

# INSIEME #4

# 2016



Celebrating 38 years  
of community services





Hello everybody!

I am Sara Tuan and I am 24. I feel so honoured to have been accepted for an internship at Co.As.It. Community Services.

I can hardly believe I am here right now writing this article. I come from a little village located in the North-East of Italy, near Udine.

I am completing a Masters Degree at Ca' Foscari University of Venice and am currently in Brisbane for an internship with Co.As.It. and ILC.

I am studying Anthropology so I am very interested in other cultures and I love travelling.

This is my second time here in Australia. I have had the opportunity to travel a lot through my studies.

I have a Bachelor's Degree in Language, Culture and Society of Asia and Mediterranean Africa, specializing in Chinese and Japanese Culture and Language.

I have been interested in Oriental cultures since I was a child and I got the chance to visit both China and Japan.

I also love the Arts and in fact I completed high school at Istituto Statale d'Arte of Venice (artistic high school).

I arrived in Australia on 1st August and I really like Brisbane and the people who live here! In Australia everyone seems to be kind and relaxed, both at work and at home.

I have been working at Co.As.It for a while, but I can already see many differences



Università  
 Ca' Foscari  
 Venezia

compared to places of work in Italy.

Here there doesn't seem to be the stressful atmosphere that you may find in Italian companies. Everyone is kind and helpful. Nobody is angry or frustrated.

I was surprised to find such a friendly environment and I feel so happy to be here!

I am so glad I got the chance to come to this beautiful country, at first just for a short visit and now for a long stay!

I have the opportunity to work with an organization such as Co.As.It. where I can test my skills and see if I am ready for the workplace, after having studied all my life.

I also hope to improve my English while I am here. That is another reason why I decided to travel to this country, so far from home.

## ITALIAN LANGUAGE TEACHING

# ITALIAN SPEAKING COMPETITION - BRISBANE

It is a well known fact that there are multiple benefits in learning a second language. Australia continues developing cross-country links in trade, business and education.

As communication between countries increases, being able to share information in another language and have a cultural understanding of the people one is dealing with provides an added advantage to young people.

The aim of Language Speaking Competitions is to provide the opportunity for language students to express their ideas, display their language skills and gain confidence in using the language they are studying.

Students studying Italian in schools in and around Brisbane had this very opportunity on Sunday 16 October when they showed off their linguistic skills at the inaugural Italian Speaking Competition organised by the Italian Language Centre (ILC) in association with the Modern Language Teachers' Association Queensland (MLTAQ).

ILC competition organisers Marzia Mauro and Rosella Dermedgoglou confirmed that



a large number of entries was received making it necessary to run parallel judging sessions.

Students from year 4 and Year 5 recited poems and those in years 6 to 12 delivered speeches.

The program was run in 5 sessions commencing at 9:30 and ending at 16:00.

At the end of each session all students received participation certificates and goody bags 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.

Feedback indicates the event was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

# STUDITALIA PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY 2016



*'This means,' said organisers, 'that the competition will almost certainly be repeated in 2017.'*

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 day.

Established in 1994, the Studitalia prize encourages and promotes excellence in Italian studies in Queensland schools, and rewards the achievements of Year 12 students of Italian.

The prize is generously supported by the Italian Consulate Brisbane, the DET International division of the Department of Education and Training as well as key members of the Italian community like the Italian Language Centre (ILC), the Dante Alighieri Society and the Italian Chamber of Commerce.

This year, six year 12 students of Italian were selected as worthy recipients of the 2016 Studitalia scholarships. The prizes include return airfares and a one-month stay in Italy at the boarding school Convitto Nazionale 'Paolo Diacono' in Cividale del Friuli near the city of Udine.

On Friday 16 September 2016 the awards ceremony at Education House in Brisbane began with the Kelvin Grove State College Junior School

Choir singing the Australian and Italian national anthems.

Assembled guests were then officially welcomed to the 22nd Studitalia Awards event by master of ceremonies Ross Simms who introduced the next guest speaker, Patrea Walton, Deputy Director-General of DET state schools.

According to Ms Walton the 127 students who have won the Studitalia prize since its inception 22 years ago demonstrates the commitment shown by the Italian authorities, the Department and the sponsors in supporting an event that contributes to deepening intercultural understanding.

The Department is proud to endorse the Studitalia prize and continues to foster partnerships with industry, universities and communities.

