



Gala dinner  
celebrates 40  
years of community  
services

Holidaying when  
you are a carer

An all-Italian  
day at ILC

Babbo Natale  
non esiste.

# OUR VISION

To be a leader in the provision of quality, accessible and affordable community care services for the general and CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) communities.

# OUR VISION

To be the focal point in Queensland for the promotion and study of the Italian language and culture.



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**a message  
from co.as.it.'s  
CEO**

**OUR NDIS (NATIONAL DISABILITY INSURANCE SCHEME) PROGRAM IS WELL ON ITS WAY TO BEING FULLY REGISTERED AND PARTICIPANTS ARE SLOWLY BEING SIGNED UP FOR OUR SERVICES. WE ARE SUPPORTING THOSE PARTICIPANTS THAT ARE TRANSITIONING FROM OUR COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM TO NDIS.**



As 2018 draws to a close, I reflect back on what a fantastic year we have had at Co.As.It.

How could anyone have expected that the tiny organisation that was founded by Fiorenza Jones OAM back in 1978 would grow and transition from two workers to one that now has over 350 employees and provides services to well over 5,000 clients per week.

This astonishing growth has been over a 40 year period. What an inspirational honour to have organised a celebratory 40th anniversary gala dinner that was attended by over 330 people including numerous dignitaries and special guests.

Without the support of our dedicated Board, staff, sponsors and volunteers, this would not have been possible – thank you to everyone who has contributed to making our organisation a premier aged care/community service provider in Queensland.

Also not to forget the ongoing efforts of our Italian teaching team at the Italian Language Centre

(a division of Co.As.It.) which is actively promoting the language and interpreting services within the community.

We are honoured to be providing interpreting services on behalf of QPAC for the upcoming Teatro alla Scala Ballet Company performing here in Brisbane between 7th and 18th November.

We will be closing our social activity groups in Brisbane and Gold Coast from December 20, 2018 to January 7, 2019 but our office will still operate over the Christmas period, excluding Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Please sustain any older, frail people who may not have support during this time of year, our "Storie di Natale" (Christmas Stories) in this edition shed light on some of the issues experienced by lonely elderly over the festive season.

Our NDIS program is well on its way to being fully registered and participants are slowly being signed up for our services. We

are supporting those participants that are transitioning from our Community Care program to NDIS.

The organisation is constantly seeking care staff as many new clients are registering to receive our services. Please refer anyone who has a Certificate III in Individual Support and has a desire to work for Co.As.It. to our Recruitment Officer Kia who will be able to provide further information.

I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas and New Year and we look forward to 2019 and continuing the essential work we undertake within our community.

*Dina Ranieri*



## aged care services

### social activity groups south coast

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT THE SOUTH COAST SOCIAL ACTIVITY GROUPS?

**GOING TO THE SOCIAL ACTIVITY GROUPS AT THE SOUTH COAST IS ALWAYS AN EXPERIENCE TO REMEMBER!**

There has never been a day when the participants don't get to dress up, do special activities or taste great food and drinks.

The past few weeks have provided some very entertaining theme days – perhaps the funniest being “Tutti al mare” (Everyone at the beach). Our Brisbane staff thought this might have been a bit of “tongue in cheek” seeing that the centre is so close to the beach.

Mind you, everyone dressed up in beach gear despite being able to get to the real thing in a matter of minutes!

There was a Senior's Day activity with a Mediterranean lunch party: delicious, delicious, delicious judging from the happy faces at the tables.

Not to be outdone by other theme days, the “Fiesta Latina” made its annual appearance with



some very impressive dancers, sombreros, maracas, bongo drums and streamers.

This has always been a colourful and vibrant theme and the presence of some very energetic dancing always makes the occasion an exciting event. Those Latinos (alias our clients) certainly know how to have fun!

Then let's not forget the picnic outing to the Cascade Gardens! Those gardens have been a

popular tourist destination for decades and they still attract large groups of people with their central location and lovely surroundings – plus a little fresh air is good for the soul!

