DANTE NEWS

SOCIETÀ DANTE ALIGHIERI

"il mondo in italiano"

Newsletter of the Dante Alighieri Society Inc. Brisbane NOVEMBRE 2025

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We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and their unique relationship with their ancestral Country. We pay respect to Elders, past and present.

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PRADELLA
Since 1959

Calendario

November 8 – Gala Concert by Opera Qld Young Artists Program

Date claimer:

December 6 – Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

December 12 – End of Term 4

La vice console Daria Proietto con le artiste dell'evento 'Visioni Sarde' e uno spettatore molto orgoglioso della performance della mamma

Dante matters

from the pen of the vice president

Care amiche e amici della Dante,
con un crescendo che potrei davvero definire rossiniano ci stiamo avviando verso la fine di un altro anno. Se il mese di settembre si era concluso con una ricca varietà di eventi per la società, ottobre non è stato da meno.
Il 2 ottobre, una delle due studentesse della Griffith University tirocinanti presso la Dante ha organizzato un incontro aperto agli studenti dell'università, del conservatorio e delle scuole che è stato un vero e proprio successo. Louise Whittaker ha allestito le stanze con nastri colorati e bandierine che ancora campeggiano nelle nostre aule, ha organizzato un'immersione nella lingua italiana servendosi del prezioso aiuto della nostra insegnante Andrea di Donato e ha predisposto una serie di giochi ed un rinfresco a base di pizza e bibite per tutti. È stato bello vedere i visi felici ed entusiasti di tanti giovani che hanno a cuore l'italiano e che saranno i protagonisti della Dante del futuro.

(primo premio-disegno di Matilda Smith "Dante Alig-hairy")

Il 6 ottobre sono ricominciati i corsi di italiano, che sono sempre molto partecipati, per l'ultimo trimestre di lezioni per quest'anno. A questo proposito volevamo chiedervi se vi piacerebbe avere qualche lezione anche durante la pausa estiva: potremmo ripristinare il programma "E…state con noi!" e organizzare gruppi di conversazione, lettura espressiva e perché no, anche di grammatica. Fateci sapere!
E infine c'è stata la tradizionale "Settimana della lingua italiana nel mondo" che quest'anno aveva come tema "L'italofonia – L'italiano oltre i confini". Un gruppo di donne straordinarie, Andrea, Bernadine, Giulia, Laura e Tiziana, hanno preparato con cura un interessante percorso in Sardegna tra le parole letterarie di Grazia Deledda e Michela Murgia, i suoni tradizionali e moderni della musica sarda e le immagini di una Sardegna in bilico tra passato e presente.
Il tutto cucito in uno spettacolo che ci ha emozionato e dato spunti per pensare alla pluralità delle lingue di quest'isola e agli accenti dell'italiano fuori dall'Italia.
Davvero complimenti per questo lavoro!
Nel mese di novembre ci sarà l'evento di raccolta fondi più grande dell'anno: il Concerto di Gala organizzato dai giovani artisti di Opera Queensland. Sarà una serata stupenda e invito tutti a partecipare per sostenere la società e apprezzare le "voci in fiore" di questi giovani talenti locali. E parlando di sostegno alla società, volevo ringraziare Mario Bono, l'altro vice presidente, per aver organizzato un altro BBQ da Bunnings per sabato 6 dicembre: fateci sapere se potete dare una mano. Grazie infinite.
Alla prossima,
Rosalia

Saturday 6 December 2025
Sausage Sizzle@Bunnings Newstead

If you're able to volunteer on the day for a couple of hours, please sign up online at ***https://volunteersignup.org/73CJK***
Contact the Sizzle Capitano, Mario Bono (murrayob@gmail.com) for more details.

