



DANTE NEWS Gold Coast

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Società Dante Alighieri Gold Coast Inc.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear members

Last month we went to a farewell reception for the Italian Consul, Ludovico Carlo Camussi, hosted by QPAC and ICCI QLD, at QPAC's Rooftop Function Room and Terrace. This photo is courtesy of QPAC. Photographer, Darren Thomas, PhotoCo. In the photo with me and the Consul are Rosalia Miglioli, Brisbane Dante Vice President, Anna Domaneschi and Brisbane Dante President, Liz Jarvis.



This year we will be including a page for you to send us your ideas and suggestions about learning Italian, review of Mini Courses, experiences in learning Italian here and in Italy. You don't have to be a current student to send us something for "La Pagina dello Studente".

Our Gold Coast Society was founded on the 5th June 1989 and on the 8th June we will mark the event by having a 30th Anniversary celebration. I would appreciate your thoughts on what will be a good way to celebrate this milestone.

I wish you all a peaceful new year full of joy, good health and prosperity. Thank you to all members who have already renewed their 2019 membership. Welcome to all new members.

Cordiali saluti

Giovanna

TANTI AUGURI DI BUON ANNO

[Like us on Facebook - Dante Gold Coast](#)

We are also on Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/dantegoldcoast/>

2019 DANTE MEMBERSHIP NOW DUE

www.ladante.it/associati

(discounts in Italy for members)

DATE CLAIMERS

5 January – La Befana

16 January – Amici della Dante

8 June – 30th Anniversary

THE GOLD COAST

ITALO AUSTRALIAN CLUB

18 Fairways Drive, Clear Island Waters

Ph: 5575 1966 /0499074910

<http://italoaustralianclub.com.au/events/>

Lunch – Wed. Thurs. Fri. 11.30a.m. - 2.30p.m.

Dinner – Wed. to Sat. 5.30p.m. - 9 p.m.

Please phone Club for bookings.

COLLAS MORO ROSS

46 Watson Esplanade

SURFERS PARADISE 4217

PH. 07 55399099

Email: ginom@cmrlawyers.com.au

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SCHOOL NEWS

Summer Mini Courses 2019

LET'S CHAT!
BASIC CONVERSATION



If you are still interested but did not commit, these mini-courses are going ahead. **Please contact me first before attending.**

\$25 per lesson

Suitable for Beginners 2, Beginners 3 and Intermediate 1

Friday 10-12noon 18th Jan 25th Jan 1st Feb
Monday 6.30-8.30pm 14th Jan 21st Jan

Intermediate 3 Advanced and LCS

Wednesday 10-12noon 16th 23rd 30th Jan

SEMESTER 1 2019 COURSES

'Early bird special': \$420

Includes \$20 annual membership

Must be received on or before-

Friday 18th January 2019

Payment after the 18th January 2019

\$440

Includes \$20 annual membership

Late direct debts will pay the higher rate.

Payment - Cash / Cheque / Direct Debit
BSB 034216
Acct No 862414

*Use Surname as Reference of Payee

Classes commence the week beginning Monday 4th February 2018.

Enrolment Day at the Dante

Our only "Open day/ Enrolment time" will be Tuesday 22nd January from 5.00- 7.00 pm. You can come and see our rooms, discuss your level, make payment, buy your textbook or a dictionary.

2019 Semester 1 details

All the information (fees, timetable, calendar and forms) is available online.

Enrolment form

Every student either new or returning must complete a new enrolment form.

Private Classes

Just a single class or multiple classes are available throughout the week. Please contact me if interested.

*If you have any questions or concerns-
please call me on 55270797*

Or Email- info@dantegoldcoast.com

Rita School Director

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

**Saturday 5th January – La Befana
5 p.m. at the G.C.I.A.C.**

**Tuesday 22nd January – Enrolment
in Dante rooms 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.**

4th February – 28th June First Semester

6th April – 28th April Easter holidays

**8th June – 30th Anniversary Celebration of
Societa` Dante Alighieri Gold Coast Inc.**

29th June – 14th July End of semester break

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THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS

DANTE MEMBERSHIP 2019 RENEWAL IS NOW DUE

Students who are enrolling for classes do not need to do a separate membership form, it is part of the Enrolment Form. Your Dante membership card has a number on it. Please add it to your membership renewal form. Attached is a list of where Dante members receive discounts in Italy. Please make sure your 2019 sticker is on your membership card before travelling to Italy. Below is part of an email from our Sede Centrale about the discounts at the Vatican Museums.

