



# Dante Alighieri Society (Cairns) Inc Dante Cairns Management Committee **2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

## Annual Report of Dante Cairns activities Jan 2020 – Jan 2021

The following is an overview of the Society's activities throughout the year presented Jan 2020 to Jan 2021. Including:

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## President's report

2020 commenced with great enthusiasm and excitement with the biggest committee I have ever seen for Dante Cairns. We arranged the very entertaining masked dinner ball and followed that up with a group dinner at La Cantina Pizza Loco. Both events were well attended, and the year was off to a grand start.

Then COVID 19 hit us and like all other organisations, it has taken its toll on Dante Cairns this past year and looks like for the beginning of 2021 also.

Regrettably we had to cancel some major events, including what we had hoped would have been a first Italian festival in Cairns – this has been my dream for many years, and our hosting of the Dante National Conference. Our monthly movie nights also had to be placed on hold.

Despite these restrictions imposed on us, we continued to hold events as we could and commenced our monthly Chiacchiere. These Sunday mornings get together have proved popular with our members and we intend to continue with them into next year. They have allowed our members to stay in touch and importantly, to practice the Italian language (although some more dedication to this latter issue would be appreciated).

We also were able to run some language classes which we are confident we can improve and expand on this year.

Our social events also included an Apericena at Veloce Café, then Republic day at Alessandro's Restaurant which included a delightful comedy act and our Stomping of the grapes luncheon at Piccolo Cucina to keep the traditions going were also great events.

The committee has continued to meet regularly and worked tirelessly behind the scenes to bring these events to you and continued to plan ahead for the coming year when we remain hopeful that fewer restrictions will hamper our plans.

I would like to thank my outgoing committee for their support and in particular:

- Patty, Treasurer, for her enthusiasm and efforts in arranging and supporting our events
- Juliet, Secretary, for her dedication and attention to detail like no-one before her
- Richard, Vice President, for his input and ongoing support
- Lui, Angelo, Zen, Franco and Gina for support including through sponsorship and sharing of ideas

This year we will hopefully recommence our movie nights, continue our monthly Chiacchiere and hope to hold more social events such as bocce and cards games, luncheons, apericenas, dinners and picnics in the park.

We will very much welcome feedback and ideas from you as to the types of events you would like to engage in.

Also re-planned is the Dante National Conference in October that had to be put off from last year and perhaps with a smaller scale Italian Festa. More on those will come in the near future.

It has been a difficult year for our committee and a frustrating one for our members. It has also been awkward for myself with the continuing trips to Townsville and Ingham to care for my Father. I continue to feel privileged to have served as your president and remain committed to supporting the club in any way I can.

Yours truly,



**Gary Montagner** – Dante Cairns President for 2020

## AGM and Management Committee

The 2020 AGM was held on 28 January at 7.30 pm, Cairns Public Library Meeting Room, with 17 members attending.

Following difficulties in previous years to recruit the full number of committee members, Dante Cairns was fortunate to attract nominations for the full number of members for 2020. Committee members appointed were:

<i>President:</i>	Gary Montagner	<i>General members:</i>	Angelo Aurielo
<i>Vice President:</i>	Richard Mogorovich		Zenon Caravella
<i>Treasurers:</i>	Patty Poutanen		Gina Codotto
<i>Secretary:</i>	Juliet Marconi		Fank Dangelico
			Lui Garozzo

Committee meetings were scheduled to be held monthly; however, no meetings were held April, May & June due to Covid-19 pandemic restrictions. The December meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum.

No general or special meetings were called during this period.

## Financial management and Auditor's report

In 2019, the Treasurer, Patty Poutanen, implemented the QuickBooks software to enable better tracking of the Society's financial expenditure and to improve accuracy and timeliness of financial reporting. In 2020, monthly profit and loss and expenditure reports were provided at management meetings.

Implementing QuickBooks has also allowed for analysis of expenditure to inform improved budgeting for the next cycle of reporting and end of year auditing.

The Auditor submitted an Instalment Activity Statement on behalf of Dante Cairns during the audit process as this was not undertaken during 2020. As a result, Dante Cairns received a special cash flow boost from the ATO of \$20,000 (total \$19,322 after tax) due to income being impacted by Covid pandemic (eg classes not programmed for April – August period).

The Auditor's report found an error in payment of superannuation to the ATO tax account and this was corrected on 25/01/2021 with money paid to the ATO super account. The Auditor's fee for 2021 auditing of 2020 financial activity was \$385.

As of 31 January 2021, the Dante Cairns account balance was \$26,628.54 which includes the extra funding from the ATO.

The Treasurer would like to thank Lui Garozzo and finance staff from Total Food Network for providing support and advice on taxation issues throughout the year.

## Memberships

Memberships were reviewed in 2019 and lower priced, individual fees were introduced in 2020 - \$15 per individual; \$10 concessional membership.

