

President's Letter

Dear members

I hope you and your families had a good Easter and are keeping well and safe. The digital contact does not substitute for people but at least you can be part of it. With the new norm of virtual meetings I participated in several webinars. Hosted by Dante Canberra on the 25th March was the first of the **Dante 700 Australia National Seminar Series** events broadcast via webinar. You can see the website on pagina 8 and maybe participate in other events. I also participated for the first time at the AGM of the Sede Centrale in Rome. It was very interesting The most meaningful for me was the official opening of **Dante Global** on the 14th April when the President of the Italian Republic, Sergio Mattarella, acknowledged and thanked the Dante Alighieri Societies all over the world for their precious contribution in promoting the Italian language and culture. The web site for Dante Global is on pagina 8. There are some interesting sections other than the language "Viaggio Nell'Italia di Dante" and "Ogni giorno, da tutto il mondo".

We welcome all new members and thank you for your support. We have included some information about acquiring Italian Citizenship through marriage on pagina 7. It is now a requirement that spouses achieve a B1 level of Italian.

Thank you to our student member Deanna Nott for her interesting article and to our Life Member Antonio Colicchia for his interview. Most of our students should be able to read and understand them. We have also included photos of past events.

The Gold Coast Italo Australian Club will be having a lunch to celebrate the Italian Republic's 75th Anniversary (flyer attached). We are making a Dante booking. Please let me know if you would like to join us.
I wish all the mothers a wonderful Mother's Day.

Cordiali saluti,

Giovanna Santomauro

2021 ANNO DANTESCO - 700mo Anniversario



Antonio Colicchia, Gino Moro, Connie Canale, Nino Miano, Giovanna Santomauro
Martina Medda and Astrid Pennisi. 2015

DATE CLAIMERS

27th May – Sydney event

[https://dantealighieri.com.au
/events/](https://dantealighieri.com.au/events/)

2nd June 75th Anniversary
of Italian Republic
25th June

Semester 1 classes finish

1st – 18th

Like us on Facebook
Dante Gold Coast Australia

Instagram – @dantegoldcoast

President: Giovanna
Santomauro 07 5539 5528
Secretary: Anna Domaneschi
07 55260170
School Director: Rita Lo Presti
07 55270797

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SCHOOL NEWS

During the break, we were fortunate that some of our teachers were willing to giving a *Classe extra* instead of our usual mini course. Thank you for always wanting to share more of your knowledge with the Dante students.

Finally, our first Italian for Travellers course was completed after some time with COVID. We now have a class eager to go on into Beginners 1.

For those of you who have friends interested in Italian classes, information about Semester 2 classes should be on the website by the end of May.

Course Dates for Semester 1 2021

Term 2 commences - Monday 19 April.

Course concludes - Friday 25 June.

Mid-semester break- 26 June - 11 July.

Tea and Coffee Break

We have recommenced the 10 minute break with tea and coffee again. The facilities are out in the courtyard. Already there is an issue with the power point. Until this is resolved, prepare your cup outside and only enter back into Aula 1 for the hot water and then return back outside into the courtyard.

As the weather will get cooler soon, you will be able to make your drink and return back into class.

Public Holidays

Please make sure you know if and when the alternative date for your class will be.

Library

The Dante library will not be reopening at this stage yet.

Private Classes

Private classes are always available. Please contact me or complete the request form on the website.

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

Or Email- info@dantegoldcoast.com

Rita School Director

A High Flying Service



One of our students, Dante member Deanna Nott, is the longest serving public affairs officer in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) with 27 years of service under this ever-young officer's brevet. As one can imagine, with all of those years of service she has collected a diverse and endless range of experiences. Australians often adopt an understated, relaxed pride in who we are and our place in the world – but not Deanna. Deanna's endless energy and enthusiasm for the RAAF and protecting the interests of our nation is refreshing – she beams an infectious pride and patriotism when it comes to her country.

