

Dante Review

"To preserve and disseminate Italian language and culture"

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Regular Events

DMV rehearsals on Thursdays 5-7pm

Conversation groups on Thursdays 7-9pm till 17 November

Enrolments for Term 1 starting in February 2017 are open!

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FINAL EVENT FOR 2016

Come for an evening of entertainment, good food and great company!

Participate in our culinary competition

Stuzzichini - Appetizers entries must be submitted by 7 pm

Enjoy a concert by Dante Musica Viva choir

Learn from chef Francesco Balestrieri
(Joe's Bar, East Hotel in Kingston)
how to prepare Amatriciana sauce

And enjoy a taste of pasta and other refreshments

7 pm Thursday 24 November 2016
Level 2 - Function Room
Notaras Multicultural Centre
180 London Circuit (entry via Civic Square)

News from the office

Office Hours

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

9:30am-1:00pm Tuesday to Friday

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

Please note that the office will be closed from 16 December to 16 January. For enquiries please email:

info.dantealighiericanberra@gmail.com

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 and Tamsin Hong

Treasurer

Tony Hanrahan

Secretary

Maria Cristina Hurley

Committee members

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

Co-opted members

Pauline Adams and Nicola Patini

Journal Editor: Yvette Devlin

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

Upcoming Events

3 November - Conversation groups @7-9pm

10 November - Conversation groups @7pm

13 November - Festa Italiana in the

Embassy Gardens (see p.3)

17 November - Conversation groups @7pm -

End of Term 3/2016

24 November - End of year function -

Culinary competition @7pm

14 December - Term 4/2016 ends

16 December - The Dante office

will be closed till 16 January 2017

Enrol now! 20th Century Italian Art

Interested in exploring the amazing period of Italian 20th century Italian Art? In 5 weeks, you'll be taking a trip trough the 20th century Italian Art, from the violence of futurism to the poetry of Giorgio Morandi, from the "Slashes" of Lucio Fontana to the recent provocations of Maurizio Cattelan, discovering how Italian art is more alive than ever.

When: from Thursday, 17 November to Thursday, 15 December (6-8pm)

Where: West Wing Meeting Room, Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre, Level 2 - North Building, 180 London Circuit, Canberra City

Course fee: \$200

Enrol now at http://danteact.org.au/language/enrolment-form/

Don't miss this fantastic opportunity!



Modi di dire

Sayings - Francesca Foppoli

Per me Marco sta dando i numeri: pensa di alzarsi alle 5 del mattino per studiare.

In my opinion Marco has lost his marbles; he is planning to get up at 5 am to study.

Dai, rimanete a cena con noi stasera; possiamo fare due spaghetti.

Have dinner with us tonight; we can cook some spaghetti.

Adesso sono due volte che perdi l'aereo - fai attenzione, non c'è due senza tre.

You have missed the plane twice now - watch out, things come in threes.

Sono persone eccezionali; quando possono si fanno in quattro.

They are exceptional people; they bend over backwards if they can.

Lo sapevo che mia madre me ne avrebbe detto quattro quando sono arrivata tardi a cena.

I knew my mother would give me a piece of her mind when I arrived late for dinner.

Vediamoci per un caffé cosí facciamo quattro chiacchiere!

Let's meet up for a coffee and a chat!

In quattro e quattr'otto hanno lasciato il lavoro, si sono comprati un camper e sono partiti per un viaggio di sei mesi.

In no time at all, they left work, bought a campervan and went on a trip of six months.

Mio padre è una persona tranquilla ma quando gli vengono i cinque minuti, è meglio stare alla larga.

My father is a calm person but when he gets cranky, it's best to steer clear of him.

L'angolo della lingua

Language corner - Yvette Devlin

During my summer sojourn in Italy, I paid particular attention to the penetration of English into the language used in the media and by politicians. Politicians sometimes do it to sound educated but in fact only manage to obfuscate and alienate the ordinary citizen. Here is a sprinkling of what I noticed:

Pet (animale domestico is no longer sufficient). Even hardware stores now have pets' aisles. Indeed, it seems that pets have taken the place of children in the home...

