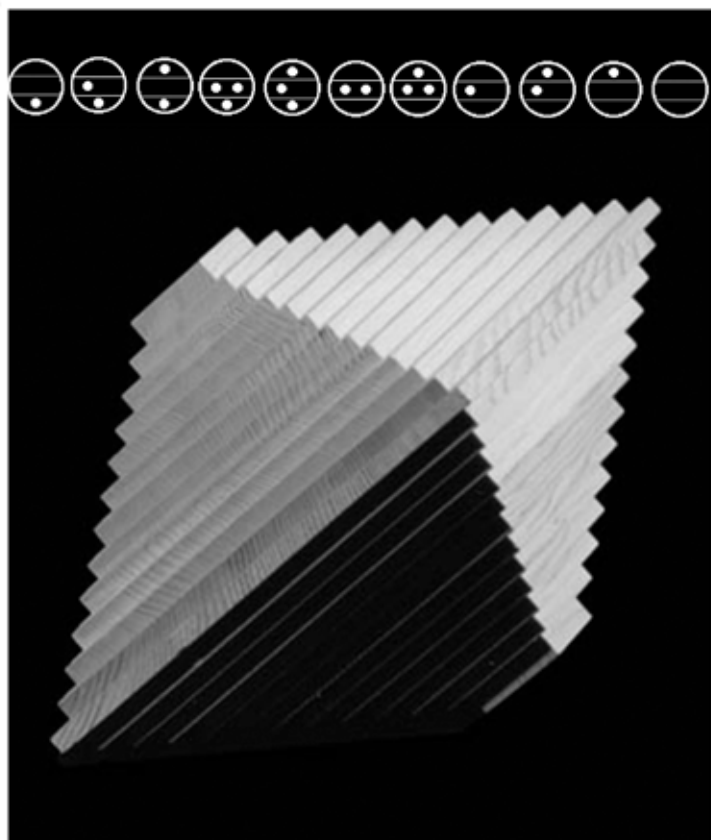


THE ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.'S

# ACCORDION REVIEW



VOLUME 28, ISSUE 1, MARCH 2011

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## FROM THE FEDERAL PRESIDENT/CO-MUSICAL DIRECTOR

A warm welcome to 2011 to all members, I hope it is a safe, happy and healthy year for all filled with music, particularly in light of the recent natural disasters that have taken place throughout the world.

Our thoughts and best wishes go to all members and communities who were affected by the January floods in Queensland, NSW and Victoria. To all our friends in Christchurch, New Zealand, our thoughts are with you as you deal with the earthquake and the devastation it has brought with it. To all who have been affected by the Tsunami in Japan are thoughts and best wishes are also with you.

The music community has been activate in participating at fundraising events for all these disasters and to our members who participated in fundraising concerts – it has been great to see a great show of comradeship.

On to happier news our NSW member Bin Lui had great success with his Encore performance at the Sydney Opera House. Many fantastic reviews of this event have been received.

We have been chasing past champions of the ASA to provide us with biographical detail and current happenings to form articles or the review. If you know any past champions who are no longer members of the ASA could you please forward us details so we can approach them.

While watching channel 7 Sunrise I spotted one of our former members and great competitor from Melbourne Mark Wallace. Mark was part of the highly successful Australian band Wedding, Parties, Anything, but is currently working with Jimmy Barnes and was playing accordion on one of the tracks of Jimmy's new CD.

A big milestone is being marked in the history of the NZAA – their 40th anniversary celebrations in June. The celebration weekend will also see the retirement of long standing president of the NZAA John Statham. John has been an enthusiastic supporter of the accordion throughout the years and we wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

Please remember to contact either the President, Accordion Review editor or the Publicity Officer with any information, snippets or gossip, upcoming performances that you might like covered in the review. We look forward to hearing from all our members

Happy Reading and Happy Practicing

Dr. Elizabeth Jones DCA (UWS) BMus (Syd.Uni)

## NEWS FROM VICTORIA

Hello everyone. We had a good start to the year with our annual picnic which was quite well attended. It was great to see Guenter Zalisz, who has been in less than fabulous health recently, making the effort to attend with his wife Margaret. Our thanks go to Edda and John Klug who bravely arrived at the park at 5am to reserve the barbeque and rotunda! Our friend John De Cru sadly passed away recently and his wife kindly sent his library of music along for ASA members to peruse and buy. Happily most of it sold.

Plans are well underway for the Victorian Championships which will be held on the weekend of 18th and 19th June. The exact date and times will be announced shortly as will the list of sections and entry details.