Vale Rod Wall

Much-esteemed ex-president and faithful supporter of the Brisbane DAS.
I first met Rod in the nineties when I was teaching at Springwood Road State School. His two youngest children were at the school and Rod was our Guidance Officer.
Some years later I met Rod again, this time at Foster Street, at the Dante. I was already a member of the Committee and persuaded Rod to join, which he did, becoming President a short time later.
In my time as editor of the Dante News, we had four presidents, but Rod was the only one who I didn't have to chase for his monthly letter.
In the last few years it was difficult for Rod to come to New Farm from Daisy Hill as he was no longer allowed to drive, but he came as often as he could.
His knowledge of Italian was greatly enhanced by his knowledge of Latin and his handwriting was still beautiful.
Vale, Rod, we'll remember you with fondness. JUDI

Gala Concert

Support the Dante Society and enjoy a very special evening with young voices and timeless music!

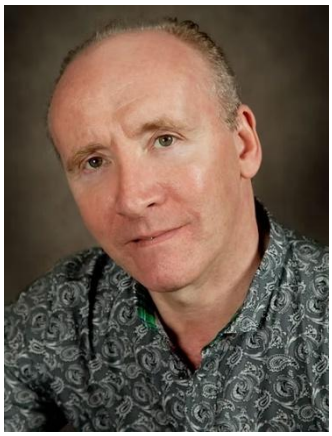
Gala concert by Opera Queensland's Young Artist Program

In this gala fundraiser for our Society, the rising stars of Opera Queensland's Young Artist Program take centre stage.

Be enchanted by soprano Madeleine Stephens, mezzo-soprano Aylish Ryan, baritone Jia-Peng Yeung and pianist John Woods, guided by host Emma Nightingale, in a celebration of luminous voices and Italian operatic favourites.

Voci in fiore

SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER
HAMILTON TOWN HALL
36 RACECOURSE RD,
6:00PM (DOORS OPEN AT 5:30)
ENTRY $60 ($45 CONCESSION)
(INCLUDES REFRESHMENTS)
BOOKING REQUIRED:



https://www.eventbookings.com/b/event/voci-in-fiore-gala-concert-by-opera-queensland-s-young-artist-program

The Opera Queensland Young Artist Program provides generations of Australians the opportunity to perform to the highest standards in productions at home and around the world.
The Program is supported by the Frazer Family Foundation and a generous bequest from Lois Schultz and June Wheeler.

OPERA QUEENSLAND

Poeti e poetesse

Nelle classi di Costume e Società, con l'aiuto di Andrea, ci siamo divertiti a scrivere delle poesie. Eccone alcune:

LA SPERANZA
La speranza
embrionale, nascente, incerta,
una sottile spirale verde
si dipana, si attorciglia, si allunga
attraverso il fango e l'oscurità
alla ricerca del futuro.
(Lesley)

LA BELLEZZA
Osservo la tua bellezza insuperabile e incredibile
che mi stordisce, mi ferisce e non mi da pace
perché per sempre giace
nello spazio intorno a me.
(Liana)

NIPOTINI

Nipotini
instancabili, irresistibili.
Affascinano, corrono,
domandano,
ti rubano il cuore.
(Robert)

IL SOLO MONDO

Il solo mondo
bello, unico, perso
lavorando, amando, sperando
sopravviveremo o no.
(Eric)

IL GIARDINAGGIO
Il terreno è ben coltivato, vangato, zappato,
rastrellato con la passione del giardinaggio.
Scavando un solco che riceverà una fila di
piccolissimi semi - è l'inizio di un viaggio.
Giorno dopo giorno pregare, irrigare, proteggere
sembra quasi una sorprendente vita nuova che
emerge.
E con quella continua nutriente irrigazione e
fertilizzazione, con cura, far prosperare la crescita
sana; una ricompensa d'oro.
Arrivi al punto di ammirare e raccogliere i frutti
del tuo lavoro.
(Joe)

LA MUSICA È VITA
La musica melodica, armoniosa, allegra
raggiunge la profondità dell'anima,
viene come una carezza leggera, affettuosa,
incoraggia dei sogni d'amore più dolci.

La musica triste, potente, rumorosa
sembra una montagna insormontabile
come il flusso e riflusso delle sfide quotidiane,
pacifica il tormento profondo degli esseri umani.

La musica energetica, ritmata, vivace
danza, suona, canta sulla strada provinciale
come tanti tamburi che battono nella parata
rallegra la vita con ritmo pulsante, musicale.

