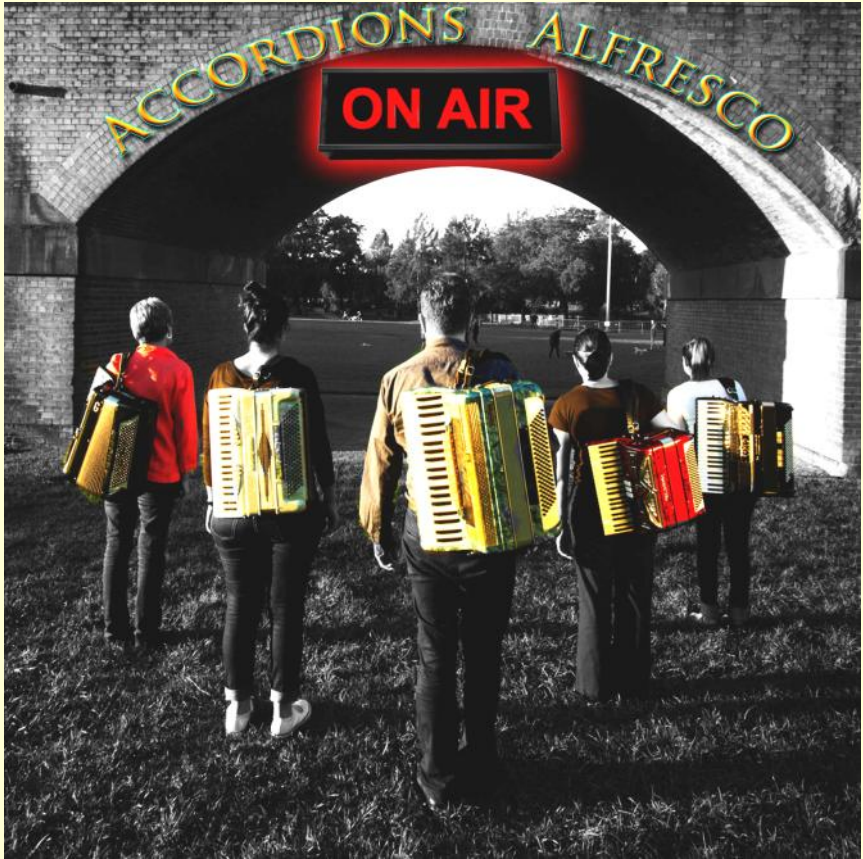


THE ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

# ACCORDION REVIEW



S E P T 2014

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*Cover: Album cover of the new 'On Air' CD, refer page 7 for details.*

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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
Vice Treasurer	Leo Kroon
Musical Director	Ross Maio
Public Relations	Jedda Kassis, Dominique Granturco
Events Sub-committee	Rob Scott-Mitchell, Yvonne Smith, Jedda Kassis, Dominique Granturco, Holger Golinski, John Kalkbrenner Snr
Accordion Review Editor	Cheryle Mills email: cherylemills66@gmail.com Mobile: 0414 915154

### 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 September edition and sorry it is late but unfortunately (or fortunately for me) I was holidaying overseas when the edition should have been published.*

*During my overseas trip I observed many accordionists throughout Europe and enjoyed watching their different styles and techniques and thought I would share my observations with you in an article titled 'Buskers —Talent or Luck' which may be found on pages 18,19.*

*This years National Festival cancellation was disappointing but without the support of our members it is not feasible to organise a festival. For all accordion lovers out there like myself, it would be great if we could band together and support the ASA and the accordion. Rumour has it that the accordion is making a revival with the young people, it may even become trendy .. wow imagine that!*

*Joe has sent in some great photos and news of the many events which occur in Griffith where the accordion remains popular in the Italian community, these may be found on pages 9, 10 11 and thanks Joe for keeping us up to date.*

*Thanks to everyone that have contributed to this edition to provide our readers with interesting accordion news and I hope you enjoy it. All the best and happy reading.*

*Bye for now,*

*Cheryl Mills*

## *PRESIDENTS REPORT*

It has been another eventful year for the ASA. In NSW the most significant item has been the long awaited release of a new CD by Accordions Al-fresco, titled 'On Air'. This was recorded at Trackdown Recording Studio and was engineered and produced by Nicholas Rowse. Huge thanks to everyone who was involved in this project, particularly Amelia and Nick for the long hours of editing and mastering. We are all proud of the end result and look forward to showcasing the CD at our future performances.

