



Dante Alighieri Society

Melbourne Inc.



Rome 1889

For the promotion of the Italian language and culture

Melbourne 1896

*Under the patronage of the Consul-General of Italy, Dott. Marco Maria Cerbo
HRH Princess Maria Gabriella di Savoia, and Comm. Dr George Santoro.AO.*

Celebrating 120 years in Melbourne August 1896 - 2016

Newsletter March 2016

Dear Members and friends of the Dante Alighieri Society,

I trust the year has begun in a positive way for you and that together with your family you have enjoyed the blessings that come with the Easter celebrations.

This year is an important one for the Dante Society, as you read above, we celebrate 120 years since its foundation and it is the oldest existing branch after Rome that began only 7 years before. This is a remarkable existence for a Society, so remote from Italy, Europe and the Americas and surprisingly it survived during 2 World Wars, even though its activities were limited.

It is my committee's wish to mark this special anniversary with activities that continue to promote the Italian language and culture which is always our main focus and aim.

Therefore we will continue to send you news of the events we are planning and hope that you can participate with family members and friends.

At this point it is important for me to acknowledge all my committee who at the annual general meeting last December returned to office: Mary Marcuccio, Christina Siciliano, Paolo Baracchi, Claudia McLean, Agata Colosimo, Ester Marcuccio, Donna Salera, and the Dante Giovani team Teresa Colaianni, Imogen Lazarus and Nick Sgro-Traikovski. Congratulations to all these hard working people for their time and interest and to those members of the Society who have expressed their wish to be co-opted where assistance is required.

The year began with a ceremony at the Assisi Centre for the Aged in Rosanna on the 6th March. The new title The Dante Celebration of Excellence Awards (formerly The Garden Party) was an occasion to praise those students nominated by their respective universities for the outstanding results achieved in 2015.

I congratulate these students from the University of Melbourne Emma Lightfoot, Timothy Waugh, Monica Sestito. From LaTrobe University Laura Mascitti, Daniel Arca and Rebecca Scaffidi. Attending Swinburne University of Technology are Nickoleta Drosopoulos, Georgia Gilbertson and Irena Vecris and from Monash University I also congratulate Kate Mani, Sean Paulding and Laelie Greenwood.

Thank you to the Santoro, and McCormick families and to the Italian Club Cavour for their ongoing support. It is through this interest in the promotion of the Italian language that we, the Dante Society, are able to continue rewarding students for their commitment and effort in learning Italian.

I also congratulate the teachers Ms Vanessa Folino of Mercy College and Mr Adam Bianco from Genezzano College for obtaining the 2015 scholarships. They are at present studying at the Dante Alighieri Society schools respectively in Rome and Bologna. Again I am very grateful for the support and collaboration given to us by the Marcocci and Valmorbidia families. I thank the teachers of Italian in all schools throughout Victoria for the excellent work they do which enables the students to enjoy learning the language. This always gives us the encouragement to continue planning our competitions thoughtfully and to

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improve on what we do, so that many young students can participate and achieve positive outcomes from their Italian experience.

In the weeks and months ahead we have planned for you :

- during April/ May screening of several Italian films
- 26th May a lecture on Art during the time of Dante Alighieri by lecturer Tommaso Durante
- In June/ July the poetry of Giuseppe Ungaretti presented by Prof. John Lando
- August: Dante Society Anniversary Dinner at Veneto Club
- September: Lectura Dantis with Prof. Patrizia Burley Lombardi
- October: Discovering the origin and goodness in particular foods - presented by Gabriella Gommersall Hubbard

The *Dante Giovani* will continue to meet at the Dante Alighieri Office each first Wednesday of the month.

- Lo Studiolo this coming Wednesday 6th April at 5.30pm. The topic is Script Writing and it will be facilitated by Emily Lentini.
- Carte e Chiacchiere is on April the 7th starting at 7pm in the Dante office

Details for both can be found on our Facebook page: "Dante Alighieri Giovani - Melbourne"

Please encourage the young members of your family to join this enthusiastic team of *Giovani*

Dante Membership: If you have not renewed your membership for 2016 please complete the attached form and return it with your payment.

This promises to be another busy year for the Dante Society and I am always happy to see you at our events.

My best wishes to you and your family,
Sincerely,



Dr. Dominic Barbaro, AM
President