

Newsletter di aprile

aprile 2017

Dear Dante friends,

"*Sempre caro mi fu quest'ermo colle ...*", I am sure all of you who went to school in Italy will remember the epic first verse of *L'Infinito* by Giacomo Leopardi, the hero of Italian Romanticisms and symbol for all youth's intensity and inner struggle. The Embassy Film Series this month is showing an award-winning biopic of Leopardi's life, **Il Giovane Favoloso** – read the Guardian review on page 2.

To counteract so much sentiment and sensibility, Matteo has written for this newsletter a short but insightful profile of Niccolò Machiavelli, the infamous and often quoted politician, philosopher and writer who often, and sometimes inaccurately, has been depicted as being ruthless, but there is a lot more to discover about this ingenious humanist and founder of political science. Speaking of Matteo, for all those who enjoyed last year's **Laboratorio teatrale**, this year Matteo is organizing a brand new production, and casting will be on 20 April. So don't be shy and have a go!

I'd like to leave you with a helpful pointer on how you can cope with the low blood sugar levels that can result from engaging in all of these highly intellectual activities. Why not try one of **GIAPO**'s amazing icy dessert treats? These are much more than mere ice creams but actual pieces of art, so you don't even need to feel guilty about indulging! GIAPO has just opened a new shop in the CBD and Dante is giving away three vouchers worth \$20 each. Just answer the quiz question on page 5 (correctly) and be in to win.

Buon appetito e buona lettura!

Stefania



Recanati, Marche - Birthplace of Giacomo Leopardi

Il calendario di aprile

- 7 aprile** Embassy Film Series
Il Giovane Favoloso (p.2)
- 9 aprile** Villani Piano Quartet (p.5)
- 20 aprile** Laboratorio Teatrale (p.3)
- 26 aprile** Colazione alla Dante (p.2)
- 26-28 aprile** School Holiday Programme (p.2)
- Every Tuesday and Thursday** Pilates with Fiorella



Seguici!



President: Sir John Kirwan
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School Director: Sandra Fresia
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Freemans Bay Community Centre
52 Hepburn Street,
Freemans Bay, Auckland
Dante office: 09 3763853

P.O. Box 91637, Victoria Street West,
Auckland 1142
info@dante.org.nz



Attività ed eventi



Dante Alighieri Scholarship

Dante Alighieri Society is offering a tuition fees scholarship to one student to support his/her study of Italian at the University of Auckland. The scholarship will cover tuition fees for two courses, Italian 106 and Italian 107, to be taken up in 2017-2018. At [this link](#) you can find more information about the courses.

To be eligible, you must be a New Zealand citizen or permanent resident, and be 25 years old or younger.



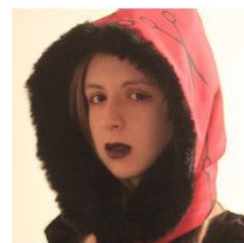
To apply, please send an email to info@dante.org.nz by **30 April 2017** with an up-to-date CV, a written statement (that may include details of your proposed future study and career, any relevant work experience, interests and/or community involvement, your achievements, how this scholarship would be important for you ...) and one written reference. After all applications have been assessed, suitable candidates will be invited for an interview with Dante Alighieri School Committee.

School Holiday Programme

Join us for our SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME
Wednesday 26th - Friday 28th April 2017
9am-1pm at Freeman's Bay Community Centre,
52 Hepburn Street, Auckland.
Lots of fun activities and games and an Italian cooked lunch included each day.
For all children aged 5-10 years old.
Course fee: \$90 per child / \$50 for siblings
Please book either in person, via email
info@dante.org.nz or by telephone 09 3763853

Next Colazione alla Dante, 26 April

Matteo will present some literary work from Viola Di Grado, an acclaimed Italian novelist who will be also at the Auckland Writers Festival on 20 May.
Don't miss it!



Italian Embassy Film Series

Il Giovane Favoloso, 2014. Drama, by Mario Martona
Friday 7 April, 6pm at the University of Auckland, Arts 1, Lecture Theatre 220. Entrance is free and parking is in the Owen G Glenn Building, via Grafton Rd opposite Stanley St.

The film tells the story of the short life of the great Italian poet **Giacomo Leopardi**. He was a noble, born in 1798 in Recanati. He studied Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Aramaic and English in the rich library that his father built in his palace. Giacomo, however, possessing an inquisitive, restless spirit, wanted to travel abroad to widen his views and enrich his knowledge, as was usual for European landed gentry in the 19th century.