In May members of the ASA participated in the Gala Concert celebrating 20 years of our sister society, the AATA, at Club Marconi. Congratulations to Tanja Lukic-Marx for guiding and mentoring the AATA to this significant milestone. This was a wonderful concert with many performers coming from far afield, including New Zealand and Europe. We are determined to maintain much closer ties with AATA, and look forward to participating in many more combined performances.

The ASA committee decided earlier in the year to ask Tanja Lukic-Marx if she would be interested in representing Australia at the CIA (Confederation Internationale des Accordeonistes). She enthusiastically accepted this offer, and together she and I have been working through the various protocols required to enable this transition. This will be ratified by the CIA Executive Committee this week at the Coupe Mondiale in Salzburg.

It was with considerable regret that the Victorian ASA committee decided to cancel this years' festival in Melbourne due to lack of numbers. The unfortunate reality is that active members of the ASA have dwindled to an all time low and consequently the time has come for us to rethink how we organise festivals/competitions. Ross Maio has been researching how festivals are run in the US and Europe, and with this in mind we will begin planning our 2015 festival.

All the best

*Rob Scott-Mitchell*  
*ASA President*

## *Victorian News*

It was with disappointment that the annual festival in Melbourne was cancelled this year due to poor response. On the bright side the concert which still went ahead was quite an enjoyable afternoon with various playing standards and formations. We were entertained with Junior solos and more Senior members in groups finally culminating with the combined orchestra: comprising members of the Melbourne Accordion Orchestra; The Big Squeeze Band; and interstate attendees from Adelaide the Smith family. We were delighted to see members from NSW attend and it was a delight to catch up with all again.

As conductor it is always a pleasure to work with a larger group of players and in particular the volume of accordion power experienced. Although we were limited to three selections (Gruss an Kiel March, La Paloma and Trumpet Echo Polka) for the concert due to time constraints in rehearsing it was still worth the effort just to hear accordions en masse. I wonder what a creative term for a group of accordions would be? A bellow of accordions maybe?

Kindly

*Terezia Kalkbrenner*

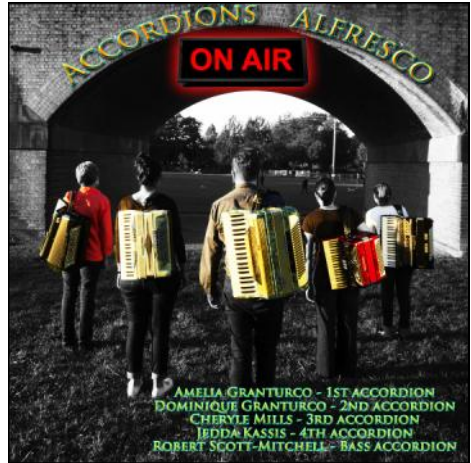


*Audience enjoying a solo performer at the show*

### *'Accordions Alfresco' CD release*

The NSW ensemble 'Accordions Alfresco' have recently released their new CD 'ON AIR'. This CD contains a variety of 9 tunes and if anyone would like to purchase a copy, the cost is \$10 (includes postage). Please contact Sylvia Granturco via email [granvs@bigpond.com.au](mailto:granvs@bigpond.com.au) or phone 0422 936 612 and she will be happy to send a copy to you.

