefits to members include the establishment of a new Italian Cultural Society at the Australian National Uni-



President Franco Papandrea addressing Dante members at the end-of-year function in November

versity. We look forward to collaborating with the Society to further strengthen our long-established and ongoing relationship with the School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics. We are also in the final stages of concluding a cultural partnership agreement with the Friends of the National Library Inc. which will provide mutual benefits to our respective memberships.

As part of our cultural program in 2015 we held a very successful experimental live videoconference with noted Italian author and journalist Pino Aprile which allowed participants to pose questions directly to the speaker. The success of the experiment has encouraged us to seek further opportunities for our members to interact with noted

personalities and institutions via a video link. We will have at least two such events in the coming year. The first (on 24 February coinciding with the GP Championship race at Philip Island, Melbourne) will provide an insight into the emergency assistance arrangements to riders participating in the international Moto GP race tour. We will explore the behind the scene happenings with the Italian doctors of the Clinica Mobile which follow the race circuit around the world and provide the first emergency medical assistance to riders involved in accidents. The second (in June) will feature the Istituto Ortopedico Rizzoli and while it is also connected to a medical theme, much of the focus will be in the form of a virtual tour of its premises in the historic Monastery of

San Michele in Bosco in Bologna including its artistic treasures. These videoconferences will be in addition to our regular cultural events.

Our offering of formal lan-

guage courses will also be revamped and expanded to better meet demands of members and keep it competitive in the Canberra market. We will be offering short and intensive courses in addition to our standard fare. We are also considering various ways of enriching the experience of those who participate in our conversation groups.

Members are encouraged to provide suggestions on other ways we can enrich the benefits of their membership of the Society. We count on your support to promote all aspects of Italian culture in Canberra.

On behalf of the Society I wish all members and their families a happy and prosperous 2016.

Modi di dire

Sayings - Francesca Foppoli

Modi di dire con origini religiose

È un uomo di successo, ma la sua vita è stata un calvario.

He is successful but his life was a long ordeal.

Purtroppo è un paese dove la vita quotidiana per la popolazione civile continua ad essere un calvario.

Unfortunately it's a country where daily life is still an ordeal for civilians.

Non bisogna crederle: sta recitando la parte della pecorella smarrita.

Don't believe her; she's pretending to be a lost little lamb.

È inutile cercare di convincerlo perché è come San Tommaso.

There is no point in trying to convince him because he's a doubting Thomas.

Sei d'accordo che la svalutazione dell'euro sia piovuta come una manna dal cielo?

Do you agree that the euro deflation has been a gift from heaven?

L'Europa dovrebbe avere una politica di accoglimento dei migranti piuttosto che lavarsene le mani.

Europe should have a policy to receive migrants, rather than just washing its hands of them.

Paolo è senz'altro in gamba nel suo lavoro, ma è lungo come una quaresima.

Paolo is certainly great in his field but he is such a drag.

Direi che non hai capito l'antifona.

I think you're missing the point.

L'angolo della lingua

Language corner - Yvette Devlin

We start the year with a couple of 'false friends' and a tricky verb that requires great mental agility to use correctly 🧐

Annoiarsi (as a reflexive verb) means *to get bored* and not *to be annoyed*. The verb also exists as a transitive verb. Here are some examples: *mi sono annoiata alla festa perché non conoscevo nessuno* = *I got bored at the party because I didn't know anyone*; *questa conferenza mi sta annoiando* = *this lecture is boring me*.

On the other hand: *that drunk young man is annoying everyone* = *quel ragazzo ubriaco sta seccando tutti quanti*; *Giovanna è poco collaborativa e questo mi irrita* = *Giovanna is uncooperative and I find this annoying*.

The English word *commotion* does not translate as *commozione* but as *trambusto/subbuglio*. Here are some examples to illustrate this. *He woke up because of great commotion in the street* = *si è svegliato per via di un gran subbuglio in strada*; *quando parlava degli amici persi in guerra, mio nonno non riusciva mai a trattenere la sua commozione* = *when talking about his friends lost in the war, my grandfather could not contain his emotion*; *siamo rimasti commossi dalla sua generosità* = *we were moved by his/her generosity*.

Finally, the verb *piacere* (to like) requires a very different construction in Italian so it's very tricky to master. Check these examples out: *mi piace tanto il tiramisù* = *I really like tiramisù*; *non ci è piaciuto il modo in cui si è comportato* = *we didn't like the way he behaved*; *do you like Maria?* = *ti piace Maria?*; *I don't like his friends* = *non mi piacciono i suoi amici*. Never translate 'I like' with 'io piaccio'! See the difference: *mi piacciono i miei vicini* = *I like my neighbours*;

Per ridere un po'!

Un uomo è al cinema seduto accanto al proprio cane ed entrambi guardano assorti il film.

Il vicino dell'uomo, notando che il cane cambia più volte l'espressione del muso, dice al padrone: "Perbacco, sono allibito! Il suo cane guarda il film e sembra anche molto concentrato" ed il padrone risponde con una alzata di spalle: "Sono meravigliato quanto lei perché quando ha letto il libro non gli è piaciuto per niente!"

