

THE ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

ACCORDION REVIEW



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Cover: Amelia Granturco and Ben Pattinson played for guests at a very special celebration, details on page 17.

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Hello from the Editor

It has been a busy quarter for accordionist and will be even busier for some with Oktoberfest next month.

I am excited about the participation of the ASA in Leetons annual 'The Outback Band Spectacular' on November 7 and would like to encourage accordionist to come along and join our Accordion Band. It should be fun, especially in the Riverina area which is known for their Italian population. Please consider coming along and join in the fun, refer page 7 for details.

Congratulations to Victorias 'The Big Squeeze Band' on their performance at the beautiful San Remo Ballroom for 700+ guests. What a thrill that must have been and certainly a positive way to promote the accordion, good work to you all, refer page 9.

I would like to welcome two new members, Karen Sagenschneider (Perth), see page 12 and Sandra Mackay (Sydney), page 17. Lovely to have you join us.

Accordions Alfresco in Sydney have enjoyed several charity performances recently, refer page 14, and I am pleased to announce that the number of accordionist in the group is increasing.

Joe and Bruno at Griffith have once again enjoyed performing at the annual Salami Festival or 'Festa Delle Salsicci', see page 11, and we look forward to catching up with them in Leeton.

Hope you enjoy this edition and thanks to everyone that submitted an article and please keep them coming, can't do it without you. Happy reading.

Bye for now,

Cheryl Mills

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Members are all looking forward to going to Leeton to perform in the Annual Band Spectacular on 7th November.

The latest BBQ at Bunnings Mittagong was a huge success bringing in over \$750.00. Thank you to all members of the Society who attended to help.

On the 18th July the Orchestra performed at All Hallows Parish Hall Five Dock during dinner, which was also a successful performance with Ben and Amelia continuing the music after the Orchestra played with Parishioners dancing the evening away.

Welcome to our newest member from Western Australia Karen Sagenschneider.

Sunday 27th September the Orchestra performed for a Saint Vincent de Paul fundraiser at All Hallows Parish, raising \$400 for the charity. Thank you to Chris Worthington for his excellent and informative speech.

Congress will take place on Monday 26th October at 7 p.m. via Skype for interstate members and those that are unable to attend.

Please consider nominating for one of the Committee positions available, the Society is looking for Accordion lovers to volunteer and assist in promoting the accordion.

Denise Kassis
Vice President ASA

PS Details of the Congress /Annual General Meeting and a copy of the Nomination form may be found on the next page.



NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE BEARERS / COMMITTEE
CONGRESS MEETING

Meeting will be held: **7pm (for 7.30pm Skype) ESDT**
 Monday October 26th, 2015
 St Hallows Church Hall
 2 Halley Street, Fivedock
 SKYPE asa.inc@hotmail.com

All positions will be declared vacant at Congress.

New nominations are to be lodged by Wed October 14th and may be emailed to the Secretary granvs@bigpond.com or posted to 51 Bogalara Road, Old Toongabbie NSW 2146.

Note: if you are nominating another person, please ensure they accept your nomination.

PRESIDENT

VICE PRESIDENT

TREASURER

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PUBLIC RELATIONS

ACCORDION REVIEW EDITOR



ACCORDIONISTS

*Join our Accordion Band
to play at the*

THE OUTBACK BAND SPECTACULAR

Leeton NSW

On Saturday November 7th, 2015

ASA accordionist are invited to join our own accordion band to perform at the Band Spectacular on **Saturday 7th November**. Leeton is within the Italian community in the Riverina, where accordion music is appreciated. *Refer to the next page for details of the weekends events.*

Music will be distributed to all accordionists wishing to participate, with rehearsals in Sydney and in Leeton prior to the performance. The ASA will provide a subsidy to each accordionist to assist with airfare, petrol or accommodation.

If you are interested or want additional information please contact Cheryle Mills or Sylvia Granturco;

Cheryle cherylemills66@gmail.com , phone 0414 915 154

Sylvia granvs@bigpond.com , phone 0422 936 612

Look forward to seeing you in Leeton!



The Leeton Town Band & the local community was saddened to learn of the recent passing of close friend, Mark Hamies. Mark was the leader and founder of the PremiAir V8s and became well known in town, having participated in the Leeton Town Band Outback Band Spectacular since 2011.

We would all like to extend our deepest sympathy to Mark's family and the rest of the PremiAir V8s.

In recognition of Mark's huge contribution to the success of the Band Spectacular, it is planned that there will be a tribute to him during this year's festival.

WEEKEND EVENTS

FRIDAY 6th NOVEMBER

Our festivities will commence with a

Meet & Greet

evening for all bands and performers. Join us for nibbles & drinks - a chance to network!

(Venue & cost to be advised)

SATURDAY 7th NOVEMBER

The day starts early with bands and performers entertaining the crowds at the

Festival of Music

Pop-up stages will host performers within the main street while smaller ensemble groups perform live within various Leeton businesses.

Rehearsals for the Mass Band performance will begin after lunch with lots of fun to be had.

Get ready to amaze the audience, with over 170 performers on stage at once at

The Spectacular Concert

held in the evening at the Roxy Theatre.