April 27th will see a performance by the combined Victorian accordion orchestras, the Big Squeeze Band and the Melbourne Accordion Orchestra, at the wonderful Melbourne Recital Centre as part of an Italian music day featuring renowned international group, Banditaliana from Tuscany. They have an excellent accordion player, Riccardo Tesi. You can find out more about this concert on the ABC Radio National website and here is a link to youtube. Have a look...they're great!  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIUyQnCxlPo&feature=player\\_embedded](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIUyQnCxlPo&feature=player_embedded)

We are also in discussions with Multicultural Arts Victoria and ABC Radio National regarding concerts we wish to stage later in the year. We are hoping to feature Enzo Toppano again as the response to his appearance last year has been excellent. A second concert featuring Joe Ruberto and myself is also in the planning stages. Those of you who enjoyed our performance at the National Championships in Melbourne last year will want to keep your calendars free for this one.

I am happy to note that at the last assessment meetings of the music board of the Australia Council the chair, Dr Matthew Hindson, remarked to me over lunch that he had seen the most amazing accordion player at the annual Encore concert at the Opera House. He said that while there was chatter during many of the performances the room fell completely silent for Bin Lu. I filled him in with a little more information about Bin of course!

Finally, the Big Squeeze Band has released it's CD titled Intermezzo. It sounds great and already nearly half the copies have been sold. You can see the band and buy the CD on line.

[http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Big-Squeeze-Band/117700394975056?v=app\\_2405167945](http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Big-Squeeze-Band/117700394975056?v=app_2405167945)

<http://www.reverbNation.com/thebigsqueezeband>

and at the Victorian website

[http://www.accordionsocietyofaustraliavic.org.au/news\\_&\\_gallery.html](http://www.accordionsocietyofaustraliavic.org.au/news_&_gallery.html)

Best wishes til next time,

George Butrumlis.

President, Victorian Committee.

## FROM THE BEDIC MUSIC STUDIO

Dear accordion friends, I would like to share with you a truly wonderful concert experience. On the 7th of February 2011 Bin Lu performed at the HSC ENCORE concert at the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall. I attended both the matinee and evening concerts at which the performers played to a capacity crowd. The concert programme was filled with a truly amazing array of talent which included percussionists, vocalists, flautists, pianists, guitarists, cellists etc and of course our own accordionist, Bin Lu. Following both of Bin's performances he received a rapturous round of applause accompanied with ear piercing screaming from the audience. It felt like we were at a rock concert.

It was great to share this experience with a few friends and Bin's parents who flew in all the way from China to see him perform. Needless to say, they were extremely proud parents on the day. I was also very pleasantly surprised by Ross Maio on the night. It was great to see him and Li Li and to share this rare experience with them.

There was a bit of disappointment though, when Bin wasn't provided with two microphones as we requested and the volume level was a bit on the low side. Ross and I passionately discussed this and had a laugh about how a violin could be louder than an accordion.

Nevertheless, having said all of this, I have received many very positive comments and accolades for Bin's performances from several unrelated sources, including one from George Butrumlis who wrote, "At the recent Music Board meetings of the Australia Council for the Arts, the chair, Dr Matthew Hindson, told me over lunch that he saw the most amazing accordion player at the annual Encore concert at the Opera House." Another was from the head of music at my daughter's school, St Vincent's College. They even mentioned the amazing accordionist in the school's news letter yet they had no idea that I was his teacher. It was wonderful to hear that Bin and the accordion has received some well deserved recognition. Please join me in congratulating Bin on this outstanding achievement.

Bin has also received a 94.75 ATAR in his HSC and has chosen to study Design and Architecture at Sydney University. He is also hoping to have enough time to prepare for his AMusA and LMusA accordion diplomas in the not too distant future.



Hot Off The Press:

## AMEB Accordion Syllabi update

I have just spoken to Bernard Depasquale, Manager AMEB Federal, about the review of the Accordion syllabi and unfortunately things are not looking very positive due to the dwindling numbers in candidates sitting for accordion exams. For example, there were apparently only three candidates who sat for exams in 2010 and I examined all three. Bernard advised that it may be risky to actually put the accordion syllabi up to the AMEB Board for review due to the extremely low candidate numbers. The reason being, if the accordion syllabi are not producing enough revenue for the AMEB, they could be deemed non profitable and hence be withdrawn altogether.

I have proposed to him a solution of own choice pieces for lists A to D which would need to be submitted by teachers to the AMEB approval for every candidate. This process would of course have a resource impact on the AMEB for approvals. He is considering this option and is having a look at Elizabeth's proposed Accordion Syllabi which were submitted to the AMEB back in 2005. Unfortunately, they were never approved by the AMEB Board at the time and still haven't been to date.

In the mean time, it is of utmost importance that all accordion teachers Australia wide enroll as many students for accordion exams as possible, otherwise we may very well face the inevitable of having the accordion syllabi being withdrawn altogether. This would be a terrible tragedy for the whole Australian accordion community. Your support and assistance in this regard would be very much appreciated.