L'angolo della poesia

Poetry corner - Yvette Devlin

I love poetry that oozes irony and humour. **Trilussa** (nom de plume of Carlo Alberto Salustri) was born in Rome in 1873 and died there in 1950. He was a poet, novelist and journalist and is best known for the poetry he wrote in the Roman dialect. He relished making social commentary in verse. For over 50 years he wrote about political corruption and the wheeling and dealing of the powerful but was also inspired by melancholy, loneliness and love endings.

His first collection, *Le stelle di Roma*, was written in 1889 and the last one, *La gente*, in 1927. Extremely popular in Italy, in 1950 he was appointed Life Senator by Italian president Einaudi. He died twenty days after this nomination.

Carità cristiana is a short poem with a great punch line.

Er Chirichetto d'una sacrestia
sfasciò l'ombrello su la groppa a un gatto
pe' castigallo d'una porcheria.
- Che fai? – gli strillò er Prete ner vedello

- Ce vò un coraccio nero come er tuo
pe' menaje in questo modo... Poverello!
- Che? - fece er Chirichetto – er gatto è suo? –
Er Prete disse: - No... ma è mio l'ombrello! –

Here is my literal translation into Italian and then into English.

Carità cristiana

Il chierichetto di una sacrestia sfasciò un ombrello sulla groppa di un gatto per castigarlo di una porcheria. “Che fai?” gli strillò il prete nel vederlo. “Ci vuole un gran coraggio come il tuo per dargli botte in questo modo... Poveretto!” “Che?” fece il chierichetto, “il gatto è suo?”. Il prete disse: “No... ma è mio l'ombrello!”

Christian compassion

The altar boy of a sacristy smashed an umbrella on the back of a cat to punish it for the mess it had made. “What are doing?” shouted a priest on seeing him. “You need a lot courage to hit it this way. Poor thing!” “What?” said the altar boy “is the cat yours?”. The priest replied: “No, but the umbrella is!”

The Enchanted Palace Ball 2016

The *Enchanted Palace Ball* brings the authentic *Carnevale di Venezia* to Canberra launching this annual event in 2016.

Experience an unforgettable evening of fine Italian cuisine and entertainment by popular Canberra band “Annie and the Armadillos” and superb dance artists Vaughan and Alison Liddicoat of “the International Dance Studio”.

Enjoy canapes drinks on arrival on the terrace, followed by a 3 course dinner with beverages, and dance the night away in the grand ballroom. Create your own spectacular Venetian Mask Costume or join us in formal dress and a mask and be spellbound by the atmosphere.

WHEN

Friday, 12 February at 7:00pm

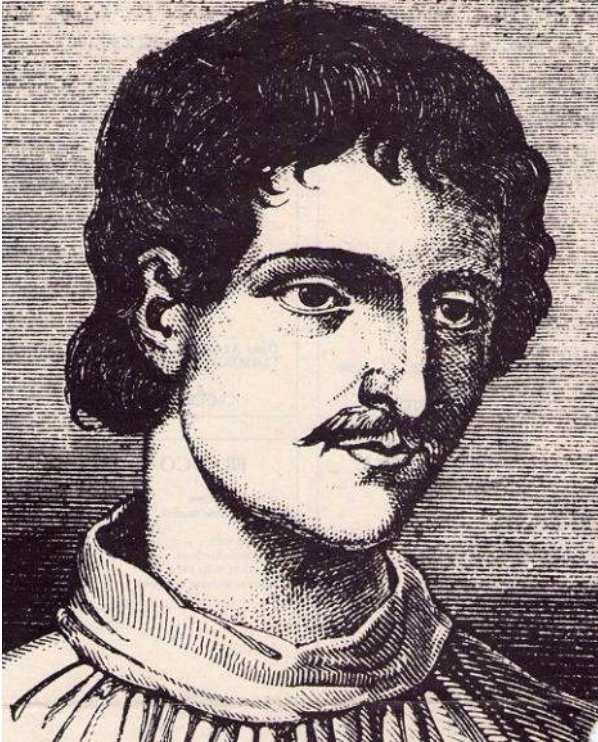
WHERE

Albert Hall - 100 Commonwealth Avenue, Yarralumla



Cenno storico

A bit of history - Yvette Devlin



On 17 February 1600 **Giordano Bruno** – philosopher, cosmologist, mathematician and poet, a real Renaissance man - was burnt at the stake as a heretic.

Bruno was born in 1548. Despite being a Dominican friar, he questioned some basic Catholic doctrine such as the Trinity, the Divinity of Christ and the virginity of Mary. In his scientific endeavours, he supported the Copernican theory even arguing that the universe was infinite and some stars were in fact suns surrounded by their own planets.

This thinking could not go unchallenged by the Inquisition, which sentenced him to prison in 1593. Seven years later Bruno was taken to a famous Roman piazza, Campo de' Fiori, stripped, tied to a pole and burnt alive.