Last but not least, ten pin bowling has taken on a new lease of life with the clients: the balls may be a little heavier than bocce but they are certainly more powerful as they barrel down the lanes!

**aged care  
services**  

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**social activity  
groups  
south coast**





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**CO.AS.IT. SOUTH COAST AT STEVEN CIOBO'S SENIORS' EXPO**

**CO.AS.IT. SOUTH COAST WAS PRESENT AT THE STEVEN CIOBO'S SENIORS' EXPO AT THE STAR CASINO RECENTLY.**

**THIS EXPO HAS DEVELOPED INTO THE SECOND LARGEST SENIOR EXPO AT THE GOLD COAST.**

**THE CO.AS.IT. STAND WAS KEPT BUSY WITH INFORMATION DISSEMINATION AND JUST MEETING AND GREETING SENIORS WHO WERE INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT ABOUT OUR SERVICES.**



## **SPEAK UP AGAINST ELDER ABUSE**

There are always older persons with no family and little support other than our Co.As.It. workers. Recently it was discovered that Cyril\*, one of our Level 2 clients, has been disadvantaged by a neighbour which was very disheartening. This neighbour may have started out with the best of intentions but things went bad once it became apparent that Cyril couldn't recall anything. His female neighbour had provided some support by taking him to medical appointments and doing some shopping for him when she did her own shopping.

Every day Cyril used to take the bus to Robina Shopping Centre to go to his cafe for a huge all-day breakfast. Unexpectedly Cyril's cognitive functioning seemed to have deteriorated significantly as observed by our care worker.

When Cyril didn't even recognise our worker we immediately went out for a welfare check to ensure he would be fine for the weekend ahead. It appeared Cyril didn't recognise grapes, didn't know what to do with milk and could not read the notes that were left for him by his neighbour.

It was already Friday afternoon: we knew Cyril wouldn't be safe at home on his own and something needed to be done to ensure he would be OK over the weekend. We tried to call Cyril's neighbour but she was at work, so an ambulance was called to take him to hospital to determine if there was a medical reason



for his decline in health. Cyril was not kept in hospital and with his neighbour's assurance that she would look after him at home, Cyril was discharged. However, during our welfare check we found out that Cyril's neighbour had become heavily involved in all aspects of caring for Cyril and had taken over management of Cyril's finances and had also applied to become Cyril's Enduring Power of Attorney. Other stories unfolded including the disappearance of Cyril's car a couple of months previously.

It was evident that with impaired cognitive capacity, it became a duty of care to protect Cyril from possible elder abuse by having people access his assets or make wrong decisions for him.

Co.As.It. made an application for an Interim order with QCAT (Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal) to get Cyril assigned a Public Guardian and Trustee. A day after lodging the application, Cyril was appointed

an officer who will now protect his interests and future care.

Once QCAT became involved, Cyril's neighbour withdrew her support entirely and took Cyril back to hospital where he is now.

After liaising with the Social Worker of the hospital Cyril will soon move into residential respite to be followed by residential permanent care placement. There he will be well looked after and safe. Not only that, as Cyril is a very sociable person, he will enjoy being amongst others instead of living on his own.

Please report people who you know are taking advantage of an older person – an old person who is too frail, depends upon the abuser for assistance or is cognitively impaired and has little hope of appealing for help. Imagine if it was your mum or dad being abused like this!

*\* Name has been changed*

## **HOLIDAYING WHEN YOU ARE A CARER**

**THIS YEAR MARKED THE COUPLE'S 30TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY AND THEY WANTED TO CELEBRATE IT WITH AN OVERSEAS HOLIDAY.**

**THE OVERRIDING CONCERN WAS "WHAT DO WE DO WITH MUM?"**



Giuditta\*, one of our Level 4 package clients is a lovely lady with advanced dementia, she lives with her son, his wife and their 3 children who are in their early 20s.

Giuditta is physically quite well, moves independently (although is very confused and finds it difficult to remember where things are like the bathroom) and requires assistance with all tasks of daily living: i.e. showers, her meals, getting dressed, etc.