Zeljko Bedic

Director - Bedic Music Studio

ASA TDip, MMTA, MASA, MAATA

Australian Music Examination Board (AMEB) Diploma Examiner

Sydney Conservatorium / Sydney University Accredited

NSW Music Teachers Association (MTA) Accredited

## CORDI'S COLUMN

The other week as I was looking through some archival material for ideas for this column I came across an article in the 'Music Forum' – journal of the Joint Council of NSW Music Organisations and dated January 1982. The article titled "The English Concertina – Squeeze Box or ...?" by Alex Richards is about the history of the instrument and how in its heyday it was accepted orchestrally. Today it is a largely forgotten art. It begins:- "It would be hard to imagine Tchaikovsky, Rossini and some other serious composers of the years 1860 to 1930 spending time writing for the box-mouthorgans of our bush bands and shearing sheds. But these composers wrote for the English Concertina"

Orchestras of the 19th century in Italy and England included the English Concertina in their repertoires. The instrument was invented by the physicist Charles Wheatstone

in 1827. Remodelled in the 1860s and by the 1920s reached a high standard of perfection and is claimed to be the only musical instrument originating in England. It is a compact, fully chromatic free reed instrument with a range of three and a half to five and a quarter octaves depending on the model. It was powered by bellows and could be played standing up or seated with the instrument resting on one knee. The full range of models from soprano to contra bass was designed to cover the entire compass of the orchestra. Individual instruments can cope with anything written for their orchestra counterparts. Concertina players could perform whatever music was written be it simple or involved. It is said the best instruments were built to give two hundred years of service with minimum maintenance. The treble concertina with 48 keys is adapted for fast and brilliant playing and has a virtuoso capacity in the fields of concerto, harmony and accompaniment. The tenor concertina 56 or 64 keys is especially suited to majestic harmonies. The baritone concertina of 48 keys has reeds larger and heavier than the other models lends itself to accompaniment work in particular.



I remember my Grandfather playing the concertina when I was a child!

*Cordi.*

#### A SHORT HISTORY OF ASA (cont)

Congress 2002 received reports from NSW and Victorian Divisions. Tony Andrios reported on the activities of the AMEB. The accordion syllabus is now separate from the main syllabus and is available on line. Eventually all instruments syllabuses will be separate and on line. Some music which was thought to be out of publication is now available on line. A new search engine is being developed by Harley Jones via [www.accordions.com](http://www.accordions.com) with Deffner and Berben publications on line. Following on from this it was noted that the ASA library was being reorganized and catalogued.

The Victorian report was presented. At this time Victoria did not have a President or formal committee. Ian Southwood was acting as chairperson. Since the last congress the Bavarian Youth Orchestra had performed in Melbourne, James Crabb (accordionist) and Bollette Roed (recorder) had performed with the Australian Chamber Orchestra and as a duo at other venues in Melbourne. It was anticipated that a general meeting should be held as soon as possible to form a committee and generally organizing more involvement. Not having an orchestra limits contacts. Rob Scott-Mitchell presented the Accordion Review report and again urged more input from various States and individuals. The man hours involved were many. This was endorsed by June Jones and John Cras who see to the actual photocopying, folding, stapling and posting the magazine, as well as contributing. The satisfaction obtained from the completion of each magazine was very rewarding.

The idea of fundraising had taken hold and the co-musical directors' report gave



the dates for the Accordion Orchestra competition in Innsbruck Austria as June 10-13 2004. At present the orchestra consists of members from NSW Division ; but members from affiliated groups (eg New Zealand) and other States in Australia will be welcome to join the orchestra. In her report Federal President expanded on the visit of James Crabb and Bollette Roed, who had a successful trip to Sydney and the Eastern coast of Australia. James' concert with the Australian Chamber Orchestra was well received by the public and his debut of Elena Kats-Chernin's work for Accordion, Piano and small chamber group Torque was great. The planned AMEB workshop did not eventuate due to lack of interest by the AMEB. The NSW Division hosted a successful concert/workshop in Haberfield on a Monday night in place of the usual orchestra rehearsal. It was good to have the opportunity to hear such talented performers.

A new category was implemented at this year's Festival. The suggestion came from Chelsey Mayes a young member from NZ: new ages classes for up to one years playing. A bid to attract younger players.

The visiting orchestra this year was the Reunion Philharmonic Accordeon Orchestra. The orchestra and individual members made a great contribution to the competition part of the Festival. This was a Festival with many highlights. It was certainly an educational experience to see 20 accordions combined with brass and woodwind instruments. Grant 'Yogi' Martin (Qld.) presented an enjoyable workshop which appealed to young and old alike. The culmination of the week was the Gala concert at Club Marconi to an audience of over 400 people. The combined orchestra performed beautifully as did the other performers. The list included the Reunion Island Philharmonic Orchestra, Ross Maio, 'Yogi', Elizabeth Jones, June and Gary Stratton (NZ) ACE (NSW) and Noteable Soundz (NZ). A great night was had by all!

The Presentation Dinner was followed by impromptu performances by June and Gary Stratton, Lorraine Parnell and the great Enzo Toppano.

