

# Dante Review

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

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## Regular Events

**Enrolments for Term 3  
starting on Tuesday  
25 July are now open!**

**DMV rehearsals  
on Thursdays 5-7pm**

**Conversation groups  
on Thursdays 7-9pm**

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## The amazing life of

### FELICE BENUZZI

**Adventurer, mountaineer, prisoner of war,  
diplomat (including stints in Brisbane  
and Canberra) and author**

**was researched and chronicled  
in a biography titled *The Heart and  
the Abyss – the Life of Felice Benuzzi***

**by poet, author and  
former ambassador to Rome**

### RORY STEELE

**Come and listen to  
Rory's fascinating account**

**8 pm Thursday 20 July 2017**

**Function Room, Level 2  
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 all enquiries please call the office on **6247 1884** or send us an email to [info@danteact.org.au](mailto:info@danteact.org.au)

Visit us at [www.danteact.org.au](http://www.danteact.org.au)

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

## **Library**

The Dante library is open during office hours. It includes the following sections: Reading, Education, Literature, Youth, Geography, History, Art, Music, Cinema.

## **Committee Members**

### **President**

Professor Franco Papandrea

### **Vice-Presidents**

Gordon McCormick and Cristina Giusti

### **Treasurer**

Tony Hanrahan

### **Secretary**

Grant Doran

### **Committee members**

Luigi Catizone, Julie Docker,  
Sonia Fortuna, Alexandra Luppino

*Journal Editors:* Yvette Devlin, Susan Reye

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

## **Upcoming Events**

**6 July:** conversation groups (7-9pm)

**13 July:** conversation groups (7-9pm)

**20 July:** conversation groups (7-8pm)

**20 July: Cultural Event - The amazing life of Felice Benuzzi.** A presentation by **Rory Steele**(see p. 1)

**21 July:** Enrolments for Term 3 close!

**25 July:** Term 3 formal courses begin

**27 July:** conversation groups (7-9pm)

**3 August:** conversation groups (7-9pm) - Term 2 ends

**15 August:** Ferragosto in Italy

## **Calendar of Activities**

### **Formal Courses**

Term 1	From 6 February to 7 April
Term 2	From 1 May to 30 June
Term 3	From 24 July to 22 September
Term 4	From 9 October to 8 December

### **Thursday Conversation Groups**

Term 1	From 23 February to 27 April
Term 2	From 1 June to 3 August
Term 3	From 14 September to 16 November

### **Cultural Activities**

9 March	Gordon Bull: Giotto
6 April	Shakespeare as an Italian
22 June	David Ritchie: Europe's future, and why should we care?
20 July	Rory Steele: The amazing life of mountaineer, diplomat and prisoner of war Felice Benuzzi
5 October	Italian Trivia Night
2 November	Joseph Falsone: The Truth of Fiction: Elena Ferrante's Neapolitan Novels
23 November	End-of-year function: DMV Choir, cooking competition, refreshments

**Choir Rehearsals:** every Thursday from 2 February to 7 December from 5pm to 7pm in the Function Room at the Notaras Multicultural Centre

# Modi di dire

Sayings - Francesca Foppoli



Paolo ha tante buone qualità, ma si alza sempre con la luna.

**Paolo has lots of good qualities but he gets up always moody.**

Speravo Giacomo capisse, ma quando ha la luna storta non c'è niente da fare.

**I was hoping Giacomo would understand but nothing works when he is in a bad mood.**

Cerchiamo di convincerlo che oggi è in luna buona.

**Let's try to convince him since he is in a good mood today.**

Volevamo fare una bella vacanza alle isole Canarie, ma con questi chiari di luna abbiamo deciso di rinunciare.

**We were planning to have a nice holiday in the Canary Islands but decided not to go in view of the economic climate.**

Ma non hai sentito la notizia del terremoto? Per me vivo nel mondo della luna!

**Haven't you heard about the earthquake? I reckon you live on another planet!**

Per la loro luna di miele, Antonio e Sabrina hanno deciso di venire in Australia.

**Antonio and Sabrina have decided to come to Australia for their honeymoon.**

# L'angolo della lingua

Language corner - Yvette Devlin

In this edition I will focus on a single verb that's used in so many contexts: *mancare*. The more common English equivalents are *to miss*, *to lack*, *to need*.

Here are some useful examples.

*Al mio cagnolino manca solo la parola!*  
**The only thing my puppy lacks is the ability to talk.**

*Mi manca un buon dizionario moderno.*  
**I need a good modern dictionary.**

*Non si può dire che manchi di coraggio.*  
**One cannot say he/she lacks courage.**

*Non sono aggiornata sulla politica italiana – manco dall'Italia da 50 anni.*  
**I'm not up to date with Italian politics – I left Italy 50 years ago.**

*Oggi mancano tre studenti.*  
**Three students are missing today.**

*Il campione di tiro ha mancato l'ultimo bersaglio.*  
**The shooting champion missed the last target.**

*Non far affidamento su di lui: manca sempre di parola.*  
**Don't place your trust in him: he always breaks his word.**

*Ci manca molto nostra madre, morta dieci anni fa.*  
**We really miss our mother, who died ten years ago.**

So note the different construction in *mi manchi* = *I miss you*. Literally, in Italian you're saying 'you are missing to me'. If this is too hard to remember, you can say *sento la tua mancanza* which literally means 'I feel your absence'.