"Just before the Venice screening of *Il Giovane Favoloso*, the heavens opened and the rain came down. A spectacular thunderstorm ripped in off the ocean, flaring the clouds, flooding the gutters and abruptly pitching the city towards autumn. The poet Giacomo Leopardi could not have arranged a more appropriate overture.

Hailed as the finest Italian writer since Dante, Leopardi viewed nature as all-conquering, all-consuming and geared towards disaster, at least for the human beings that it holds in its grasp.



Mario Martone's handsome period biopic paints the poet as an intense and sickly youth, given to prostrating himself on riverbanks and peering so closely at books that you fear he might lick them. Leopardi is pulled by agony in one direction and ecstasy in the other. Sooner or later he is sure to break down." From *The Guardian*.
Read [the full article](#).



Teatro



Un nuovo Laboratorio Teatrale alla Dante!

Dopo il successo di *Sik-Sik, L'artefice Magico* (dicembre 2012) e *La biografia di Al* (maggio 2016) Matteo sta organizzando una nuova recita per gli studenti, i membri e gli amici della Dante.

Come sempre, il titolo della rappresentazione è una sorpresa e verrà comunicato agli studenti solo all'inizio degli incontri. I giorni e gli orari di questa classe/laboratorio teatrale verranno stabiliti insieme agli studenti interessati. La precedenza verrà data agli studenti che non hanno partecipato a nessuna delle recite precedenti.

Questa classe/laboratorio teatrale consiste in 10/15 incontri/prove. Probabilmente la classe comincerà all'inizio di maggio e la recita si terrà durante l'inverno, tra luglio e agosto (data da decidere).

I posti sono limitati (massimo 6/8 studenti).

Se siete interessati venite a incontrare Matteo alla Dante, giovedì 20 aprile alle 10.



After the success of *Sik-Sik, l'artefice magico* in December 2012 and *La biografia di Al* (May 2016) Matteo is putting together a new play for Dante students, members and friends.

As usual, the title of the play is a secret and will only be revealed to the students at the beginning of the theatre workshop/class.

The days and hours of the workshop/class will be decided together with the students who are interested. Priority will be given to the students who did not take part in the previous plays.

This Italian language workshop/class consists of 10/15 meetings/rehearsals. The class will probably start at the beginning of May and the play itself will take place during the winter, between July and August (date to be decided).

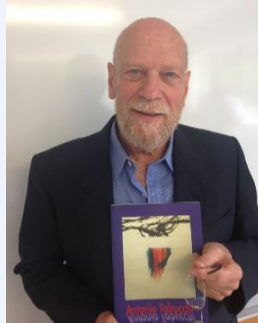
Spaces are limited! (6/8 students max)

If you are interested come and meet Matteo at Dante on Thursday 20 April at 10am.



Colazione alla Dante con Bruno Ferraro

La Colazione alla Dante con Bruno Ferraro è stato un grande successo. Bruno, che ha insegnato in molte università, sia in Italia che all'estero (inclusa l'Università di Auckland) e ha pubblicato molti libri e saggi letterari,



ci ha parlato dell'autore Antonio Tabucchi, in particolare del romanzo *Sostiene Pereira*. È stata un'occasione unica per scoprire qualcosa di nuovo sulla cultura italiana grazie a uno dei suoi più attenti conoscitori.



Un ringraziamento speciale a Bruno per il suo tempo e la sua disponibilità!

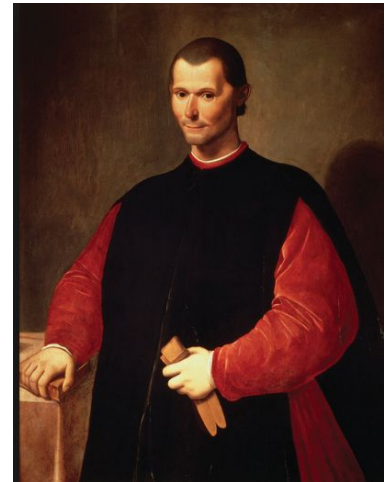


La prossima Colazione alla Dante è sabato 26 aprile!

L'autore del mese: Niccolò Machiavelli

The Florentine Niccolò Machiavelli (1469-1527) is best known for his short treatise on applied political science, *Il Principe* (*The Prince*, ca. 1515), an analysis of the technique to be used by monarchical ruler to gain and keep control of a state. In addition to *The Prince*, Machiavelli wrote a series of discorsi sulla prima deca di Tito Livio (*Reflections on the First Ten Books of Livy*), containing analogous reflections on the relation of the state to its citizens under a republican government; the *Istorie fiorentine* (*History of Florence*) and a semi-fictionalized biography of a fourteenth-century Lucchese tyrant, Castruccio Castracane.

