

Newsletter di febbraio

Febbraio 2022

Dear Dante friends,

The year began in the shadow of a new Covid variant, which caused major disruption to vacation and event plans in New Zealand and around the world. And it is with deep sadness that we at Dante have had to further postpone some of the events planned for the summer and to cancel others. Nonetheless, we were able to offer our annual Intensive Course last week, and we are ready to start Term 1 of language classes and Playgroups next week.

The good news is that things seem to be getting better everywhere and there are lots of re-openings worldwide. So, this month, while for example Venice is getting ready to celebrate its famous Carnival, here in New Zealand the government has announced that border restrictions will be gradually relaxed as of mid-February. In the meantime, while we look forward to our regained freedom to roam the world, we can enjoy the beautiful summer here in Aotearoa and perhaps pop by the Aotea Centre to see the impressive Michelangelo exhibition. If you still feel uncomfortable going to public places, check out the photos on page 6 and watch the video clip with Bruno Ferraro presenting the exhibit on Seven Sharp.

You could also listen to this month's Ondazzurra podcast in which Matteo and Bruno tell us about Dario Fo, a writer, dramaturg, actor, director, comedian, set designer, costume designer, impresario, and activist - or even better, a *giullare* (jester) as he was referred to when he received the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1997.

Buona lettura!

Stefania



Carnevale di Venezia 2021, [Festa delle Marie](#), Piazza San Marco

Il calendario di febbraio

8 febbraio	Start of the Term 1 of language lessons (p.1)
10 febbraio	Playgroup start of Term 1 (p.2)
12 febbraio	Start of the Venetian Carnival
fino al 13 febbraio	Michelangelo exhibition (p.6)
5 marzo	AGM (p.2)
13 novembre	Festival Italiano (p.3)

Seguici!



President: Sir John Kirwan
Vice President: Flavia Berucci
Secretary: Matteo Telara
School Director: Sandra Fresia
Newsletter: Stefania Perrotta

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Attività ed eventi



Learn Italian in 2022!

Term 1 classes for 2022 Italian language courses will start on 8 February.

You can enrol by email or online.

[See HERE all dates and enrolment forms.](#)

Annual General Meeting & Colazione

The Dante Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday 5 March 2022 at the Dante offices in the Freemans Bay Community Centre From 10am to 12pm.

It's a chance for everyone to find out about how Dante is run, and to have a chat over a cappuccino and cornetto after the formal meeting finishes.



Matteo's Interview with Silvia Pareschi

More than 6 years have passed since Matteo interviewed Silvia Pareschi, translator from English into Italian of great authors - from Jonathan Franzen to Zadie Smith, from Junot Díaz to Julie Otsuka, from Nancy Mitford to Don DeLillo (and many others), and author of a collection of short stories entitled *Bruce Springsteen's jeans and other American dreams*, 2016.

He caught with her again recently, to ask her some questions he didn't ask then: the result is a brief chat that complements the more substantial one from 2015. Read the full interview in Italian [HERE](#)



Children Playgroup

Our Playgroup will resume on Thursday 10 February. We have booked the auditorium to have more space and more capacity.



At all settings of the COVID-19 Protection Framework (CPF), certified playgroups are considered Close-Proximity Services

At Red and Orange settings certificated playgroups can only open

- **with Vaccine Passes** – so all adults present during playgroup sessions must be double vaccinated and show a Vaccine Pass. This will need to be shown when an adult returns to playgroup for the first time this year – so you may want to record this to avoid it having to be shown each time.
- if operating on a school or licensed early childhood education site, playgroups must also keep a register to show all adults attending have provided a Vaccine Pass
- **all adults will need to wear a mask.** They can take their mask off to eat or drink. This was announced on 25 January and applies from Friday 4 February. Information on government websites may still be being updated, including the attached CPF Playgroup Guidance PDF. Click here for more information: [Wear a face mask | Unite against COVID-19 \(covid19.govt.nz\)](#)
- **adults are encouraged to maintain 1m distancing** from other adults wherever possible

The same public health measures remain in place for all settings:

- good hygiene and cleaning
- contact tracing systems
- if you are sick, you must stay home and get tested
- good ventilation



Attività ed eventi



Cena Dantesca cancelled

It is with much regret that we have to inform you that our Cena Dantesca has been cancelled. Sadly the catering company that was going to work with us to provide the food closed down just before Xmas, due to extensive loss of business because of Covid, and we have not been able to find another suitable caterer to step in with such a specialised menu, and at costs that the Society could sustain. We feel particularly sad about this, as we have put a lot of time and passion into the event, and we were all looking forward to it, but it is the only decision that we can take at the moment, especially in view of a possible new wave of Covid in the Country.