*I hope you enjoy it.*



### *Accordionist assists Heritage listed Church*

On Sunday 27th July 2014 Jedda Kassis and Dominique Granturco along with the Abruzzi choir performed at a function in Schofields, to raise money for a Heritage listed church in Marayong Sydney.

This Church was built by the Italian Migrants in the 50's on the land where the migrants were working. Dominique's Grandfather along with this brothers all worked for the company (EPT) and helped with the building and in later years the preservation of the Church.



## *Love TV hits Parramatta.*

*By Amelia Granturco*

*As part of the Parramatta Lanes festival for 2014 I was asked to attend a short session in the LOVE TV booth. I wasn't entirely sure what to expect at first but as I found out it was a truck trailer that had been converted into a HUGE television. I entered the TV to be greeted by Aphrodite the Goddess of Love and I was there to discuss my love of the Accordion and of course to play the ultimate Accordion love song "Thats Amore"*

*We talked about opportunities to perform overseas and of course the new album by Accordions Alfresco- ON AIR. After my appearance I left a copy of the album with Aphrodite and the crew, and to my surprise the very next day they called me asking me to bring more accordionists down on the Friday night closing date.*

*So Jedda Kassis and myself were back down at Parramatta on Friday night for our guest spot. This time we played a different love song- the dance of love- the Tango! We popped into the TV for a quick chat with Aphrodite about Jedda's love of Accordion and then the crowd demanded another song, so they squeezed enough time for us to perform fly me to the moon. A great night was had by all! Looking forward to what next years lanes festival has in store.*

*Amelia*



The 'Love TV Booth' with Amelia (at back) and Jedda with her accordion



## *News from Griffith NSW*

### *Festa delle Salsicce (Festival of the Sausage)*

The festival of the sausage is an annual event held in Griffith NSW to celebrate the end of the salami-making season. Once again it was a fun filled event with judging of over 130 entrants

Held on August 23, 24, over 800 people were able to taste the top ten home made salami. Participants got to enjoy traditional home-made Italian cuisine, local wine, a lot of local entertainment and of course a lot of salami.

Over 1000 people attended from all over Australia including the Italian Consule General Sergio Martez from Sydney.

Australian / Italian theme was set once more with accordion roving on Saturday and I took to the small stage with my musician friends under a huge marquee on the Sunday . *Joe Staltare*



Entertaining the crowd is Chris, Jim, Joe, Dr Jaya & Kevin

## Citrus Sculptures



The Citrus Sculpture's line Griffiths main street from Sunday October 12 till Saturday October 25 ( 60 in total ) and marks the start to our Festival of Gardens held each year. There are 9 luscious gardens open to the public and this year our special guest is Mike Whitney and his crew from Sunday Weekender.



Saturday October 18 is Multi-cultural day in Memorial Gardens and Bruno and I are invited to participate together with many other cultural entertainers.

Best Wishes

*Joe*



## *Opening of New wing at Scalabrini Village*

Residence of Scalabrini Village had the pleasure to see Bishop Hanna officially open and give blessing to the revamped 90 bed facility in Griffith on 13th September. A crowd of 150 or more enjoyed the luncheon with two roving accordions setting the scene to a cool sunny afternoon.

Not much dancing on the day but lots of singing with Lou Forner and myself playing late into the afternoon under the marquee.

Best wishes to all

*Joe Staltare*

## *Roving Accordionist at Masquerade Party*

The New South Wales Inland Tourism Awards evening was held in Griffith on 26 July. The theme for the evening was a Gondola journey Masquerade party with live mannequin's and a roving accordion player setting the scene.

Painted Desert entertained the capacity crowd and for a few sets, an accordion was included in the journey.