*Tutti possiamo mancare.*  
**We all make mistakes.**

# L'angolo della poesia

Poetry corner - Yvette Devlin



**Poet Franco Fortini (1917-1994)  
working at his typewriter**

Contemporary poet **Franco Fortini** was born in Florence in 1917 and died in Milan in 1994. He graduated in Law and Humanities. With a Jewish father, he spent some time in Switzerland during WWII but returned to Italy in 1944 to fight with the partisans.

After settling in Milan where he worked as a journalist and translator, he taught at secondary schools until 1976 when he was appointed Chair of Literary Criticism at the University of Siena. He published numerous collections of poetry.

He is regarded as a major left-wing intellectual of the 20<sup>th</sup> c. He associated with other renowned intellectuals of his time such as Sartre and Brecht, and translated works by many great authors including Gide, Flaubert and Proust from French; Goethe, Brecht and Kafka from German; and Milton from English.

The following poem is seasonally appropriate for Canberra. I wish Fortini had cared to use commas – they would have facilitated my reading! Fortunately, the translator has done so.

## ***Agro inverno***

Agro inverno crepiti il tuo fuoco  
incenerisci inverno i boschi i tetti  
recidi e brucia inverno

Pianga chi piange chi ha male abbia più male  
chi odia odii più forte chi tradisce trionfi:  
questo è l'ultimo testo è il decreto del nostro  
inverno.

Non abbiamo saputo che cosa fare per noi  
della verde vita e dei fiori amorosi.  
Per questo la scure è alla radice dei cuori  
e come stecchi che si divincolano saremo  
arsi.

The following translation is by Lawrence R. Smith and is found in his bilingual anthology *The new Italian Poetry – 1945 to the present*.

## ***Bitter Winter***

Bitter winter, you crackle your fire  
winter, you consume the woods, the roofs  
winter, you slash and burn.

Whoever mourns, let him mourn; whoever  
suffers, let him suffer more  
whoever hates, let him hate more; whoever  
deceives, let him triumph:  
this is the ultimate text and decree of our  
winter.

We didn't know what to do with  
green life and the loving flowers.  
That's why the ax is at the root of our hearts  
And like writhing twigs we shall be burnt.

# Cenno storico

## A bit of history - Yvette Devlin

**Giuseppe Garibaldi** was born on 4 July 1807 in Nice and died in 1882 at Caprera. He is one of the best-known figures of Italian unification – Mazzini was the visionary, Garibaldi the fighter and Cavour the political strategist. Garibaldi became interested in the cause of Italy's unification after meeting Mazzini in 1833. After taking part in an unsuccessful insurrection and being sentenced to death as a result, he fled overseas. First, he went to Brazil, where he met his future wife Anita and fought in internal wars, and then to Uruguay where he fought in the civil war alongside the red-shirts – an item of clothing that later became his symbol and that of his followers.

He returned to Italy in 1848 and engaged in further (ineffective) revolutionary activity,

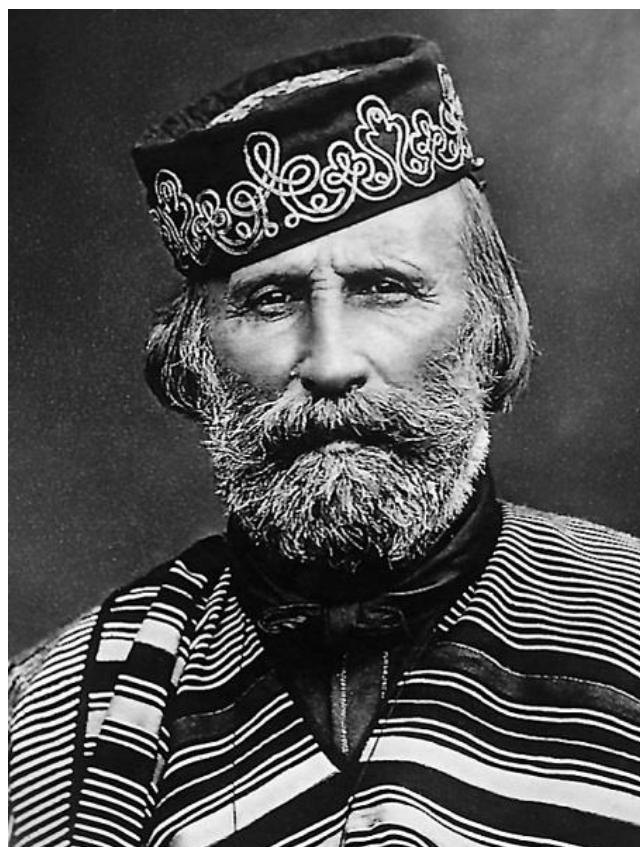
including the siege of Rome in which the French prevailed by reinstating the pope there. Being exiled for five years, he travelled again, first to New York and then commanding merchant ships for some four years. This job took him, among other places, to Canton in China, Manila, the United States and Chile. On one of these trips he even travelled along the South coast of Australia, stopping at Three Hummock Island in the Bass Strait.