A conversation cannot be held with Giuditta anymore: she has reverted back to Italian and speaks incoherently.

Giuditta's son and his wife have not been on a holiday for years due to their on-going care for

his mother. Providing full-time care for a person with advanced dementia is not an easy job, yet the family don't feel comfortable placing Giuditta in residential respite care.

This year marked the couple's 30th wedding anniversary and they wanted to celebrate it with an overseas holiday.

The overriding concern was "What do we do with Mum?"

Giuditta had accumulated funds from her Level 4 home care package, the team at the South Coast were able to organise care workers to provide full-time day care for 3 weeks for Giuditta. We purchased through Giuditta's package, a tablet to be able to

listen to Italian music with her. Giuditta responded well to Italian music and even started dancing! A beautiful moment!

The tablet was also used to look up Italian short video clips and pictures of Italian scenery and villages from the time Giuditta lived in Italy.

The son has promised to upload photos of Giuditta's past for our community care staff to connect with her.

Her son and his wife were able to celebrate their anniversary with a well-deserved holiday in the knowledge that in their absence Mum was being provided with the best possible care.

*\*Name has been changed*



## community visitors scheme



## Q'S AND A'S WITH LAURA

The CVS program has seen a full quarter of activities and visiting with a younger demographic of volunteers joining the teams both in Brisbane and on the South Coast.

The final information and training morning for the year was held at Dolci Saponi in October and it also incorporated a lovely treat of delicious Italian sweets and coffee.

The information morning was quite informal and allowed volunteers

to have a “Q & A” session with Laura Panarello, Co.As.It.'s Dementia Support Officer and Counsellor.

Topics discussed included “Communication tools when words are not enough” and “How to improve quality interaction when visiting someone with dementia.”

The focus of these training mornings is to assist and support our CVS volunteers when visiting their matched

client at home or in an aged care facility.

The information mornings also play an important role in keeping our volunteer team connected with Co.As.It. and with each other.

Sound friendships have been formed between the volunteers as they all have a common goal of enriching another person's life with their time and energy so these occasions are well attended by happy volunteers who love their role.

## aged care

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## ONE IDEA AFTER ANOTHER!

**BRISBANE COORDINATORS OF THE SOCIAL ACTIVITY GROUPS HAVE BEEN KEPT BUSY COMING UP WITH ENJOYABLE THEME DAYS AND HERE ARE SOME OF THEIR LATEST IDEAS!**



### **Hawaii comes to Casa Serena**

The team at Casa Serena created a fun event with their very own Hawaiian Day to spark up the day for their regular clients.

The day included guitar playing and theme songs to remind clients that summer is on the way!

A great day was enjoyed by all at the social activity centre. It is lovely to see the smiles on the clients' faces!

### **Fancy Hat Day at Casa Serena**

Yet another creative idea from

the team at Casa Serena. By the look on their faces, we can safely say that the staff too enjoyed this event! Well done to all for brightening up the clients' day!

### **Spanish Week**

Spanish Week continues to be an annual theme day that brings outfits with flounces and colour to the centres and the clients love getting into the spirit of the day.

At Narangba the clients were entertained by dancers in authentic costumes and at Casa Aurelia, this energetic display was

also performed during the Spanish Week celebrations.

### **Gardening**

Many Italians say "You shouldn't plant anything you can't eat!"

The group at Acacia Ridge spent a lovely morning re-establishing some of the garden beds, planting small trees and potting tomatoes and other little vegetables - we will keep you posted on their harvesting!



**aged care**  
services  
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## CRUISING THE NOOSA RIVER

A busload of intrepid voyagers was off again in September to visit Noosa and take a leisurely cruise down the Noosa River before enjoying lunch at the local Leagues club.

This outing is always a popular adventure not so much for the fragrance of fresh air, good food and lovely drive but more for the company - loads of laughter, cheeky bantering and the chance to spend time in a different place for a few hours.





## aged care services

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### BINGO, OUR FAVOURITE!