The seeds of service were planted in Deanna's childhood when her father Tony, an Italian immigrant, was conscripted for the Vietnam War. He would often say to his little girl '...the opportunity to serve your country is the greatest privilege'. That message took deep root in Deanna's psyche. Many years later, while working as one of the newest reporters at the *Gold Coast Bulletin* newspaper, she spotted an advertisement in *The Australian* calling for working journalists to become Specialist Reservists, serving as commissioned officers in the RAAF. Never one to let opportunity pass by, Deanna applied, brushing aside the unsolicited advice that she was too young, too pretty and too Gold Coast to make it in the RAAF.

Officer training at Point Cook in Victoria, the home of the RAAF, presented physical and personal challenges that Deanna had never faced, but she survived and thrived, soon becoming a freshly minted RAAF Flying Officer.

Sir Winston Churchill famously stated that military reservists are "twice the citizen", highlighting the dual roles and lives that such individuals pursue. Once referred to as weekend warriors, or chocolate soldiers (that would melt in the sun) Reservists are now an integral, seamless and vital component of the ADF.

(Cont. P. 3)

A High Flying Service (*Cont. from P. 2*)

For Deanna her dual hatted life has never been so clearly defined - in fact the roles often blurred as only a year after joining the RAAF Reserve she was selected for a public service role within the Department of Defence. Initially serving as a writer and deputy editor of *Navy News*, then while working at Defence Force Recruiting in Canberra in 1997, she spied opportunity knocking again to become the youngest-ever Staff Officer Public Information in the RAAF – a Wing Commander equivalent position at the age of 24. Acronyms are a second language in the military and Deanna soon came to be famously known as ‘SOPI’ (pronounced soapy) across the operational Air Force. Sometimes Deanna would appear as SOPI, other times she would appear in uniform as the PAO (Public Affairs Officer) – depending on the circumstances and requirements of the situation...a bit like Wonder Woman – the physical resemblance is astounding as well!

While serving as SOPI at Headquarters Air Command, RAAF Glenbrook in the Blue Mountains just outside of Sydney, Deanna became one of the public faces of the Air Force - for good or bad. During this period in the late 90s and early 2000s she handled media responses for aircraft crashes, shielded the media from families of those tragically killed on active service, assisted peace negotiations in Bougainville shadowed by her personal SAS bodyguard, welcomed President Bill and Hillary Clinton on the tarmac when they arrived in Australia, escorted actor Pierce Brosnan on a navy launch around Sydney Harbour while he promoted his latest James Bond movie, volunteered for drought relief operations in Papua New Guinea and Irian Jaya, assisted with flood and fire relief across Australia, coordinated media for ultra-long range maritime rescue missions deep in the Southern Ocean, served as Aide de Camp to Governor Marjorie Jackson-Nelson, was the first woman to go to sea in the Navy’s then newest Collins Class submarine HMAS Rankin and delivered prosthetic limbs to land mine victims in Cambodia with rock star Angry Anderson – her career has never been boring.

More recently Squadron Leader Deanna Nott has completed the Command, Leadership and Ethics Module of Defence’s Command and Staff College and is aspiring to her next promotion. The Chief of the Defence Force has personally awarded his highest Commendation for her work with the Inspector General of the ADF. She also has an Australian Defence Force Commendation for her efforts in promoting the benefits of Reserve service to civilian employers.

When Deanna takes off her Air Force Officer hat there is no time to relax. In 2016 she decided to spread her wings, resigning from her civilian position as Head of Media and Communication at Logan City Council to launch her own business – [Wings Public Relations](#) on the Gold Coast. Naturally the business has a strong military client base, but also provides a range of communication services to government, councils and private enterprise. She served on the Board of Common Ground to help end homelessness, was a Councillor for the Public Relations Institute of Australia to help those joining her profession, learns Italian to relax and of course, always finds time to nurture her pride and joy - her two teenage children, Isabella and Alexander. She protests “none of this would be possible without my Patric!” her beloved husband. Deanna met Patric when she was SOPI – he was the dashing new Aide de Camp to the Air Commander Australia. Patric served 13 years in the RAAF as a pilot before joining Qantas where he flew the A380 super jumbo, until COVID-19 struck last year. Stood down for more than a year now, he won’t return to the air until 2024 on best estimates, however flexibility is the key to air power so now he has joined the Wings PR team, which continues to ascend.