Visita alla Marae rimandata

L'appuntamento per la visita alle Marae e' stato posticipato a data da decidersi nei prossimi mesi.

Festival Italiano postponed until November

Newmarket Business Association (NBA) has announced that Festival Italiano, scheduled to be held in Newmarket on Sunday 20 March 2022 has now been rescheduled to 13 November 2022.

NBA CEO Mark Knoff-Thomas said "This is the second time we have had to reschedule this iconic Auckland event. Along with many others, we are disappointed that we are not able to hold the Festival in March. But due to the ongoing uncertainty of COVID, and the requirements for events under red or orange Traffic Light settings, it makes it very challenging to run a street festival and ensure all regulations are followed. We believe a further delay is the most responsible and practical approach. A lot of hard work and planning has already taken place and in order to give this signature event some certainty, November seems the best solution as this is a more realistic and achievable timeframe for some 'normality'. It does regrettably mean that the festival will have been missed for an entire year."

Read the full press release [HERE](#)

Intensive Course, 26-30 January 2022

Despite the ongoing cautionary Covid restrictions, the Dante Auckland was able to organise another successful Summer Intensive Course with our teachers Sandra, Fiorella, Niccolò, Luca, Matteo, Barbara, and Alessandra. In line with safety guidelines this year's course was restricted to 3 hours a day, skipping lunch and afternoon sessions, and dividing the students into small groups. The weather was great and most classes were held outdoors. A big thank you to all students who attended, we had a lot of fun and received very positive feedback from all.

Arrivederci al prossimo anno!



The teachers - from the left: Matteo, Luca, Niccolò, Sandra, Alessandra, Fiorella and Barbara

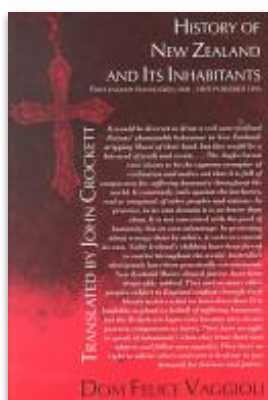
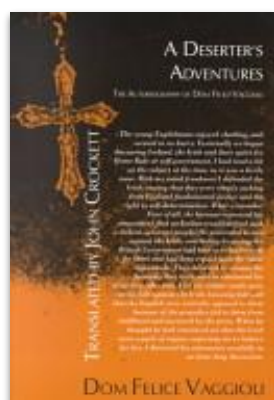


Stories of Italians in New Zealand

From the [Digital Archive of Documents on Italian Immigration in New Zealand](#)

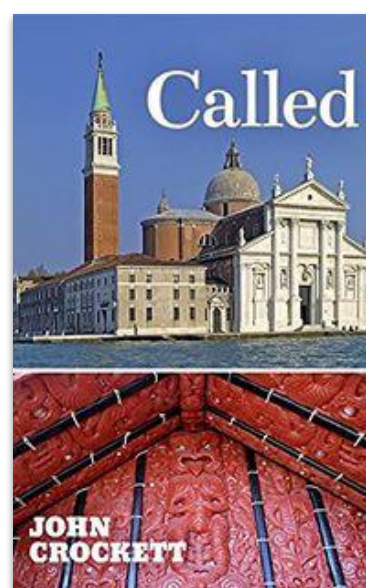
Dom Felice Vaggioli

Dom Felice Vaggioli (1845–1921) was one of the first Benedictine monks to be sent to New Zealand. He arrived in 1879 and returned home to Italy in 1887 after having worked in Gisborne, Auckland and the Coromandel. On his return to Italy, Vaggioli wrote *Storia della Nuova Zelanda e dei suoi abitatori*, published in Italy in 1896. The book was a unique representation of New Zealand in nineteenth-century literature: lively, opinionated and potentially controversial in his description of the colonisation of New Zealand, anticipating by nearly a century the writings of people like Ranginui Walker and Claudia Orange.