The social activity groups are a fabulous way of gathering the clients' creative skills and turning them into something rather special!

Beading and other artistic creations organised by the Coordinators are always eagerly done with patience and thought to detail and the results are always so beautiful.

Then of course there is the absolutely crazy passion for playing bingo – if they were able to get away with it the clients would be playing every day.

Just as well there are many other lovely things to engage their time.

The Sunshine Groups also have some of the best activities in the Centres.

Using hand/eye coordination and spatial recognition, our clients with cognitive impairment test their skills with matching games and other stimulating activities that help keep their mind active and healthier.



## BABBO NATALE NON ESISTE. MA CHI (E COME) LO SPIEGA AI BAMBINI?

In fondo ci vorremmo credere un po' anche noi adulti alla favola di Babbo Natale.

Come ha spiegato di recente Kathy McKay sulle pagine di *The Lancet Psychiatry*, «Partecipare alla messinscena è un'opportunità per tornare almeno per un poco a quando ancora credevamo nel potere dell'immaginazione e nella magia: forse per sopportare le asperità della vita adulta abbiamo bisogno di tornare un po' bambini, almeno a Natale».

L'omertà però può essere "pericolosa", secondo McKay, perché i bambini potrebbero non fidarsi più dell'adulto quando poi, inevitabilmente, scopriranno che Babbo Natale non esiste e che i genitori hanno mentito. Come (e quando) rivelare la verità, allora?

### **Optate per le mezze verità**

Se il bimbo è piccolo e vi rendete conto che vuole ancora credere a Babbo Natale ma gli amichetti hanno già fatto venire qualche dubbio, rispondete alle inevitabili domande optando per una mezza verità, potete spiegare che Babbo Natale si fa aiutare dai genitori nella difficile consegna dei regali, per esempio lasciando ai genitori i doni da impacchettare (il che spiegherà anche perché la carta da pacchi del trenino chiesto con



la letterina di Natale sia la stessa del regalo alla nonna).

### **I bambini che vogliono continuare a crederci**

Ci sono bimbi che paiono proprio non voler abbandonare l'idea di Babbo Natale, anche se i genitori capiscono che la scoperta è già avvenuta.

Come comportarsi allora? Un piccolo gioco delle parti non fa male, anzi: far intuire ai figli

di sapere che loro sanno e continuare a fingere che Babbo Natale esista non li danneggerà, perché con gli amici non parleranno di letterine ma allo stesso tempo potranno continuare ad assaporare a casa la magia del Natale ancora per un po'.

Magari, provando anche un filo di tenerezza per mamma e papà che continuano ad affannarsi a nascondere i doni per mantenere vivi i loro sogni.



## OUR PAST YOUR MEMORIES

### GALA DINNER CELEBRATES 40 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE



Co.As.It. Community Services has reached a 40 year milestone in providing community services to support the aged, people with a disability and as well as promoting the teaching of the Italian language and culture in Queensland.

Celebrating this auspicious anniversary, a sumptuous formal gala dinner was held on Saturday, 27 October at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. Attended by over 340 people, the event was a memorable celebration that included past

and present staff, committee members, sponsors, volunteers and dignitaries.

Dina Ranieri, Co.As.It. CEO says: *"I am honoured to witness this amazing milestone and be a testament to the positive impact our organisation has made on the community."*

To commemorate the achievement, a historical booklet was presented to each guest and an evocative documentary video, featuring Co.As.It. founder Fiorenza Jones OAM together

with past and present committee members, carried the audience through Co.As.It.'s 40 year journey.

A slide show of 40 years of photographs of clients, events and community projects was integral to the understanding of the importance of Co.As.It. in the early years of its operations and why the organisation was and still is, the first contact point for the Italian language group.

Welcomed by Co.As.It. President Cav. Nereo Brezzi, the evening's





official component also included the Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe MP, the Italian Consul Dottor Ludovico Carlo Camussi (representing the Italian Ambassador), Ms Jacinta Webb (representing the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations), Cr Krista Adams representing the Lord Mayor of Brisbane), Cr Vicky Howard, Cr Norm Wyndham, Italian Senator Francesco Giacobbe and Com.It.Es. President Mariangela Stagnitti.