His fictional production was much smaller, and consists principally of two plays, *La Mandragola* (*The Mandrake*) and *Clizia*, plus the short story *Belfagor the Arch-Devil*, which was reproduced in *Italian Stories*, a dual-language book available in the Dante's library (please ask Matteo if you're not sure where to find it).



In *The Prince*, Machiavelli analyzed the procedures to be followed by a ruler, solely from the point of view of their effectiveness, and without regard to the traditional ethics. From this apparent neglect of morality, many readers of Machiavelli have concluded that he was favorable to dishonesty and deceit; especially in Elizabethan times, he was regarded as a base scoundrel who counseled the vilest treachery and the blackest wickedness. In actuality, Machiavelli's analysis of statecraft, both under a monarch in *The Prince* and under a republic in the *Discourses*, was based on dispassionate, scientific analysis of the facts as they exist, not as they are supposed to be according to the prescriptions of moralists. Something of this same objectivity appears in his treatment of a traditional, folkloristic theme in the tale of *Belfagor*. In narrating *Belfagor-Roderick's* marital adventures and ultimate discomfiture, Machiavelli does not take sides, but simply presents events as they happen. Thus, the character of the demon when he assumes the shapes of a man is shown to be inevitably conditioned by the innate drives and passions of the human race.



Attività ed eventi



Villani Piano Quartet's Auckland programme

[Villani Piano Quartet](#) is holding the first concert of their St Heliers Concerts Series, Classical Colours, on 9 April.

Roll on to 7 May when they will play the second concert of the series, Homeland Harmonies, where each member of the quartet will showcase their own instrument whilst performing a piece from their homeland which has personal significance for them.

"We are especially excited to share this concert programme with you all, as we can genuinely say that it comes from the heart!"



9 April 3pm - Classical Colours

7 May 3pm - Homeland Harmonies

23 September 7pm - Candlelight Supper - French Fantasies

Location: St Heliers Centre, St Heliers

Book [here](#)

GIAPO's new location!

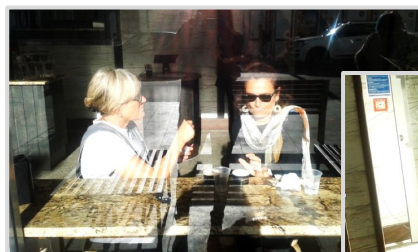
**WIN 3 ICECREAM
VOUCHERS WORTH \$20**

Dear friends and members,
To celebrate the opening of the new GIAPO icecream shop at 12 Gore Street **we are giving away three vouchers of \$20 each kindly offered by GIAPO** to the first three members who can answer this question:
What is the main ingredient of gelato artigianale?
Please send an email with your answer to info@dante.org.nz writing GIAPO in the subject line.
The first three correct answers that we receive will win a voucher!

Meanwhile Sandra, Fiorella e Flavia paid a visit to the new innovative, creative and beautiful shop and met Gianpaolo and Annarosa!



You will be surprised! With its big windows facing the road, the shop has plenty of light, so much that Flavia and Sandra had to keep their sunglasses on! There is no icecream cabinet anymore but a lovely hostess welcomes you and explains the menu. Lastly a mysterious word on the menu: *Discombobulating*. We can't wait to taste it! It's going to be another unique GIAPO experience!



Grazie Annarosa e
Gianpaolo!



Visit the new shop at 12 Gore Street, CBD
open every day from 12pm till late.

[Discover here GIAPO's exclusive creations!](#)





Profilo del mese



This month's profile: Anna Beresford

I started learning Italian in 1976 when I returned to Auckland after spending a few years in England. I had met a New Zealand girl in Florence who was working in a jewellery store on the Ponte Vecchio. It seemed like a dream job in one of my favourite places in Italy and I wanted to follow her example. Unfortunately, my first attempt to study Italian only lasted until the weather got cold and wet. In those days I rode a motorbike and lived at Huapai, a long way from the Continuing Education course at the University of Auckland.



Anna enjoying an Aperol Spritz in Pompei.

My second attempt to learn Italian was in South Ealing, London in 2011-12. The classes were in the evening at a local secondary school and were 75 minutes long. Our teacher had to show that she was keeping to the curriculum and so we had a lot of tests. It made the classes quite stressful. All the same, I did learn a lot and was determined to carry on when we came home. I have been going to Dante on Friday morning for two years and it is the highlight of my week.