Book: used in various forms – **MiBook** (new book show or *salone del libro* established in Milan), **Book City**, **Book Pride**.

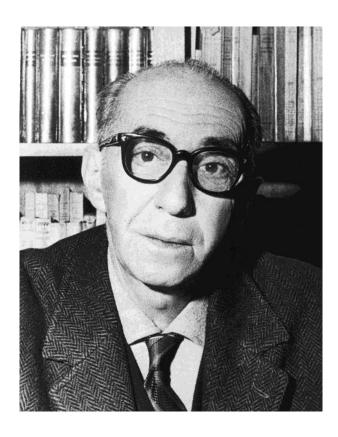
Drink, air show, floor show, show room, capo staff, flash mob, sit in, network, followers, task force, mobbing (with the meaning of 'bullying'), Jobs Act and spending review were words I read several times.

What's App (pronounced as 'what's up') was mentioned repeatedly on my radio station, as were other English words equally mangled such as fans' club pronounced as "funs cleb". They brought a smile to my face.

Then there was the word **Voucher** (= buono) in the context of the labour market. I had no idea what it stood for and later learnt that it is an alternative way to pay workers employed on a casual basis. Quite weird, both in terms of concept and adoption of an English word! The Italian 'buono lavoro' was not good enough?

L'angolo della poesia

Poetry corner - Yvette Devlin



Diego Valeri is a very accessible 20th c. poet. Born near Padua in January 1887, he died in Rome in November 1976. He pursued a teaching career, at first teaching Italian and Latin at high school and later teaching French language and literature at the University of Padua. It was at this university that he was subsequently offered the chair of History of Italian Literature.

Valeri's poetry style is direct and clear, displaying strong emotions. It is described by his translator Michael Palma as "quite firmly within the great classic European tradition".

The poet also worked as translator and even became a councillor of the city of Venice. Indeed he is most frequently associated with Venice, a city he loved and which often features in his poetry. I have chosen one such poem for this month. It has no title.

A Venezia, posata sul suo letto d'acque marine e d'ali di gabbiani, la primavera scende da una nuvola grande, carica d'ombra, orlata d'oro. È la fine improvvisa di febbraio; è l'ora che Venezia si ridesta alla luce, al colore. Sul suo volto amoroso trascorrono pallori, veli violetti, lampi di rossore; ai suoi piedi si stendon le maree come giardini: a Venezia, di marzo, anche l'acqua dà fiore.

Here is Michael Palma's translation from his book My name on the Wind - Selected Poems of Diego Valeri:

In Venice, as it rests upon its bed of waters from the sea and seagulls' wings, the spring descends from out of a great cloud, charged with shadow, hemmed with threads of gold.

Suddenly it's the end of February, the time when Venice wakes, and stirs itself once more to light and colour. Now across the city's affectionate face pass all the pallors, the violet veils, the blush of lightning flashes, and at the city's feet tides spread themselves like gardens. In Venice, in the month of March, even the water's in bloom.



A personal account of Italy in the Summer of 2016

Yvette Devlin

My annual summer holiday in my native land of Friuli is something that re-energises and elates me but also enables me to maintain the strong connection I feel with my traditions, culture and heritage. I really enjoy observing life in Italy in all its facets. I read at least one newspaper every day and enjoy debating topical issues with my friends and family. Here is a summary of the main topics that struck me during my sojourn.

The 24 August earthquake in central Italy

Nearly 300 people died and some 4400 had to leave the devastated area. Apart from the human tragedy, buildings dating back to the 12th and 13th century were reduced to rubble. Also collapsed were old houses and even newer buildings supposedly built to withstand earthquakes, like a school at Amatrice inaugurated in 2012. Loud and clear was the wish to ensure organised crime does not play a role in the reconstruction. Fund-raising initiatives sprang up everywhere in solidarity with the people affected, and volunteers flocked to assist. I can proudly say that my region of Friuli contributed to the national effort by building a bridge in just eight days. Dubbed 'Ponte della rinascita' (rebirth bridge), it replaced the damaged Tre Occhi bridge.