Rinnovo della convenzione tra i Musei Vaticani e la Società Dante Alighieri per il 2019. La Società Dante Alighieri rende noto a tutti i suoi soci in Italia e nel mondo che rinnovando la tessera della Dante per l'anno 2019 avranno diritto, oltre alle numerose convenzioni già in essere con tantissimi musei, teatri, hotel, ristoranti ed esercizi commerciali, ad una "tariffa speciale convenzione" per visitare i Musei Vaticani a Roma. Il titolare della tessera ed un suo accompagnatore potranno così usufruire del servizio "Salta la fila" per avere il biglietto a tariffa promozionale di 12,00 euro a persona più 4,00 euro a titolo di prevendita e prenotazione per l'ingresso agevolato. In abbinamento al biglietto di ingresso, il socio potrà acquistare il DVD Arte e Fede al prezzo simbolico di 1,00 euro. Per ulteriori dettagli sulle convenzioni della Società Dante Alighieri, visita la pagina <http://ladante.it/diventa-socio/le-convenzioni.html>

LA BEFANA

In Italian folklore, *La 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 (Italian: *Festa dell'Epifania*). *La Befana* fills the children's socks with candy and presents if they are good, or a lump of coal if they are bad. She is usually portrayed as an old lady, wearing a shawl, carrying a bag filled with gifts and riding a broomstick through the air.

Le Nonne della Dante are organising *La Befana* story telling with activities for children at **5 p.m.** on **Saturday 5th January** at the Gold Coast Italo Australian Club. For further information please phone or text Luisa on 0408344148 or June on 0414387748.

The restaurant *Amici and Cibo* will be open and have meals available at special prices as below:

Kids' spaghetti bolognese for \$5/plate.

They can also provide some or all of the following:-

Chicken Nuggets n chips \$8/plate

Fish n chips \$8/plate

Pizza - Tropical (ham, cheese and pineapple) and/or Margarita \$15/pizza (slices = 8/pizza)

Please phone the Club on 07 55751966 to book for dinner.



LA PAGINA DEGLI STUDENTI**ERCOLANO (testo autentico di Susanna Konigsberg LCS)**

Sono stata fortunata di poter andare in crociera con la nave 'Marco Polo' (purtroppo non era italiana e l'equipaggio era filippino). La nave ha fatto scalo a Sorrento, così abbiamo deciso di andare a fare una gita agli Scavi di Ercolano. Mi sono ricordata che durante una serata culturale alla Dante della Costa d'Oro, Ursula Nocerino, ci ha parlato degli Scavi che a suo parere se uno dovesse scegliere tra Pompei o Ercolano, valeva certo la pena di scegliere Ercolano. Non è mai tanto affollato e c'è più ombra. Pompei è famoso per la polvere. (Non è che mi faceva paura tanta polvere perché Pompei è anche molto interessante) Ma potevo scegliere solo un posto.

Ursula aveva ragione! Ercolano è veramente memorabile! È tutto quello che Ursula ci ha detto durante la serata culturale. Specialmente i mosaici- i colori sono molto chiari e bellissimi – a pensare che tutto questo fu costruito nel quarto secolo B.C.

Era incredibile e nello stesso momento fantastico, mi sembrava di essere ritornata a quei giorni gloriosi di Ercolano viva. Ero una nobildonna romana che si divertiva in un bagno caldo. Intorno a me si festeggiava e si beveva del vino e si mangiavano delle delizie del tempo romano!

Se andate a Sorrento o Napoli vi consiglio di andare a fare una visita ad Ercolano. Non è solamente una visita culturale ma è anche un posto fantastico che io certamente non dimenticherò .

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*The students from Friday morning classes enjoy the tiramisu` Alexia brought to the last class*



*End of year dinner. Teachers Charlotte, Martina M., Martina B. and students Judith and Pamela.*



### STUDENT TRAVELS AND TIPS

*One of our fellow students, Kate Careless has prepared this fantastic piece about her time in Italy last year. What a great read! I hope that many more of you will follow her lead and send through your stories. Warmest regards from your fellow student, Deanna . [deanna@wingspr.com.au](mailto:deanna@wingspr.com.au)*

#### Kate Careless and her adventures in Italy – 2018

We flew into Rome in early September. Although I had been some 40 years before, I felt like I was in a movie with the camera swirling 360 degrees around me, my head was on a swivel, the sights, sounds and smells as I entered the eternal city reached every fibre of my body as I wanted to shout to the world ‘Posso parlare Italiano!’. Send me your menus, ask me directions, Rome shall be conquered!