SUNDAY 8th NOVEMBER

The festivities continue with

Music & Marching in Mountford

Join us for what is expected to be our biggest year yet, with market stalls and various displays filling the park! Enjoy brunch on the lawns and see some spectacular marching bands up close as they march into the park.



*Due to the ever increasing number of bands we have joining us each year, we cannot guarantee that all bands will have the opportunity to perform as an individual group at the Spectacular Concert. However we will ensure that all groups are showcased at one of the other various stages across the course of the weekend. And of course you'll be included in the Mass Band performance - the highlight of the weekend!

**THE BIG SQUEEZE BAND
AT SAN REMO BALLROOM**

AUGUST 2015

Contributed by Suzanne Napolitano

It was always going to be a big night!!



It was over twelve months ago that the Aeolian Club Melbourne first approached us to provide entertainment at their 90 Year Celebration Ball.

We felt very privileged and excited to be involved in such a wonderful celebration. As the date approached, we were advised that the event had grown to such a large scale that not only had the club sold all the 700 tickets available but that politicians and other notable guests would also be attending.

Held at the iconic Art Deco San Remo Ballroom in Nicholson Street North Carlton, the celebrations began with cocktails and canapés accompanied by The Big Squeeze Band who played from 5.45 until 6.30; providing light entertainment with a variety of both Italian and popular numbers.



As a follow on from the sell-out of this night, the Aeolian Club has announced they will be holding a subsequent Cocktail Party on the 26th September at the Aeolian Club premises in Lygon Street where The Big Squeeze Band will again provide entertainment on the night.

It has been a very busy couple of months of rewarding practising and performance for us.

Festa Delle Salsicci

Festa Delle Salsicci (yes the salami festa) was again a great success for the sixteenth year. Our Chairman Roy Catanzariti sold well over 900 tickets to people from many towns and cities around Australia.

The huge double marquee made a cosy atmosphere for all to enjoy a great meal (by Johnny Sergi from Yoogali Club Kitchen) a wonderful glass of wine or two (from our local winery's Casella our main sponsor) also some great music to sing along and to dance to throughout the afternoon.

This years special guests were; Italian Ambassador Pier Francesco Zazo, TV presenter John Mangos, Food presenter/author Lyndey Milan, Professor Phillip Stricker, Director and business man Kim Williams.

Our line up of musicians comprised of: Jim Salvestro; Frank Wilson; Dr Jaya , Kevin Jobbitt , Joe Staltare.

Bruno Peruzzi (below) and his Roland Accordion had many singing along with him as he walked around the



guests in between the mass of tables and chairs set up, well done Bruno! Everyone enjoyed his playing and later he played with our band to fill the day in.

Joe Staltare

Welcome Karen to the ASA (WA)

We would like to welcome Karen Sagenschneider to the ASA. David Krygger (WA) kindly sent the following letter to introduce Karen and to provide a brief background on Karens life as a musician.

Note Karen is a Senior Scientists outside music.



Karen started on piano at 9 years of age, She was top music student in WA in 1963 in year 12, studying with Edward Black, who was President of the Music Teachers Assoc. in WA for many years. Coincidentally, I studied theory with him and adapted it to the accordion.

Karen achieved her A.Mus A in 1966 and was involved in playing for weddings, parties and with a small chamber group. In 1974, she joined the Edelweiss Dance Group at the Rhein Donau Club as a dancer, however the group later needed a mobile musician and this led to her taking up the accordion in 1997, self taught.

She also joined a small group of accordion players at the club and when the leader returned to Europe, the group approached me for help. I suggested that they should contact Eddie Staszak, who accepted the position. Unfortunately Eddie fell seriously ill and again I became involved, which led to an influx of new players, so I took up the position as conductor/arranger and the group was eventually formed into the Perth Accordion Orchestra. Karen was of course one of the original members. However she also played with one or two other groups as well as performing solo at fairs, dances, carnivals and concerts. As musician for the Edelweiss Dance Group, she plays at many performances including Octoberfests. The group travels interstate for festivals.

She also sings with the University of WA Choral Society. Karen and her close friend and former 2nd accordionist with the Perth Accordion Orchestra Karen Gourley, together with a few others, play at aged facilities and private concerts. Both Karens were in

the Perth Accordion Orchestra for the whole 10 years of our existence.

Karen's diligence and dedication to improve is evident as she is practising advance studies with me and she tells me that she is enjoying the challenge.

Regards,

David Krygger (WA)



Perth Orchestra circa 2005. Back row is Karen right beside Karen Gourley. David far back.



May 2012. Karen playing for a Mother's Day Bazaar at her old school, St Hilda's

Sizzling sausages to the sound of music

NSW members had a successful and fun day when they hosted the Sausage Sizzle at Bunnings Mittagong on Sept 17th. The Store manager commented that it was the stores second highest trading day. It was very hectic but a huge success with takings of \$1,115 with a net profit of \$750. Thank you to the members who worked hard all day to achieve this great result including Ben, Maria and Sam who played for the shoppers, well done!