He returned once again to Italy to take up the fight for its liberation. In April 1860 he gathered 1000 volunteers and set out from Genoa toward Sicily where his military campaign began against the Bourbons of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. Having conquered Sicily, he moved to Naples where he was met by the Piedmontese who had come down the peninsula fighting for the King of Sardinia (who would become King of Italy in 1861). On 26 October 1860 Garibaldi handed to Victor Emmanuel II the lands he had conquered in the South, and withdrew to the island of Caprera.

Garibaldi was not yet finished with fighting but his restless spirit did not lead to any military success. He remained committed to a united Italy and, fiercely anticlerical, to the abolition of the papacy.

\*\*\*

Giuseppe Garibaldi nacque il 4 luglio 1807 a Nizza e morì nel 1882 a Caprera. È una delle maggiori figure dell'unificazione dell'Italia – Mazzini era l'idealista, Garibaldi il combattente e Cavour lo stratega politico. Garibaldi cominciò ad interessarsi alla causa dell'unificazione dopo aver incontrato Mazzini nel 1833. Dopo aver partecipato ad un'insurrezione fallita ed essere stato condannato a morte, fuggì oltremare. Andò prima nel Brasile dove incontrò la sua futura moglie Anita e lottò in guerre interne, poi in Uruguay dove lottò nella guerra civile schierandosi con le camicie rosse – un capo di abbigliamento che divenne poi il suo



# Cenno storico

## A bit of history - Yvette Devlin (cont'd)

simbolo e quello dei suoi seguaci.

Ritornò in Italia nel 1848 e partecipò di nuovo in vane attività rivoluzionarie, incluso l'assedio di Roma in cui vinsero i francesi che vi reintegrarono il papa. Esiliato per cinque anni, cominciò a viaggiare di nuovo, prima alla volta di New York e poi al comando di navi mercantili per quattro anni. Questo lavoro lo portò, tra l'altro, a Canton in Cina, Manila, gli Stati Uniti e il Cile. Durante uno di questi viaggi percorse le acque al sud della costa australiana, fermandosi a Three Hummock Island nel Bass Strait.

Tornò di nuovo in Italia per combattere per la sua liberazione. Nell'aprile del 1860

assieme a 1000 volontari salpò da Genova diretto verso la Sicilia dove cominciò la sua campagna militare contro i Borboni del Regno delle due Sicilie. Dopo aver conquistato la Sicilia, si diresse verso Napoli dove incontrò i piemontesi che erano scesi lungo la penisola combattendo per il Re di Sardegna (che nel 1861 divenne Re d'Italia).

Il 26 ottobre 1860 Garibaldi consegnò a Vittorio Emanuele II i territori del sud da lui conquistati, e si ritirò nell'isola di Caprera. Garibaldi non aveva ancora finito di combattere, ma il suo spirito irrequieto non condusse a nessun altro successo militare. Fino alla fine, rimase sempre dedito alla causa di un'Italia unita e, da accanito anticlericale, all'abolizione del papato.



**Garibaldi urges his men on at the Battle of Calatafimi on May 15, 1860**

# Non solo canzonette

Sandra Catizone

In tempi difficili di convivenze difficili, discusse, osteggiate e di accoglienze di esuli e migranti su cui si dibatte con toni accesi nel vecchio, nuovo e nuovissimo mondo, facciamo una pausa, canora in questo caso. Non vogliamo cantare per dimenticare, ma per ripensare con leggerezza ad alcuni valori fondamentali che dovrebbero essere ovviamente trasmessi ai nostri giovani, la nostra unica speranza in un futuro migliore...

Ma questi giovani saranno lo specchio e gli eredi dell'educazione che avremo loro data.

Ora bando alle ciance e ascoltiamo cosa Garinei e Giovannini, gli autori del testo, con musica del famoso compositore Armando Trovajoli, e il cantante Johnny Dorelli ci esortano a fare in "Aggiungi un posto a tavola", musical di grande successo negli anni '70.