Joe with 'Painted Desert' members Sara, Ian, Michael, Karly, Rob

## *News from the Bedic Music Studio*

*Dear accordion friends, my family and I have just come back from an amazing ten week holiday in Europe and have seen some great accordionists along the way, however I will leave that for the next Accordion Review.*

### *AATA Championships and Festival (Li Li's and Linda Gu's duet performance)*

It was fantastic to see everyone at the AATA Australian International Accordion Championships and Festival in June this year and to celebrate their 20 year anniversary by participating in the large mass accordion orchestra. My students and I enjoyed it very much and look forward to doing it again in the not to distant future. Perhaps next time it will be an ASA festival. I even had former students participating in the orchestra from Armidale (Anneke van Mosseveld) and Nicola Enz Quealy who literally flew in from Switzerland the day before the first rehearsal. Also, another student, Judith Hague who is 70 years old and participated in her very first ever accordion orchestra performance and festival. This truly shows the dedication and love people have for the accordion.

When I mentioned to Tania that my students Li Li and Linda Gu (former open duet and solo champions) would like to perform a duet at the gala concert she couldn't have been happier. She even recommended a Russian piece called Rolling Blue Balloon by V. Ushakov. In just a hand full of weeks the girls and I worked hard on preparing them for their performance after so many years.



Ultimately, Linda and Li delivered a stunning emotional performance on the night and received a huge applause from the audience, even a "Bravo" from Tania. Wen Chao Liu, Li's husband, tried to capture the essence of their wonderful performance in the images.

Lionel Reekie did an amazing job in coordinating the music for the orchestra members, pulling it all together and ultimately conducting the orchestra on the day after having serious surgery just a short while before the event. Tania put together a wonderful 20 year anniversary program which included the brilliant Mirco Patarini and as always the competition in the championships was very high. It all ended up with a fun filled farewell dinner with lots of entertainment and laughter.



### *Force Majeure*

On a completely separate note, my wife Sonya and I saw an award winning Swedish movie last week called “Force Majeure” (a dark comedy set in the French Alps) at the Dendy cinema in Newtown. To my surprise it had magnificent accordion solo music playing throughout the whole movie. The beautiful piece is Vivaldi’s The Four Seasons, Concerto No. 2 in G minor, Op. 8, RV 315, “L’estate” Summer). I believe the brilliant accordionist is Alexander Hrustevich. If you like accordion music and I know you all do, then I recommend that you go and see the movie. Having said this, it is an arts movie and is quite slow, so depends on your individual taste. You can see the preview at the following links. Enjoy!



<https://www.facebook.com/ForceMajeureFilm> (right click to open URL link or paste into your browser)

<http://trailers.apple.com/trailers/magnolia/forcemajeure/>

Your musically,

***Zeljko Bedic***

ASA TDip, MMTA, MASA, MAATA

Australian Music Examination Board (AMEB) Diploma Examiner

## SNIPPETS, GOSSIP & NEWS

### *Welcome back Ben*

*Ben Pattison has returned to the ASA NSW orchestra and has introduced some new exciting music and members to the group. He has also been busy writing easy parts for the beginners that have joined, big thank you to Ben. They would love to get more players of any standard so if you would like to come along, Ben and the other orchestra members would be thrilled to see you.*

### *Thank You*

*June & Elizabeth Jones would like to congratulate the ASA NSW Ensemble on their newly released 'On Air' CD, we really enjoyed listening to it. Liz commented "it made me miss playing in an accordion ensemble".*



*ASA Membership and Accordion Review subscriptions are due. For members convenience online Bank transfer is now available, refer page 23 for details of membership fees and BSB and A/c nos.*

### *Melbourne*

*John Kalkbrenner performs every Thursday night and Heinz Dabernig performs Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights at the 'Hofbrauhaus' German restaurant, 18-24 Market Lane, Melbourne. Phone 9663 3361.*

*à la française .....*

Dora Marechal and students at Mt Barker school had a wonderful time being French for a day as shown by this lovely photo.



Dora and her accordion are always busy around Adelaide. She practices weekly with the Molfetta (Italian) Choir and they play at many functions throughout the year with 14 bookings before Xmas. This photo is at one of their social gatherings. Keep up the great work Dora.