Hosted by media personality Damien Anthony Rossi and

actress/singer Naomi Price the gala dinner was an entertaining evening of laughter, excellent food, wine sponsored by Casella Wines, Prosecco and Strega liqueurs by Italiquire's Cav. Fil D'Arrò and music provided by Sydney entertainers The De Bellis Band.

The dozens of valuable raffle prizes donated by Co.As.It.'s committed sponsors included a chance to win a \$2,000 travel voucher and diamond jewellery. Special thanks to other major sponsors such as Black and White Cabs, Black and White Home

Services, Westpac, Toyota, Better Build Constructions, Tunstall and Crown Family Jewellers.

Co.As.It. has a proud reputation of catering to the needs of the aged, people with a disability, carers and families in crisis and is integral to the maintenance and learning of the Italian language and culture in Queensland. It is particularly focussed on assisting people from culturally and linguistically diverse communities (CALD) and proceeds from this memorable event will go towards the Dementia Carer Support Program.

## IL CO.AS.IT. RADDOPPIA LE CLASSI DI COMPUTER E LE MATTINATE DI CINEMA ITALIANO



Grazie ad un accordo con il Brisbane Abruzzo Club di Carina, il Co.As.It. ha esteso ai residenti della zona sud della città i corsi di computer e le mattinate di cinema italiano, che intanto proseguono con successo rispettivamente a Newmarket e a Chermside.

*“Sono particolarmente contento di questa espansione”* – ha commentato Alex Favali, Community Services Officer del Co.As.It. e diretto organizzatore dei corsi di computer e delle mattinate di cinema – *“ci eravamo resi conto dell’interesse verso queste attività e finalmente abbiamo trovato il luogo ideale per*

*poter soddisfare i bisogni di questa parte della comunità.”*

I corsi di computer si tengono ogni mercoledì presso il Brisbane Abruzzo Club dalle 10 alle 12.

L’ultima lezione per il 2018 è prevista per mercoledì 12 dicembre.

Le mattinate di cinema, sempre presso l’Abruzzo Club, sono invece iniziate giovedì 4 ottobre alle 9:45 con la proiezione de “I soliti ignoti”, seguito da “Un americano a Roma” (5 ottobre) e “Nuovo cinema paradiso” (8 novembre).

L’ultimo appuntamento per il 2018 è previsto per il 29 novembre con “Sapore di mare”.

Il Co.As.It. organizza inoltre delle mattinate di carte presso la biblioteca civica di Chermside.

Si tratta di una ottima occasione per trascorrere un po’ di tempo con gli amici e divertirsi giocando a carte.

L’ultima mattinata di carte per il 2018 è prevista per il 5 dicembre.

Tutte queste attività sono organizzate a titolo gratuito.





Queste sono le date di inizio delle varie attività per il 2019:

**LEZIONI DI INFORMATICA (in italiano)**

16 gennaio - Brisbane Abruzzo Club, Carina

18 gennaio - ILC, Newmarket

**IL GRANDE CINEMA ITALIANO (senza sottotitoli)**

17 gennaio - Brisbane Abruzzo Club, Carina

11 febbraio - BCC Library, Chermside

**MATTINATE DI CARTE**

6 febbraio - BCC Library, Chermside

Per informazioni e prenotazioni (essenziali per partecipare a queste attività) telefonare al Co.As.It. al 3262 5755.



## SPOT TELEVISIVI CHE FANNO PENSARE

La catena tedesca di supermercati Edeka ha messo in circolazione un film che è commovente ma al tempo stesso un pugno nello stomaco.

Un anziano padre di famiglia consuma i suoi pasti in solitudine, in prossimità del Natale, osservando dalla finestra le altre famiglie riunite e felici e pensando ai figli lontani, sparsi per il mondo e assorbiti dal proprio lavoro.

La prospettiva è quella di un Natale in solitudine. C'è un solo modo per riuscire a riunire all'istante tutta la famiglia: **fingersi morto**.