**Coro:**

*Aggiungi un posto a tavola  
che c'è un amico in più  
se sposti un po' la seggiola  
stai comodo anche tu,  
gli amici a questo servono  
a stare in compagnia,  
sorridi al nuovo ospite  
non farlo andare via  
dividi il companatico  
raddoppia l'allegria.*

**Voce:**

*La porta è sempre aperta  
la luce sempre accesa.*

**Coro:**

*La porta è sempre aperta  
la luce sempre accesa.*

**Voce:**

*Il fuoco è sempre vivo  
la mano sempre tesa.*

**Coro:**

*Il fuoco è sempre vivo*

*la mano sempre tesa.  
La porta è sempre aperta  
la luce sempre accesa.*

**Voce:**

*E se qualcuno arriva  
non chiedergli: chi sei?*

**Coro:**

*No, no, no,  
no, no, no, no*

**Voce:**

*E se qualcuno arriva  
non chiedergli: che vuoi?*

**Coro:**

*No, no, no,  
no, no, no, no  
no, no, no*

**Voce:**

*E corri verso lui  
con la tua mano tesa.  
e corri verso lui  
spalancagli un sorriso  
e grida: "Evviva, evviva!".*

**Coro:**

*Evviva, evviva, evviva, evviva, evviva,  
evviva, evviva, evviva, evviva, evviva.*

**Voce e coro:**

*Aggiungi un posto a tavola  
che c'è un amico in più  
se sposti un po' la seggiola  
stai comodo anche tu,  
gli amici a questo servono  
a stare in compagnia,  
sorridi al nuovo ospite  
non farlo andare via  
dividi il companatico  
raddoppia l'allegria.*

*E così, e così, e così, e così  
così sia...*

E allora che dire? Non sarebbe bello realizzare un mondo davvero unito e solidale? Bello a dirsi, difficile a farsi, certo,

# Non solo canzonette

Sandra Catizone - continua

ma consideriamo questo fine come il nostro progetto primario da realizzare negli anni a venire e cantiamo questi versi per non distrarci!!!

Ps: se poi qualche nonno/a volesse cantare questa "Canzonetta" con i propri nipotini, sarà una festa gioiosa per tutti!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DuK23O38REE>

Provare (io l'ho già fatto) per credere: it's highly recommended!

**Canzonetta:** composizione musicale di carattere popolaresco o leggero, svolta su un motivo musicale orecchiabile, per canto e strumenti.

**Garinei e Giovannini:** famosi autori e registi italiani che hanno inventato la commedia musicale italiana.

**Johnny Dorelli:** cantante e attore, molto famoso ed amato dal pubblico italiano, soprattutto attivo negli anni '70 - '90

## Curiosità

*Aggiungi un posto a tavola* è una commedia musicale italiana in due atti di Garinei e Giovannini, scritta tra il 1973 e il 1974 con Iaia Fiastri, liberamente ispirata al romanzo *After me the Deluge* di David Forrest. Le musiche sono di Armando Trovajoli, le scene e i costumi di Giulio Coltellacci con le coreografie di Gino Landi.

La prima edizione di *Aggiungi un posto a tavola* debuttò al "Teatro Sistina" di Roma l'8 dicembre 1974, dopo settanta giorni di prove. Lo spettacolo fu premiato dal pubblico e rimase in scena al Sistina per ben sei mesi, tutta una stagione, cosa che non era mai avvenuta prima.

Ad oggi, ci sono state ben sei diverse edizioni del musical, testimonianza del suo continuo successo con il pubblico italiano. L'ultima edizione dello spettacolo ha debuttato il 18 aprile 2013 al "Teatro Fenaroli" di Lanciano, per poi proseguire in tutta Italia fino al 2014.

## 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 2017 course prices.

For only 922 Euros, you could have a 4-week language and culture course, accommodation, cultural visits etc. Excellent value!

If you intend to travel to Italy for an intensive course, contact the office for further details or visit  
[www.scuoladantealighieri.org](http://www.scuoladantealighieri.org)

# **Vale Hugo Toro**

**Loredana Modesti**



**Hugo Toro, segretario della Società Dante Alighieri di Canberra dal 1999 al 2005**

Hugo Toro è stato il segretario della Società Dante Alighieri per molti anni, dal 1999 a tutto il 2005.

Tutto è cominciato con la sua passione per la lingua italiana: essendo lui nativo del Cile, sebbene di origini italiane, parlava solamente lo spagnolo.

Ha partecipato alle classi di conversazione che si tenevano al giovedì sera all'Italiano Australian Club e la sua amicizia con Sante Modesti lo ha portato a parlare un italiano quasi perfetto. Inoltre leggeva molti libri presi in prestito sia dalla biblioteca della Dante sia da quella, ben fornita, di mio

marito Sante.

Quando Ottavio Bagozzi ha lasciato l'incarico di segretario, Hugo si è offerto di ricoprire l'incarico.

Solitamente era lui che faceva i caffè alle classi di conversazione, preparava le stanze e rimetteva tutto in ordine alla fine.

Quando la Dante Review era pronta per essere spedita, Hugo con la moglie e Sante si recavano all'ufficio della Dante per piegare la rivista e imbustarla, per poi portarla all'ufficio postale.

Inoltre con Sante andavano in giro per i negozi di Canberra per ottenere la pubblicità da inserire nella rivista, come ulteriore introito che aiutava a sostenere le spese di stampa della Dante Review.

È stato Hugo che si è interessato di trovare un posto per le classi di italiano, quando non sono più state disponibili all'Università.

Insomma, Hugo Toro si è sempre dato da fare per la Società che lui amava molto e ha sempre fatto tutto il possibile per renderla sempre più efficiente.

