

Newsletter di marzo

Marzo 2022

Dear Dante friends,

This year marks the first time that our Annual General Meeting was held online, using Zoom, due to the high incidence of Covid cases, especially in Auckland. Together with our reconfirmed President, Sir John Kirwan, we reviewed last year, the first half of which passed without too many bumps, but which, from August onwards, confronted us with several old and new challenges that forced us to cancel many of our planned events. And as you can see from the rather sparse schedule on the right, we are still moving very cautiously, especially since the new Omicron variant is now running rife throughout New Zealand and isn't expected to reach its peak till mid-March. The light at the end of the tunnel is that all the countries which passed their peak case numbers in recent months are now loosening, if not eliminating, all Covid restrictions and this gives us hope that we, too, can return to a semblance of normality in our winter.

Since we don't have many events to talk about this month, we have dedicated this issue to culture and will celebrate two iconic figures of Italian cinema and literature. The first is legendary actress Monica Vitti, who sadly passed away last month, the second is controversial author and director Pier Paolo Pasolini who marked his birth centenary this month.

And finally, as usual, we present you with a new chapter in the history of Italian immigration to New Zealand, with people coming, among other places, from the volcanic island of Stromboli.

Buona lettura!

Stefania



Piscinette di Ginostra, Stromboli Island, Sicily

Il calendario di marzo

15 marzo	COMITES meeting (p.2)
13 novembre	Festival Italiano (p.3)

March: time to renew your Dante membership

Students and Seniors - only \$15 per person

Single membership - only \$30 per person

Couples or Family - only \$40 per couple or family

[Click here](#) to renew or to join us

Seguici!



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

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Attività ed eventi



Annual General Meeting 2022

For the first time, due to the high number of Omicron cases in the city of Auckland, the Dante Alighieri Society held its AGM on a virtual channel instead of in person. Last Saturday 5 March, the committee and some members met on Zoom to discuss the topics on the agenda for this year and have a review of the past year. We are pleased to announce that the committee has decided that there will be no changes on membership fees for 2022. Read the full president's report on page 3.



ComItEs - primo meeting, 15 marzo

Il Comites si riunisce martedì 15 marzo 2022 alle ore 11, in digitale su Zoom. La riunione è aperta al pubblico e sarà trasmessa in diretta anche su Facebook:

<https://fb.me/e/dVjxBXqcF>

Chiunque sia interessato può assistere all'incontro sulla pagina Facebook Comites Nuova Zelanda o accedere direttamente attraverso il link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86479229513>

All'ordine del giorno, l'approvazione del regolamento interno e un aggiornamento dalle singole Commissioni di Lavoro.



Per gli iscritti all'Aire ingresso Musei gratis

il Ministero per i beni e le attività culturali e per il turismo consente fino al 2023, [l'accesso gratuito ai cittadini italiani residenti all'estero](#) iscritti all'Anagrafe degli italiani residenti all'estero (AIRE) a musei, aree e parchi archeologici gestiti dallo Stato, a seguito di esibizione di idoneo documento comprovante l'iscrizione all'AIRE.





AGM 2022



Annual General Meeting - President Report

Cari amici e soci Dante Auckland,

Welcome to our first online AGM for 2022, and thank you all for joining us today.

We have come from yet another challenging year in 2021 which saw the spread of the Delta, and then the Omicron variants in New Zealand bringing several months of lockdown. Yet again I would like to thank our committee members who worked positively and with the usual enthusiasm to promote the Italian language and culture meanwhile adapting and navigating to a different way of delivery during this difficult time.

My thanks also to our members for their on-going support and to our students who showed incredible dedication and commitment despite the challenges of learning online.

I would like to acknowledge the resilience of our teachers who were able to maintain all the online classes, where possible, for such a long period.

Thank you also to Valeria Santillo for her precious support managing the finances, to Stefania Perrotta for delivering our monthly newsletter, and to Vice President Flavia Berucci for helping me in my work as president.