As expected Vaggioli's anti-British and anti-Protestant bias is also evident, but he does back up his arguments with quotes from numerous sources. Had it not been for a chance occasion, the book might have remained relatively unknown to New Zealanders: a few years ago John Crockett was doing some research in the archives of the Auckland Catholic Diocese when the archivist, Rev. Bruce Bolland, showed him an old book in Italian: Vaggioli's *Storia della Nuova Zelanda*.

It quickly became apparent to Crockett that he should translate the book into English, as it provided a unique interpretation of the impact of colonisation on Māori. Translated and published by Otago University Press in 2000 [History of New Zealand and its Inhabitants](#) is a terrific read of nineteenth century New Zealand history and for anyone interested in Māori-Pākehā relations or the history of colonisation.



In 2001 Crockett also translated Vaggioli autobiography (the section where he talks about his life in New Zealand) as [A Deserter's Adventures](#). The original, which was held in the archives of Vaggioli's monastery in Italy, had never been published before. In 2021 John Crockett published the historical novel [Called](#). The author explains: "Parts of the novel are based on historical fact, but the weaving of Vaggioli into the narrative is purely fictitious. However, a lot of the Vaggioli references are sourced from his autobiography and according to a prominent Māori source I interviewed for [History of New Zealand and its Inhabitants](#), Vaggioli was in fact [Noa Huke](#)'s scribe to European authorities." [Called](#) is available as an [ebook on Amazon](#).



Podcast of the month

Finalmente letteratura! Dario Fo

Con Matteo Telara e Bruno Ferraro

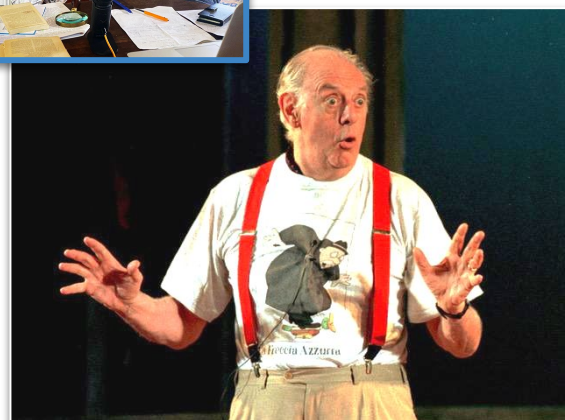
In questo episodio di *Finalmente letteratura!* Bruno e Matteo parlano di Dario Fo, drammaturgo, attore, regista, scrittore, comico, scenografo, costumista, impresario, attivista. O ancor meglio *giullare*, come è stato definito all'atto di ricevere il premio Nobel per la Letteratura nel 1997 che gli fu assegnato con la seguente motivazione "seguendo la tradizione dei giullari medievali, dileggia il potere restituendo la dignità agli oppressi."



Bruno ci racconta le polemiche e reazioni contrastanti che questo premio Nobel provocò in Italia. Nel discorso di accettazione, Dario Fo mise in luce che il premio era per due persone: Dario Fo e Franca Rame per la loro collaborazione su tutti i fronti dell'attività teatrale e dell'impegno civile. Bruno li ha incontrati a Milano, alla loro casa-centro teatrale, dove ebbe modo di parlare anche del valore monetario del Premio Nobel, 1 miliardo e 650 milioni, che decisero di devolvere completamente a favore dei disabili.

Bruno e Matteo parlano del celebre monologo *Mistero Buffo* definito come "un recupero della cultura contadina medievale legata alle lotte per la giustizia". E di *Morte accidentale di un anarchico* commedia satirica e geniale sulla strage di Piazza Fontana, Milano 1969, che causò più di 40 processi alla coppia. Entrambi lavori son parte del loro teatro di controinformazione, portato avanti con l'idea che *arte è un fatto politico*.

