

THE ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

ACCORDION REVIEW

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A.S.A.(inc.NSW) COMMITTEE DIRECTORY



ASA (inc NSW) Headquarters

51 Bogalara Road,
Old Toongabbie NSW 2146
President phone: 0466 632238

President	Rob Scott-Mitchell email: robsm@tpg.com.au Mobile: 0466 632238
Vice Presidents	Denise Kassis & Silvia Kocic
Secretary	Sylvia Granturco
Treasurer	Vince Granturco
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Accordion Review Editor	Cheryle Mills email: cherylemills@aapt.net.au

Victorian sub-committee

President	John Kalkbrenner Snr
Vice President	Frank Berens
Secretary	Holger Golinski
Treasurer/Public Relations Officer	Margaret Berens 67 Doveton Ave. Doveton Vic 3177 Phone (03) 8707 4093 margaretberens2@optusnet.com.au
Editors Vic newsletter	Margaret Berens & Holger Golinski

Hello from the Editor

Welcome to our final edition for 2013 and hope you have all had a lovely Christmas with family, friends and music.

Our new ASA Headquarters address may be found on the next page. As the previous Headquarters property was sold in December, it is very important the old address is no longer used.

To simplify the renewal process for ASA membership and Accordion Review subscription, members may now pay using Bank Transfer also detailed on the next page.

The ASA Xmas NSW party held at Fivedock on Dec 9th was a fun night complete with music and dancing, refer pages 7,8.

The invitation for accordionist to participate in the AATA International Massed Orchestra in June has been included again in this edition as it will be a great event to promote the accordion. If interested refer page 16 and register before April 1, 2014.

Once again a big thank you to all those who contribute articles for this review. A special thank you to Lee Puccini who keeps us updated with the Melbourne Orchestra news. Lee will be standing aside to spend more time caring for his wife and I am very grateful for the time he has spent writing articles for this review, all the best Lee.

In 2014, please keep us informed of your accordion activities, such as gigs, concerts, gossip, news, jokes, CD's releases. I receive positive feedback from readers saying how much they enjoy reading your articles so please keep them coming.

Happy New Year to you all and happy reading.

Bye for now,

Cheryle Mills

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

New Headquarters Address



ASA Headquarters has a new address and the previous address should not be used.

New address is

Accordion Society of Australia (Inc. NSW)
51 Bogalara Road,
OLD TOONGABBIE NSW 2146
Australia

Membership Renewal Online



ASA members may now renew their membership electronically via Bank Transfer as follows;

Account name: **Accordion Society of Australia Inc**
BSB: **062 349**

Account Number: **10030067**

Please email a payment advice to **granvs@bigpond.com**

Note: Victorian members must contact the Vic branch for their bank details.

ASA Members—to ensure members continue to receive the Accordion Review, they must be a financial member. If you have not renewed your 2014 membership due last August and wish to do so then please utilize the bank transfer option above or refer page 28 of this review for a renewal form and mailing details.

Non Members—The Accordion Review is published each quarter (March, June, Sept, Dec) and non members that wish to receive only the Accordion Review throughout the year, a subscription of \$18 per year (within Australia) and A\$22.00 per year for overseas applies. This may be paid using Bank transfer as above or refer page 29 for a subscription form.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

It has been a year of change for the ASA, with the departure of our longstanding president, Elizabeth Jones, after 15 years of service. As vice-presidents, Denise Kassis and I filled the role until congress in September, at which time I was appointed as the new president. I was not expecting this, and still feel a little out of my depth, although thankfully I am strongly supported by the new festival and events committee of Jedda Kassis, Amelia and Dominique Granturco.

The NSW ensemble has had a quiet year for performances, with our energy being focused on rehearsing for the recording of our new CD. Ross Maio was fantastic in coaching/coaxing the best from us before the big day at Trackdown Studios (within Fox Studios). We are deeply indebted to Nick, for negotiating the use of the studio and engineering/mixing the recording, together with Amelia. We expect to release it early in the new year.