At last year's AGM we welcomed new members abroad and I want to thank Zeyna and Kerri for their help and support to enhance our committee vision and achievements.

Before the lockdown hit back in August, we were able to start our program for celebrating the 700th Anniversary of Dante Alighieri with a cultural evening which saw Victoria University's Reader Marco Sonzogni, presenting two new books dedicated to Dante Alighieri: *Quantum of Dante* and *More favourable Waters*. The event was accompanied by a Poetry Competition among our students with some truly great poems as a result.

We were also delighted by the Dante societies annual play: "Arriva Zio Giorgio!" edited and directed by our teacher Matteo Telara and starring a group of brave and bravissimi Dante Auckland students. This play was the result of a language class where students learn Italian by acting.

We were still able to hold a few of our monthly colazione, and school holiday programmes with an increase in the number of the children taking part to the programmes compared to previous years, all organised thanks to the efforts of Matteo Telara, Sandra Fresia, Alessandra Zecchini, Fiorella Tomasi, Luca Manghi, and other committee members and volunteers.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel or postpone some of the events we were planning for the rest of year like the 'Cena Dantesca' which was planned for the 'Week of the Italian Cuisine in the World' with a wonderful dinner in a thematic setting at St Matthew in the City, accompanied with live entertainment and a rich menu especially researched for the occasion. I would like to thank Alessandra Zecchini for the time and energy she spent on this project, and the Italian Embassy in Wellington for their generous support. This dinner unfortunately had to be cancelled.

We hope we can hold the Concert planned to celebrate the Dante Alighieri 700th Anniversary later this year.

We also had to cancel our Mercatino di Natale which usually ends our yearly calendar of events due to the difficulties to hold it under the orange-light setting at the time. We were able to start the year with the Intensive Course, led by Sandra Fresia. Despite this year taking place in a slightly different format, it was a great success, as always bringing together our students for five days of full immersion in the Italian language.

With regard to our language school, I would like to acknowledge that the Dante Alighieri Society of Auckland has become an official examination centre – the only one in New Zealand – for PLIDA (*Progetto Lingua Italiana Dante Alighieri – Dante Alighieri Italian Language Project*) exams, that certifies competence in Italian as a foreign language to support the application for Italian citizenship with the first exams taking place in June.

I would also like to mention our support to Radio Ondazzurra, the only radio-podcast programme in Italian produced in New Zealand as well as to several events involving the wider Italian community that took place during the year, among them the Cinema Italiano Festival, The America's Cup, and the exhibition Michelangelo - A Different View.

In conclusion, 2021 has been challenging but with some positive notes considering all the circumstances. As our treasurer Valeria will shortly confirm in the Treasurer Report, the society was able to pull through this difficult year thanks to the hard work of our teachers and the support of our members and students.

With this thought the committee has deliberated and agreed not increase the membership fees for yet another year, with the hope we can all come back to the things we love and to welcome back many other events and activities for our members in 2022, when it will be safe again to host them.

Sir John Kirwan
KNZM MBE
President Dante Alighieri Society of Auckland



Legendary actress Monica Vitti dies at 90

The great actress, one of the icons of Italian and international cinema, who turned 90 years old in November, died last February in her hometown Rome. Born Maria Luisa Ceciarelli, among her many unforgettable interpretations, she also a symbol of Romanity. But it is almost impossible to confine her career and her acting talent in a single box. Gifted with a beauty that was quite unusual for the cinema industry of the 50s dominated by voluptuous pin-ups, but strong of her theater education and a raspy and refined voice, Monica began her career as a dubbing actor. She had discovered her passion for the theater very early, when, during the war, she played with puppets to distract her brothers from the drama that surrounded them. International fame as actress arrived with director Michelangelo Antonioni, in an artistic and sentimental partnership that gave life to a 'tetralogy of incommunicability' (*L'avventura*, *La notte*, *L'eclisse* and *Deserto rosso*) in which she showed her great dramatic abilities which changed the form and content of Italian cinema.