*Molfetta singers with (L-R) Vince on guitar, Doras 3yo granddaughter Lily, Dora, Howard. Frank & Rino standing at back with accordion.*

## DID YOU KNOW?



### OFF KEY: You can be immune to music

It's said that music is a universal language, but some people just don't derive pleasure from listening to a tune. However, that doesn't mean they're tone deaf or philistines – they're biologically desensitised to the emotional effects of music.

A study published in the journal *Current Biology* looked at the neural basis of music and how notes

translate into emotions. It found that 5 per cent of test participants had "musical anhedonia" – an inability to experience pleasure from music.

The scientists said these people were otherwise "healthy and happy", but simply didn't enjoy music and showed "no autonomic responses to its sound, despite normal musical perception capacities".



**French Miners**  
In the North of France most miners were also musicians, the music was a relief for all their hard work after weeks in the mine.





*Gig Guide &  
Whats On*



## Ross Maio Gigs

*Please check with the venue to confirm performance times.*

### 2014 Gigs

- 24 & 25 OCT 5:30pm-8:30pm Bavarian Duo @ Club Menai. Menai. NSW  
26 OCT - 02 NOV Cruising. Wellington – Melbourne.  
02 NOV 7:30pm Dahlia Dior "Edith Piaf & Friends" @ Camelot Lounge.Marrickville.NSW  
04 NOV 10:00am Melbourne Cup" @ The Cube.Campbelltown.NSW  
06 NOV 12:00pm Ross Maio Solo Cabaret Morning Melodies @ Brighton RSL .NSW  
08 NOV 8:00pm Ross Maio Solo Cabaret @ Liverpool Catholic Club, Prestons.NSW  
424 - 458 Hoxton Park Road, Prestons  
09 NOV 2:00pm Ross Maio Solo Cabaret @ Bankstown Trotting Club .Condell  
Park.NSW  
30 NOV 11:00am Ross Maio Solo Cabaret @ Bankstown RSL Club .Bankstown.NSW  
15 DEC 10:30am Private Function  
18 DEC 10:30am Private Function

### 2015 Gigs

- 17 JAN 8:30pm-10:00pm Music of Divas & Maestros Show featuring Helen Zerefos,  
Ross Maio & Andras Racz @ Canterbury League Club. NSW  
<http://www.thejuniors.com.au>  
24 JAN 8:30pm-10:00pm Music of Divas & Maestros Show featuring Helen Zerefos, Ross  
Maio & Andras Racz @ The Juniors Club.Kingsford. NSW  
29 JAN 10:30am Ross Maio Solo Cabaret Morning Melodies @ St.John's Park  
Bowling Club. St. Johns Park NSW  
4-14 FEB Cruising Guam-Sydney.  
12 APRIL 6:30pm Private Function  
18 APRIL 6:30pm Private Function  
02 MAY 6:30pm Private Function  
03 MAY 5:00pm Tony Pantano & Ross Maio .Three Saints Festival @ Holy Cross Church  
@ Wooloowin .Brisbane .QLD.  
11 MAY 11:00am & 2:00pm Bernard Walz's "The Good Old Days Concerts" @ Sydney  
Town Hall.Sydney NSW  
29-30 MAY 10:00am Italian National Day @ Griffith Central.Griffith NSW  
<http://www.griffithcentral.com/>  
27 JUNE 6:30pm Private Function  
03 OCT 7:00pm-11:00pm Bavarian Quartet @ Berowra RSL Berowra. NSW  
17 OCT 7:00pm-11:00pm Bavarian Quartet @ Club Rivers. Belmore.NSW

## *Busking—Talent or Luck?*

*By Cheryle Mills*

Successful busking? Is it based on talent, technique, location or is it the tunes that capture your attention? Is it their age, charm or simply how they look?

After spending 5 weeks in Europe and tuning in to the sound of an accordion at least 200mtrs away, I had the pleasure of observing buskers in Portugal, Spain, Italy and Greece, but unfortunately I did not see any during my week in Morocco.