For the first time in many years there was no ASA festival, due to the change in leadership and lack of time to organize it. Hopefully this was a one off and we have now agreed to hold the festival in Melbourne next year. Another first was holding Congress via Skype, which was a technical challenge but somehow we muddled through.

My thanks to all the hard working ASA committee members, without whom the ASA would simply cease to exist. I hope that somehow we can encourage new members to join, rather than just seeing old members disappear.

Happy New Year and all the best for 2014.

Rob Scott-Mitchell

ASA Christmas Party

On December 9, NSW ASA members and family celebrated Christmas with a dinner at the Tigers Club Five Dock. It was a lovely night with lots of music, laughter and a chat with members not seen for a while.

After dinner the music started with Dominique, Amelia and Jedda playing Christmas Carols followed by a lovely piece by Vince Moschello. Vince acquired an offsider during his performance in Maria Tripodi, who did some very fancy accordion miming and although a note was not played, her technique looked impressive for someone who has never played the accordion!!

When Dom and Amelia commenced playing a Tarantella the dancers appeared! The term "Danca Maria" was apt for our two dancers (Maria Worthington and Maria Tripodi), they danced the Italian Tarantella with the group clapping them on (refer photos below).

It was a lovely evening as reflected in the photos. Merry Christmas to all.





NSW News

Gleebooks Concert

This year, the accordion featured at the annual Glebe music festival, but in smaller force. I performed at a beautiful old bookshop - Gleebooks on Glebe Point Road as part of a tango concert performed by Clarinet and Classical guitar.

I performed two pieces in the concert- Waltz for Margaret by Richard Galliano and Libertango by Astor Piazzolla.

The Accordion was very well received, and many patrons of the concert told me they had come to the ASA concert last year and loved it, and that they want to buy CD's. I was also approached by a few other guests wanting the accordion played at an upcoming function next year, so the ASA is getting its name out in Sydney which is encouraging.

It was a great afternoon of tango and book reading.

Looking forward to what the Glebe Music Festival holds for the Accordion next year.

Amelia Granturco



Melbourne Accordion Orchestra News

2013 "Cup Eve" Concert - November 4th

Carrying on the tradition started by Benadette Conlon back in 2002 and carried on by the orchestra after her departure at the end of 2006, this orchestra again presented their annual concert on the Monday night before the running of the famous Melbourne Cup at the Coatsville Bowls Club East Bentleigh organised by the Melbourne Organ Music Club. The program was split into two halves with an interval allowing the ladies committee to serve a generous supper for players and guests.

The concert commenced with the orchestra playing *The Blues Factory* by Gerd Huber, then *Libertango* by Astor Piazzolla, *Fascinating Rhythm* by George Gershwin, *Hotel California* by Don Fielder and finally *Pink Panther's Brother* by A. Chmykov . We then presented our soloists for the night commencing with one of Iryna Stepko's students- Arthur Naumemko playing "Waltz" by L. Dogo, followed by "In Tango" by G.Isgr, arr.by L.Alberini. Next was Palmi playing the soundtrack music to the film "Midnight in Paris" a beautiful piece superbly played. Next came Jeanette Benzing with *Chanson D'Amour*, a well known Edith Piaf piece, after which Palmi joined with Jeanette to play an Icelandic Folk song, a fresh and fascinating piece enjoyed by all, attracting much applause. Last of our soloists was our current Australian Champion Dino Kocic who played "Asturia" by Albeniz and "Nuit Blanche" by Jo Privat.

The second half saw the orchestra return commencing this section with a dramatic Russian medley ""Zwischen Don und Wolga" by Adolf Goltz, a medley of traditional folk songs. Next came "Phantom of the Opera" by A.L.Weber, followed by "The best of Abba" medley which was enjoyed by all. A light change of mood was "A Swinging Safari" by Bert Kampfert, and to close the evening we played our greatest favourite "Carnival de Paris" arranged Iryna Stepko.