Pope John Paul II in 2000 expressed deep regret for his horrible execution but maintained that his intellectual pursuits had led him to views incompatible with the Christian doctrine.

In recognition of his role in cosmology, a moon

crater has been named Giordano Bruno and an asteroid 5148 Giordano. Furthermore, every year NASA presents the Giordano Bruno Memorial Award.

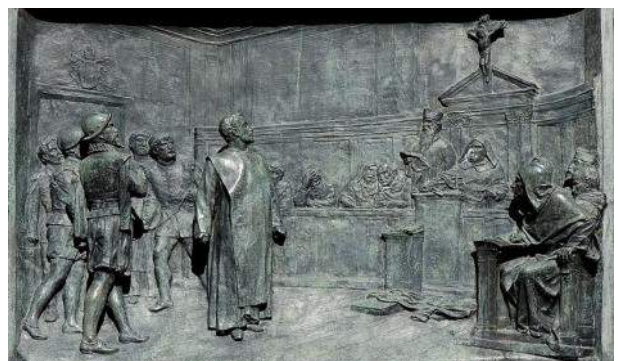
Il 17 febbraio 1600 Giordano Bruno – filosofo, studioso di cosmologia, matematico e poeta, un vero Uomo Universale – fu bruciato vivo per eresia.

Bruno nacque nel 1548. Nonostante avesse preso l'abito di frate domenicano, espresse idee contrarie alla dottrina cattolica, ad esempio sulla Trinità di Dio, la divinità di Cristo e la verginità di Maria. Nel campo scientifico, sosteneva la teoria copernicana arrivando pure a proporre che l'universo era infinito e che molte stelle erano in realtà soli circondati da pianeti.

Queste idee e teorie non potevano sfuggire all'Inquisizione che lo condannò al carcere nel 1593. Sette anni più tardi Bruno fu condotto nella famosa piazza di Roma Campo de' fiori, spogliato, legato ad un palo ed arso vivo.

Nel 2000 Papa Giovanni Paolo II espresse profondo rammarico per la morte atroce subita da Bruno, pur sostenendo che il suo pensiero lo aveva condotto a scelte intellettuali incompatibili con la dottrina cristiana.

In riconoscimento del suo ruolo in cosmologia, un cratere lunare porta il suo nome come lo fa l'asteroide 5148. Inoltre ogni anno la Nasa conferisce la Giordano Bruno Memorial Award.



The ‘revolutionary’ Giacomo Puccini

A presentation by Chris Latham - Yvette Devlin

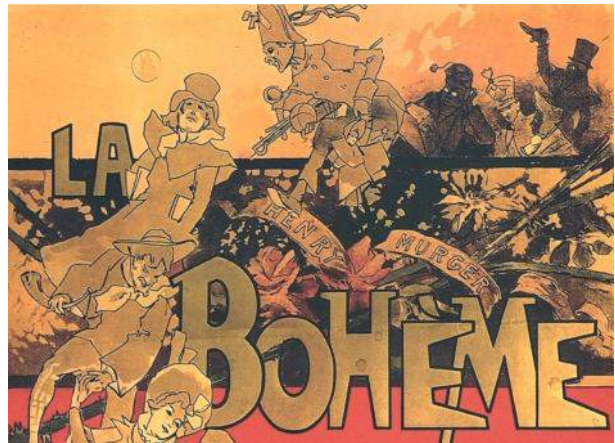
The Artistic Director of the annual concert Voices in the Forest, Christopher Latham, gave Dante members a presentation on composer Giacomo Puccini and in particular of *La bohème*, the opera featured in this year’s Voices concert at the National Arboretum on 21 November.

Christopher contrasted the earlier operas (composed in the so called ‘post-Romantic’ tradition featuring stories of the nobility) with the operas from the time of Bizet created in the ‘verismo’ style ie featuring the average contemporary men and women – for instance, factory workers in *Carmen*. And so in *Mme Butterfly* Puccini wanted to contrast the honourable 13- y.o. Cio-Cio san with the appalling villain Pinkerton, and in *La bohème* he portrays young bohemians living in Paris who are just trying to make a living. “A feature of Puccini’s work is his portrayal of strong women and weak men”.

Chris Latham talks with passion about Giacomo Puccini



Christopher then spoke of the difference in the voice of singers who were to feature without mikes and have to project their voice, compared with the voice of singers who record their performances in a studio. Those accustomed to using the mike in a studio typically have not needed to develop powerful voices, yet “it’s still interesting to hear booming voices”. And these days opera singers performing live do use mikes. This enables them to sing without having to ‘push the voice out – the softer the voice, the more you get grain in the sound’.



We then got an introduction to the three opera singers who were to feature at Voices: Australian soprano Cheryl Barker, Mexican tenor Diego Torre and Argentine baritone José Carbó, and listened to a number of tracks featuring each of these singers. Of particular interest was the track *Mi chiamano Mimì* sung by Cheryl Barker early in her career, and then some twenty years later when her voice was more mature, rounded – “milky, creamy, mellifluous”.