La musica moderna, rockeggiante, innovativa
ravviva lo spirito del giovane e giovane di cuore
come un'esplosione di luce dopo una tempesta
porta canti rinvigorenti in un'atmosfera gioiosa.
(Rita)

HAIKU

Già troppo caldo
viola sotto i piedi
al mare presto
(Robert)

LA LONTANANZA

La lontananza, immensa e intensa
scorre nelle mie vene e
appesantisce, aggredisce e distrugge
il mio cuore.
Ahimé! Che orrore.
(Liana)

IL MARE
Il mare
potente, profondo
sussurra, ruggisce, calma,
abbraccia la terra.
(Robert)

Dalla scuola

Next month will bring the school year to its close and it is with this realisation that the old adage “time flies when you’re having fun” rings true. So, not wanting the good times to finish as yet, we are proposing to keep going with some intensive courses at least for a few more days before Christmas/in January or until you tell us ADESSO BASTA!
After saying goodbye to Costanza we were very happy to welcome back Daniela to the Dante. She has finished her time away and is ready to pick up from where she left off.
As you read in the letter from the vice president, classes are going well and the air conditioning is working fine. We can all keep cool while our brains work hard.

Please check that your tuition fees have been paid, ask at the office when you come to class or give us a call.

This is our website https://dante-alighieri.com.au/home/
our email info@dante-alighieri.com.au our phone 0401 927 967

CIRCOLO DI CONVERSAZIONE

Continuano le conversazioni di livello avanzato.
Offriamo 5 sessioni al prezzo di $100 OPPURE $22 per sessione.
VENERDÌ pomeriggio dalle 14.00 alle 15.30.
Queste sono le date del quarto trimestre:
venerdì 7 e 21 novembre
e infine il 5 dicembre.

Le classi del lunedì sera hanno fatto una bella foto tutti insieme per ricordare Costanza e la sua ultima lezione alla Dante.
Ci mancherà!!

We had lots of fun with the young people from various tertiary institutions.
They got together, thanks to Louise, to practise their Italian but mostly to play games and get to know each other.

Dall'isola al mondo: parole, musica e visioni sarde

Alcune immagini della presentazione Visioni Sarde. Le recite, i film e le canzoni sono stati fantastici. Complimenti a tutte per averci donato questa indimenticabile serata.

Dalla biblioteca

Cosa c'è di nuovo nella nostra biblioteca?

"A short story is a love affair; a novel is a marriage."
— Lorrie Moore

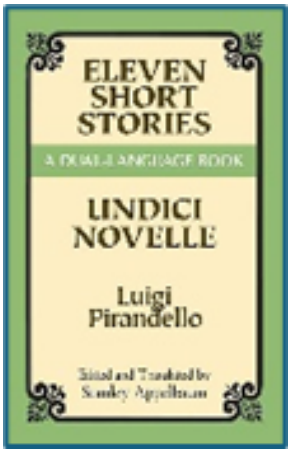
I love short stories. They are somewhere between a poem that hides most in its few lines and a novel which has the space to tell all. The American writer, William Faulkner, said that writers want to be poets first then, having failed that, try the short story then settle for writing novels.

The modern short story has a brief history although it grew out of ancient story telling traditions. In medieval Europe, retellings of folk tales were very fashionable perhaps because they were written in the vernacular rather than Latin. Geoffrey Chaucer (c.1367–1434) wrote *The Canterbury Tales*, a collection of stories told by 30 pilgrims en route to St Thomas Becket's shrine, in Middle English. Giovanni Boccaccio (1313–1375) wrote *Decamerone*, in Florentine Italian. The framing story tells of ten wealthy young people, escaping the Black Death in a villa outside Florence. Each tells a story a night for ten nights. *Decamerone* was very popular but its depictions of the Church attracted censure. In 1497, it was one of the books publicly burned in Florence by Savonarola.

Over the intervening centuries, theatre and the novel became popular and the short narrative form faded. In the nineteenth century, the Realist movement encouraged depictions of 'real' life. Ordinary people and their challenges became the subject of Art. Realism shaped the modern short story and it has continued to evolve.