For the first time the orchestra played under coloured stage lights using battery operated mini torches attached to the music stands - interesting and a new challenge for everyone involved.



Players using mini torches above their stands

The Organ Club's President Mr Cliff Washfold then took the stage and microphone to thank the orchestra and soloists for a very professional and enjoyable performance with an interesting and varied program and the members of the club for the good attendance at this concert. He invited us to return again in 2014, we promised we would.



Polish Festival 2013

According to the 34 page Guide handed out at this Festival Melbourne is home to people from over 200 countries, speaking around 230 languages and dialects and practising around 120 religious faiths. The Polish community is the largest in Australia. They have held this Festival for nine years and it attracts more than 50,000 people to Federation Square each year.



Manager Peter Maz at Polish Festival

It was held this year on the 17th of November, and the orchestra was delighted to participate and we're honoured to play on the main outdoor stage in front of such a large gathering knowing that this audience know the accordion well and the beautiful music it is capable of. Our orchestra too is composed of players from many countries and languages, and we practised hard to present a perfect performance and learned to play a med-



ley of Polish traditional pieces for this event to the enjoyment of the crowd.

The weather in Melbourne has been unpredictable lately, but on this day, the sun was shining, and the booths displaying information about Poland, it's products, wares, cuisine, craftwork and folkloric entertainment were well patronised and the main stage attracted a large crowd eager to see the costumes, dancing and music.

What to play ? Well we decided to play music from around the world, ie Ramona, Libertango, The Blues Factory, Abba's famous hits, and Swinging

Safari and of course we squeezed the bellow a little harder when playing the medley of Polish pieces. The audience applause said it all !



This was a fitting end to our concert year, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Iryna Stepko for conducting and musical leadership, Peter Mazurczuk our manager for securing the bookings throughout the year and the other many things he does for us, Palmi Snorrason our lead player for attending so many practises, putting up with the slower players who take longer to learn some pieces, and his skills on the instrument, all our regular players who practised hard and attended most practise nights, our guest players, Peter, James, and Jules, Dino our resident champion who is there when we need him and plays so many wonderful solos at our special events, he has a very bright future in music, and I for one feel privileged to have seen him grow, mature and become a spectacular player both on piano and button accordion.

I intend to step back and hand over to others my duties in this orchestra in 2014, but perhaps be available for more major events allowing me to put more time into my home, and caring for my wife Lorenza who requires more and more care as we age. We look forward to Christmas, our orchestra picnic, and a well earned holiday over December and January.

Best regards to all,

Lee Puccini

MELBOURNE ORCHESTRA'S COUNTRY RUN

Whittlesea Annual Show

Springtime is the time of the year all Melbourne Councils organise their concerts in the park or Country Shows. At Whittlesea, their show was held on Saturday October 2nd, and the Melbourne Accordion Orchestra accepted this booking, our first, to play at this annual Country Fair. It is approx. 40 Kms. north of Melbourne, the drive there was smooth and quick until we approached the town centre, and everything on the road came to a halt! We had decided to leave half an hour earlier than normal for this distance, but got into the park half an hour late-panic stations ! We eventually found the agreed location to meet up with everyone, and found that people had arrived from all parts of the state, and there were crowds of people everywhere, it was a much bigger event that we had imagined.

Peter, our manager guided us to the stage, which was a shipping container mounted on the back of a large truck so we promptly gathered up all the chairs and placed them in a semi circle on the grass in front of this stage and prepared ourselves to play, obviously the timetable for the day had to be amended.



We played our favourite pieces, Pink Panther's Brother, Libertango, Hotel California, Abba Medley, and Swinging Safari in front of an audience of six or so people. The weather was perfect, it was a well organised show with equestrian events, side shows, eatery stalls, amusements for the children, etc., families were having a ball!