Refugees/Migrants

This continued to be the topic that led most news bulletins because of the incessant and unstoppable arrival of boats from across the Mediterranean. Between 1 January and the end of July, over 88,500 people arrived in Italy by sea, including Syrian refugees. In the first six months of the year at least 2920 people had died at sea. By any measure it was an immense tragedy: compassion-fatigued Europe struggled to cope with the flood of human misery, often leaving new arrivals to their own devices and sometimes stuck at closed borders. In Italy the high cost of providing temporary accommodation to those arriving at our shores was bemoaned by a segment of the population which itself was struggling because of

the weak economy.

Politics

Prime Minister Matteo Renzi continued to lose popularity due to the lack of real progress made since his promising mandate began. Oddly enough, he was intent on pursuing senate reform instead of putting his energy into more substantial matters. Lack of real progress may be partly due to lack of internal support as well as an obstructionist opposition which includes the powerful Movimento 5 Stelle (M5S). This Movement (unwilling to do deals and to compromise) had emerged a few years ago as a form of protest against traditional political parties but by 2016 it had gained about 25% of the national vote.



A pasta shop window in Venice

The economy

Official statistics show that public debt is still at record levels (partly due to an inability to cut wasteful expenditure) and that economic activity is still stagnating, with exports being a particular problem. High unemployment rates motivate young people to emigrate. Despite the official gloomy statistics, the economy (some of it black) does chug along: people still seem to enjoy themselves; restaurants, beaches and hotels are full. International tourism is holding up well. Chinese investments in Italy are on the rise. Many regions in Italy, and not only in the South, are operating at a loss but (let me

A personal account of Italy in the Summer of 2016

Yvette Devlin - cont'd

rejoice!) my region of Friuli topped the rankings for operating with a budget surplus.

Society

Although same-sex marriage is now lawful, couples tying the knot are often reluctant to publicise the ceremony: this Catholic country still struggles to accept the law change and homosexuality in general. And to address lowering reproduction rates, the Government embarked on a campaign to encourage women to have children early, but it was so controversial that it was discontinued. Many women found it offensive.

Rome

Italy's capital attracted a fair bit of attention over the summer: firstly, because of a garbage collection strike that left roads littered and smelly; secondly, because for the first time a woman mayor (who happened to be not only attractive but also to belong to the M5S) had been elected at a time when the city was immersed in serious budgetary problems and probity issues that she needed to address.

Australia in the news

I kept an eye out for any mention of Australia in the news. We did get a bit of attention: for our uncompromising policy of 'pushing back the boats',

A curious cow and a contented cow having a rest at Malga del Montasio in the Julian Alps

policy that many argued should be emulated in Italy; for Linda Burney's maiden speech in September — it was underlined that she was the first Indigenous woman elected to the House; and for the murder in Qld of an English tourist by a French tourist shouting Allah Akbar. There was also a surprising familiarity with the TV series *Border Security* that shows how strict our customs staff are at airports.



The Roman Arena di Verona where opera is performed each summer. It dates back to 70AD

On the personal side, the highlights for this year were the opera *Turandot* at the Arena di Verona; a medieval dinner for 400 diners at a long table set up along the medieval 'corso' of Spilimbergo, with medieval entertainers passing by all evening; and a visit to the Montasio Malga in the Julian Alps. Fat cows graze happily on the plain and delicious Montasio cheese is made from their milk. Freshly made gnocchi at the local restaurant were pure bliss!



The rise and fall of a superpower

Susan Reye

The guest speaker at our cultural event on 29 September 2016 was Michael Alder. Having been fascinated by the civilisation of ancient Rome since he was a child, Michael studied ancient history at ANU, and now gives courses for the University of the Third Age on the Roman Republic and on Imperial Rome.

His thorough knowledge of the subject allowed him to perform the remarkable feat of covering 1300 years of history in an hour, in his presentation: *The Rise and Fall of a Superpower - A Very Brief History of Ancient Rome and its Empire 753BC to 565AD*.