Quando i figli ricevono la terribile notizia, in preda alla disperazione partono immediatamente per il funerale. Arrivati a casa, ad aspettarli non è una bara, ma una tavola apparecchiata per il giorno di Natale.

“Devo fare questo per avervi con me?” dice il padre che appare all'improvviso, tra la commozione generale.

La pubblicità si conclude felicemente, con la famiglia riunita, ma lascia un gusto amaro in bocca.

E raggiunge il suo scopo: rendersi conto, prima che sia troppo tardi, di ciò che conta davvero della vita.



**THE DIFFERENCE YOU CAN MAKE**



The CALD activity program is a valuable service in supporting Italian CALD (Culturally and Linguistically Diverse) residents in aged care.

The one-on-one and group sessions help the residents feel included in a facility that may not be able to speak their language or cater daily to their cultural needs.

CALD residents who do not often participate in aged care homes' activities almost always participate in the CALD activities with much enthusiasm because of the familiarity of activities, the music, the language and above all the emotional connection that brings them together as a group.

In the past few months, the CALD Activity Officers have concentrated on physical activities that have challenged hand/eye motor skills using a ball and most residents enjoy the challenge.

In particular, a 97 year old Italian resident at Windsor Aged Care spends many hours in bed in her room and does not show a lot of interest in her surroundings.

However, when the CALD Activity Officer visits her she is often engaged and very interested in doing an activity. Staff at the facility marvel at the physical abilities and capabilities she displays when her language is used to encourage her.

It is always so rewarding to see how much of a difference elderly people in nursing homes show when someone comes in speaking their language.

It is understandable that we would all retreat into disinterest if we couldn't understand what was going on around us – rather than struggle to keep up it is easier to just ignore what is unintelligible.

This is genuinely sad - imagine how long each day must feel.

Can you run an activity in Italian once a fortnight? Give Sarina a call on 3262 5755, we could certainly use the help!



# italian language teaching



## TOWNSVILLE AND DISTRICT ITALIAN SPEECH COMPETITION 2018

Language teachers utilise a wide range of strategies to help their students constantly improve reading, writing, listening and speaking skills.

To help students reach fluency and become competent speakers, teachers are fortunate to have the opportunity to prepare their students to participate in events such as the annual Townsville Italian Speech Competition.

On 8 and 9 August 2018, the Townsville Catholic Education office hosted the Italian Primary

and Secondary Speech Competitions at the Ryan Community Centre.

On both occasions, Megan Wuerschling from the Townsville Catholic Education Office warmly welcomed assembled students, parents and teachers representing primary and secondary schools from Townsville and surrounding districts.

Year 4 and 5 students recited poems and the Year 6 to Year 12 students delivered prepared speeches.

The invited judges, Marzia Mauro and Rosella Dermedoglou from the Italian Language Centre (ILC) evaluated the students' speaking skills according to criteria including accuracy of grammatical structure, pronunciation, content and delivery.

They were most impressed with the high standard of language fluency and there were a number of joint winners in several categories.

At the end of each session participants were called up to





receive a participation certificate and a memento of the day provided by Townsville Catholic Education Office. Winners were awarded gold, silver and bronze medals on ribbons reflecting the green, white and red of the Italian flag.

On both days, the highlight was the awarding of the overall champion trophies.

The Maria Di Marzio Memorial Trophy is awarded each year to the primary student in Year 5 or 6 with the highest score. Donald

Di Marzio was present to award the Junior Championship Trophy to joint gold medal winners Ainara Kelly from St Joseph's School and Harry Nuttal from St Anthony's Catholic College.

In the Secondary section, Loretta Swayn, Secretary of Dante Alighieri Townsville, presented the Dante Alighieri Champion Speaker Award to Year 9 student Maite Kelly of St Margaret Mary's College.

Medallists in the Year 10, 11 and 12 categories were issued

invitations qualifying them for entry into the Italian Language Queensland State Championship which took place in Brisbane on 21 October 2018.