Christopher explained that Act 2 at Voices would feature highlights from *La bohème* performed by these three guest singers. The opera had its première in Italy in February 1896 in Turin. Outside Italy it was performed for the first time in June 1896 at Teatro Colón in Buenos Aires.

We are thankful to Christopher for agreeing to return to Dante and talk to our members about opera, which he describes as an “essential Italian art form”.

Dante Musica Viva

and a profile of Brian Proctor - *Yvette Declin*



Our beautiful choir, Dante Musica Viva, has had an exciting and very busy year and is looking forward to a bit of rest!

As usual, we opened the year with a performance at the National Multicultural Festival in February. In March we sang at the Palm Sunday Friulani picnic at Edison Park, a picnic that attracts some 250 people each year. We then worked very hard to prepare for three major concerts. In early May we travelled to Griffith where we entertained a large audience of enthusiastic Italo-Australians migrants. (We were so popular that they invited us back as soon as we can manage it, promising an even larger audience next time.) Then in late May we performed at our own annual concert at the Italo-Australian Club and on 31 May at the Italian Cultural Centre on the occasion of community celebrations for Italy's national day.

It was also in May that we launched our second CD – *Nostalgia d'Italia 2* (available for \$15 through the office or our choir manager, Saverio Palma). The CD has 20 tracks ranging from the

sublime to the ridiculous – ie from opera arias (like *Il coro delle zingarelle*) to short folk songs in regional dialects (like *E chi che toca la mia morosa*).

The second part of the year started with a concert in July for the Giuliani Association's 'Festa de le fritole' (festival of a sort of sweet dumpling popular in the N-E of Italy) and then DMV focused on a combined choral performance at Llewellyn Hall (held in September) as part of a major fund-raising concert for the neo-natal unit of Canberra Hospital. It was a tremendous experience for our choir to sing on stage alongside more experienced choirs.

November was another particularly busy month: on the 8th we performed at the first Festa Italiana in the Embassy Gardens; on the 22nd at Queanbeyan's Italian Community Festival; and on the 26th at the Dante end-of-year function. In December we were asked again to sing at the Multicultural Awards Ceremony, and at the Giuliani Christmas picnic at Weston Park. We are taking a little break over the festive season before gearing up for the 2016 National Multicultural Festival (13 February).

As part of our series *Know your choir*, this time we feature **Brian Proctor**. Brian is one of about ten 'foundation members' of the choir, as you can read in this article prepared by him. Brian has been a keen student of Italian for several years. As a regular and dedicated member of the choir, Brian sometimes steps in to form our 'three tenors' team when one of the regular tenors is absent. And his career has taken him from country teaching to the bar (and it's not the drinking-type of 'bar'...). Here is his story.

"I was born in Maitland NSW in 1941 and lived there until I was about 20. After finishing school I accepted a Teachers' College Scholarship and did my BA and Dip. Ed. at Newcastle University College as it then was. While I was at Uni I was a member of a choir conducted by Professor Bryn Newton-John, father of Olivia.

Dante Musica Viva

and a profile of Brian Proctor - *Yvette Devlin (cont'd)*



Brian Proctor during a performance

I taught in NSW high schools for seven years teaching English, History and Latin at Cowra, Hay, Sydney Boys' High School and Caringbah. While I was at Hay I joined the local amateur drama group and there met my wife who was also teaching there. Last year we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary.

While I was teaching I studied law and was admitted as a barrister in 1968. I worked in various legal positions for the remainder of my working life and have now been retired for a few years. I came to Canberra in 1981 to take up a position as Registrar of the ACT Supreme Court and thought at the time it was likely that after a few years my family and I would return to Sydney. However we liked the lifestyle here and the idea of living elsewhere soon became out of the question.

I went to Italy in 2005 in a U3A group led by Ottavio Bagozzi and on my return decided to learn Italian. I enrolled in the Dante grammar classes at

Telopea Park School and also joined a conversation class and the Dante choir. I have now been a member of the choir for over 10 years and have seen many people come and go. It's very pleasing to see that the continuing membership has increased from the handful of members at the beginning to over thirty or forty. In the first few years the rehearsals were held after the conversation classes finished at 9pm and attending those rehearsals until 11pm was quite demanding. I was very pleased when it was decided to have the rehearsals before the conversation classes and not afterwards.

Although some of our songs are in dialect, most are in Italian and I have found that singing in Italian has greatly improved my pronunciation and vocabulary. I have also learned a lot about Italy as we hear a lot about the background of each new song we sing. I have enjoyed the challenge of performing for both Italian and non Italian groups. A particularly memorable experience was the recent concert to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Neonatal foundation when our choir was part of the massed choirs who sang on the Llewellyn Hall stage. In the program I was listed as the only tenor from the Dante choir.