After our performance, we grabbed ourselves a cappuccino, chatted

amongst ourselves, relaxed and soaked up the atmosphere. One by one, we each wandered off to check out the happenings around the grounds, and then packed our bags, and sped off home.



Dandenong Show

Again, this time on Saturday November 9th, we were invited to play at the annual Dandenong Show at the Grieves Reserve in Dandenong, approx. thirty Kms south east of Melbourne. Excellent roads all the way except the entry to the park is not clearly marked on the Melways, but we were relieved to find that on arrival, the cyclone fence had it's car park gate open, and we were in !

As with the Whittlesea Show, it was a family day for children with equestrian events, side shows, food and info.booths doing great business, joy rides, everything well organised and supervised. This time we had a decent stage with a roof and side curtains, necessary to avoid having the wind blow our music away, or just turn the pages whilst playing !

We repeated the same program but this time to an audience of 15-20 persons, amongst which were the members of a rock band that were to perform immediately after us. When the lead singer took the stage his first words were to praise our playing and music selection, in reply we showed our gratitude with our applause and we stayed on to listen to their presentation.

The day was quite cool but the rain stayed away during this time, after which we were again treated to a coffee by Palmi Snorrason. We relaxed, chatted on and then wandered off to experience the various events and sideshows doing great business. A great day, great event, we will return next year that's for sure.

Lee Puccini



Australian Accordion Teachers Association Inc.

**The Australian Accordion Teachers Association Celebrates 20
YEARS of International Competitions and Festivals**

Come – and join the celebration and be a part of our special

INTERNATIONAL MASSED ORCHESTRA!

You are invited to be a part of this exciting group
conducted by our Special Guest from New
Zealand – Lionel Reekie



When: Sat/Sun 7th and 8th June 2014

Where: Sydney, Australia

Requirements: Register your interest before **1st April 2014**. You will be sent your music by email well before the festival.

THIS GROUP IS OPEN TO PLAYERS OF ANY LEVEL AND AGE!



There will be two massed rehearsals over the course of the weekend competition and then a Performance at the AATA's International Gala Concert on Sunday 8th June.

START PLANNING TODAY!!!

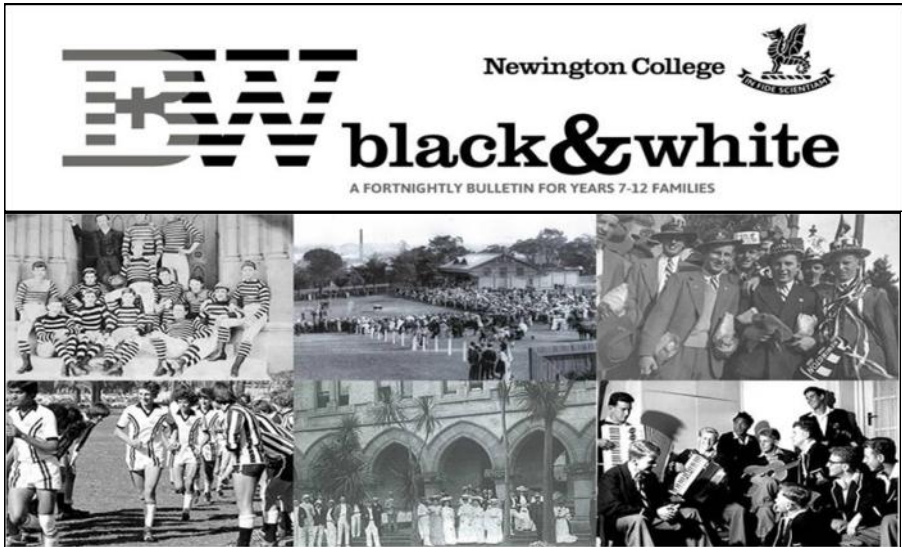
For information about the AATA, it's competition or festival please visit:

www.aata.org.au or email info@aata.org.au

The AATA has held one of Australia's largest Accordion competitions annually for the last 20 years. We encourage all players, and accordion enthusiasts to join us in sharing our love of the accordion. **See you in June 2014.**

News from The Bedic Music Studio

Newington College Sesquicentenary (150 Year Anniversary) Celebration - 2013 (Accordionists at Newington!)