After the Festival the Reunion Islands Orchestra went to Armidale to perform several concerts. They travelled by coach escorted by Alan and Elizabeth Jones. It was certainly a very busy time for promoting the accordion.

Categories for age competitions had altered in 2001 to bring them into line with other international categories. This had been trialled in 2001 and in time for 2002 the perpetual trophies had new plaques made to reflect this – but still retaining the original trophies.

The Accordion Review published in September 2002 has a number of worthwhile stories and accounts of the Festival week, which attest to just how successful this Festival had been.

(to be contd.)



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In the December edition of the Accordion Review I expressed a desire to run a series about past Accordion Champions from 1970 to present day. At every annual ASA Festival, Australian National and Australasian Championships are held. The response was extremely disappointing. But I do have to congratulate ASA members past and present in Queensland for their positive and encouraging replies. A big 'thank you' to Beverly Creber who supplied names and addresses, Valda Doyle for information, Julie and Joseph Castorina who have agreed to help and lastly Rhonda Bates (nee Creber) for sending her information. I am pleased to be able to start my project with Rhonda's bio and photo. For anyone who was lucky enough to be in Mackay in 1987 for the ASA Festival it was wonderfully organized, well attended and for the first time the Salfelden Accordion Orchestra came to Australia, also the Roskill Accordion School from New Zealand with Ed McCullough. At the Festival concert in the Mackay theatre no one could forget Rhonda's performance as Charlie Chaplin with which she won the Showmanship Category.

Because of the natural disasters which have overtaken Queensland since the December Accordion Review I have, out of respect, not followed up the information received but I will do so. Our heartfelt sympathy and good wishes go to all Queenslanders – especially those we know.

Victoria also suffered from nature's disasters, but I am hoping for some info as life returns to 'normal'.

NSW only one reply.

Where are the rest of you!!!

Now back to the beginning and it is fitting to start with Rhonda Bates (nee Creber) as she was the first Australasian Champion – Stradella. Followed by the current Australasian champion, Bin Lu

June Jones.

### BIOGRAPHY - RHONDA BATES (NEE CREBER)

A lot of water has passed under the bridge since winning Stradella Australasian competition in 1980, National Stradella Championship in 1982 and Australasian Classical Championships in 1984 and 1985.

I am still playing the accordion at social engagements and concerts.

I married Wade in 1991 and we are now the proud parents of 10 year old twins, Kendall and Dana.

My business does not allow time for teaching music anymore; however I am involved at the primary school education level with concert band and accompanying of school choirs.

Both Dana and Kendall are musical: Dana on trumpet and Kendall on trombone. As a family we performed at our local carols night and were called the "Von Bates" family, likening us to the famous "Von Trapp" family. Kendall and Dana also dance, tap and jazz, as well as participate in Athletics. With a busy family life there is no time for relaxing. In fact, much to my Mum's surprise, I have even learnt to sew dance costumes.

I have fond memories of my younger years competing in accordion festivals and of all the special people I met over the years. A special thanks goes to Mrs Lidia Rokic, who taught me from age 9 through to Teachers Diploma Level and all competitions etc in between, Mr Bert Beaton (decd) who became an inspiration to a very nervous examination student, sitting for her first practical examination, and of course Mrs Elsa Brandman who helped polish the knowledge for my Teachers Diploma.

It is with great pleasure that I peruse Mum's copy of the Accordion Review and now even have Ross Maio and Guy Scalise as Facebook friends. "Got to love the internet!"

My business is now up for sale so who knows what the future may bring – maybe a little more music.

It is great to see the ASA going from strength to strength. Well done.

Yours musically,

Rhonda Bates (nee Creber)



## BIOGRAPHY OF THE PRESENT AUSTRALASIAN CHAMPION - BIN LU.

Bin Lu was born in China in 1991 and, influenced by his cousin, became interested in music and the piano accordion while in kindergarten at the age of five in TaiYuan JinShan art school. With the support of his parents, Bin's talent with the accordion developed during his early school years. In 2004, Bin progressed from the 120 Standard Bass to the Free-Bass Button Accordion and in 2006 won Gold and Bronze awards in

the Junior Class at the Beijing National Accordion Festival. Following this Bin was invited to perform in ShanXi province at the 8th disabled sports opening ceremony(TV alive). He achieved Excellent in the Chinese musicians association 10th. grade (highest grade) in 2008.

