

Celebrations for the 700th anniversary from Dante Alighieri's death

Congratulations to the Workers Educational Association WEA (Sydney) as it is celebrating the 700th anniversary of Dante Alighieri's death in 1321 with a course of fifteen, 2-hour lectures on Dante's *Divine Comedy*. The Chairman of Italian Studies at the University of Sydney, A/Prof Francesco Borghesi, is conducting the course, online via Zoom because of Covid 19, to a responsive audience.

The WEA has taught, now for many years, a well-constructed course of Italian language at various levels and, as far as we could ascertain, no other Australian Adult Education institution had to date tackled the poetry of Dante.

Of course, the Universities that have a department of Italian studies, do teach Dante, and in more academic depth. The WEA has filled an occasional vacuum, proof being the relatively high numbers of students joining in, without prompting from publicity.

In Australia the participation of adults in education and training is very high. World-wide, Australia is at the forefront in *lifelong learning*, thanks to its broad-based education system, avoidance of discrimination on the basis of age, and acceptance of part-time study as a mode comparable in employment outcomes to full-time study. Professor Borghesi will teach the final Cantica of the Divine Comedy, *Paradiso*, in November 2021. Booking is essential by calling or emailing the WEA Sydney.

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