[To listen to the podcast click HERE](#)



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la voce degli italiani in NZ

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The [Dante Alighieri Society Auckland](#) is one of the proud sponsors of Ondazzurra together with the [Italian Embassy in Wellington](#), [Casamassima](#) and the Ministry for Ethnic Communities www.ethniccommunities.govt.nz



Review di gennaio



Opening of Michelangelo — A Different View, 3 January

The Sistine Chapel in Auckland!

On 3 January the Opening Night of the exhibition 'Michelangelo - A Different View' was held.

Under license from the Vatican Museums, this exhibition offers the most complete and authentic reproduction of Michelangelo's beautiful ceiling frescoes of the Sistine Chapel to be shown outside the Vatican. The exhibition on at Te Pokapū - Aotea Centre has been extended until 13 February. See more photos [HERE](#)



Bruno Ferraro on Seven Sharp

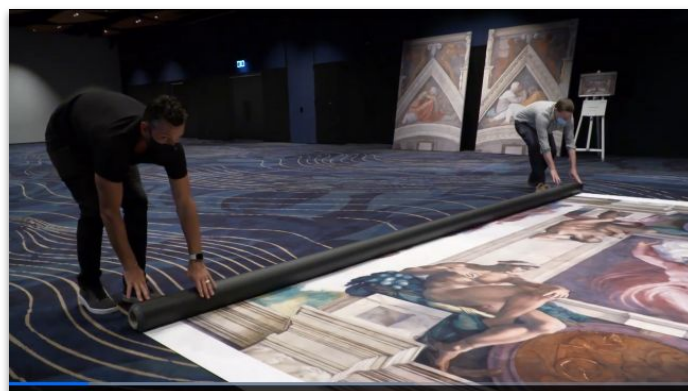
Bruno was in December on Seven Sharp to talk about the exhibition. [You can watch the clip HERE](#)



Dante representatives with Bruno Ferrara, Dr Christopher Longhurst (expert on The Vatican and Sistine Chapel and guide of the exhibition's Vip Experience tours), Tricia Macpherson of the Stetson Group (organiser of the exhibition in Auckland) and Italian Honorary Consul in Auckland Lindsay Jones.



Bruno and Matteo





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Bacheca del mese



Ricetta del mese

Penne con crema di peperoni

It's been a hot summer and with this season comes a variety of vegetables and herbs that smell like sunshine. This is an easy sauce to prepare, you can keep it for a few days in the refrigerator, and eat it cold. You can also use it as a spread on bread and crackers or hot on potatoes and other vegetables. Instead of capsicum you can also use zucchini or an eggplant, depending on your taste. You can also make a vegan version, using tomato puree instead of cheese.



Ingredients

- 4 peperoni rossi
- 1 cipolla media
- 1 spicchio d'aglio
- 100 ml d'olio d'oliva
- 50 gr di ricotta o cottage cheese
- 20 gr di parmigiano
- 20 gr di pinoli (o semi di zucca)
- Basilico / scaglie di peperoncino

In una padella soffriggere con abbondante olio d'oliva lo spicchio d'aglio tagliato finemente con le scaglie di peperoncino. Aggiungete subito dopo i peperoni e la cipolla tagliati finemente e salate il tutto. Lasciate cuocere a lungo fino a che sia le cipolle che i peperoni si sono ammorbiditi (e la pelle si stacca dalla polpa). Mettete tutto nel frullatore, aggiungete il parmigiano grattugiato, il formaggio fresco, i pinoli/semi di zucca, e qualche foglia di basilico e frullate fino ad ottenere una crema rosa. Cuocere la pasta, scolarla e a fine cottura aggiungete la salsa mescolando uniformemente. Decorate con qualche foglia di basilico e servite.

Parole del mese

Eristico

Aggettivo che significa contenzioso, polemico, ingannevole. Deriva dalla generazione del sofismo, ossia l'"eristica", l'uso della parola come mero strumento di confutazione indipendente dal valore degli argomenti, dal loro contenuto di verità.

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arrivederci a marzo