Bin moved to Australia in early 2009 as a Year 11 student at the Northern Beaches Secondary College, Freshwater Senior Campus and continued his music studies with support from his school music teacher, Mr Hasan Shanal, who frequently provided Bin with a lot of opportunities to show on the stage in the school assemblies. Bin also commenced advanced private tuition with Mr Zeljko Bedic, a highly regarded Sydney music teacher, examiner and accordion specialist. Under Mr Bedic's guidance and encouragement, Bin's achievements have risen to new heights having won the following top-level championships in 2010:

Australian Accordion Teachers Association (AATA), 2010 Australian International Accordion Championships and Festival

- f* International Accordion Open Solo Champion
- f* International Open Junior Virtuoso Champion - 20 yrs and under
- f* Button Accordion Solo Champion
- f* Open Free Bass Solo Champion

Accordion Society of Australia (ASA) International and National Accordion Championships and Festival

- f* Australasian Accordion Champion
- f* Australian National Open Age Standard Bass Accordion Champion
- f* Australian National Open Age Free Bass Accordion Champion

Accordion Society of Australia (ASA) NSW State Accordion Championships

- f* NSW State Accordion Champion
- f* Open Age Standard Bass Accordion Champion
- f* Open Age Free Bass Accordion Champion
- f* Jazz Accordion Champion

These achievements confirm Bin Lu at the top of his art as a Standard and Free Bass accordionist in Australia, Australasia and beyond.



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NATIONAL CHAMPIONS SINCE THE INAUGURATION OF THE A.S.A.  
NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

<b>Free Bass</b>	<b>Stradella</b>	<b>City of Festival</b>
1972 Cheryl Freeman NSW	Kemal Bunguric NSW	Nov. 1971 Sydney NSW
1973 Ross Lombardo NSW	Gabriella Pusner NSW	May 1973 Townsville QLD
1974 Ross Lombardo NSW	Gabriella Pusner NSW	May 1974 Sydney NSW
1975 Ross Lombardo NSW	Ian Southwood VIC	May 1975 Cairns QLD
1976 Ross Lombardo NSW	Ian Southwood VIC	May 1976 Melbourne VIC
1977 Catherine Jackett NSW	Julie Mercer QLD	May 1977 Canberra ACT
1978 Catherine Jackett NSW	Nerida Farmer QLD	May 1978 Sydney NSW
1979 Severino Guiducci NSW	Sebastian Dimarco NSW	May 1979 Adelaide SA
1980 Ronaldo Taviani QLD	Not Awarded	
1981 Bradley Voltz QLD	Heather Nibloe QLD	May 1981 Melbourne VIC
1982 Not Awarded	Rhonda Creber QLD	May 1982 Sydney NSW
1983 Catherine Jackett NSW	Catherine Jackett NSW	May 1983 Adelaide SA
1984 Not Awarded	Not Awarded	May 1984 Cairns QLD
1985 Not Awarded	Angie Cuzzibo QLD	May 1985 Melbourne VIC
1986 Not Awarded	Cornelia Eutropius NSW	May 1986 Sydney NSW
1987 Elizabeth Jones NSW	Tim Berger QLD	July 1987 Mackay QLD
1988 Cornelia Eutropius NSW	Joseph Castorina QLD	July 1988 Sydney NSW
1989 Not Awarded	Giancarlo Ursino NSW	July 1989 Melbourne VIC
1990 Elizabeth Jones NSW	Rebekah Greig NZ	July 1990 Sydney NSW
1991 Elizabeth Jones NSW	Joseph Castorina QLD	July 1991 Gold Coast QLD
1992 Elizabeth Jones NSW	Julie Castorina QLD	July 1992 Christchurch NZ

1993	Not Awarded	Beni Dimitrioski NSW	July 1993 Melbourne VIC
1994	Bernadette Conlon VIC	Jonathan Eutropius NSW	July 1994 Sydney NSW
1995	Bernadette Conlon VIC	Bernadette Conlon VIC	July 1995 Cairns QLD
1996	Bernadette Conlon VIC	Bernadette Conlon VIC	July 1996 Sydney NSW

In 1997 the National Titles were altered. One Championship Title was awarded. The New Australian National Accordion Championship Perpetual Trophy is the Bel-tuna Award. The perpetual trophies, which were given for a one year guardianship were donated by Giulietti (free bass) and Pietro Deiro & Bert Beaton (stradella bass) with the honour boards, were placed in the archives.

1997	Not Awarded		July 1997 Gold Coast QLD
1998	Oliver Jovanovski NSW		July 1998 Sydney NSW
1999	Alan Zvirkić NSW		July 1999 Melbourne VIC
2000	No Competitors		July 2000 Adelaide SA
2001	Not Awarded		July 2001 Gold Coast QLD
2002	Ann-Elise Koerntjes VIC		July 2002 Sydney NSW
2003	Anton Wurzer ACT		July 2003 Sydney NSW
2004	Ann-Elise Koerntjes VIC		Oct 2004 Queanbeyan ACT
2005	Ann-Elise Koerntjes VIC		July 2005 Melbourne VIC
2006	No Competitors		Oct 2006 Gold Coast QLD
2007	Not Awarded		July 2007 Sydney NSW
2008	No Competitors		Oct 2008 Glenelg SA
2009	No Competitors		May 2009 Sydney NSW
NSW State Championship combined the 2 top classes of the National Festival, to accommodate the large number of people travelling to NZ for the Coupe Mondial.			
2010	No Competitors		July 2010 Melbourne VIC

1980 saw the Inauguration of the Australasian Championship. Titles in both Free Bass and Stradella Bass were awarded.