March 31 this year marked the Centenary of the Royal Australian Air Force, of which Deanna has proudly served for more than the last quarter of the RAAF’s existence. Fittingly she was selected as a lead PAO for the RAAF’s 2021 media centre, and also to MC the official Centenary Reception, which included a 60 plus aircraft fly past, televised nationally. However, Deanna’s resilience and dedication to duty was to be tested yet again in the form of yet another COVID lockdown, requiring her to isolate in her Canberra hotel for the duration of the initial week-long celebrations. Never one to be defeated she doggedly dealt with dozens of media inquiries while in isolation in her hotel room. A last-minute quarantine clearance sent her scrambling to don her uniform and dash to Lake Burley Griffin, the centre of the Centenary celebrations, where she joined her fellow aviators, the newly-minted term to describe all who serve in the RAAF, to witness with pride some of our Air Force’s finest aircraft flying past in perfect formation. She then went on to help present awards during the Centenary Dinner with His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd), Chief of the Defence Force General Angus Campbell and Chief of Air Force Air Marshal Mel Hupfeld. The RAAF motto is “Per Ardua Ad Astra”, meaning through adversity to the stars...that neatly sums up this woman’s career.



Intervista ad ANTONIO COLICCHIA Socio a Vita Societa` Dante Alighieri Gold Coast Inc.

Noi ci conosciamo da molti anni, vero? Esattamente dal 1996 in occasione dell'arrivo alla Gold Coast della Nave Scuola "Orsa Maggiore".

Come ti sei coinvolto con la Dante Alighieri? In qualita' di Vice Console e Reggente del Consolato d'Italia a Brisbane, sono stato invitato diverse volte a partecipare ad eventi organizzati dalla Dante Alighieri della Gold Coast. In tali occasioni ho potuto constatare la qualita' del lavoro svolto e l'impegno profuso nella promozione della lingua e della cultura italiana sia dal Presidente Cav. Giovanna Santomauro sia da tutti gli insegnanti di italiano. E' stato quindi naturale che nascesse un rapporto di collaborazione che si e' sviluppato e

rafforzato nel tempo, accompagnato da una stima reciproca. Successivamente e' nata anche una sincera amicizia, in particolare con Giovanna, John e tutto il comitato della Dante.

Dove sei nato ? Sono nato a Roma.

Qual'era il tuo lavoro? Ero un funzionario del Ministero degli affari Esteri Italiano.

Lavori ancora? Non lavoro piu' per il Ministero degli Affari Esteri. Dopo 30 anni, di servizio sentivo che era ora di cambiare vita. Non riuscivo piu' a vedermi nella Pubblica Amministrazione.

Dove abiti? Ora vivo a Brisbane.

Da quanto tempo sei a Brisbane? La prima volta venni trasferito per servizio a Brisbane da novembre 1995 ad agosto del 1999. Successivamente, dopo aver prestato servizio in Canada, Roma e Cuba, sono tornato a Brisbane nel 2005 e vi sono rimasto fino a gennaio 2012.

Hai abitato in altre citta` dell'Australia? Dal 2012 al 2014 ho vissuto a Canberra dove ho lavorato presso la nostra Ambasciata in qualita' di "Addetto Consolare", prima di dare le mie dimissioni.

Come mai hai deciso di vivere in Australia? In Italia avevo gia' vissuto molti anni. Ho avuto anche la fortuna di vivere e lavorare in diversi altri Paesi. All'improvviso "*nel mezzo del cammin di nostra vita mi ritrovai per una selva oscura che' la diritta via era smarrita*". Uscito dalla "*selva oscura*" mi trovai di fronte a un bivio con due cartelli che indicavano uno l'Italia e l'altro l'Australia. Senza pensarci troppo decisi per l'Australia.