Apart from the Dante groups I have been a member of several U3A Italian classes and have done two courses run by the Continuing Education Group of the ANU. Other activities include an exercise class once a week, attending weekly meetings of a Men's Shed and attending a bird-watching walk once a month.

In 2011 I had a second trip to Italy this time in a group led by Julie Docker of the ANU."

Nostalgia d'Italia 2

The second CD of the DMV choir is available for sale at the Dante Office for \$15!

Un farewell party tutto da gustare

Luigi Catizone

Il tradizionale Farewell Party di fine anno organizzato dalla Società Dante Alighieri di Canberra è stata un'ottima occasione per tutti i soci di stare insieme in allegria, per salutarsi e farsi gli auguri, prima delle vacanze natalizie ed estive.

La partecipazione è stata quest'anno molto ampia e l'intrattenimento preparato era particolarmente vivace ed è stato molto gradito dal pubblico, forse più numeroso ed entusiasta degli scorsi anni.

La partecipazione di S.E. Pier Francesco Zazo, con la sua gentile consorte Signora Svetlana, ha reso più importante la cerimonia. L'Ambasciatore ha anche rivolto un breve discorso di saluto a tutti i presenti e alla comunità italiana di Canberra e, durante il rinfresco, si sono a lungo intrattenuti cordialmente con il pubblico che li ha circondati di affetto e rispetto.



Sopra: il tesoriere della Dante Mario Rosi rivela la sua destrezza alla fisarmonica.



A destra: David Wilson mentre recita il Cantico delle creature

La conduttrice della serata è stata Yvette Alberti Devlin, a tutti ben nota. Con la sua solita vivacità, ha messo tutti a proprio agio, presentando i numeri di musica e poesia previsti nel programma. Quando è stato necessario, ha riempito un breve intervallo con una spiritosa barzelletta. Nel complesso tutto è andato molto bene.

Ha aperto la parte musicale Mario Rosi con la sua monumentale fisarmonica. Musicista e strumento sono diventati presenze fisse agli spettacoli della Dante Alighieri. Mario ha suonato con la solita maestria brani popolari famosi, come *Romagnolia*, *Quel mazzolin di fiori*, *La Spagnola* e altri. Il caloroso applauso alla fine della sua esibizione ha sottolineato l'apprezzamento da parte del pubblico.

C'è stato poi un intermezzo culturale affidato a David Wilson che ha recitato, in ottimo italiano e a memoria, il difficile *Cantico delle Creature* di San Francesco d'Assisi, il testo poetico più antico della letteratura italiana. Per favorire il pubblico è stato distribuito il testo originale della poesia con a fronte la traduzione in inglese fatta dallo stesso David e un glossario delle molte parole dell'Italiano del 1200 per aiutarne la comprensione.

Per restare in tema, il soprano Virginia Banyard ha poi cantato, con grande grazia ed abilità, la difficile canzone della colonna sonora, scritta da Riz Ortolani, del film *Fratello Sole e Sorella Luna* di Franco Zeffirelli. Si sono anche esibiti Livio Chicco con il bel brano del grande Domenico Modugno *Tu si 'na cosa grande*, e Saverio Palma con l'aria *Per la gloria d'adorarvi* da *Griselda*.

La parte del leone del programma artistico-musicale l'ha fatta giustamente il coro Dante Musica Viva diretto da Francesco Sofo, anche con i suoi noti ed apprezzati solisti Virginia, Livio e Saverio. Numerosi sono stati i brani cantati, tratti dal vasto repertorio del coro. C'erano brani operistici, come *Noi siamo Zingarelle* dalla *Traviata* di Giuseppe Verdi e *Il Coro degli Schiavi Ebrei* (più conosciuto come *Va pensiero*) dal *Nabucco*, anche questo di Verdi. Numerosi sono stati i motivi popolari, orecchiabili e conosciuti. Tra essi, ricordiamo *E qui comando io*, *Chitarra romana*, *Piemontesina*, *Sul cappello*, *Mattinata* e *Tu scendi dalle stelle*, il brano natalizio conosciuto da tutti i bambini italiani. Per chiudere, a grande richiesta, bis con

Un farewell party tutto da gustare

Luigi Catizone



ampia varietà di cracker, panettone, pandoro ed altre delicatessen portate da qualche volenteroso socio partecipante. Non mancavano abbondanti succhi di frutta e diverse bottiglie di buon vino bianco e rosso.

Nel rinnovare a tutti i nostri Soci e lettori i più sentiti auguri per un 2016 sereno e prospero, speriamo di ritrovarci tutti ancora il prossimo anno, eventualmente coinvolgendo anche qualche giovane socio amante dell'Italia

e della sua cultura (e, perché no, anche del suo cibo).

Funiculì Funiculà. Infine, i tre tenori del coro, Livio, Saverio e Giovanni hanno cantato per la gioia di tutti l'immane O' Sole Mio.