<b>Free Bass</b>	<b>Stradella</b>	<b>City of Festival</b>
1980 Not Awarded	Rhonda Creber QLD	
1981 Not Awarded	Silvio Lo Proto NSW	May 1981 Melbourne VIC
1982 Elizabeth Jones NSW	Silvio Lo Proto NSW	May 1982 Sydney NSW
1983 Branco Tomasic VIC	Catherine Jackett NSW	May 1983 Adelaide SA
1984 Rhonda Creber QLD	Tim Berger QLD	May 1984 Cairns QLD
1985 Rhonda Creber QLD	Anthony Fong NZ	May 1985 Melbourne VIC
1986 Anthony Shulz VIC	Angie Cuzzubo QLD	May 1986 Sydney NSW
1987 Dean Rokic QLD	Nick Kalkbrenner VIC	July 1987 Mackay QLD
1988 Cornelia Eutropius NSW	Giancarlo Ursino NSW	July 1988 Sydney NSW
1989 Elizabeth Jones NSW	Joseph Castorina QLD	July 1989 Melbourne VIC
1990 Elizabeth Jones NSW	Joseph Castorina QLD	July 1990 Sydney NSW
1991 Elizabeth Jones NSW	Joseph Castorina QLD	July 1991 Gold Coast QLD
1992 Elizabeth Jones NSW	Julie Castorina QLD	July 1992 Christchurch NZ
1993 Not Awarded	Vince Fuda NSW	July 1993 Melbourne VIC
1994 Not Awarded	Vince Fuda NSW	July 1994 Sydney NSW
1995 Bernadette Conlon VIC	Vince Fuda NSW	July 1995 Cairns QLD
1996 Not Awarded	Bernadette Conlon VIC	July 1996 Sydney NSW

The perpetual trophies which were given for a one year guardianship, were donated by Heinz Dabernig (free bass) and E & R Lindsay (stradella bass), were placed in the archives.

In 1997 the Australasian Titles were altered. One Championship Title was awarded. The New Australasian Accordion Championship Perpetual Trophy is the Accordions'n Folk Award.

1997 Paula Harris NZ		July 1997 Gold Coast QLD
1998 Paula Harris NZ		July 1998 Sydney NSW
1999 Not Awarded		July 1999 Melbourne VIC

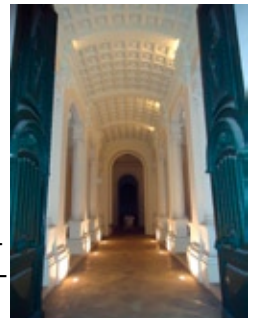
2000	No Competitors	July 2000 Adelaide SA
2001	Ann-Elise Koerntjes VIC	July 2001 Gold Coast QLD
2002	Not Awarded	July 2002 Sydney NSW
2003	Ying (Linda) Gu NSW	July 2003 Sydney NSW
2004	Chelsey Mayes NZ	Oct 2004 Queanbeyan NSW
2005	Ann-Elise Koerntjes VIC	July 2005 Melbourne VIC
2006	Ann-Elise Koerntjes VIC	Oct 2006 Gold Coast QLD
2007	Lina Chegodaev NSW	July 2007 Sydney NSW
2008	No Competitors	Oct 2008 Glenelg SA
2009	No Competitors	May 2009 Sydney NSW
NSW State Championship combined the 2 top classes of the National Festival, to accommodate the large number of people travelling to NZ for the Coupe Mondial.		
2010	Bin Lu	July 2010 Melbourne VIC

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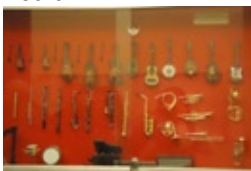
### VISIT TO THE CONSERVATORIUM OF PESCARA

On Thursday 13th and Friday 14th January my family and I visited the Conservatorium of Pescara, Italy situated on the Adriatic seaside of Italy, 210 Kilometres right of Rome.

I was lucky enough to meet with Professor Livio Bernardi who had visited Australia on two occasions. Prof. Bernardi took me on a tour of the campus. The Conservatorium had just been restored, it is a beautiful building with magnificent architecture. I was also shown the new concert hall and a tour of the Conservatorium including the practice rooms. Professor Bernardi also presented me with a book of Folk Songs for the region of Abbruzzi.

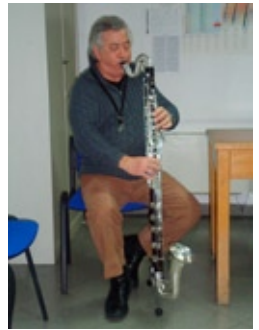


This year the Conservatorium commenced the Diploma on Accordions and there was much enthusiasm and excitement that this instrument was being added to their curriculum.