On both days, teachers expressed their appreciation for the efforts of Townsville Catholic Education Office in organising the annual Italian Speech Contest which promotes teaching and learning a foreign language and makes a valuable contribution towards students becoming better global citizens.

## 3RD ITALIAN SPEAKING COMPETITION IN BRISBANE



The new Australian Curriculum Languages is designed to enable all school students across Australia to engage in learning a second language.

This not only extends the capacity to communicate but develops understanding of and respect for diversity and difference.

The aim of language speaking competitions is to allow language students to express their ideas, display their language skills and gain confidence in using the language they are studying.

Over the weekend of 4 and 5 August, students studying Italian in schools in and around Brisbane had the opportunity to show off their linguistic skills at the 3rd Italian Speaking Competition organised by the Italian Language Centre (ILC) in association with

the Modern Language Teachers' Association Queensland (MLTAQ).

ILC competition organisers confirmed that a total of 183 students registered to enter the competition over the two days.

Students from year 2 to year 6 recited poems and those in year 7 to year 12 delivered speeches. Primary students competed throughout the Saturday across 6 sessions, while High School students competed throughout the Sunday across 5 sessions.

At the end of each session all students received participation certificates and a commemorative gift before judges called up the gold, silver and bronze medal winners.

Students were judged on their delivery, fluency, pronunciation

and grammatical accuracy and judges confirmed the standard was extremely high.

Judges from ILC, the Dante Alighieri Society and Griffith University congratulated students on demonstrating exceptional linguistic abilities – reminding them that regardless of whether they had won a place, they were all winners for having participated.

Sunday's Senior Competition was particularly enjoyed by students in Years 10, 11, 12 who qualified to compete in the Italian Language Queensland State Championship which took place in October to celebrate the XVIII Settimana della lingua italiana nel mondo.

The Brisbane Speaking Competition was the first of 5 regional competitions which took place during the month of August.





Students who qualified in the regions of Townsville, Cairns, Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast received invitations to compete in the Italian Language Queensland State Championship.

ILC and MLTAQ are enormously appreciative of the assistance from judges and teachers who volunteered their time. Their welcome support as well as that of parents who accompanied their children contributed hugely to the overall success of the two days.



**IN ADDITION TO SUPPORTING ITALIAN PROGRAMS IN QUEENSLAND SCHOOLS, ILC ALSO OFFERS ITALIAN LANGUAGE COURSES FOR ADULT STUDENTS, ITALIAN AFTER SCHOOL HOURS FOR SCHOOL STUDENTS AND GIROTONDO ITALIAN PLAYGROUP FOR 3-5 YEAR-OLDS.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

**WWW.ITALIANLANGUAGECENTRE.ORG | ENQUIRIES@ITALIANLANGUAGECENTRE.ORG**

**TEL: 3262 5755 | WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ILC.BRISBANE**



## italian language teaching

### AN ALL-ITALIAN DAY AT ILC



Foreign language teachers know that students gain the most skills in an environment surrounded by the language they are learning.

Students benefit from finding themselves in a foreign language setting that forces the mind to dig around and figure out new ways to get a point across.

Language immersion makes the structures and patterns of the language more familiar, and it better prepares students for real conversations.

Teachers of Italian looking for ways to give their students language immersion experiences have the opportunity to book their students into the Italian Language Centre for a day immersed in Italian language and culture.

Two recent excursions by students from St Columban's College Caboolture and Kelvin Grove State College provided students with a variety of activities to sharpen their reading, writing, listening and speaking skills in Italian.

The highlight of the day was a cooking activity during which students learned to make ricotta gnocchi listening to the chef's instructions in Italian as well as following the recipe in Italian.

While the gnocchi were being cooked, students honed their listening and speaking skills through Italian action songs.

For lunch, the students were served the gnocchi they had made and to finish off the meal, a delicious tiramisù for dessert was pronounced '**buonissimo**'!



## THE STUDITALIA AWARDS CEREMONY 2018



On Friday 24 August 2018 there was an air of excitement at Education House as guests began arriving in anticipation of the 24th Studitalia awards ceremony.