*'Perhaps if more organizations were prepared to extend a hand in friendship,' continued Ms Walton, 'world peace would not be an illusion but a reality.'*

# STUDITALIA PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY 2016

**‘PERHAPS IF MORE ORGANIZATIONS WERE PREPARED TO EXTEND A HAND IN FRIENDSHIP, WORLD PEACE WOULD NOT BE AN ILLUSION BUT A REALITY.’**

The Queensland government acknowledges its commitment to intercultural understanding and language learning and hopes to have language programs commence in Prep by 2025. DET strongly supports the Italian immersion programs at North Lakes and Stanthorpe State schools and this year substantial grants have been given to Bulimba, Chancellor and Yandina State Schools to improve their Italian programs.

This demonstrates the State Government’s commitment to foster deeper cross-cultural understanding and help students become globally competitive citizens.

Guests were then addressed by Dr Ludovico Camussi, Italian Consul for Queensland and the Northern Territory, who congratulated the students and reminded them of the many benefits and rewards inherent in the study of a foreign language and culture. He confirmed that



(left to right)

Studitalia 2016 winners - Amelia McCormick (Stanthorpe State High School), Ellena Darch (St Andrew’s Catholic College), Maia Brauner (Brisbane State High School) ; Dott. Ludovico Camussi (Consul of Italy for Queensland and Northern Territory), Ms Patrea Walton (DET Deputy Director-General, state schools), Studitalia winners - Sally Marquis-Kyle (Brisbane State High School), Mariana Nunez (Kelvin Grove State College)

notwithstanding the diminished funding from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, there is still a strong commitment to support the teaching and learning of Italian in Queensland.

This was demonstrated earlier this year with the signing of a Statement of Intent which recognises the cordial relations existing between the governments of the Italian Republic and the Commonwealth of Australia and sets out the terms of cultural cooperation. Dr Camussi wished

the winners all the best for their forthcoming trip to Italy.

Each prizewinner was then called upon to showcase their linguistic skills by presenting in Italian a speech on the ‘Settimana della lingua italiana nel mondo’ theme: ‘l’italiano e la creatività: marchi e costumi, moda e design’ (Italian creativity: brands and customs, fashion and design).

Maia Brauner from Brisbane State High School spoke on the innovative architectural

designs introduced during the Renaissance by the works of Brunelleschi, Bramante and Michelangelo. On a similar theme, Sally Marquis-Kyle (also from Brisbane State High School), went on to say that although Italian art is often defined by the Renaissance era, Italy maintains its influence in contemporary art through esteemed events like the Venice Biennale.

Ellena Darch from St Andrews Catholic College interpreted the theme by speaking of the 'Made in Italy' slogan which is recognised and appreciated worldwide and which has become synonymous with high quality, elegance and beauty.

This was also mentioned by Amelia McCormick of Stanthorpe State High School who spoke of Milan being the city of creativity, fashion and design, promoted annually in April during the famous Design Week.

Mariana Nunez from Kelvin Grove State College chose to speak about the famous architect Aldo Rossi whose inventive work continues to influence not only architects but artists, fashion designers and film makers.

Finally, Theodor Delaney from Shalom College Bundaberg



In order (left to right) 2015 and 2016 winners  
 Front row: Alanah Mayers (2015), Isabella Maresca (2015), Isabelle Lee (2015), Mariana Nunez (2016) (Kelvin Grove State College), Ellena Darch (2016) (St Andrew's Catholic College), Sally Marquis-Kyle (2016) (Brisbane State High School), Maia Brauner (2016) (Brisbane State High School)  
 Back row: Riley Harland (2015), Kailin Graham (2015), Amelia McCormick (2016) (Stanthorpe State High School), Nicolas Stojanovic (2015)

and Cairns School of Distance Education ended the presentations by talking of novel and memorable design in his speech *Moda Maschi a Milano*.

The current winners' speeches were followed by a combined presentation from the 2015 StuditaliA winners (Alanah Mayers, Nicholas Stojanovic, Riley Harland, Kailin Graham, Isabella Maresca, Isabelle Lee) who spoke of their stay in Italy. They were unanimous in declaring that winning the StuditaliA prize had been a life-changing experience and expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Italian government, DET and the StuditaliA sponsors for making it all possible.

The 2016 StuditaliA awards ceremony closed with the Kelvin

Grove State College Junior School Choir providing the entertainment.

Guided by Italian teacher Amanda Stein, the students delighted the audience with their beautiful singing in Italian.

During afternoon tea, guests had the opportunity to view a display of the ILC Calligram Competition 2016 winning entries.

The colourful interpretations of handwritten Italian words arranged in a way to create a visual image are a testament to the passionate Italian teaching and learning that occurs in classrooms throughout Queensland schools.