Dear accordionists and friends,

Newington College has been one of Australia's leading educational institutions for boys since 1863. This year, the College community is taking a moment to reflect upon 150 years of history and tradition.

As some of you may already be aware my son Joel has been at Newington College, Stanmore for the past six years and has just completed his HSC in November. He was fortunate enough to win a Halse Rogers All-round Scholarship in year six for entry into Newington in year seven. In years 11/12 he was selected on the College Leadership Team as House Captain and Full College Prefect. He was also selected as the Newington College Captain of Tennis for 2012/2013 when the 1sts and 2nds teams won the dual AAGPS Opens Premiership for the first time in 20 years.

In Joel's final year at Newington this year, the College has been celebrating its Sesquicentenary (150 Year Anniversary) with various functions throughout the year and the Black and White Ball at the Star Ballroom which was a spectacular event. Of course, at all of the functions there was a focus on the

College history and the way that it all began back in 1863. The Newington College, Black and White online newsletter included a wonderful photograph of musicians from many years ago which included two accordionists! This caught my eye immediately and was something that I was excited about and wanted to share with all of you. I hope that you all enjoy the image of yesteryear as much as I did ☺



Below is a link to a short video on the history of Newington College

<http://insites.newington.nsw.edu.au/newington150/>

Below is a link to Newington College Stanmore Campus (Years 7-12) and how it looks like today - slideshow

<http://www.newington.nsw.edu.au/stanmore-7-12/>

In the past year or so, I have also been discussing and sharing information with Mr Mark Scott, Head of Music at Newington College, who has been very interested and keen in introducing and including the accordion in the school's music curriculum. This is still work in progress, however I am very hopeful that the accordion will make its appearance at a prestigious private high school such as Newington College. This would certainly be a significant plus for the accordion in Sydney and Australia. Perhaps, it would also influence other private and public schools and universities to consider the accordion as a serious instrument as it is in New Zealand, Europe and the US.

AMEB Accordion Syllabus Review Update:

I would also like to provide you with a quick update on the AMEB Accordion Syllabus review which I spoke about at our ASA Congress meeting in Sydney, 2011.

After many years of pursuing this important matter with the AMEB NSW State Managers and more recently (in the last couple of years) with Mr Bernard Depasquale, AMEB Federal Manager, I have been successful in convincing him that we are in dire need in having to review and update the Accordion Syllabus. He and the AMEB Federal Board have finally accepted this to

be the case and as a result I have been working very closely with Tania Lukic-Marx and Milica Krga, both AMEB Examiners, in completing this substantial piece of work in a voluntary capacity. I am very grateful to both Tania and Milica for their time and expertise with this important work which will ultimately assist in significantly increasing the number of accordion examination candidates in future years.

During the last month or so, we have been meeting together and have carried out a meticulous analysis of the technical requirements for the Stradella / Standard Bass Accordion (Preliminary Grade to Eighth Grade) which, if all goes well, we hope to submit to the AMEB for their review and approval prior to Christmas. In the new year we will commence work on all of the pieces from Preliminary Grade to LMusA Diploma level. Once our submission to the AMEB is complete, Mr Depasquale will be organising for other AMEB Accordion Examiners (across Australia) to review and hopefully vote in favour of the new proposed syllabus. If all goes according to plan, our aim is to have all of this finalised in time for the May/June 2014 AMEB practical examinations, however, if the process takes longer than expected, then this should occur at the latest by the October 2014 examination period. I will keep you posted on further progress as it comes to hand.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Joyous New Year.