Monica Vitti and Alain Delon in *L'Eclisse* by Michelangelo Antonioni, 1962

But she was also a protagonist of the golden period of the Italian comedy, showing an exceptional versatility and conquering the public with films such as *La ragazza con la Pistola* (The Girl with the Gun), by Mario Monicelli, or at the side of Sordi in *Io so che tu sai che io so* (I know that you know that I know) and the beautiful *Polvere di Stelle* (Stardust).



Cover of the French magazine Libération, issue 02.02.2022, honouring Monica Vitti

Dozens of films in her forty-year career, included the main *L'Anatra all'Arancia* (Duck Orange), *Nini Tirabusciò*, *La donna che inventò la mossa* (The woman who invented the move), *Ti ho sposato per allegria* (I married you for fun). She also worked in the theater, and for the television, until her premature retirement from the scene due to health reasons.

Her last appearance in public was in 2002, at the premiere of the musical 'Notre Dame de Paris' and since then she has remained in the hearts of the people as the eternal star that made the history of Italian cinema.

Read more on this [Guardian article](#)



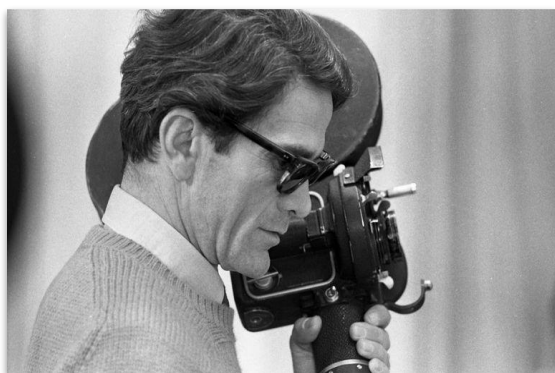


Pier Paolo Pasolini's centenary

One hundred years ago, on the 5th of March, Pier Paolo Pasolini a writer, poet, screenwriter and director, a complex intellectual who contributed to enriching Italian culture in the twentieth century, was born.

He was a controversial figure, scandalous in the Italy of his time for his homosexuality he did not hide, and who died in tragic circumstances (he was murdered in 1975), the dynamics of which have never been fully clarified.

He was born in Bologna in 1922 and from a young age showed an interest in popular culture and Italian dialects. In 1945 he graduated in literature in Bologna - the same year his brother Guido, a partisan of the Osoppo Brigade, was killed. In the early years after the war, Pasolini joined the Italian Communist Party in Udine, but was expelled from it in 1949, following accusations of molestation of minors and obscene acts in public, which turned out to be unfounded.



In 1954, after moving to Rome, he published his collection of poems in Friulian dialect, *La meglio gioventù*, with which he won the "Giosuè Carducci" award. In the same year he collaborated on the screenplay for the film *La donna del fiume* (The Woman on the River), his first stint in the cinema industry. In the following years he wrote novels such as *Ragazzi di vita* and *Una vita violenta*, which recounted the lives of young people in the Roman suburbs, with whom he had come into contact since his arrival in the capital. These works, while achieving wide success, were accused of obscenity because of the theme of male prostitution. Pasolini was put on trial for pornography, from which he was acquitted, thanks also to the testimony of intellectuals of the time.

In the 60s, Pasolini turned to cinema and his directorial debut was the film *Accattone* (1961), a transposition of the literary themes of *Ragazzi di vita** and *Una vita violenta*. Other films of these years for which he always wrote the screenplay, are *Mamma Roma* (1962), *Il vangelo secondo Matteo* (1964), *Uccellacci e uccellini* (1965), *Edipo re* (1967), *Teorema* (1968) and *Medea* (1969).