This little Portugese man (pictured right) was reliant on busking for a living, I had observed him as being the same man dressed as Shrek earlier in the day targeting children for donations, and at night takes off his suit and plays the accordion. He played a pleasant tune but did not get many coins due to the badly positioned plastic cup taped to the front of his accordion. Not easy to throw him a coin, he didn't do well, his problem....bad busking technique.



Mykonos in Greece was a very different story. Sitting along the sea wall I observed children busking approx. 100mtrs apart. The girl pictured (below left) had the best position, made the most money and could not play a note (she is pretending to play in this photo, check the position of the straps!). She was successful and her secret.....definitely charm, look at that smile.

The boy pictured (bottom right) could play a tune and was trying very hard but the tourists had already given their coins to the girl who was positioned first, he was unsuccessful, his problem.....bad position and bad luck.



This Trio in Spain were very good, especially the accordionist. They had a great location against a wall capturing the passing crowd but despite being good musicians they didn't attract a lot of coins. Maybe they were viewed as too good or professional and therefore may not have been viewed as buskers?



Finally in Italy an attractive young lady (pictured below) with a Roland accordion, amplifier, hat for coins and the works. She was positioned smack bang in the middle of the square where everyone including horses had to walk around her, you could not miss her. She played extremely well and was very successful, her secret.....position, talent, technique, age, good looks and charm.



In short, there are many variables to being a successful busker so try and tick the boxes if you plan on giving it a go.

Good luck

*Cheryle*

## *The Largest Collection of Accordions*

*by Rob Howard*

The 'Accordions Worldwide' news for the week ending October 20th, 2000 included an article reporting on the 300 accordions owned in Ontario, Canada, by Raymond Laforest. There are nowadays several large private collections around the world, and one of the largest is owned by Ken Hopkins in Northern Ireland, which currently numbers just over 1000 instruments, including many antique and rare accordions dating all the way back to the early years of the 19th Century. The sheer variety of accordion designs, past and recent, inspired the books 'Vintage Accordions' and 'Accordion: A Pictorial History', written by 'Accordions Worldwide' News Editor Rob Howard.

### **Accordion Collection - Canada**

Accordionist Raymond Laforest has what he believes is the largest collection of accordions in Canada with over 300 hundred in his Ontario house. Raymond, who started collecting 20 years ago, advertises in the paper for instruments, some of which he uses for spare parts. The oldest instrument in the collection was made in 1862.

Raymond believes the largest collection in the world may be held by French accordionist Jeannot Perret who has over 800 instruments.

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## *New Accordion Blog, Texas - USA*

*by Rita Barnea*

Shelia Lee, teacher and owner of Houston Accordion Performers in Houston, Texas, has created an accordion blog containing technique drills, ear training, a monthly lesson, practice tips and accordion arrangements from level 1 to 5 based on the Palmer Hughes lesson books. Arrangements for solo, duet, and trio from 1960s and 70s will be included each month.

Shelia Lee, attended the 2014 International Accordion Convention in Las Vegas where she conducted two workshops and the enthusiastic response received inspired her to create the blog.

Playing the accordion since she was five years old, Shelia studied with Bill Palmer and was a member of the Palmer and Hughes Accordion Symphony. Currently she performs as soloist or with bands in the Houston/Galveston area and also teaches keyboard and button accordion through Heritage Arts Production, a non-profit organization.

Many songs are included in the October upload including 'Let It Go', 'Here Comes the Sun', 'My Girl', 'My Boyfriend's Back', plus Oktoberfest and Christmas songs.