Our journey was to take us from Rome, to Malta, back to Rome and on to the Amalfi Coast, around Sicily, across the ‘soul’ of Italy around the heel, up the spur and through Assisi and Florence before moving on to Pisa, the Cinque Terre and Stresa. After a short sojourn driving the Alpine passes surrounding Interlaken, Saint Moritz and Innsbruck, we were back in Italy for a drive though the Dolomites and Lake Garda before heading home from Milan. I was fairly positive I would be fluent in Italian upon my return!

Our hotel in Rome was but a few metres from the Pantheon – no need to ask directions! Being so central we were able to find our way absolutely everywhere on foot - from the Pantheon to the Vatican, from the Forum to Victor Emmanuel, from the Trevi Fountain to the Borghese Gardens and on to the Spanish Steps and the Piazza del Popolo. I loved that every time we opened a door there would be masterpieces lying in wait for our personal discovery tour. This same sense was mirrored throughout the country. I knew enough Italian not to struggle with what was on the menu but it appeared my Italian was not quite as fast as the locals who found it both easier and more economical to speak in English. I must admit though, everyone was very polite and some might say ‘tolerant’!

From Rome it was on to Malta and then back to Rome to pick up our car and drive to Amalfi via Herculaneum, a marvellously preserved town which suffered the same fate on supposedly the same day as its neighbour, Pompeii. One must wonder at the thought processes being used at the time of planning a holiday to think that driving from Rome to the Amalfi on day 1 of picking up the car was a bright idea! Let me just say one thing – after driving nearly 7000 kms through Italy, Sicily and its northern neighbours the ‘Italians must rate amongst the world’s best drivers!’

My knowledge of Italian and prior reading about parking regulations did not inhibit our actions and we are still waiting for possible fines for being in pedestrian only areas, resident only areas etc. It would appear the GPS does not discriminate and took us up many a laneway with no reverse exit point. Monreale, Palermo, Cefalu spring to mind.

My Italian was happily used in the South for menus, directions and times to be places. People were genuinely pleased that I had made an attempt to understand the language. Satisfaction would set in momentarily before they would speak to each other at a rate I could only dream of. Keeping up with the local level of conversation was a challenge of Himalayan proportions!

Seriously though, what is there not to absolutely love about Italy? The natural springs throughout Rome, so welcoming in the hot weather, name an artist, sculptor, painter of any note and their works are scattered throughout the country; a brioche dipped in gelati and followed by a coffee for breakfast in Sicily; the Greek temples of Agrigento and Taormina; the blackscape of Mt Etna; the Trulli houses in Alberobello or the caves of Matera; standing at the southern most point of the ‘heel’; wandering the streets of Gallipoli; driving the winding road to Monte Saint Angelo and the breathtaking views over the Gulf of Manfredonia. Let’s not forget the brilliance of Florence and all it has to offer; the magic of Pisa; the meditative atmosphere of the Cinque Terre or the beauty of the Italian lakes. The stunning, majestic and totally awe-inspiring Dolomites finished off a fabulous holiday where a new appreciation for another culture has begun. No, I did not come home fluent in the language, but I did come home happy in the knowledge that where I could give my language skills a go, then I did.



**AMICI DELLA DANTE**

**We look forward to seeing you at our next one  
at noon, Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019**



Standing – Vilma, John, Judith and Gerard.  
Sitting – Ester, Tony and Ursula

**AMICI DELLA DANTE - 12 noon 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at Gold Coast Italo Australian Club**

Nurture and keep the spirit of Dante friends in your life. Meet for lunch on a regular basis. You do not have to sign up – just turn up. This is a time to meet, greet, chat, catch up, speak Italian, if you wish, and be together. We all have busy lives and commitments but we know there is a “window” on the third Wednesday of each month to reclaim our Dante connection with like-minded friends.

***Maria Barrett***



*22 members and friends met for lunch at the Gold Coast Italo Australian Club on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December*