I tre tenori - Giovanni, Saverio e Livio - accontentano il pubblico con O' sole mio

Da ultimo, il Presidente della Dante Alighieri Society di Canberra, Franco Papandrea, ha portato il saluto suo personale e della Dante, apprezzando quanto era stato fatto; ha confermato l'impegno di tutti per il futuro ed ha auspicato molti successi per la nostra Società.

Quest'anno non c'è stata la competizione culinaria come lo scorso anno, ma un rinfresco, ricco ed apprezzato. Si potevano gustare ottime pizze di diversi tipi, formaggi, dips con



Parte del pubblico presente alla festa di fine 2015



Lo spirito della *Festa Italiana*

colto dal di dentro - *Luigi Catizone*

Ecco a voi il resoconto dettagliato della “Festa Italiana” che si è tenuta l’8 Novembre 2015 nei giardini dell’Ambasciata di Canberra.

Qui voglio riportare le impressioni di uno che per la prima volta ha potuto verificare, dall’interno, l’azione comune degli Italo-Australiani di Canberra che hanno contribuito, attraverso strade diverse, alla eccezionale riuscita dell’evento.

Ho avuto infatti l’onore di far parte del Comitato che ha organizzato la Festa e che ha profuso grande impegno completamente volontario. Era composto per lo più da uomini e donne arrivati in Australia dall’Italia molti decenni fa, spesso da bambini, e inseritisi, con impegno e tanto lavoro, nella comunità a pieno titolo, raggiungendo spesso traguardi molto prestigiosi. Tutti sono rimasti fortemente legati all’Italia e sono orgogliosi di essa.

Io invece sono qui solo da un anno circa e perciò non ho ancora una approfondita conoscenza di

persone e cose di Canberra. Dico subito quindi che il mio contributo è stato parziale, ho fatto quello che ho potuto. Già dalle prime riunioni di alcuni mesi fa ho potuto cogliere le grandi motivazioni e lo spirito che c’era in tutti e i forti legami verso l’Italia.

Essendo la prima esperienza del genere per tutti, capimmo subito che avremmo dovuto “inventare” di sana pianta l’evento che iniziavamo ad organizzare.

Il rapporto con l’ambasciata, che con Anna Capezio aveva in pratica co-ispinato l’iniziativa, è stato subito molto forte e la collaborazione è stata totale, avendo messo a disposizione non solo la residenza e i giardini, ma anche il suo prestigio sociale e politico nell’ambiente di Canberra.

Man mano che si avvicinava la data dell’evento, le riunioni del Comitato diventavano più frequenti e, come sempre accade in queste circostanze, c’erano ogni volta nuovi problemi da affrontare e risolvere, nuove proposte da valutare e attuare. I ruoli, comunque, si andavano man mano definendo. Chiunque avesse esperienza, conoscenze e contatti nei vari campi li metteva a disposizione di tutti. In particolare, l’autorevolezza e il peso sociale di alcuni del Comitato sono stati fondamentali, comunque tutti hanno fatto la propria parte al meglio. Si è così riusciti a raccogliere fondi, ad ottenere premi, anche molto importanti, per la lotteria, a convincere diversi operatori del campo dell’alimentazione (ristoratori, pasticceri, gelatai, ecc.) a partecipare direttamente con i loro prodotti, a far partecipare alla Festa anche musicisti e cantanti che hanno allietato la giornata.

L’attrezzatura impegnata per allestire i giardini (stand, tavoli, sedie, pannelli, palco, recinti, generatori elettrici ecc.) è stata messa a disposizione con grande generosità. Chi aveva macchine o motociclette prestigiose italiane (Ferrari, Lamborghini, Alfa Romeo, Vespa e Lambretta) le ha esposte, per la gioia degli

L’ambasciatore italiano a Canberra S.E. Pier Francesco Zazo e consorte aprono ufficialmente la Festa Italiana



Lo spirito della *Festa Italiana* colto dal di dentro - *Luigi Catizone*

appassionati.

Naturalmente alcuni aspetti sono migliorabili e, grazie anche all'esperienza acquisita, certamente si potrà fare meglio in futuro. Alcune piccole disfunzioni, nate durante lo svolgimento della Festa, sono state tutte superate, grazie all'impegno e alla buona volontà di tutti.

Tra coloro che hanno collaborato all'organizzazione, c'erano purtroppo pochi giovani, specie di seconda e terza generazione (e qualcuno non ha dato una gran prova di sé). Questo sarà un punto da valutare attentamente, per cercare di coinvolgere le nuove generazioni nei ruoli a loro più appropriati.

Infine, voglio ricordare che i fondi che sono stati ricavati (dagli sponsor e dalla lotteria) sono stati divisi, detratte le spese, tra la "bilingual Yarralumla Primary School", per acquistare risorse italiane per le proprie attività didattiche, e il "Villaggio Sant'Antonio", che assiste le persone anziane.

Insomma per me è stata una grande esperienza positiva ed esaltante che mi ha fatto capire come

l'amore verso l'Italia sia ancora fortemente radicato e profondo, anche dopo decenni, e mai, nonostante il peso dell'emigrazione, essa sia considerata una matrigna.