Actress Anna Magnani and director Pasolini during the filming of *Mamma Roma*, 1962

In the early 70s Pasolini devoted himself to a film project, called the "trilogy of life", which included three films: *The Decameron* (1971), based on Boccaccio's novellas, *The Canterbury Tales* (1972), based on Chaucer's work, and finally *I Fiori da Mille e una Notte* (1974). In 1973 Pasolini began to collaborate with the newspaper *Corriere della Sera*, writing articles on politics and customs, which were later collected in 1975 in *Scritti corsari* and in the posthumous *Lettere luterane* (1976).

In 1975 he made what was to be his last and most controversial film, *Salò o le 120 giornate di Sodoma*. Inspired by the work of the Marquis de Sade, Pasolini set the events of the film in the Republic of Salò, where four high-ranking party members kidnap a group of boys and girls to satisfy their sexual perversions.

In 1992, many years after his tragic death, *Petrolio*, a novel Pasolini was working on at the time, was published posthumously.

Read more on this [Guardian article](#)

*Read the meaning of this expression on page 9



Stories of Italians in New Zealand

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

La presenza italiana in Nuova Zelanda (1875-1950)

by Riccardo Ponti, published in Italian in the magazine of the [Centro Studi Emigrazione Roma](#) (CSER), 2005

Articolo pubblicato nella rivista trimestrale del [Centro Studi Emigrazione Roma](#) (CSER). L'autore riassume la storia dell'emigrazione Italiana partendo dai 230 italiani, in maggior parte livornesi, sbarcati a Wellington tra il 1875 e il 1876, per lavorare alle ferrovie. Si trattava però di lavoratori urbani e l'impresa fu un fallimento. Secondo fallimento si rivelò la colonia circa 200 famiglie veneziane di agricoltori a [Jackson Bay](#), nella regione di [Haast](#), all'estremo sud del [Westland](#), troppo isolata per sopravvivere. Si passa poi alle storie di emigrazione da [Stromboli](#) e [Massa Lubrense](#), dove sono illustrate le differenze fra le due comunità, degli immigranti veneti e pistoiesi negli anni immediatamente precedenti la prima guerra mondiale, della corsa all'oro nell'Isola del Sud, e dei minatori italiani di [Greymouth](#) dove aveva sede il Circolo Italiano "Cesare Battisti". Ponti dedica molto spazio agli anni del Fascismo e della Seconda Guerra Mondiale, incluso il coinvolgimento del [Club Garibaldi](#) durante questo periodo, i rapporti con i neozelandesi, e l'internamento di 38 italiani a [Somes Island](#). L'articolo finisce con il dopoguerra, quando fra il 1946 e il 1947 arrivarono in Nuova Zelanda alcune centinaia di ragazze italiane come "spose di guerra" dei soldati neozelandesi, e con più di 200 rifugiati italiani d'[Istria](#) che si stabilirono principalmente nelle città di Auckland, Christchurch e Dunedin fra il 1950 e il 1951.

L'articolo si trova sul [numero 159](#) della rivista, pagine 643-659, presso la [Biblioteca Digitale](#) del Centro Studi Emigrazione.



Stromboli Island and volcano

Article published in the magazine of the [Centro Studi Emigrazione Roma](#) (CSER). The author summarises the history of Italian emigration starting from the 230 Italians, mostly from [Livorno](#), who landed in Wellington between 1875 and 1876, to work on the railways. However, these were urban workers and the enterprise was a failure. An even bigger failure was the colony of about 200 Venetian farmers' families in [Jackson Bay](#), in the [Haast](#) region, in the far south of [Westland](#), too isolated to survive. Then there are the stories of emigration from [Stromboli](#) and [Massa Lubrense](#), where the author also talks about the differences between the two communities, of the Venetian and Pistoia immigrants in the years immediately preceding the First World War, of the gold rush in the South Island, and of the Italian miners in [Greymouth](#), where the "Cesare Battisti" Italian club was based. Ponti dedicates a lot of study to the years of the Fascism Regime in Italy and the Second World War, including the involvement of the [Club Garibaldi](#) during this period, the relations of the Italian community with the New Zealanders, and the internment of 38 Italians in [Somes Island](#). The article ends after the war, when between 1946 and 1947 several hundred Italian girls arrived as New War "brides" of New Zealand soldiers, and with more than 200 Italian refugees from [Istria](#) who settled mainly in the cities of Auckland, Christchurch and Dunedin between 1950 and 1951.