Yours musically,

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

Queensland Orchestra News

The Queensland Accordion Orchestra did have a very successful outing playing at the St. Gerard Majella Church in Cherm-side West, Brisbane on Sunday 8th December. The attached photos show us playing inside the Church and part of the spectacular lights they have outside. The Church have the lights on for a fortnight leading up to Xmas and have different entertainers each night. People come from everywhere to see the lights and we are getting quite a following who come and hear us play.

Cheers

Marie



SNIPPETS, GOSSIP & NEWS

Griffith Trevisane Association

The Trevisane association of Griffith had the 40th annual general meeting October 11,12,13 most groups were represented from across Australia and Italy. I'm so glad to say Accordions were the flavour of the whole week-end with guest in excess of 700 Friday night, Saturday night, and Sunday lunch.



A good friend and accordion lover has been preparing for this weekend his name Lou Forner and together with Bruno Peruzzi and myself saw every one enjoy music and sing along round the tables. Saturday afternoon the official welcome at council chambers by our mayor John Dalbroi

then Saturday night dinner dance and with my musician friends Kevin Jobbitt, Dr Jaya , Frank Wilson, Jim Salvestro, and of course Bruno Peruzzi.

I will be entertaining at the Abruzzi association Sunday 20th October

All the news in ASA is great to read, you all keep very busy.

Ciao for now

Joe Staltare



Griffith Citrus Festival

Its all oranges in Griffith during the annual Citrus Festival!



*Sydneys 'Little Italy'
came alive in October.*

Sunday October 27

Going out

Visit Sydney's Little Italy for the Norton Street Festa, a celebration of Italian culture, cars and, of course, cuisine. There will be the Nonni e Cucina cooking demonstration where grandmothers share their family recipes, as well as carnival rides, live entertainment and a gourmet market. 10am-5pm, Norton Street, Leichhardt, free, sydney.goodfoodmonth.com.



Seen around town...

In late October, Parramatta City Council open up their many lane ways and hold a Melbourne-esque style festival where visitors can follow a map around the city using only the lane ways. As part of the Parramatta Lanes festival, in none other than the "Red Cow Lane" there was a lonely accordionist.

Amelia Granturco performed at the festival as a busker on three nights of the festival and Jedda Kassis performed on one night also. It was great to see so many people enjoying the accordion, making requests and sharing their stories about their parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, post-men and everyone else in their life who once upon a time was an accordionist.

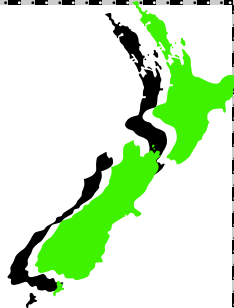


On two of the nights Amelia was joined by a pair of roaming musicians, a Trombonist and Saxophonist who were walking the lane ways each night. We performed St. Louis Blues, Autumn Leaves and La Cumparsita together.

Amelia commented that it was a great opportunity to get the accordion back into the public eye, and remember if you are playing your squeeze box anywhere to send your story to asa.inc@hotmail.com so we can feature it in the review!



NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND



Wonderful Publicity for Accordion

We have been very lucky in the last few months to have magnificent coverage digitally, on TV, and in the newspapers of people promoting the accordion.

Legendary Guitarist Hank Marvin & Nunzio Mondo

Many accordionists attended the Hank & Nunzio's tour of NZ. Hank duetted with Nunzio in a Gypsy Swing concert supported by another guitarist and double bass. This NZ Tour was widely publicised and well received with full houses.

APRA SILVER SCROLLS

contributed by Lionel Reekie

New Zealand's premiere popular music awards show, the APRA Silver Scrolls, showcased the accordion on the country's biggest stage on Tuesday night. The Vector Arena was the venue for this prestigious ceremony, and accordionist Lionel Reekie was asked to perform the No. 1 hit song, "Royals" by Lorde. Together with Wellington-based soul singer, Bella Kalolo and beatbox artist, Phillip Fan, their unique rendition of the song that has topped the charts internationally (including the US Billboard Charts) stole the show.