Un'immagine delle tante persone che hanno risposto positivamente all'invito a partecipare alla prima Festa Italiana tenutasi nei giardini della residenza dell'Ambasciatore italiano a Canberra



The first Festa Italiana in the Embassy Gardens - *Yvette Declin*

Luigi Catizone has reported on this Festa from the viewpoint of a newcomer to Australia. He was impressed by the strong attachment to Italy demonstrated by the local Italian-Australian community that collaborated to make the day such a huge success: over 4000 people are estimated to have visited the Embassy Gardens – we had expected 1500-2000 at most.

It was the first time I recall in my 30+ years of living in Canberra that the ambassador has opened his residence to the general public. Ambassador Pier Francesco Zazo is relatively young, has a young family and actually enjoys meeting the Italian community and of course promoting Italy with the broader community. He is a breath of fresh air at the embassy.

I attended the first Festa meeting in February 2015 called by the ambassador's wife Svetlana and local businesswoman Anna Capezio – just the three of us at the start. Svetlana became the patron, Anna became the president and I became the Secretary/Publicity Officer of the organising committee. As Luigi said, committee membership progressively grew in order to undertake the numerous tasks required to make it all happen. The number of hours put in by the committee throughout the year and by volunteers on the day of the

Festa was incalculable. As the ambassador subsequently said, it just shows how much can be achieved when the Italian community, proud of its heritage, works 'as a team' and in collaboration with the embassy.

The two main purposes of the Festa were to highlight Italian culture (including through food, wine, luxury sport cars, music and song, and an appreciation of the art and architecture featured in the residence) and to raise funds for two local organisations with an Italian connection: the bilingual Yarralumla Primary School and the aged-care facility Villaggio Sant'Antonio.

The Italian-Australian business community generously supported the event by donating cash to cover expenses or goods to be used in the food stalls or the raffle. Through her connections, Svetlana obtained some great raffle prizes eg from Carla Zampatti, Max Mara and Bulgari.

The Dante Musica Viva choir gave a great performance singing a variety of pieces ranging from opera to folk songs. Our Treasurer Mario Rosi played the piano accordion to warm up the crowd and our own 'star singers' Livio Chicco and Virginia Banyard, sang for over half an hour during the afternoon. The Dante had an information stall

The Dante Musica Viva Choir performing at the Festa Italiana in the Embassy Gardens



The first Festa Italiana in the Embassy Gardens - *Yvette Devlin (cont'd)*

manned by Franco Papandrea and Alessia La Cavera and it was kept quite busy.

The embassy and the organising committee are so pleased with the success of the first Festa that

they are all thinking that a second Festa in the Embassy Gardens can and should be organised in 2016 – with much less effort and even greater results given that we have all learned from this year's experience.



The wonderful **Committee** that organised the first Festa Italiana in the Embassy Gardens (from left to right): Franco Barilaro, Yvette Devlin, H.E. Pier Francesco Zazo, Nicola Patini, Filomena Barilaro, Mrs Svetlana Sharapa Zazo, Grazia Micciché, Anna Capezio, Anna Rita Tamponi, Dominic and Olga De Marco, Alex Capezio, Luigi Catizone, Cellina Benassi (seated)

Where to go in Italy in 2016

Yvette Devlin

If you are planning to visit Italy in 2016, there are two destinations that **Lonely Planet** recommends in its guidebook **Best in Travel 2016**:

Rome is one of the top ten cities in the world to visit. Remember that 2016 is a Jubilee year so you will be sharing the Eternal City with Catholics from around the world. If you do go, remember to climb the steps to the very top of the Cupola of St Peter's Basilica for the best views in town. Also, if you like atmosphere, be in St. Peter's Square at noon on a Sunday for the Pope's appearance at his balcony: the atmosphere is like what you experience at an AFL grand final or at the Melbourne Cup!

Friuli Venezia Giulia is one of the top ten regions in the world worth visiting. It is located in the North-East of the country and borders with Slovenia and Austria. Its wine is world-famous and so is the prosciutto di San Daniele. And the views of the Alps and its lakes are breathtaking.



2016 Calendar of activities

Formal courses

(6-8 pm Yarralumla Primary School or Dante Library in the NMC, Civic)

Term 1	Tues 2 February to Wed 6 April	(10 wks)
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Thursday Conversation Groups

(7-9 pm Function Room NMC, Civic)

Term 1	Thurs 18 February to Thurs 21 April	(10 wks then 5-wk break)
Term 2	Thurs 2 June to 4 August	(10 wks then 5-wk break)
Term 3	Thurs 15 September to 17 November	(10 wks) Total: 30 weeks

Cultural Activities

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

24 February	Clinica Mobile for motorcycle racing around the world*
17 March	Sara D'Alessandro – Renaissance art (TBC)
21 April	Gino Moliterno – The life and work of Sofia Loren
21 June	Videoconference on the Rizzoli Institute in Bologna (TBC)**
21 July	to be decided
29 September	to be decided
27 October	Christopher Latham on Italian classical music/opera (TBC)
24 November	End-of year function: Dante Musica Viva, cooking competition, refreshments