Purtroppo Hugo ci ha lasciati alcuni mesi dopo Pasqua e ad essere sinceri ha lasciato un vuoto nel nostro cuore. Sentiremo la sua mancanza per lungo tempo, specialmente quando è l'ora di un caffè... Veniva spesso a trovarci per un caffè e qualche biscotto e ci mancheranno le lunghe chiacchierate su vari argomenti, sempre in italiano.

Sarebbe stata una gioia per lui poter partecipare al sessantesimo anniversario della fondazione della Società Dante Alighieri.

Mi piace pensare che c'era anche lui con noi tutti, anche se la sua presenza era solo spirituale.

# **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dante Alighieri Society of Canberra Reception and Launch of History Susan Reye**



**Architect Enrico Taglietti receives life membership of the Canberra DAS from president Franco Papandrea**

On 16 June 2017 the Italian ambassador, His Excellency Pier Francesco Zazo, and his wife, Ms Svetlana Sharapa Zazo, hosted a reception at their residence, to mark the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Dante Alighieri Society of Canberra and to launch a short book documenting its history. About a hundred members and friends of the Society were present, including many who had played a major role in its history, notably Mr Enrico Taglietti, Emeritus Professor John Molony, Mr Wal Costanzo, Ms Myriam Bonazzi, Ms Magda Damo, and Mr and Ms Sante and Loredana Modesti.

In his address, the ambassador spoke highly of the Dante Society's activities, and particularly of what it has achieved since the financial support of the Italian government was withdrawn, and the Society has had to be self-funding. He paid tribute to its contribution to the teaching of the Italian language and culture, noting that although Italy is not a military or economic superpower, it is a cultural superpower with a beautiful and musical language. However, his assertion that Italian is also "quite easy to learn" was met with sceptical (or rueful) laughter from many in the audience.

Mr Michael Pettersson MLA, conveyed a message from the Chief Minister of the ACT, Mr Andrew Barr, congratulating the Canberra Dante Society on its anniversary and thanking it for its contribution to multiculturalism. The Dante Alighieri Society of Sydney was represented by its president, Mr Fabio Carosone, who also gave a brief address, and by Ms Giancarla Montagna.

The President of the Canberra Dante Society, Professor Franco Papandrea, then spoke about the Society's origins and evolution, its current activities and its hopes for the future. He introduced the publication *Dante Alighieri Society of Canberra – 1957-2017*, written by Ms Yvette Devlin, much research also having been carried out by Ms Sandra Catizone. He noted that, as well as having a print version, the booklet will be published on the Canberra Dante Society website.

Professor Papandrea outlined the evolution of the Society from a small elite group devoted to Italian culture to a more broadly based institution offering Italian language

**Emeritus Professor John Molony, the Canberra DAS's longest-serving president, receives life membership from current president Franco Papandrea**



# **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dante Alighieri Society of Canberra Reception and Launch of History**

## **Susan Reye (cont'd)**

courses and cultural activities to the wider Canberra community. He described its current focus on the teaching of the Italian language, as well as its active and popular choir. Now, he said, a major priority is the need to adapt to the digital age, and remain relevant to younger generations. There are young members on the committee who will assist in this endeavour, and he has confidence in the Society's future.

Professor Papandrea then presented three honorary life memberships of the Canberra Dante Society, in recognition of meritorious service to the Society. The first went to Mr Enrico Taglietti, who was the Secretary of, and the only Italian on, the Society's first committee. An award-winning architect, Mr Taglietti designed many notable Canberra buildings, including the elegant and comfortable ambassadorial residence where the reception was held.

The second life membership was awarded to Emeritus Professor John Molony, who is the

Society's longest-serving president, having held that post for almost twenty years from the mid-1970s. It was during his presidency that the Society became more actively engaged with other Italian community associations and particularly with the Italo-Australian Club where it held some of its activities.

The third life membership was awarded to Ms Yvette Devlin, who after 17 years as a driving force in the Dante Society (including 12 years as Vice President) and in the Italian community at large, is leaving Canberra and moving to Sydney. Ms Devlin was also presented with a magnificent edition of Dante's *Divine Comedy* with illustrations by Gustave Doré.

The evening continued with delicious food, drink, conversation and agreeable company, a highly appropriate way to mark this milestone in the history of the Canberra Dante Society.

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**(From left to right): Giancarla Montagna, Ambassador Zazo, Svetlana Sharapa Zazo, Fabio Carosone, Franco Papandrea and Yvette Devlin**



# Festa della Repubblica a Canberra

**Yvette Devlin**

A 71 anni dalla fondazione della Repubblica italiana, a Canberra si è celebrata la festa nazionale a due riprese. La comunità l'ha celebrata domenica 28 maggio al Centro Culturale Italiano, mentre l'Ambasciatore ha tenuto il ricevimento ufficiale il 2 giugno nella sua residenza.