Michael began by reminding us of the many traces left by the ancient Romans that are still with us today, such as amphitheatres and aqueducts in many countries, Latin which is the basis of many modern languages including Italian, Latin script which we use in English, and the calendar. All of this began with a small, insignificant village on the Tiber, which within a few centuries rose to rule an empire covering a vast territory and containing a quarter of the world's population. It is the only civilisation ever to have ruled the whole of the area around the Mediterranean Sea.

The ancient Romans believed that they were descended from gods, demi-gods and heroes - notably Aeneas of Troy, and later Romulus and Remus, the twins suckled by a she-wolf. According to the legend, Romulus killed his brother and founded a city called Rome on the seven hills in 753BC. (Michael told us that Romulus's name was derived from the name Rome; Rome was not named after him.)

The reality was more mundane. The original Romans were pastoralists who retreated at night to small hilltop villages. The Etruscans built the villages of Rome into a city State and drained the swamps, building the Cloaca Maxima which can still be seen in Rome today.

Rome was ruled by kings until 509BC, when Tarquin the Proud was driven out by a popular uprising and the Roman Republic was established. The republic was founded on the idea of "libertas" and rule by the many ("res publica"). The initials SPQR ("the Senate and the people of Rome"), which are still in use in modern Rome, date from this period. Although all male citizens could vote in assemblies, the reality was that control was in the hands of aristocratic families. Interestingly, Michael told us that most of Rome's territorial conquests were achieved while Rome was a republic, not by the Roman Empire.

The reason for Rome's military success, he suggested, was not that Romans were more militaristic than their neighbours, but that they were better at it. Rome was sacked by Gallic tribes in 390BC, but after that it remained unconquered for 800 years. One key to its success was the policy of allowing defeated peoples to become Roman citizens, on condition that they provided soldiers for the Roman army. During the "classical" or "high" republic (270BC -150BC), Rome did not have a professional army, but only an army raised by levies of citizen soldiers. During this period, the Roman Republic fought, and ultimately won, wars against its great rivals, Carthage and the Hellenistic Kingdoms (the successors to Alexander the Great).

By 133BC, the Roman Republic had conquered a huge territory, which its form of government was not adequate to manage. Competing camps within Rome turned on each other. Nonetheless, territorial expansion, especially by rivals Julius Caesar and Pompey the Great, continued. In 49BC, Julius Caesar crossed the Rubicon and triggered a civil war, at the end of which he was the ruler of the Roman world. Although Julius was assassinated in 44BC, there was no return to a republic. Julius's great-nephew, Octavius, having defeated the alliance of Mark Antony and Cleopatra, established an effective form of government while keeping

The rise and fall of a superpower

Susan Reye - cont'd

control himself. Octavius - who became known as Augustus — was the first Roman emperor (27BC — 14AD), though he did not use that title himself. He called himself the "first citizen".

Essentially, Michael told us, the territorial boundaries under Augustus were those that lasted for the whole of the empire, though the greatest extent of territory was achieved under Trajan (98-117AD). There were great building projects under emperors such as Nero (54-68AD), Domitian (81-96AD), Hadrian (117-138AD) and Septimus Severus (193-211AD). However, by 180AD, the "glory years" of the Roman Empire were already coming to an end. Plague had been brought back to Rome by the armies and there were new and dangerous enemies. The aristocracy was in decline. It was the army that chose who would become emperor. During the third century, Rome collapsed into civil war.

Its fortunes were revived by three emperors of military genius. Aurelian (270-275AD), "Restorer of the World", reconquered territory and built defensive walls around Rome itself. Diocletian (284-305AD) overhauled the system of government. In 290AD, he set up the Tetrarchy, consisting of two emperors — eastern and western - and two junior emperors. Most unusually, Diocletian did not die in office and was not deposed. He retired to his grand palace in Split, Croatia. Civil war broke out again. Constantine I emerged victorious and reigned from 312 to 337AD. As well as legalising Christianity, which subsequently became the sole legal religion of the Empire, he established a new capital in the east — Constantinople.