For information on accessing the blog email: [slee736@comcast.net](mailto:slee736@comcast.net)



## *Jo Privat, French Accordionist*

*By Annick Lucchetti*

*Jo Privat was born George Privat the 15<sup>th</sup> April 1919 and passed away on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1996. His ashes are at the Pere La Chaise, Paris with many other great artists. He grew up in Paris at Menilmontant near Montmartre. This area was during Jo's childhood a bit like a mini Bronx with lots of mini louts and mini gangsters.*



*When he was about eight or nine years old his paternal aunt bought him a diatonic accordion, he started his accordion lessons and did not learn very well. A few years later his father told him he would need to go out to work as he was not getting anywhere with his music lessons and in those days people started work at a very young age.*

*He started work, and continued to play his accordion in cafes, restaurants, and on the streets of Paris. People would often roll a 1 franc coin for one song, the coin was wrapped up in a piece of paper to stop it rolling so he wouldn't have to search for it. By the end of the week he would have earned about 50 francs, twice as much than if he was working and realised he could earn a living playing the accordion.*

*His grandmother was lucky and won the lottery and the first thing she did was to take Jo and together they purchased him an Italian accordion.*

*Then one day his aunt took him to a place where Emile Vacher, (a top class and well known accordionist) was playing. Emile Vacher felt Jo should be doing something better with his accordion instead of playing in the streets, cafes and restaurants and like many talented artists this is where Jo got his break and they become partners.*

*In 1936 he won first prize for his Musette performance. Later on he*

*played in "guinguettes" which were dancing places with a three to four piece ensemble and the accordion was the main instrument. Guinguettes were along the river Seine and river Marne and along many other French rivers. The ensemble/band were paid by the dancers "men only" and there were no entry fees, the guinguettes made their money selling drinks and food.*

*The dancers bought tickets for a set of four or five dances and prior to the set of dances, a member of the orchestra would shout "passez la monnaie" (pass the money) and one orchestra member would go around with a hat and each dancer would put their dancing ticket in the hat. The orchestra and dancers would get a break after each set of dances. The "passez la monnaie" was repeated for each following dance set.*

*The ensemble/band had to be very good, any bad notes were unwelcome and the dancers would shout/abuse to the band. If this occurred they would go to another guinguette the following Sunday where they had heard another great accordionist/band were playing and would follow the band wherever they were playing. This resulted in a loss of job for the accordionist and band, and loss of business for the guinguette.*

*Those young boys and girls only wanted to dance, the first thing they did when they entered these dancing venues was to watch the dancing feet, good dancing meant an invitation to dance. A pretty girl or handsome boy who were not good dancers would often be dumped and remained seated for the rest of the afternoon.*

*Jo later played for many years in a dancing hall called "BALAJO" in the centre of Paris. This dancing PLACE was named after him "BALAJO" Jo Private was well known and a loved accordionist in France.*

*The French are great accordion lovers and addicted to it. Sadly in the sixties the guinguettes started to close their doors due to the arrival of strings, electric guitars and American music. The guinguettes are alive again all over France and there is now a revival of the accordion in the guinguettes. Annick*

## **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  
4/33 Valetta Street  
Moss Vale 2577  
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  
Mob: 0421 824 739

#### **Marie McGuinness**

1/7 Advocate Place  
Banora Point 2486  
Ph: (07) 5524 3470  
Mob: 0414 534 230

### **SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

#### **Dora Marechal**

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

### **WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

#### **Lois Hodgson**

29 Castlecrag Drive  
Kallaroo 6025  
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  
upweymusic6@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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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	<b>Victorian Members only</b> send to
Accordion Society of Australia ( Inc.NSW)	Accordion Society of Australia (inc NSW51
51 Bogalara Road,	67 Doveton Ave.
OLD TOONGABBIE NSW 2146	DOVETON VIC 3177

ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (Incorporated NSW)  
(incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1984)  
Accordion Review Subscription Form.

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All materials, advertisements etc. should be sent to the Editor:

Cheryle Mills  
Email: cherylemills66@gmail.com  
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It is very helpful if stories and photos are emailed to Cheryle to avoid the need to retype and scan. Thank you.

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