AGM (8-9 pm Function Room, NMC, Civic): 31 March

CHOIR REHEARSALS (5-7 pm Function Room, NMC, Civic): every Thursday from 28 January to 8 December

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS Easter: Good Friday on 25 March; Easter Monday 28 March; Anzac Day: Friday 25 April

* at Italo-Australian Club in Franklin Street - Forrest

** at the Italian Embassy, 12 Grey Street - Deakin



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

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 2016 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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Tel: 62281777

There are many reasons for learning Italian

It is not only about finding some good reasons (or many reasons) for learning a foreign language; it is all about the benefits. As Anne Merritt, a Canadian teacher, writer, and editor who has spent over eight years living, teaching, and travelling in Europe and Asia, writes in *The Telegraph*: “Physiological studies have found that speaking two or more languages is a great asset to the cognitive process. The brains of bilingual people operate differently than single language speakers, and these differences offer several mental benefits.

Below are seven cognitive advantages to learning a foreign language. Many of these attributes are only apparent in people who speak multiple languages regularly – if you haven’t spoken a foreign tongue since your A levels, your brain might

not be reaping these bilingual benefits. However, people who begin language study in their adult lives can still achieve the same levels of fluency as a young learner, and still reap the same mental benefits, too”.

Here is a list of the seven cognitive advantages to learning a foreign language:

- 1) you become smarter
- 2) you build multitasking skills
- 3) you stave off Alzheimer’s and dementia
- 4) your memory improves
- 5) you become more perceptive
- 6) your decision-making skills improve
- 7) you improve your English.

What are you waiting for?

La Befana vien di notte...

The Befana arrives at night...

In Italian folklore, Befana is an old woman who delivers gifts to children throughout Italy on Epiphany Eve (the night of January 5) in a similar way to St Nicholas or Santa Claus.

A popular belief is that her name derives from the Feast of Epiphany or in Italian *La Festa dell’Epifania*. *Epiphania* (Epiphany in English) is a Latin word with Greek origins. “Epiphany” means either the “Feast of the Epiphany” (January 6) or “manifestation (of the divinity).” Some suggest that Befana is descended from the Sabine/Roman goddess named Strina.

In popular folklore Befana visits all the children of Italy on the eve of the Feast of the Epiphany to fill their shoes with candy and presents if they are good. Or a lump of coal or dark candy if they are bad. In many poorer parts of Italy and in particular rural Sicily, a stick in a stocking was placed instead of coal. Being a good housekeeper, many say she will sweep the floor before she leaves. To some the sweeping meant the sweeping away of the problems of the year. The child’s family typically leaves a small glass of wine and a plate with

a few morsels of food, often regional or local, for the Befana.

She is usually portrayed as an old lady riding a broomstick through the air wearing a black shawl and is covered in soot because she enters the children’s houses through the chimney. She is often smiling and carries a bag or hamper filled with candy, gifts, or both.

**La Befana vien di notte
con le scarpe tutte rotte
con le toppe alla sottana:
Viva, viva la Befana!**



Receipt Number



Enrolment form for Term 1 2016

Please note that students must be financial members of the Dante Alighieri Society of Canberra

Please select course level

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beginner 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Beginner 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> Beginner 3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-intermediate | <input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate | <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Italian for Tourists | | |

Beginner to Advanced classes are held at the Yarralumla Primary School and consist of 10x2 hour sessions

The Italian for Tourists course is held at the YPS or at the Notaras Multicultural Centre (Civic) and consists of 8x2 hour sessions

Enquiries: Tuesday to Friday (10:30am-2:00pm) Ph: 6247 1884 Email: info@danteact.org.au

Name and Surname _____

Address _____ **Suburb** _____ **State** _____ **Postcode** _____

Phone _____ **(h)** _____ **(w)** _____ **(mob)** _____

Email _____

How did you hear about this course?

- ☐ Newspaper ☐ Internet ☐ Friend/Family ☐ Previous Course ☐ Other

Full course fee (from Beginners 1 to Advanced): \$295

Italian for Tourists: \$250

Discounted course fee: \$280 (National Library of Australia's friends) / \$265 (continuing students)

Textbook for Beginners and Intermediate: *Italian Espresso 1*, \$70.00

Textbook for Advanced: *Italian Espresso 2*, \$70.00

Workbook: *Italian Espresso 1* and *Italian Espresso 2*, \$30.00

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)

Signed
(signature of student)

Received by
(for the DAS)

2016 Membership

Dante Alighieri Society Membership

Dante Alighieri Society of Canberra Inc.

PO Box 979 Civic Square ACT 2608

Receipt No

Subscription for membership (from 01/01/2016 to 31/12/2016):

- ☐ INDIVIDUAL \$40
- ☐ CONCESSION \$20 (pensioner)
- ☐ CHOIR \$10 (in addition to membership)

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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