We are fortunate to have a large number of Italian short stories – racconti – in our library. *Brevi storie. Racconti italiani da Pirandello a Benni,* edited by Vincenzo Viola, presents stories from some of Italy's most famous writers and is a great place to begin appreciating this exciting literary form.

Luigi Pirandello (1867-1936) won the 1934 Nobel Prize for literature. Our library holds many of his racconti, including *Undici novelle*, eleven tales presented in the original Italian with English translations – excellent for students of Italian. In "La giara", one of Pirandello's best-known stories, Zi' Dima Licasi has to repair Don Lollò Zirafa's oil jar. To make the repairs, the old man must climb inside the jar but his special glue sets fast and he can't get out. Don Lollò is not happy but, as in many such stories, the little guy is the winner.



Trieste-born, Italo Svevo (1861–1928) moved the short story into the psychological. In "Argos and his master", a man, bored during a period of convalescence, tries to teach his dog to speak. He fails but learns the dog's language so the second part of the short story is written in Argos's voice. Argos opines, "Life is this; first you have to beg for things and then you have to growl to keep them." It seems plausible, like something a dog would think.

But, READER BEWARE, perhaps Argos is just a dumb dog. The story questions the human need to dominate, animal consciousness and the nature of narrative.

Dalla biblioteca continua…

Racconti romani is a collection of short stories by Alberto Moravia (1907–1990). These stories in the first-person concern the lives of la Roma popolana, those who have fallen outside society, who are just trying to get ahead. A number of stories from the collection have been made into films. *La giornata balorda* (1960), directed by Mauro Bolognini, was censored in Italy for its spicy language and adult themes.

Italo Calvino (1923–1985) pushed the boundaries with a short story subgenre he called Cosmicomics. He combined scientific theory, magic realism, memories of the developing Universe, and a narrator, Qfwfq, who moves through time and space. These stories are imaginative and strange; the reader just needs to go with the world Calvino is creating, one in which bacteria can describe the creation of the Universe. “The distance of the Moon” is a strangely moving story of unrequited love at a time when the Moon is so close to the Earth that it is possible to leap from one to the other.

The short stories of Stefano Benni (1947–2025) are told by characters in a world brimming with yarns. His 1987 collection, *Il bar sotto il mare,* begins when a visitor to a port town sees an old man, gardenia in his buttonhole, dive into the sea. To save him, the visitor also dives in and finds himself in a submarine bar where, during the course of the night, the eclectic group of patrons each tell a story. The thirty-seven stories are a satisfying mix of satire, absurdity, neologisms, wordplay, social commentary, and pastiche. The Old Lady’s tale, “Priscilla Mapple and the Crime of Class II C”, recalls Agatha Christie while the Sailor’s story, “Matu-Maloa” offers a nautical bodice ripper about a lovesick whale and the handsome Captain Charlemont. In “The Autogrill of Death”, recounted by the Young Man with the Quiff, a family returning from holiday are trapped in a horror story surrounded by intimidating displays of socks, crime novels, frisbees, auto-accessories, insect spray, and Japanese sandals.

On 9 September 2025, Stefano Benni died in Bologna after a long illness. He was seventy-eight. Benni, in interviews, offered a dozen different versions of his life so writing a biography of him is difficult. Enza Negroni's documentary film,

Le avventure del Lupo – La storia quasi vera di Stefano Benni, and the website www.stefanobenni.it/biografia may provide something near the truth. Benni was born in 1947 in Bologna, but his childhood was spent in the Apennine mountains. He wanted to be a soccer player or a pianist or a fisherman. It was in the mountains he gained the nickname, Lupo. It was also there he became immersed in stories; from his grandfather, from the local bar, stories of the war that had just ended, scary legends of that small mountain village. Becoming a writer was inevitable. Antony Shugaar, who translated Benni’s novels into English, said:

“Benni was a magician of the written word… A master at improv, Benni could conjure multitudes out of the everyday. Italy will miss him, and so will I.”

Fortunately, we have his short stories to enjoy.

Happy reading **LESLEY**