During the third and fourth centuries Germanic tribes migrated into areas around the empire. In the fifth century, they moved into the territory of the empire itself. Rome was captured and sacked by the Visigoth king, Alaric, in 410AD. The loss of territory meant a loss of tax revenue and the

western empire was unable to pay its army. In 476AD the last of the western emperors, Romulus Augustus (475-476AD), was deposed. Michael pointed out the irony of the last Roman emperor having the names of the legendary founder of Rome (Romulus) and the first emperor (Augustus).

This is traditionally regarded as the end of the Roman Empire, although the eastern empire continued until Constantinople was eventually captured by the Ottoman Turks in 1453. In fact, under the eastern emperor Justinian (525-565AD), the famous general Belisarius set out to reconquer much of the lost territory of the western empire. He succeeded in recapturing territory, including Italy and Rome, but they were soon lost again. Both Belisarius and Justinian died in 565AD.

Many of us in the audience were surprised to learn that of the 85 Roman emperors, only 9 were born in Rome itself. The others came from all corners of the vast empire. Augustus, the first emperor, also had the longest reign – 41 years. Many of his successors had very short reigns indeed and 75% of them died violent deaths.

Michael Alder with the book presented by vicepresident Yvette Devlin after the lecture



Storia e cucina in Emilia-Romagna

Diavolo Modenese

La cucina di casa nostra, o meglio, di casa mia, e più precisamente quella dell'Emilia-Romagna, offre alimenti noti in tutto il mondo (ma talvolta distorti e mai esistiti come gli "spaghetti alla bolognese") e altri meno noti, ma spesso presenti nei miei ricordi, come i burlenghi. Se andando in Italia chiedete in quali città si mangia meglio, la risposta che sentirete più di frequente sarà Modena o Bologna.

Una grande antica rivalità esiste da sempre tra queste due città. In passato, la prima era Ghibellina e l'altra Guelfa e questo le ha portate alla tragica battaglia di Zappolino, detta anche della Secchia Rapita. Oggi per fortuna la rivalità è spostata su altri argomenti e così a tavola ci si litiga la paternità di alcuni prodotti della cucina tipica locale, primo fra tutti il Tortellino.

Bologna e Modena: un po' di storia e qualche ricetta

Bologna si guadagnò i due appellativi di *Dotta* e *Grassa* già molti secoli addietro, in riconoscimento alla più antica e blasonata università del mondo e alla sua insuperabile cucina...

L'Università di Bologna nacque nel 1088 e nel 1988 si è celebrato il nono centenario dello Studium, evento grandioso che riunì a Bologna tutte le università del mondo per onorare la 'madre delle università'. La cerimonia divenne una festa internazionale degli studi poiché tutte le università riconobbero, e tuttora riconoscono, a Bologna le loro radici, gli elementi di continuità e i comuni ideali di progresso nella tolleranza.

Torniamo agli inizi del 1200 nelle zone di confine tra Modena, ghibellina, e Bologna, guelfa. Le lotte politiche e militari vedevano in quel periodo schierati tutti i signori della zona, cosicché anche Ugolino da Guiglia (Guiglia, paese collinare nella provincia di Modena) vi si trovò coinvolto nel 1227, quando i bolognesi lo assediarono nella fortezza di Serravalle. Durante l'assedio, Ugolino fornì ai suoi soldati e ai residenti una focaccia, insaporita con aglio, di maiale e parmigiano-reggiano grattugiato. L'assedio però si fece molto lungo e le scorte di farina sempre più esigue. Ugolino decise così, di far produrre la focaccia sempre più sottile, nel tentativo di far durare le scorte fino alla fine dell'assedio.





Due tipi diversi di Burlenghi

Storia e cucina in Emilia-Romagna

Diavolo Modenese

Ciò che interessa rilevare di questa vicenda è il fatto che lo spessore della focaccia era divenuto talmente sottile che i seguaci di Ugolino, sempre più affamati, di fronte a una così misera razione di cibo, la consideravano una burla (scherzo): da qui il nome burlenghi.