On Friday I was invited to meet with an Accordion Maestro "Paulo" who had a very large and vast library of Accordion Music. The Maestro presented me with a score for our Orchestra that we will be commencing later this year.

From here I travelled to Sicily where Dominique and I stayed at the Historical Town of Savoca. This is the small town where a several scenes from the Godfather Film was filmed. We visited Bar Vitelli – the Wedding scene of Michael and Apollonia and also visited the church that they were married in. We also visited the town of Forza d'Agro that appears in the Godfather II Movie.



Dominique and I were also fortunate enough to spend a few days with Samuele Galeano who has been playing the violin since the age of 3. Samuele is Concert Master for the famous Conductor Riccardo Muti.

Amelia Granturco

### FRENCH CABARET SHOW

A couple of month ago, Sarah Dunn (from orchestra) gave me contact details of a French band which is currently in the process of being put together. They were looking for an accordionist who was originally from France or who spoke the language fluently. I called them one night and introduced myself. They explained to me what they wanted to achieve with the band and what they needed me for. I then agreed to meet up with them and took 1 audition which was successfull. The band consists of singers, keyboard player, drummer, bass guitar, electric guitar, violin and accordion. The name of the band was just released a couple of weeks ago "La Bande Originale". This band works with the French Cabaret show, which includes the choir, burlesque, the can-can, el cirque and aerial.

The Sydney French Music and Dance Company Presents  
**FRENCH CABARET EXTRAVAGANZA!**  
In the tradition of Moulin Rouge  
Live music - Burlesque - Cabaret  
**Saturday 26th March 2011**  
A mesmerizing French musical journey through the cabarets and theatres of Paris  
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Paris by Night  
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Paris Can-Can Dancers  
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\$30 all show  
\$45 + bf dinner and show  
\$22 + bf show only (concession applies check website for details)  
7:00 pm doors open for dinner  
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[www.noteslive.net.au](http://www.noteslive.net.au)  
[www.oztix.com.au](http://www.oztix.com.au) / phone: 95575111 or 1300762545

For the moment I haven't been playing with the bande yet as most of the songs they are playing have no accordion in it but I will eventually play with them gigs as well as solo's. On the 27th of Febuary, we had a photoshoot/film/gig "French music" at Darlinghurst at the Victoria Restaurant. I played solo for half and hour of traditional french songs and it was a great success. Here is their site on facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100000770135344#/pages/French-Cabaret/197665180259787?sk=wall>

We will be playing on the 26th of march I have attached the advertisement.

Mathilde Auroux

## THE NZAA IS TURNING 40

2011 is the year that we celebrate 40 years of the NZAA.

We want to gather the people that have been involved with the NZAA throughout our history. To do this we will need help from our current members to track down our past members. If you can help with this please contact [nzaasecretary@yahoo.com](mailto:nzaasecretary@yahoo.com)

The committee would also like to take the opportunity of gathering material from these 40 years & archiving them for display at the 2011 NZAA Competitions & Festival then they can be correctly stored at the Dargaville Museum.

If possible these archives could be digitized and available for reproduction. Do any of our members have access to this technology?

A link [space4u.com](http://space4u.com) 40th website will be set up to gather this material so it can be viewed.

Plans are underway for a Celebration massed orchestra to perform on the 29/5/11 in Dargaville and at the NZAA Competitions & Festival 4-5/6/11.

We will be asking all previous NZAA Champions to perform – so start practicing!

The History of the Accordion in New Zealand book commissioned by the NZAA some years ago is being updated for these celebrations.

Many people have old photos, LP's, videos, recordings, uniforms etc that would be of use for this project.

Please let your committee know of how you can help

### DARGAVILLE MUSEUM DAY TRIP

The Accordion Gems Museum display room in Dargaville is connected to an Exhibition room, where at various times they have had such displays as wedding dresses, ball gowns etc. Kevin Friedrich has booked this Exhibition Room from March 2011 through to Queens Birthday Weekend to make and display an exhibition of the history of the Accordion in New Zealand in honor of the NZAA's 40th Anniversary. Heather Masefield and Maurice Jones have been extremely instrumental in providing numerous items over the last few years including instruments (such as the first free bass instrument into NZ), pictures, press information, program books from the NZAA from 1971 onwards etc... which will be used in this exhibit. Dargaville has been a tremendous supporter of accordion activities, even long after the last studio disbanded more than 30 years ago. Ben and Doreen Emmett (Dargaville) and Keith Griggs (Whangarei) were among the founding signing members of the NZAA on April 18th, 1971, and so we are honored to host this exhibition in Northland in support of the tremendous work that the NZAA has undertaken over their 40 years of activities in support of the accordion movement in New Zealand.

## NEWS FROM PIERRE VARO AND THE REUNION ISLAND

I wish you my best wishes for 2011. Much health and music every day.  
I give you news for this year of my orchestra.

From July 5th to August 5th, POLYPHONIA Orchestra and its 48 young musicians will carry out a musical round in Europe in 8 countries (France, Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Austria) and then they will take part in the 71e Festival TGA in Orlando (the USA).