Ci parli del tuo lavoro? Dopo avere dato le dimissioni dal Ministero, ho preso la licenza di agente immobiliare e mi dedico part time al settore immobiliare.

Come passi il tempo libero? Facendo attivita' fisica per tenermi un poco in forma. Amo andare in bicicletta o camminare in mezzo alla natura.

C'e` qualcosa che ti manca dell'Italia? Vado spesso in Italia per cui non sento una grande mancanza di qualcuno o di qualcosa. Certo mi piacerebbe avere qui tutti quei buoni prodotti alimentari che in Italia trovi regolarmente, in abbondanza e a buon prezzo presso tutti i supermercati e che, invece, qui in Australia devi andare a cercarli presso i negozi di *delicatessen*.

Hai un ristorante preferito? No. In generale non sono attratto dalla cucina dei ristoranti. Negli anni passati, per esigenze di lavoro, credo di aver consumato piu' cibo nei ristoranti che a casa.

Oggi preferisco godermi forse un buon aperitivo fuori per scambiare quattro parole con qualche amico e poi cenare a casa. I piatti cucinati in casa sono sempre i migliori.

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Intervista ad ANTONIO COLICCHIA (cont.)

Ti piace leggere? Certamente.

Cosa? Biografie e testi di interesse socio economico e storico. Non sono attratto da testi che esprimono solo le fantasie di chi scrive.

Ti piace guardare la tivvù? Passo pochissimo tempo davanti al televisore.

Hai un programma preferito? Di sicuro mi tengo aggiornato con le notizie del telegiornale italiano della RAI e della SBS.

Secondo te, ‘La vita e’....’? Un libro aperto dove trovi le pagine già scritte con il tuo passato. Non conoscendo quante pagine hai ancora a disposizione per il futuro, devi cercare di non sciupare quelle che si rendono disponibili giorno dopo giorno e fare in modo di potervi poi leggere solo cose positive.



Tony Carnovale, Gino Moro, Giovanna Santomauro, Ambassador, Gian Ludovico de Martino di Montegiordano, Gilda La Rocca e Antonio Colicchia. 2011



Antonio Colicchia, Ambassador , Pier Francesco Zazo e Maria Barrett



Giovanna Santomauro, Antonio Colicchia e Connie Canale 2014



Tony Carnovale, Antonio Colicchia, Gino e June Moro 2015



Antonio Colicchia, Giovanna e John Santomauro

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL

Catch up and morning tea with **Connie Canale, Giovanna Santomauro, Judith Roberts, Astrid Pennisi** and Dante Life member **Tony Carnovale,**

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**9<sup>TH</sup> MAY HAPPY MOTHERS DAY**  
 ~~~~~

SATURDAY 5TH JUNE 12 NOON
75th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC
GOLD COAST ITALO AUSTRALIAN CLUB

~~~~~  
**OPERA AIDA – LYRIC THEATRE – QPAC -**  
**BRISBANE – FROM 3<sup>RD</sup> TO 19<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER** Italian  
 with English subtitles.