Sandra is a great teacher. The lessons are stimulating and my fellow classmates are "molto simpatici". We are learning at a pace that suits us all with frequent revision. We started out as absolute beginners and are now beginners stage 4 so we're making good progress. I would recommend Dante to anyone who wants to learn Italian in a fun and relaxed way.



One thing I would recommend for new students is to keep your notes together in a file of some sort so they are easy to refer to. You will be surprised at how quickly the file grows. And it's a good way to measure how much you are learning. I try to do some Italian study every day with the help of Duolingo and the text books that I have gathered over the years. My 1976 class text is a bit out of date now, but it covers a lot of the basics.

Peter and I have been to Tuscany a few times now and I think it is our favourite region in Italy. However, in June 2015 we stayed in Naples and enjoyed its vibrancy. From Napoli Centrale you can take the Circumvesuviana train which goes to Sorrento via Herculaneum and Pompei. We also took a ferry to Sorrento and a bus to Amalfi which was another highlight of our visit. I wish that we had spent more time in Naples, but then I wish the same thing about every place we have visited in Italy.

On the same trip in 2015 we hired a car and drove from Pisa to Pistoia to Sansepolcro on the border of Tuscany and Umbria where we stayed for a week. We drove on to Bologna, Padova and Verona, then took a train to Milano. With hindsight we should have stayed in fewer places for longer, but that's a lesson learned for our next trip. We hope to visit Italy again next year.



Gli amici della Dante



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Radio Cartolina

5 April: Anna Citelli and Raoul Bretzel are the creators of Capsula Mundi, an innovative design for green burial. Theirs was one of the 100 projects chosen to celebrate the Italian Day of Design worldwide, on the 2 March 2017. On that day, 100 “ambassadors” of Italian design covering all possible fields, brought their selected project to a new country, and opened a discussion with interested parties. In Christchurch Anna and Raoul have been at the ARA. In this programme they tell about the inception of the burial concept, in which a body, (or its ashes) is enclosed in an egg-shaped biodegradable shell and buried, with a new tree growing on top. The egg is seen as a powerful symbol of rebirth, and the tree as a way to reconnect with the eternal cycle of nature. We play *Via del Campo* by Fabrizio De Andre', with its poignant line “dai diamanti non nasce niente, dal letame nascono i fiori”.

19 April: “Jenny Mallinson’s Italian campaign” is about a research that she has carried out on the itinerary from Taranto to Trieste of the 2nd NZ Division during WWII. Jenny, originally from Christchurch, has been living in Verona for more than 40 years. When her Italian friends started discovering the presence, and the important role of the New Zealand troops in many battles of the war, and started asking her questions in this regard, she decided to become more knowledgeable. So her “campaign” started, and you will hear in this programme how it continued. I will play: *Blue Smoke*, the iconic song that accompanied the New Zealand troops on the voyage to Europe, in an original recording of 1948 by the Ruru Karaitiana Quintet, and sung by Pixie Williams, and *Vivere*, 1937, sung by Carlo Buti.

Radio Cartolina is the radio programme “For those who remember Italy and who dream of it”. It has been produced since 1999 under the patronage of Società Dante Alighieri Christchurch, and is aired locally through community radio Plains FM 96.9.

<http://plainsfm.org.nz> is where you can find all recent programmes in podcast.

Cartolina wishes all listeners Buona Pasqua.

Buon Ascolto from the producer Wilma Laryn.

Aforismi del mese

Di Niccolò Machiavelli

“La natura ha creato gli uomini in modo che desiderino ogni cosa e non possono conseguire ogni cosa: talchè essendo sempre maggiore il desiderio che la potenza di acquistare, ne risulta la mala contentezza di quello che si possiede e la poca soddisfazione.”

“E poiché la fortuna vuol fare ogni cosa, ella si vuole lasciarla fare, stare quieto e non le dare briga, e aspettar tempo che la lasci fare qualche cosa agl'huomini.”

“Dal momento che l'amore e la paura possono difficilmente coesistere, se dobbiamo scegliere fra uno dei due, è molto più sicuro essere temuti che amati.”

Proofreading provided by:

Michelle Vollemaere

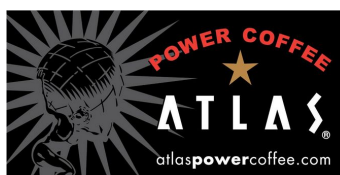
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