The prize includes a month-long trip to Italy including full board at the “Convitto Paolo Diacono” and the opportunity to attend an Italian high school in Cividale del Friuli (near the city of Udine).

Following the national anthems, the Honourable Grace Grace MP, Minister of Education, mentioned the importance of strong ties between Italy and Australia and congratulated the students on their mastery of a second language.

The Minister congratulated the winning students and ended her speech on a humorous note asking them if they knew that the people of the world are divided into two groups: those who are Italian, and those who want to be!

The Italian Consul Dott. Camussi then addressed the audience, specifying that Australia is now 1st in the world regarding the number of students studying Italian at school.

The winning students then showed off their mastery of the Italian language by each delivering a short presentation on the theme ‘L’italiano e la rete, le reti per l’italiano’.

Dylan Anger from Townsville Grammar School said that although social media is condemned for the cyberbullying and hatred it brings, it is important to remember that if used properly it can be unifying in bringing people together from across the globe, improve language skills, and maintain friendships.

The internet can be a useful tool to boost confidence and help connect meaningfully when speaking Italian, says Carolyn Farago from Brisbane State High School.

Similar sentiments were expressed by Veljko Matovic also of Brisbane State High School who said that the internet greatly assists the learning of language and culture through being able to access music, videos, news, sport and TV shows. Isaac Ridolfi from Kelvin Grove State College was of the same opinion, agreeing that social media is a very useful tool

in learning a language at your own pace. Declan McMahon, also from Brisbane State High School, spoke on the importance of memes in Australia, Italy and the world.

According to Declan, recent discussions about the banning of memes should never occur as doing so would mean removing a part of freedom of speech.

Finally, Nikita Simonov from Brisbane State High School spoke on the networking effects of spreading Italian through cinema, exchange programs and Internet apps that offer a safe platforms allowing learners to interact and speak with other likeminded and age appropriate learners of Italian.

The seven winners then received their prizes from the Minister and the Italian Consul. The ceremony ended with two former Studitalia winners 2017, Luisa Randall and James Humphries, reminiscing (in Italian!) about their unforgettable experiences and memories during their stay at Cividale del Friuli.

Co.As.It.-ILC is a major sponsor of Studitalia.

## SICILIAN DONATION



Co.As.It. has benefited from a number of generous donations from the Sicilian Association of Qld.

Only recently in the midst of the committee folding its operations, Co.As.It. was once again the recipient of a donation from the Association. A number of committee members were able to tour the organisation's offices and see first-hand the work that is undertaken on a daily basis.

Co.As.It. Board and staff thank the Sicilian Association for their continued support over the years and wish them all the best for their future endeavours.

## 100TH ANNIVERSARY



Celebrating the Commemoration of the Centenary of the end of the Great War, the Associazione Nazionale Alpini Brisbane and the Fogolar Furlan Association invited the Italian community to celebrate this important event at the Monument of the Fallen Soldiers located at the Fogolar Furlan grounds in Pallara.

Special guest attendees were the Italian Consul for Queensland and Northern Territory Dottor Ludovico Carlo Camussi, Com.It.Es. President Mariangela Stagnitti and representatives of other Italian community Associations. Co.As.It. was represented by Board Member Max Ficca and CEO Dina Ranieri who amongst other community representatives, laid a commemorative wreath.

## SCALABRINI DONATION

Co.As.It. was recently advised that it was being donated \$100,000 from the funds collected to build a proposed nursing home by the Scalabrini Village Brisbane

Committee. The announcement was made during the evening of the recent Co.As.It. gala dinner.

Unfortunately, the proposed nursing home will no longer proceed and the donations provided by the community for this

project will now be passed on to other community organisations involved in the care of the aged.

Co.As.It. thanks the Scalabrini Village Brisbane Committee for their generous donation.



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Attività di arti manuali, canzoni e balli, tombola e gite fanno parte del nostro programma giornaliero.

Contattate il nostro centro al

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