

COLLODI IL GENIO
PINOCCHIO GENIALE

Collodi the Genius, Pinocchio the Masterpiece

SATURDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2026, 9.30AM - 3.00 PM

CLUB MARCONI MICHELINI ROOM

121–133 PRAIRIE VALE RD, BOSSLEY PARK NSW 2176

Celebrating 200 years since Collodi's birth with a day of Italian culture for the community & professional development for teachers of Italian.

Collodi Beyond Pinocchio: The Many Lives of Carlo Lorenzini

Lecture by Dr Andrea Pagani, Assistant Lecturer at Monash University and a journalist at SBS Italian.



During his lifetime, Carlo Lorenzini witnessed and actively participated in some of the most significant events of modern Italian history. Born in the Grand Duchy of Tuscany, he fought as a volunteer in several of the wars that led to the unification of Italy and later established himself as one of the country's most influential journalists. Yet the optimism and civic enthusiasm that had shaped his early career gradually gave way to disillusionment, particularly during the years when Florence served as the capital of Italy. In this presentation, I will argue that understanding Lorenzini's career as a journalist is essential to interpreting the children's writer better known as Collodi, whose most celebrated work, Le Avventure di Pinocchio, has increasingly been read as a far more dissonant text than the straightforward middle-class manifesto it was once thought to be.

Stronger Than Wood: Geppetto and the Wonder of Fatherhood

Lecture by Mr Lucio Fioretti, Primary Educator and Italian Language Teacher



Among the many characters in The Adventures of Pinocchio, Geppetto is perhaps the quietest, yet one of the most significant. While readers follow Pinocchio's adventures, Collodi reveals the extraordinary love of a humble carpenter who calls his creation "son" from the very beginning. Drawing on Cardinal Giacomo Biffi's celebrated theological interpretation, this lecture explores Pinocchio as a journey of separation, redemption and return to the father. Stronger than the wood from which Pinocchio is carved is Geppetto's unconditional love: a love that waits, searches, forgives and never gives up, even when it is not returned. Here lies one of the deepest and most moving truths of Collodi's timeless masterpiece.



Creative Lab: Collodi's Genius and Pinocchio the Masterpiece

Two sessions for students Kindy to Year 10 running parallel to the lectures

Tailored to students Kindy to Year 10, these sessions are are organised by teachers of Marco Polo - The Italian School of Sydney and run parallel to the lectures. They aim to combine language, literature, creativity and cultural discovery, bringing the magic of *The Adventures of Pinocchio* to a new generation of young learners.

Conferral of the 2026 Marco Polo Awards

Recognising Excellence in Italian Language and Culture in NSW Schools

Instituted in 2020, the Marco Polo Awards celebrate excellence in Italian language and culture across NSW schools, recognising students (Years 6–12) and teachers.

CLICK OR SCAN
FREE EVENT
REGISTER HERE

Includes Morning Tea and Lunch. Registration essential. Click on text or via the QR Code.

For information, please email learning@cnansw.org.au or call (02) 8786 0888 during office hours.

SETTIMANA DELLA LINGUA ITALIANA NEL MONDO

BICENTENARIO CARLO COLLODI SYDNEY-1826-2026

MONASH University

Marco Polo The Italian School of Sydney

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Event Program

Time	Michelini Room	Conference Room 1 & 2
09:30am	**START**	
09.30am – 10.00am	Registration	
10.00am – 10.30am	Welcome and Official Speeches	
10.30am – 11.15am	***Collodi Beyond Pinocchio: The Many Lives of Carlo Lorenzini*** **Lecture by Dr Andrea Pagani**	***Session 1: Creative Lab: Collodi's Genius and Pinocchio the Masterpiece***
11.15am – 11.45am	**Morning Tea**	
11.45am – 12.30pm	Marco Polo Award presentations	
12.30pm – 13.15pm	***Stronger Than Wood: Geppetto and the Wonder of Fatherhood*** **Lecture by Mr Lucio Fioretti**	***Session 2: Creative Lab: Collodi's Genius and Pinocchio the Masterpiece***
1.15pm	**Optional: K-10 Students Dismissed**	
1.15pm – 2.00pm	**Lunch**	
2.00pm – 2.45pm	**Seminar 1 (Primary) - Everyone knows Pinocchio, but who is Geppetto, really?** Teaching the deeper meaning of Geppetto in Pinocchio through symbolism, mythology and literary interpretation. **(Mr Lucio Fioretti)**	**Seminar 2 (Secondary) - Teaching Collodi beyond Pinocchio:** Risorgimento and Italian Nation Building through a wooden puppet **(Dr Andrea Pagani)**
2.45pm	**Wrap up and Evaluation**	
3.00pm	**END**	

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