"Royals" written by Ella Yelich-O'Conner (Lorde) and Joel Little was announced as this year's top song, and in his acceptance speech, Joel Little started by saying "I just want to thank that guy on the accordion from before...that guy was the man!!!". Indeed Lionel's accordion performance set the world of social media alight with tweets from many high profile entertainment professionals such as NZ Herald entertainment columnist Paul Little "@PCLittle Sending @iamjoelittle's girls to bed now. Had to promise to buy them both accordions tomorrow."

The Silver Scrolls are an annual event, attended by the biggest names in the Music Industry, each year attracting a lot of media publicity. As a result the accordion was seen on all the major New Zealand television networks' news shows, mentioned on radio and posted on numerous internet sites, including live streams on Newspaper and television sites across the country.

Links

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/entertainment/news/video.cfm?
c_id=1503078&gal_cid=1503078&gallery_id=138489](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/entertainment/news/video.cfm?c_id=1503078&gal_cid=1503078&gallery_id=138489)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-gGFDArVgrY&feature=youtu.be>

Auckland Accordion Symphonietta

Conducted by Lionel Reekie performed a concert at St Georges Church in Takapuna, Auckland supported by a choir and string quartet from Westlake High Schools on Saturday 23rd November. The hour long concert had a theme of Show Tunes and was very well received. The NZ Herald "What's On" Weekender featured this with a photo of the group as the lead thing to do for 48 hours in Auckland.

Santa Parade

The North Shore Music Makers, the Junior group of the North Shore Accordion Orchestras, performed at the Annual Santa Parade in Auckland, New Zealand on Sunday 24th November. Whilst the video clip of the group is brief the sound was used extensively. This was placed on the New Zealand Herald site to celebrate 150 years of New Zealand's premier newspaper.

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/national/news/video.cfm?
c_id=1503075&gal_cid=1501138&gallery_id=139330](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/national/news/video.cfm?c_id=1503075&gal_cid=1501138&gallery_id=139330)

Congratulations to....

At the University of Auckland Awards ceremony on the 28th September, a formal and lovely event, **Eddie Giffney** was awarded a UOA Blue (Arts) for performance music.

Condolences to...

The family of **Betty Dunbar QSM**, Life Member of the NZAA for her positive promotion of the accordion. Betty was an Examiner for the Accordion Examination Board of New Zealand for over 30 years in the Waikato district. Her funeral was held in Hamilton on Tuesday 1st October.

The family of Heather Pogson on the death of her mother Margaret in November. She had been a stalwart of the Mt Roskill Accordion School for many years.

TEACHERS DIRECTORY

NEW SOUTH WALES

Zeljko Bedic

Dip ASA MMTA
5 Loch Maree Crescent
Kyle Bay 2221
Ph. (02) 9546 7373
Mob. 0417 696 303

Ivan Bolesic

4 Mellick Street
Fairfield West 2165
Ph. (02) 9604 3312

Kemal Bunguric

B. Mus. Ed.
9 Somerville Street
Arncliffe 2205
Ph. (02) 9567 8221
Mob. 018 466 274

Catherine Day (Jackett)

B. Mus. Ed.
8 Hermitage Avenue
Kellyville 2155
Ph (02) 9836 0155
Mob. 0418 413 148
Fax 9836 0155

Ione D. Harbourne

12 Learmonth Street
Rooty Hill
NSW 2766
Ph. 9675 2124

Elizabeth Jones

B.Mus.A.Mus.A
60 Richard Avenue
Earlwood NSW 2206
Ph. (02) 9718 2609
Mob. 0419 547 180