Financial members were 184 in 2020. Updated membership fees for 2021 were set at – Individual members \$20; Concessional \$15. However, considering the ongoing pandemic impacts, the Management committee is proposing free membership in 2021 with a motion to be presented at the AGM.

## Administration and rules

Several improvements were made during the year relating to administrative process to support the effective management of the Society's business.

Documentation standards and development of written instructions for committee members regarding:

- Planning of events guidelines and instructions and template
- Management and access to Dante Cairns accounts
- Procedures and instructions for incoming, new committees
- Management of documents (using [Google Drive](#))
- Standardised template for agendas

In addition, a complete review and update of the constitution was undertaken with an update of the management committee roles and responsibilities. The latest version will be submitted for members to ratify at the 2021 AGM.

## Marketing and promotion

While the intention was to provide regular monthly news via Mailchimp email news distribution, the COVID restrictions impacted the ability of the committee to organise events.

Significant update of the Dante Cairns website ([www.dantecairns.com.au](http://www.dantecairns.com.au)) was undertaken with content updated and graphics updated early in the year.

## Events

Events held throughout 2020 included:

1. Carnevale Cairns Italian Masquerade Ball – 22 February (Hilton)
2. Pizza night & meet the committee – 14 March (Pizza Loco, The Grounds)
3. Ferrogosto Comedy Lunch 16 August (Alessandro's, Lake Placid)
4. Vendemmia (Wine harvest) lunch 25 October (Piccolo Cucina)

Overall, event funds raised by sale of event tickets did not cover the costs for administration of events.

Due to venue restrictions at Cominos House, Movie nights were not held in 2020.

Chiacchieri e Caffè Sunday brunch & coffee sessions coordinated by President, Gary Montagner, were held at various venues, on: These events were at members own costs (ie purchase of coffee & food at venues).

Feedback from members indicates that Dante Cairns should consider lower cost, more family friendly events in future to attract and retain members.

## Language classes

Term 1 Classes were suspended by March, with students electing to continue attendance via Zoom.

A comprehensive review of the Italian Language program was undertaken by Secretary, Juliet Marconi, with recommendations for:

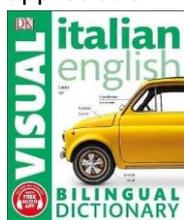
- Conversion of teacher / tutor / coordinator wages to a fix contract option – costed on 12 week terms or 9 week terms; with preparation time.
- Reduction of levels of classes from 9 (Beginners 1,2,3; Intermediate 1,2,3; Advanced 1,2; Fluency 1,2) to 5 levels (Beginners 1 & 2; Intermediate; Advanced; Fluency)
- Once contract costs were identified, minimum number of students required set at 6 students per class, per level
- The role description / contract document was substantially updated to reflect changes agreed to by the committee

In August, a combined Term 3-4 program was offered with a reduced number of levels. The key issue relating to classes remains the cost recovery to ensure teacher / tutor wages are covered by student fees.

## School Student end of year prizes

Unfortunately, the offer to principals and Italian teachers for end of year prizes for school students studying Italian was late, distributed 14 October. However, a total of 20 students were nominated from years 6, 8 and 10 across Cairns and the region.

The prize for Years 6 & 8 was a copy of the Italian English Bilingual Visual Dictionary and Year 10s received a \$30 Coles Group & Myers gift card. All students received a letter and certificate of appreciation.



Students who received the 2020 awards were:

- St Andrews Catholic College – Nancy Patel (Yr 6); Olivia Thyrd (Yr 8); Lachlan Amoroso (Yr 10)
- St Augustine's College, Cairns – Declan Cantamessa (Yr 8); Ryan Bevan (Yr 10)
- St Mary's Catholic College – Ava McIntyre (Yr 8); Flynn Eden (Yr 10)
- Cairns State High School – Zac Byrne (Yr 8); Constance Harris (Yr 10)
- Peace Lutheran College – Peppa Clarke (Yr 6); Mila Fox (Yr 8); Daisy Quigley (Yr 10)
- Cairns School Distance Education – Sohalia Perry (Yr 6); Coby Govoni (Yr 8); Jennifer Tsiros (Yr 10)
- Silkwood State School – Shiloh-Lily Babsek (Yr 6)
- St Joseph's Parish School – Charlotte Agnew, Shelby Hamilton (Yr 6)
- Innisfail State School – Naman Singh (Yr 6)
- Mourilyan State School – Estelle Setter (Yr 6)

## Sponsorship and Sponsors

Dante Cairns sponsored the following during 2020 – 2021 January:

- Donation to the Studitalia Prize of \$300 in 2020
- \$500 Sponsorship of Cairns FM 89.1 radio station – Made in Italy program for 2021

The management committee would like to thank the following sponsors who either provided prizes, or goods and services throughout the year for our events or who offered discounts to our members.