**PRESENTED BY – OPERA AUSTRALIA.**

**COST: Premium - \$185.**

**A reserve - Adults \$155**

**Pensioners and Students \$140.**

**B reserve - Adults \$99 - Pensioners and Students \$89.**

**C reserve - Adults 69 - Pensioners and Students \$62.**

A booking fee of \$7.20 applies to all bookings. Bookings are already open and can be obtained by going online @ [QTIX.COM](http://QTIX.COM) or by calling 136246.

~~~~~  
Connie Canale

The Gold Coast Italo Australian Club
18 Fairways Drive, Clear Island Waters
Marco's Italian restaurant
Entertainment
Phone 55751966 for bookings.

PATRONATO
ITAL –UIL

Per informazioni contattate:

Giuseppina Zanda

Cellulare - 0413953528

Telefono Ufficio – 33579141

Email:

brisbane_italuil@italuilqld.com.au

PATRONATO INAS

Per informazioni contattate:

3832 1306 / 0402 358 421

Email: brisbane@inas.com.au

BIGGERA WATERS: CENTRELINK,
95 BRISBANE Rd Tel. 07 3832 1306
ROBINA SHOPPING CENTRE:
CENTRELINK Tel. 07 3832 1306
PALM BEACH: CENTRELINK , 1085
GOLD COAST HWY Tel. 07 3832 1306

COLLAS MORO ROSS

46 Watson Esplanade

SURFERS PARADISE 4217

PH. 07 55399099

Email: ginom@cmrlawyers.com.au

Web: www.cmrlawyers.com.au

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ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP BY MARRIAGE

To acquire Italian Citizenship through marriage, from the 4th December 2018, law no. 132, the applicant must possess an adequate knowledge of the Italian language (B1 level and above). The knowledge of the Italian language has to be certified with a certificate of Italian as a foreign language issued by an approved institute. In Queensland the only approved institute is the Dante Alighieri Society in Brisbane. PLIDA, or *Progetto Lingua Italiana Dante Alighieri*, are language diplomas certifying the holder's proficiency in Italian language as a foreign language. The diplomas can only be obtained after passing a standardised language test. The PLIDA tests can be taken only by those who are not native speakers of Italian. All candidates can take the test at the level they prefer, and it is not a pre-requisite that they have passed the tests at lower levels. The Certification test is designed on the principles of the communicative approach, based on real-life tasks so as to test the ability in four areas: listening, reading, writing and speaking. The examination lasts for a minimum of 100 minutes to a maximum of 190 minutes, depending on the level. Tests are marked in terms of a maximum of thirty points. To pass the examination, the candidate has to obtain a minimum of 18/30 in every tested area, namely, listening, reading, writing and speaking. A candidate who passes at least three of the four areas obtains a credit in the areas passed and these three credits may be used in the next attempt in the failed area. You can study Italian either at home, online, in the classroom or with a private instructor but when you are ready you need to register with the Brisbane Dante Alighieri Society. They will tell you the exact requirements, cost and dates for exams which are set by the Italian Ministry of Foreign affairs at different times of the year. Below is a table of the different levels up to B1.

Please go to the Italian Consulate site (Passports and Services – Citizenship) to read about other requirements to get Italian Citizenship: https://consbrisbane.esteri.it/consolato_brisbane/en/

| | | A1 Basic User | A2 Basic User | B1 Independent user |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|
| Understanding |  Listening | I can understand familiar words and very basic phrases concerning myself, my family and immediate concrete surroundings when people speak slowly and clearly. | I can understand phrases and the highest frequency vocabulary related to areas of most immediate personal relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local area, employment). I can catch the main point in short, clear, simple messages and announcements. | I can understand the main points of clear standard speech on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. I can understand the main point of many radio or TV programmes on current affairs or topics of personal or professional interest when the delivery is relatively slow and clear. |
| |  Reading | I can understand familiar names, words and very simple sentences, for example on notices and posters or in catalogues. | I can read very short, simple texts. I can find specific, predictable information in simple everyday material such as advertisements, prospectuses, menus and timetables and I can understand short simple personal letters. | I can understand texts that consist mainly of high frequency everyday or job-related language. I can understand the description of events, feelings and wishes in personal letters. |