Ross Maio

PO Box 1008
St Pauls 2031
Ph. (02) 9344 3138
Mob. 0438 504030

Giancarlo Ursino

BME A. Mus. A
45 Ardath Avenue,
Panania 2213
Ph. (02) 9772 3391

ACT

Emil Rathouski

18 Aroona Court
Ngunnawal
ACT 2913
Ph. (02) 6242 7572
emilr@netspace.net.au

QUEENSLAND

Mary Corsetti

A.Mus.A.Dip.ASA
160 Mulgrave Road
Cairns 4870
Ph. (071) 51 1435

Bob Grant

21 Brandenburg Rd
Mooloolah Qld 4553
Ph. (07) 5494 7568
Mob. 0411 959 157

Primo Pin

39 Ilya Street
Macgregor 4109
Ph. (07) 3420 3630

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Dora Marechal

Dip. ASA
3 Albert Road
Mount Barker 5251
Ph. (08) 8391 6674
Mob. 0407 431 742

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Lois Hodgson

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Ph. (08) 9402 5294

VICTORIA

Tomislav Andjelkovic
12 Bedwell Crt
Endeavour Hills 3802
Ph. (03) 9700 2909
tomislavandjelkovic@bigpond.com

George Butrumlis
26 Raleigh Crt
Werribee 3030
Ph. (03) 9742 6750
Mob. 0431 813 626
georgebutrumlis@optusnet.com.au

Heinz Dabernig
C/o Upwey Music
29 Main Street
Upwey 3158
Ph: (03) 9754 7261
Mob. 4007 075 942
upweymuzic@bigpond.com

Roberto De Sanctis
1/124 Atherton Rd
Oakleigh 3166
Ph. (03) 9569 9721

John Kalkbrenner
5 Chestnut Drive,
St. Albans 3021
Ph. (03) 9366 3331
Ph. (03) 9687 6735

Adrian Kanselaar
7B Vittorio Court
Lilydale 31240
Ph. (03) 9739 6604
Mob. 0458 914575

Juliette Maxwell
9 Suffolk Street
Blackburn 3130
Ph. (03) 9877 0795

Joe Ruberto
B.Sc.Dip.Ed. Dip.ASA
31 Olive Street,
Hampton 3188
Ph. (03) 9597 0730

Guy Scalise
A.Mus. A.Dip.ASA.
49 Armstrong Street,
Middle Park 3206
Ph. (03) 9696 3737
Mob. 0409 418 528

Ian Southwood
B.A. A.Mus.A. Dip.ASA MIMT
163 Military Road
Avondale Heights 3034
Ph. (03) 9331 3477

Iryna Stepko
10/2 Bath Place
Port Melbourne 3207
Mob. 0430287565
iryna.st@optusnet.com.au

TASMANIA

John Young
71 York St
Devonport 7310 Tas.
Ph. (03) 6424 5702
Mob. 0417 361980

APPLICATION/RENEWAL FOR MEMBERSHIP OF ASSOCIATION



ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (Incorporated NSW)
(incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1984)

I,
(full name of applicant)

of
(address)

Phone Email

hereby apply to become a member **OR RENEW** my membership of the abovementioned association. In the event of my admission as a member, I agree to be bound by the rules of the association for the time being in force.

.....
Signature of applicant Date

All memberships are renewable on 1st. August each year.
A once only joining fee of \$5.00 is payable on all new memberships.

General Member	\$ 40.00
Teacher Member	\$ 50.00
Family Member	\$ 55.00

Bank Transfer **Accordion Society of Australia Inc**
BSB: **062 349**
Account Number: **10030067**
Please email a payment advice to **granvs@bigpond.com**

Cheque payable to the **Accordion Society of Australia Inc.**

Please forward to: Treasurer/Secretary Accordion Society of Australia (Inc.NSW) 51 Bogalara Road, OLD TOONGABBIE NSW 2146	Victorian Members only send to Accordion Society of Australia (inc NSW51) 67 Doveton Ave. DOVETON VIC 3177
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ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (Incorporated NSW)
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It is very helpful if stories and photos are emailed to Cheryle as it avoids retyping and scanning. Thank you.

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