- Lui Garozzo, Total Food Network
- Angelo Aurelio, Angelo's Fine Foods
- Patty Poutanen Travel Managers
- Salt House Restaurant & Bar
- Maurizio Jewellery Designs
- Mi Piace Espresso Bar
- Maureen Schmitze Fashion Fascinators
- Piccolo Cucina
- The Boatshed Restaurant
- Mamma Mia Italian Eats (@ Rusty's Market)
- Vivaldi's Restaurant
- Alex Platania, Property Professional
- Hire a Hubby Brinsmead, Dan Towne
- Ollie's Italian Restaurant
- Orangerie Patisserie
- Ireland's Motors
- Maria Manassero Travel Managers

## Improvements for 2021

The committee has discussed the need to improve the following aspects of the Society's operations in the coming year:

1. Plan the Dante Cairns operational budget for 2021 – ensuring all known costs are identified in QuickBooks ([see next section](#))
2. That proper planning is allowed for all major events (as per recommendations presented to the committee in November 2020 by the Treasurer) including:
  - 2.1. Ensure there is a planned calendar events, with key events planned 2 years in advanced (max of 4 major events per year)
  - 2.2. That subcommittees with an appointed chair are convened to plan and undertake large events
  - 2.3. That all events be planned and finalised at least 6 weeks prior to event to allow enough time for advertising
  - 2.4. That all events must have a coordinator to oversee it's planning and delivery
  - 2.5. That event ticket costs must cover the costs to plan and undertake the event and grant funding or sponsorship sought to make functions affordable for members
  - 2.6. That lower cost, family friendly events are scheduled into the regular program
  - 2.7. That "special" movie events held in conjunction with another business (eg End Credits)
3. That the Management Committee:
  - 3.1. Appoint a Social events coordinator from the 5 general members allowed
  - 3.2. Appoint a Marketing & promotion coordinator from the 5 general members allowed
  - 3.3. Recruit a principal Teacher / Coordinator for the Italian Language program who should also attend management committee meetings

## Dante Cairns Budget 2021

2021 Annual estimated expenses to be budgeted include:

Date	Expense Type	Due Date	Est amount / Cost
January	Auditor / Accountant (John Woodward – Chartered Accountant) – annual for previous year's audit	January	\$385 (2021 cost)
February	AGM venue hire – annual	February	NA
February	Cairns Community FM 89.1 Radio – Made in Italy program sponsorship	January	\$500
March	Weebly web hosting fee – annual (4/2/2020 Paid Weebly Pro Site - 2 years \$290.40)	26/03/2022	\$290.40 (2 years)
March	<a href="#">Office of Fair Trading</a> – Annual Return – annual fee	Within 1 month of AGM	\$57.50
March	Office of Fair Trading – <a href="#">Changes to rules</a> fee (only when changes to Constitution need to be lodged)	Once changes voted by members	\$21.75
April	GIO Incorporated Association NGO insurance – annual	23 April 2021	\$883.18 (**2020 amount – to be updated)
June	Workcover Queensland Insurance premium (annual). ACCIDENT INSURANCE POLICY. Policy number: WAD160289399. Account number: E0006747149	30/06/2020	\$194.10 (**2020 amount – to be updated)

Date	Expense Type	Due Date	Est amount / Cost
August	Zoom annual licence access – online meetings software, 2020 AUD\$230.89 paid (annual cost)	Renewal due 9/09/2021	AUD\$209.90
September	Dante Cairns End of Year School Student prizes – Annual offer to all local schools. Book for years 6 & 8; Gift voucher \$30 for year 10. Postage and stationary costs.	Mid Oct	Approx. \$550-\$650 (**depends on no. students nominated)
October	Studitalia prize donation – Education Queensland / Global Opportunities, DE International, (trading as Education Queensland International) – Annual donation	October / November	\$500
October	MLTAQ Speaking Competition (Italian) (Modern Languages Teachers Association Queensland). Held annually for local school students – Annual donation ( <i>not held in 2020</i> )	October / November	\$250
October	Seek advertising costs (Teacher / Coordinator recruitment)	October / November	\$313.50 in GST
TBC	Australia Post, mailbox cost	?	\$140 in GST
<b>APPROX TOTAL ALLOCATION REQUIRED:</b>			<b>\$4105 approx.</b>

## 2021 events

Major events currently in planning stages for 2021 include, Covid-19 pandemic restrictions allowing:

1. The Dante Alighieri Societies Oceania Congresso (Conference) – [Dante ai tropici \(Dante in the Tropics\)](#) – scheduled for 1-2 October 2021
2. Inaugural Cairns Italian Festival – scheduled to following immediately after the DAS Conference

As outlined in the President’s report, the following events will also be planned, Covid-19 restrictions permitting:

- Low cost family picnics and social events
- Movie nights and monthly *Chiacchiere e caffè* Sunday brunch mornings
- Pizza, card and game nights
- Special events to celebrate key Italian festivals and celebrations such as Festa della Repubblica and Ferrogosto

*This report compiled by:*

Juliet Marconi, Secretary (2/02/2021)