La festa al Centro Culturale ha visto una varietà di eventi per tutti i gusti e le età. All'esterno c'erano bancarelle di sei associazioni regionali dove si poteva comprare cibo tipico di quelle regioni; Ferrari e Vespe d'epoca da ammirare; intrattenimento da parte del musicista/cantante di Sydney Lucio Ventresca; il jumping castle per i più piccoli e anche una bancarella informativa della Dante.

Nella sala del Centro ci sono state una dimostrazione culinaria da parte di Francesco Balestrieri dell'East Hotel che ha preparato una salsa a base di salsiccia, formaggio Montasio e baby basilico con rigatoni fatti da lui stesso; una competizione



**Il pubblico ascolta il discorso dell'Ambasciatore  
al Centro Culturale Italiano**

per la miglior torta; una performance del nostro coro Dante Musica Viva che ha pure eseguito i due inni nazionali; e i discorsi ufficiali incluso quello dell'ambasciatore Pier Francesco Zazo.

Un tocco simpatico del nostro coro è stata l'esecuzione della canzoncina *È arrivato l'ambasciatore* proprio mentre lui entrava in sala con la moglie Svetlana e la figlia Isabella.

Nel suo discorso l'Ambasciatore Pier Francesco Zazo ha descritto la Costituzione italiana 'molto moderna' precisando che la sua elaborazione è stata il frutto di collaborazione tra le forze cattoliche, laiche e di sinistra. Ha poi sottolineato il 'miracolo economico' degli anni '50 e '60 e i grandi valori italiani come l'imprenditoria, la capacità e il sacrificio. Questi sono anche i valori che hanno contraddistinto gli italiani che hanno seguito la via dell'emigrazione nel dopoguerra incluso quelli venuti in Australia, arricchendo questo nuovo paese con la loro cultura, il Made in Italy – e la cucina.

L'Ambasciatore ha pure menzionato che l'Australia ha tanti pregi come il

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## **Il brindisi dell'Ambasciatore alla Regina e al popolo austaliano**



# Festa della Repubblica a Canberra

## Yvette Devlin (cont'd)

multiculturalismo, un alto tenore di vita e rispetto per la legge. Ha poi sottolineato la popolarità dell'Italia per il turismo australiano (dopo l'Inghilterra, l'Italia è la destinazione preferita, con 195.000 presenze), e la popolarità dell'italiano nelle scuole australiane passando poi a parlare di scambi commerciali bilaterali e dei valori che accomunano l'Italia e l'Australia nelle relazioni internazionali.

L'Ambasciatore ha fatto un simile ma ancora più ampio discorso al ricevimento ufficiale il 2 giugno alla presenza di 117 ambasciatori, 44 addetti alla difesa, rappresentanti del governo australiano e dell'industria italiana e australiana oltre che esponenti della comunità italiana, dell'istruzione, delle scienze e della cultura.

In questa occasione Zazo ha sottolineato la posizione italiana nel seno dell'Unione Europea. Essendo un membro fondatore dell'Europa, l'Italia continua a dare supporto

all'Unione Europea auspicando che l'Europa diventi sempre più forte ed integrata. Ha aggiunto che l'Italia è anche favorevole all'apertura di negoziati mirati a raggiungere un accordo di libero scambio tra l'Australia e l'Ue.

L'Ambasciatore è poi passato a parlare del ruolo internazionale dell'Italia nel campo della sicurezza mondiale incluso nella lotta al terrorismo, e nella solidarietà verso i paesi in preda a guerre e povertà nel Nord Africa e Medio Oriente che spingono enormi flussi migratori a cercare sicurezza e fortuna in Europa.

Infine, l'Ambasciatore ha spiegato che questa è la sua ultima festa nazionale in Australia dato che il suo mandato sta per concludersi. Lui e la famiglia sono tristi di lasciare questo paese che hanno avuto modo di conoscere ed apprezzare, e dove hanno incontrato tanti connazionali che hanno dimostrato un forte attaccamento alle loro radici italiane.

## *Il coro Dante Musica Viva sul palco del Centro Culturale Italiano*



# Know your choir

## A profile of Ludmilla Windle



**Ludmilla during a rehearsal in March**

Upon hearing my accent, people often ask me where I come from. I was born in Harbin, northern China, where my great grandparents migrated from southern Russia before the 1917 Revolution.

After 1917, Harbin became one of the places White Russians (as they were called then) fled to in order to escape the horrors of the Revolution.

Russia had built the Manchurian railway in the 1890s and Harbin became a thriving, multinational city in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. My grandfather on my father's side worked for the railway most of his life. According to family history, by the 1930s. The Russian population in Harbin was 100,000.

The Japanese invaded China in the 1930s and treated the Chinese cruelly. They were

driven out of Manchuria by the Red Army in 1945.

After 1949, when Mao Tse-tung came to power, all non-Chinese (white devils) were told to leave the country and leave all their material possessions to the Chinese people. The government had passed a decree stating that a non-Chinese family were allowed just one room and kitchen to live in. The rest of the house was to be taken over by the Chinese.

These living arrangements became almost impossible when my younger sister was born. As a six-year-old I was farmed off to live with my maternal grandparents, and later returned to the family home.