Se vi capitasse di passare da quelle parti e decideste di fermarvi per uno spuntino in qualche osteria tipica, potete ordinare i burlenghi e assaporando questo sottilissimo e friabile strato di pasta insaporito con aglio, lardo e parmigiano grattugiato, spero ricorderete la storia che vi ho raccontato.

Dall'anno 1100 fino alla fine del rinascimento, l'Italia geografica fu il territorio più ricco d'Europa, e di conseguenza il più ricco e ricercato anche a tavola.

Fu Caterina De Medici, ultima della grande famiglia fiorentina, che andando in sposa, nel 1533, ad Enrico II d'Orleans, portò a Parigi i cuochi e la cultura italiana, dando inizio alle fortune della gastronomia francese. Da lì a poco la cucina francese diventerà la più imitata e rinomata del mondo.

Ma perché quella francese e non quella italiana? È molto semplice: la Francia esisteva come stato, mentre l'Italia no.

Come si preparano i burlenghi

Ho già nominato gli ingredienti, ma per la preparazione occorrono: un po' di farina stemperata nell'acqua con l'aggiunta di un po' di sale, ottenendo un impasto omogeneo piuttosto liquido. Il contenitore da usare per la



cottura non è altro che una larga padella, tradizionalmente di rame, chiamata *sol*, cioè sole, in riferimento alla somiglianza che ci può essere tra il disco solare e questo recipiente.

Questa padella deve essere preventivamente scaldata e unta con grasso di maiale. Sulla padella ben calda occorre versarvi un cucchiaio dell'impasto liquido, facendo attenzione che venga ricoperta uniformemente tutta l'intera superficie. Da lì a poco il burlengo dovrà essere rivoltato e lasciato ancora per qualche secondo.

Se tutto viene eseguito alla perfezione il risultato dovrebbe essere uno strato sottilissimo di pasta friabile che deve essere insaporita con un battuto di lardo di maiale, aglio, rosmarino e spolverizzato con parmigiano-reggiano grattugiato.

[Ed: La seconda parte di questo affascinante articolo apparirà nell'edizione di gennaio-febbraio]

Know your choir - A profile of Annie Tola

Annie Tola



I was born in Paris to a Peruvian father of Italian origin (Sassari, Sardinia) and a French mother. When I was a year old we went back to Lima, Perú on the RMMV Reina del Pacifico, a passenger ship of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company built in Belfast in the 1930s. She was the largest and fastest motor liner of her time, sailing from Liverpool to South America. During the Second World War she was requisitioned for service as a troopship, and also took part in the landings in North Africa, Sicily and Normandy. In January 1947 she was refurbished and returned to service in 1948. A year later my parents, my brother and I went to South America on it.

We lived in Lima and I was very lucky that we spoke French at home, Spanish with the locals and English at school (went to an English school). By the time I was 8 I spoke 3 languages fluently - so easy to learn languages at that age! Once I finished school I went to Secretarial College and worked for a couple of

years as a bilingual secretary in various firms.

I was passionate about travelling having been to Guadeloupe in the French Antilles with an Alliance Française scholarship for a month, so in 1969 I decided to become an air hostess as this would allow me to travel. The Peruvian Airlines were looking for trilingual hostesses and I immediately applied and got in. For two years I worked for them, visiting Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires, Miami, Los Angeles before being posted on a regular basis in Madrid to do the Madrid/Paris/London route. I was based in Madrid and had 4 days off there and 2 days in London every trip. Bliss.