| Speaking |  Spoken interaction | I can interact in a simple way provided the other person is prepared to repeat or rephrase things at a slower rate of speech and help me formulate what I'm trying to say. I can ask and answer simple questions in areas of immediate need or on very familiar topics. | I can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar topics and activities. I can handle very short social exchanges, even though I can't usually understand enough to keep the conversation going myself. | I can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken. I can enter unprepared into conversation on topics that are familiar, of personal interest or pertinent to everyday life (e.g. family, hobbies, work, travel and current events). |
| |  Spoken production | I can use simple phrases and sentences to describe where I live and people I know. | I can use a series of phrases and sentences to describe in simple terms my family and other people, living conditions, my educational background and my present or most recent job. | I can connect phrases in a simple way in order to describe experiences and events, my dreams, hopes and ambitions. I can briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans. I can narrate a story or relate the plot of a book or film and describe my reactions. |
| Writing |  Writing | I can write a short, simple postcard, for example sending holiday greetings. I can fill in forms with personal details, for example entering my name, nationality and address on a hotel registration form. | I can write short, simple notes and messages. I can write a very simple personal letter, for example thanking someone for something. | I can write simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest. I can write personal letters describing experiences and impressions. |

Dante under the Southern Cross

<https://danteaustralia.org/>

As mentioned in our last newsletter, this year we celebrate the 700th anniversary of the death of Dante Alighieri, who died on the 14th September 1321. He will be remembered with a series of monthly seminars throughout the year, organised by the various Australian Dante Alighieri Societies.

The official launch, a conference, hosted in Canberra, on the 25th March, was live-streamed from the State Archives of Spoleto, where fragments of ancient texts of the *Divine Comedy* are housed. Dante Canberra President, Franco Pappandrea thanked everyone who participated. Approximately 1000 participated either in person or online. There was a special video greeting from Rome by Secretary General Alessandro Masi. Below is part of his letter to us.



Il saluto del Segretario Generale della Società Dante Alighieri, Alessandro Masi

Gentile e caro Presidente,

Le mando il link di un mio video saluto che potrà utilizzare per la manifestazione del Dantedì.

È un modo semplice per cercare di sentirci più vicini, anche se a distanza, in questo momento così difficile mentre siamo tutti impegnati a promuovere e diffondere la nostra cultura nel nome di Dante.

Colgo l'occasione per ringraziare Lei, i Suoi collaboratori e i soci per l'impegno e la qualità delle iniziative che continuate a svolgere e per la costante partecipazione agli eventi organizzati da Palazzo Firenze.

Sperando di poter tornare presto ad incontrarci, Le invio cari saluti.

Il Segretario Generale
Prof. Alessandro Masi

La Piattaforma Dante.global

<https://www.dante.global/it>

Il 14/4/21, la piattaforma **Dante.global** è stata inaugurata alla presenza del Presidente della Repubblica **Sergio Mattarella**, accolto a Palazzo Firenze dal Presidente della Dante **Andrea Riccardi**. Ecco alcune parole bellissime del presidente mattarella...

“Questo incontro suggerisce alcuni temi di riflessione che confermano il ruolo prezioso della Dante Alighieri: la prima riflessione è che la piattaforma Dante global consente di affiancare alla rete tradizionale la rete digitale, questo non sostituisce le persone e non supera la preziosa formula dei comitati diffusi in tutti i continenti ma consente loro strumenti nuovi, un sostegno immediato durante l'emergenza sanitaria e uno strumento nuovo nella nuova normalità che vivremo per svolgere globalmente le proprie attività” **See more at:**

<http://www.rainews.it/dl/rainews/articoli/sergio-mattarella-inaugurazione-piattaforma-dante-global-digitale-e-nuova-normalita-37cbec59-7b01-49a6-a002-92ff64cf337c.html>

Domenica 9 maggio 2021

Fiori per la mamma

*Ti auguro il sole per le giornate nuvolose
Ti auguro fiori di primavera durante le giornate d'inverno
Tanto colore in mezzo ai colori tenui
Un po' di pioggia quando tutto è arido
Uno sbocciare di vita dove i fiori sono seccati
Ogni giorno ti auguro gioia e sorrisi
per rimuovere il dolore
Ti auguro ali per poter volare nel cielo con gli angeli
Ti auguro che i sogni non realizzati lo siano
Con la felicità che i sogni porteranno.*

Cara mamma

*ti auguro tutto quello che hai augurato a me non solo oggi,
ma per ogni giorno della mia vita.
Per rallegrare la tua giornata ti invio un mazzo di fiori.*