From an early age I was fascinated by language, that is, the Russian language, and loved the sound of it. I was reading Russian by the age of five and nagged my parents to take me to see a specific film, which was advertised in the local Russian paper. However, not long after the film started, I would turn my back to the screen and study the audience, which to me seemed much more entertaining.

In the 1950s Russians in China agonised over where to migrate as refugees. Europe was out of the question, as it was struggling to rebuild after the war. Many had no wish to go to Soviet Russia, which was accepting Russian refugees. My father's dream was to go to Canada, but Canada then was not accepting unsponsored migrants. My parents did not want to go to the United States, so the only two possibilities were Brazil and Australia. Australia seemed too remote, so Brazil was chosen as our destination.

It was not easy to get a visa to leave China. Prospective refugees had to wait in a queue in sub-zero temperatures in the winter to have their applications approved. When a Soviet immigration official asked my father

## **Know your choir**

### **A profile of Ludmilla Windle (cont'd)**

why he did not want to go back to Russia, Father simply replied that he wanted to see the world. The application was approved. We were given US\$100 for spending money during our trip. Most of it was spent on evaporated milk, which cost US 1 a can, for my one-year-old sister.

The World Congress of Churches sponsored our sea passage. The fares were to be repaid once we settled in Brazil.

My father had three older brothers, who were in their fifties and late forties, and felt that they were too old to start a new life in a completely new country with a new language, and did return to Russia with their families and my grandmother. For many years we did not have any communication with them, fearing that a letter from us might cause them retribution from the government.

We left Harbin in 1954 and travelled to Hong Kong, where we lived for about two months while waiting for our ship. We were accommodated in a hotel where rats had made their home. One morning when I got up to get dressed, I couldn't find my dress. My mother chastised me for not putting my clothes where they belong. We soon found out that my dress had been taken by a rat when we saw a piece of it sticking out from a hole in the skirting board. The rat must have liked the ice cream that had dripped onto my dress the previous evening.

Our voyage to Brazil from Hong Kong took us to Elizabeth Town and Cape Town in South Africa. Most Russians had never seen black people before.

I was constantly seasick on the ship and had no appetite at all. The food on board wasn't the best. The only food I could eat was oranges, bought during one of our stops. Husbands and wives were segregated, which made it hard on my mother, looking after my sister and me.

Upon our arrival in Sao Paulo, Brazil, we were put in a camp for new arrivals. During the day we explored the city and came back to the camp for dinner and bed. In fact, our "beds" were mattresses with sheets, pillows and blankets in a large hall.

Of course this was a temporary arrangement, and men were urged to find employment and a house to live in as soon as possible. My father found employment as a mechanic. We rented a house and I started grade one. On my first day of school, we were introduced to the Latin alphabet. I was astonished that in Portuguese the sound of 'k' could be produced by the letters c, k, and q. There was also c cedilla, but that had the sound of c.

We lived in Sao Paulo for seven years. My father did not like the climate and wanted to migrate to Canada. By 1961, my mother had a cousin and an uncle there who agreed to sponsor us as immigrants, and so in that year we flew to Montreal.

I was 14 years old and had to learn English and French at the same time. I had had a tutor in English in Brazil. This enabled me to understand some of the English, but not enough to speak it.

My high school years were spent learning the two new languages. I soon picked up English, but French presented a problem. No matter how hard I tried, I could not get a decent mark in it.

Then in year 10, I was fortunate to have a wonderful teacher of French. Suddenly I understood what French grammar and spelling was all about. In 1966, when I was in year 11 (in Quebec under the Protestant School Board, year 11 was the last year of high school) the Quebec government passed a decree that all English-speaking students must pass their written and oral French exams in order to receive a high school leaving certificate.

## Know your choir

### A profile of Ludmilla Windle (cont'd)



I passed my French and other subjects and enrolled in a business college.

In 1967 my father was killed in a road accident. The previous year he had sponsored my grandparents, to bring them to Montreal from Sao Paulo to live with us.

I had to get employment to help my mother with the household expenses. My first two jobs as a secretary were boring and unfulfilling. Then in 1969 I got the job of my dreams, working for the Department of Russian and Slavic Studies at McGill University, where I used my Russian, English and French. Here I met Kevin Windle, my future husband.

In the evenings I studied at the Concordia University, where I took Russian Literature, French and Spanish.

In 1974 Kevin and I were married and left for Brisbane a week later, where Kevin was appointed a Lecturer in Russian. We lived in Brisbane for six years and our daughter was born there. We left Australia in 1981 for Reading, in England, where Kevin worked for the BBC Monitoring Service, but returned in 1987, now with two children, to Canberra. Kevin spent the rest of his working life at

ANU; I took a job at the Canadian High Commission, where I could use my French, which I enjoyed.

We have been here ever since and my migrating days are over. We love Canberra. Our two children are adults now and we have three wonderful grandchildren.

My greatest regret is that I did not complete my university studies.

I have always liked singing. In fact I was singing before I could talk properly! With no musical training, I joined the Glee Club in my school, sang in the church choir in Montreal, and after I retired joined a choir in Tuggeranong.