My parents and three younger siblings had migrated to Australia in 1970 and I had not gone with them as I was enjoying my travels. However, in April 1971 I came to Australia (courtesy of PanAm) and while I was in Sydney, Peruvian Airlines went bust. I decided to stay in Sydney with the family a few months, but by June I found it so terribly cold that I decided to go back to Lima where people complain of it being too cold when it is below 15°C. Additionally, I was not used to so much rain, coming from a place where it never rained. Luckily for me, PanAm was accepting any free ticket issued by Peruvian Airlines prior to the 5th of April and mine had been issued on the 3rd! I told the family I would sort my affairs and come back in a couple of months, but it took me over a year as on my arrival in Lima I was offered a job by the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique who wanted a trilingual secretary. In retrospect, this was a great thing, as I worked with them until October 1972 and then I got a free passage on one of their cargo ships that had a few cabins for passengers and we went via the Panama Canal to Le Havre where I caught a train to Paris. I was lucky that my boss's sister lived in the family home in Paris and I stayed there for a week while going to the Australian Embassy to get my Immigration Visa. I had been included in my parents' application years earlier so it was just a formality. I left with them my French passport and travelled for a couple of months with my Peruvian passport to Italy, Austria and Switzerland. I went

Know your choir - A profile of Annie Tola

Annie Tola - cont'd

back to Paris where I spent Christmas with my eldest brother who was studying there and in the New Year went back to the Australian Embassy and was handed my Visa and free passage to Sydney. I just had to pay \$20 which was an unexpected bonus.

I arrived in Sydney on 14 January 1973 and lived there for a few years working as a Secretary for Elders Smith Goldsborough Mort Limited, then Mills and Boon. In 1978 I received an offer of a job in Hamburg, Germany earning almost twice what I was getting in Sydney and off I went for 6 months. Hamburg is a very clean city but the weather was not great and having gotten used to sun just about all year round in Sydney came back to Australia before their winter set in as the year before the temperatures had got to -27°C and this did not appeal to me one bit.

Back in Australia I decided I had enough of secretarial work and took a year off working as a nanny on a farm in Picton, looking after a 3 year-old girl and 1 year-old twin boys. I really enjoyed it as the children were gorgeous and the parents very friendly and kind. At the end of that year I came to Canberra to visit a friend and decided this was the place for me and moved here. I got a job in the public service working in various departments before retiring in 2003. I did continue working for 3 years part-time in my last job until 2006 when I decided I had had enough.

A few years back I was invited by an Italian friend to the Festa della Campana at the Italian Cultural Centre in Forrest and heard the Dante Musica Viva choir for the first time. They sang Bella Ciao and I could not stop singing the ritornello, Bella ciao, bella ciao, bella ciao ciao ciao for days. I decided to join the choir and have been with it for the last 5 years and greatly enjoy it. As we sing in Italian I decided it would be a good idea to go to Italy to study Italian and I spent a month in Camerino studying the language. I would recommend this school to anyone as the teachers are excellent, the town very picturesque

and the excursions organised by the school fantastic. I have also done since two semesters with the Dante with Pauline Adams as my teacher and that has been very helpful as well.

My love of travelling has continued through my lifetime and since retiring I have been overseas every year visiting wonderful locations, meeting interesting people and doing exciting things. I greatly enjoy walking and have done a number of walking trips throughout the UK and Europe as well as New Zealand.

In 1999 I went back to Lima for the first time since I left in 1972 and that was quite an experience. The city was very different but greatly improved and of course, my family and friends were much older. It was very emotional to see them all. During that trip I went to Cuzco and did the Inca Trail, getting up to 4,600m above sea level. It was an experience I will not forget, arriving above Machu Pichu at sunrise is just amazing.

I have since done the Milford Track, Marlborough Track and Routeburn Track in New Zealand. I experienced a snow storm on the Milford Track and it felt as being hit by needles, rather painful. Luckily we all survived the ordeal. A Japanese lady who had been using an umbrella as a parasol had it fly off her hands, but luckily it hit no one.

My eldest brother lives in France and from 2001 to 2012 I have been walking with him in the lower Alps every year for a month. Last year I did the last 100km of the Camino de Santiago with friends from the Choir: Yvette Devlin, Sue Hancock and Maria Rosin who came with her husband Bruno. It was a wonderful experience and we had great fun.

In September I went to Japan on a Walking Holiday in East Hokkaido and then did the Nakasendo Trail starting near Nagoya. I hope to continue travelling and singing for as long as possible.