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



Podcast of the month

Intervista a Elisa Parisi

Elisa è di Albosaggia in Valtellina e da due anni vive a Makikihi, nel distretto di Waimate, sulla costa tra Christchurch e Dunedin. È un paesino con meno di cento abitanti in una zona agricola di allevamenti. Elisa da circa un anno lavora in un allevamento di mucche, prima



era in Australia per tre anni dove lavorava in un'azienda agricola Elisa ci racconta la sua giornata lavorativa a Makikihi che inizia con sveglia alle 3 del mattino per iniziare la mungitura verso le 4. Elisa e altri 2 mungitori hanno 950 mucche da mungere, che in media producono 10-15 litri di latte al giorno. Il lavoro si alterna tra mungiture al mattino e al pomeriggio, manutenzione delle strutture e spostamenti delle mucche ai vari pascoli.

Elisa ha avuto modo di veder il ciclo annuale della dairy farm: l'inseminazione artificiale, la gravidanza delle mucche, la nascita dei vitellini, circa un migliaio, i problemi che possono sorgere, e come affrontarli. Elisa sta pensando di fare un corso per conoscere di più le tecniche di allevamento ed eventualmente diventare manager. Dairy farming in NZ è un settore specializzato, ad esempio le mucche di cui si occupa Elisa hanno una collana e sono monitorate tramite GPS, per seguirne l'attività, la ruminazione, il risposo, anche per segnalare quando la mucca è in calore per procedere all'inseminazione artificiale. Nel tempo libero Elisa è appassionata di escursioni e trekking e un suo progetto futuro è di fare Te Araroa il cammino di 3,000 km che attraversa tutta la Nuova Zelanda da Cape Reinga al Nord to Bluff al Sud...fattibile in quattro mesi.

Click [HERE](#) to listen to the podcast

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la voce degli italiani in NZ

**onda
zzurra**

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



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Bacheca del mese



Ricetta del mese

Baci di dama

The name means literally “Lady’s kisses” and derives from their particular shape, in fact they recall two lips kissing, united by a tasty chocolate cream. These are biscuits made with hazelnut and chocolate filling but you can also use Nutella instead.



Ingredients

- 300 gr di farina 00
- 300 gr di nocciole tostate
- 150 gr di cioccolato fondente
- 200 gr di zucchero
- 200 gr di burro
- 1 bustina di lievito per dolci (16 gr)
- 1 uovo

Lavorate la farina, le nocciole tritate, lo zucchero, il burro, il lievito e l'uovo impastando gli ingredienti fino ad ottenere un composto liscio e omogeneo, quindi formateci una palla e fatela riposare in frigorifero coperta con la pellicola per almeno 30 minuti. Ricavate dall'impasto delle piccole semisfere di circa 5 cm di diametro e disponetele in una teglia foderata con carta da forno.

Cuocete in forno statico già caldo a 150 °C per 10 minuti.

Fate sciogliere il cioccolato a bagnomaria e utilizzatelo per unire due semisfere di biscotto, formando così i baci di dama e fateli freddare prima di servirli cosicché il cioccolato si solidifica e le semisfere rimangano attaccate.

Parole del mese

Fare la vita

Espressione usata più frequentemente in passato, almeno fino a qualche decennio fa, significa esercitare la prostituzione - un'espressione più delicata e meno esplicita.

Molto simile nel significato e' quindi **ragazza di vita**, cioè la prostituta, e anche **ragazzo di vita**, come l'omonimo romanzo di Pier Paolo Pasolini, per indicare chi vive o proviene da un ambiente sociale degradato e violento.

Follow Dante on social media!



arrivederci ad aprile