I went to one of Dante Musica Viva's end-of-year concerts, and liked it so much that I decided to join the choir. That was five years ago. Having no knowledge of Italian, I thought it would be a good idea to take some language courses with Dante. Knowing Portuguese, French and Spanish, I was curious about other Romance languages, and was keen to learn Italian. I completed Beginner's, Intermediate and Advanced courses in Italian and can now understand and speak it a little. It is a beautiful language.

On Thursday evenings I sing with the choir, which makes my heart sing. After the choir practice, I attend Italian conversation classes with Pauline Adams, who is a wonderful teacher. Again, I enjoy the challenge of translating and trying to speak Italian. It is definitely good exercise for my ageing brain.

I attend exercise classes four times a week, go on long walks, volunteer at my church and am a member of a knitting group. We knit hats, blankets, baby clothes, etc and donate them to various charities. I really like knitting, but am very slow at it. I also like reading good literature.

# Ferragosto e le sue radici

Clelia Boscarato

Ogni anno la stessa storia: quando si accende la televisione nelle due settimane centrali di agosto, si sentono di continuo notizie allarmanti sul “grande esodo estivo” che ha il suo apice nei giorni subito precedenti e successivi Ferragosto.

Ma perché gli italiani tendono a mettersi in moto attorno a questa giornata?

Tradizionalmente, Agosto è mese di chiusura: l'Italia si spegne e anche il più stacanovista dei lavoratori si concede almeno qualche giorno di meritato riposo. E la data del 15 agosto è sinonimo di grandi festeggiamenti.

Se guardiamo sul calendario vedremo che la giornata è intitolata all’Assunzione della Santissima Vergine. Questa festa è entrata nel calendario canonico e ha avuto il sigillo del Dogma solamente nel 1950.

Tuttavia, come spesso accade con le feste di tradizione cristiana, l’Assunzione è solamente andata a riempire una data tradizionalmente importante fin dai tempi degli antichi romani.

Ferragosto ha dunque origini antichissime: il nome latino era “Feriae Augusti”, ovvero “le ferie di Augusto”: la giornata segnava la fine dei raccolti estivi e delle grandi fatiche nei campi e portava qualche giorno di riposo a tutta la popolazione.

Ovviamente, c’era anche una componente autocelebrativa dell’Imperatore Augusto, che attraverso giochi e festeggiamenti si faceva pubblicità per tutto l’impero!

Parte integrante dei festeggiamenti erano le corse dei cavalli, che si sono conservate fino ai giorni nostri. Basti pensare al famosissimo “Palio dell’Assunta” che si tiene ogni anno nella medievale città di Siena e che ha conquistato fama internazionale.

Il Palio, ovvero lo stendardo che viene

consegnato al vincitore di questa corsa rocambolesca ai limiti del pericoloso, simboleggia la fama conquistata dal fantino che per primo taglia il traguardo. Non troppa differenza con la corona d’alloro consegnata ai tempi dei romani, non trovate?

Questa mistura di sacro e profano, tradizione romana e cristiana, è una delle caratteristiche principali del successo di Ferragosto.

Nonostante oggi il 15 agosto sia per la maggioranza solo una scusa per affrontare il traffico e andare a passare una giornata al mare, con la famiglia e con gli amici, le radici della celebrazione fanno sempre capolino. Ogni regione festeggia a modo suo, ma il messaggio di fondo è rimasto invariato per millenni: le fatiche dell’anno sono finite!

Godetevi questa pausa di meritato riposo, ricaricate le batterie perché in meno che non si dica settembre tornerà e con esso il solito tran-tran quotidiano!

Buon Ferragosto a tutti!

## I DANNI IRREPARABILI DELLO STRESS



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# **Enrolment form for Term 3 2017**

## **Courses start in July!**

## **Please select course level**

- Beginner**
  - Continuing Beginner**
  - Intermediate**
  - Advanced**

Beginner to Advanced classes are held at the Yarralumla Primary School or at the Notaras Multicultural Centre, Civic and consist of 9x2 hour sessions

Enquiries: Tuesday to Friday (9:30am-1:00pm) Ph: 6247 1884 Email: [info@danteact.org.au](mailto: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

<b>Full course fee (from Beginners to Advanced):</b>	\$295 per 9 week term \$560 per 18 week semester
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**Discounted course fee: \$280 (National Library of Australia's friends)**

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

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

**and Italian Espresso 2, \$36.00**

**Payment by cash, cheque or deposit**  
*Please make cheque payable to: "Dante Alighieri Society of Canberra Inc"*

*or deposit at the National Australian Bank*

Please include your surname and initial as the reference when paying by EFT or send the deposit slip with your enrolment form. Your place will be held until payment is received.

Your enrolment will be completed when payment confirmation is received.  
We thank you for your understanding.

# 2017 Membership

## Dante Alighieri Society Membership

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

### Receipt No

### Subscription for membership (from 01/01/2017 to 31/12/2017):

- 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.

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