2016 Calendar of activities

Formal courses

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

Term 1	Tuesday 2 February to Wednesday 6 April	(10 wks)
Term 2	Tuesday 26 April to Wednesday 29 June	(10 wks)
Term 3	Tuesday 19 July to Wednesday 21 September	(10 wks)
Term 4	Tuesday 11 October to Wednesday 14 December	(10 wks)

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 (location: Italo Australian Club)		
17 March	Sara D'Alessandro - Perspective. From Brunelleschi to Michelangelo:		
	a system for reading the world		
21 April	Gino Moliterno - The life and work of Sofia Loren		
21 June	Videoconference on the Rizzoli Orthopaedic Institute of Bologna (location		
	Italian Embassy)		
21 July	Anna Rita Tamponi - The language of Italian fashion		
29 September	Michael Alder - The rise and fall of a superpower: a very brief history of ancient		
	Rome and its empire 753BC-525AD		
27 October	Christopher Latham - A tribute to Maria Callas and her influence on the world of		
	opera		
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

Cenno storico

A bit of History - Yvette Devlin

4 November is a very significant date for Italy: it marks the end of World War I as it is on that day that it signed an armistice with the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

Italy had declared war on the Empire in May 1915. It fought the enemy primarily on the Austrian-Italian border, in trenches, with great loss of lives (some 650,000 soldiers died) and slow progress in terms of regaining Italian territory. Finally, fortunes turned in Oct 1918 when Italian troops overpowered the Austro-Hungarians in the Veneto region – at the river Piave, on Monte Grappa and in the city of Vittorio Veneto.

This historic date is celebrated as Italian Armed Forces Day/Unity Day because through a united effort against the common enemy, Italy's defence forces found a national identity.

Il **4 novembre** è una data importantissima per l'Italia: segna la fine della I Guerra Mondiale. È il giorno in cui fu firmato l'armistizio tra l'Italia e l'Impero austro-ungarico.

L'Italia aveva dichiarato guerra all'Impero nel maggio del 1915. Dovette combattere prevalentemente lungo il confine con l'Austria, nelle trincee, con immense perdite (circa 650.000 soldati morirono durante questa guerra) e un progresso lento nella riconquista di territorio italiano. Finalmente, la svolta venne nell'ottobre del 1918 quando le truppe italiane sconfissero gli austroungarici nel Veneto – sul fiume Piave, sul monte Grappa e nella città di Vittorio Veneto.

Questa ricorrenza storica è celebrata come la Giornata delle Forze Armate e dell'Unità Nazionale perché, grazie alla lotta compatta contro il nemico comune, le Forze Armate italiane vi hanno trovato un'identità nazionale.







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If you require prompt and accurate tax advice on any matter please do not hesitate to contact Tony Hanrahan on *0419* 239 217 or email your details to the following email address *hmitchell@nmcaustralia.com.au*

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

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?

Next courses start in February 2017!



Enrolment form for Term 1 2017 Courses start in February

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

Please select course level					
	Beginner	1	\Box Beginner 2	□ Beginner	3
	Pre-inter	mediate	□ Intermediate	□ Advance	d
	Italian fo	r Tourists			
			ne Yarralumla Primary School ar e YPS or at the Notaras Multicu		ts of 8x2 hour sessions
	Enquiries:	Tuesday to Frida	y (9:30am-1:00pm) Ph:	6247 1884 Email: info@	danteact.org.au
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En	nail				
Ho	ow did you l	near about this	course?		
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Ital Dis Tex Tex	lian for Tour scounted cou xtbook for B xtbook for A	rists: \$250 urse fee: \$280 (Na eginners and Ind dvanced: <i>Italian</i>	ational Library of Austratermediate: Italian Espre Espresso 2, \$70.00 and Italian Espresso 2, \$30.	esso 1, \$70.00	ntinuing students)

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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)

2016 Membership

Subscription for membership (from 01/08/2016 to 31/12/2016):

Dante Alighieri Society Membership

Dante Alighieri Society of Canberra Inc. PO Box 979 Civic Square ACT 2608

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