It is for me more the great project of my career which gives me much work concerning its organization.

I wish one day to return in your beautiful country, to re-examine you as my friends whom I do not forget.

You will find a photograph in the concert of December 2010 of my orchestra.

Which are your news and your projects?

I wish to take part in July 2013 in your festival of Accordion, is - possible?

We are informed of the disaster natural in QUEENSLAND. It is and terrible for the population of this state.

I hope to have your news

I wish you a good reception and with soon.

Kindest Regards

Pierre



# 2011 CHAMPIONSHIPS & FESTIVAL AND NZAA 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

**Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th June**

The Prospectus for the 2011 South Pacific International & New Zealand National Accordion Championships & Festival is now online. The Prospectus is available [here](#).

This year promises to be a most exciting event with the NZAA 40th Anniversary Celebration, with plans underway to invite all our previous NZ Accordion Champions to attend, hopefully many performing, all NZAA Life Members are being invited too, and we also have a dinner to Honour John Statham who is retiring as the NZAA President after 27 years in the position.

The Raye Freedman Centre - venue of the 2011 Championships & Festival  
We have some great early bird pricing specials for those who pay before 15 April so please take advantage of these.  
Some great musical and social events planned too.  
<http://www.accordion.co.nz/news/index.cfmt>

## CHINESE NEW YEAR

A few weeks ago I was contacted by Linda, a committee member of AusCoCo, a large Chinese/Australian community group. She asked if I could perform at a private function celebrating Chinese New Year which was to be held in the Chinese Consulate, Camperdown. This cocktail event was an great night as I was able to meet many Chinese VIP's including the Consular General and Ambassador. There were a few musicians who sung both traditional Chinese music and operatic works. I performed La Spagnola as a duet with Linda, which was well received.



A few days later, JACQUE received an exciting phone call asking if we could perform at a Chinese New Year/Australia Day celebration. This was to be held at the Marigold Chinese Restaurant in Chinatown. As Amelia and Dominique were basking in the glory of Europe, Chris and I gladly accepted this offer. This was an amazing opportunity that we could not dismiss. Special guests were to include

the PM Julia Gillard, former Premier Kristina Kineally, Chinese Consular General and other VIP of the Chinese community. The night went very smoothly. The tasty and never ending yum-cha was accompanied by a range of speeches and entertainment including Chinese lion dancing and drums, vocalists, violinists and accordionists who

took to the stage. Just about to begin, I noticed Tim Mathieson (Julia's famous hairdressing partner), look around and suddenly catch his eye on 'our' instrument. He then smiled in delight and looked as though he was eagerly awaiting our performance. Chris, Linda and I performed La Spagnola (a prior request from the Consular General). To conclude the night in true Aussie spirit, we performed Waltzing Matilda, much to the delight of Barry Unsworth who eagerly took to the microphone.



### ITALIAN FRUITERERS EXHIBITION

Co.As.It., in collaboration with ACPH (Australian Centre for Public History) at UTS have worked closely over a number of years with the families of Italian fruiterers, 'the gatekeepers' of the stories and images, to record for posterity the important legacy of Sydney's Italian fruit shops.

Co.As. It. recently opened their Fruit Shop exhibition in Griffith, NSW.

Joe Saltare, our member and good friend from Griffith was invited to play at the opening of the exhibition. Sydney's Italian Fruit Shops - The Original Green Grocer's on show at Griffith City Library until 28th April, 2011

This exhibition was also on display in Customs House last year and will also be on display shortly in Liverpool, NSW.



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.....  
Signature of applicant Date

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Interested students to contact Head of Accordion Studies, Dr. Elizabeth Jones at [ejones@aim.edu.au](mailto:ejones@aim.edu.au). In your email please state whether you are interested in enrolling in the Bachelor course, diploma course, and participation in ensembles, young AIMS or the high school.

You can contact Elizabeth Jones at [ejones@aim.edu.au](mailto:ejones@aim.edu.au) or on [fisaccord@hotmail.com](mailto:fisaccord@hotmail.com)

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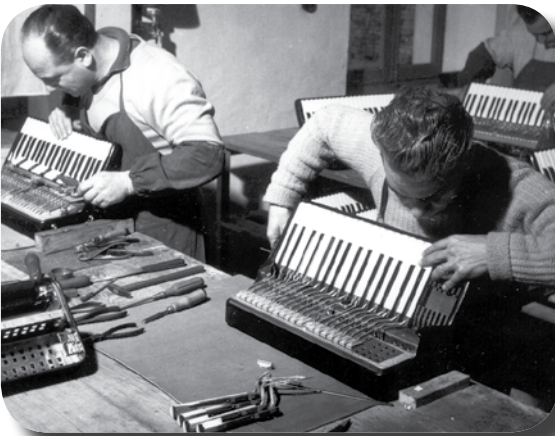


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