All Hallows BBQ Performance

NSW ensemble 'Accordions Alfresco' were invited to the 'All Hallows' Church at Fivedock on July 18th to provide music for a BBQ organised for Father Greg. It was a wonderful night with a dinner of lamb on the spit, sausages, lots of salads, and desserts with the biggest strawberries we have ever seen. The ensemble played several pieces and the children watched closely, fascinated by this strange instrument. Amelia and Ben then took over and provided some wonderful music which resulted in many getting up to dance. It was a successful night, thanks to all the players especially Amelia and Ben.



ASA raise money for St Vincents De Paul

A fun day was enjoyed by all when Accordions Alfresco played at a charity concert at Fivedock on Sunday Sept 27th to raise money for the St Vincents De Paul Society.

They played some catching little tunes such as The Entertainer, Eye Level (In your Smile) and La Carovana plus Strauss Danube Waves medley, Rhapsodia Andalusia and more. A request at the end for the Italian Medley resulted in Amelia and Ben playing with Dominique leading an Italian singalong.

The audience of around 50 people enjoyed the music which ended in a lovely afternoon tea provided by the ASA. We were pleased to have raised \$400 and thank you to all members who participated and helped on the day.



*Above: L to R:
Maria Worthington,
Cheryle Mills, Sam
Tripodi, Ben
Pattinson, Dom-
Granturco, Amelia
Granturco*

*Left: Dominique
singing, Ben and
Amelia playing the
Italian Medley.*

Welcome Sandra to the ASA

Sandra Mackay is our newest member to the ASA in NSW and joined Accordions Alfresco earlier this year. Sandra has been practicing hard with the group every Monday night and is looking forward to playing with the ASA at the Band Spectacular in Leeton . She has also been busy helping out at our recent Bunnings Sausage Sizzle fundraiser, and worked hard all day, big thank you.

Sandra who also plays the clarinet may be seen around town playing with the Ashfield Concert Band. We welcome Sandra to the ASA.

Accordionist play at 50th Anniversary

The ASA Accordions Alfresco players were approached at their Monday night practice with a request for accordions to play at a very memorable occasion to be held on Friday Sept 18 (only 4 days away). The special celebration was the 50th wedding anniversary for Angelo and Anna Di Perna at Mediterranean House, Five Dock. Despite the short notice, Amelia and Ben were able to attend and provide wonderful accordion music for a very special night which was enjoyed by all. Well done guys.



ACCORDION ADVISORY & REPAIRS

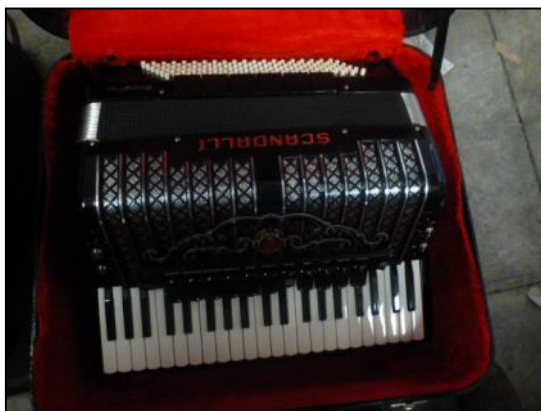
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SNIPPETS, GOSSIP & NEWS

**happy
Birthday**

*Denise Kassís
&
Sandra Mackay*

*are both celebrating a special
birthday this month. The ASA
wish you both a Happy Birthday
and all the very best.*

New CD Release



Pascal Contet CD Release, Paris - France

Pascal Contet's new CD 'Utopian Wind' is currently being promoted in France with various performances, it was released on August 31st.

For further information email:

pascalcontet@wanadoo.fr



ASA Membership

August 2015 was the time to renew your ASA Membership and thank you to members that have renewed.

If you have forgotten and wish to continue as a member and receive the Accordion Review, please refer to page 33, 34 for renewal and direct debit account details to simplify the task. Thank you.

Ferragosto Festival

By Amelia Granturco

On August 16, Dominique and myself found ourselves on stage again on Queen St in Five Dock for the annual Ferragosto festival. Ferragosto is an Italian celebration during the holiday period over summer where the entire country stops and celebrates. We performed as a duo and also with the Abruzzo Choir of NSW. It was a lovely day and much fun was had by all performing numerous Italian songs and watching the audience dance and singalong.



Quakers Hill Nursing Home



Another performance that Dominique and I attended was for the residents of the Quakers Hill Nursing Home.

As many of our readers will remember the Quakers Hill Nursing home was tragically burnt down a few years ago. Santino Gran-

turco, our great uncle and Lina Granturco, our great aunt are currently residents at the rebuilt QHNH. Every School Holidays Dom and I head to the nursing home to entertain the residents and on Sunday 16th August we performed again for the residents during Afternoon Tea. They are always a great audience and we will definitely be back over the Christmas Break



Gig Guide & Whats On



Ross Maio Gigs

Please check with the venue to confirm performance times.

01 OCT 10 am	Oktoberfest @ Toronto Workers Club .Toronto. NSW
03 OCT 7:00pm-11:00pm	Bavarian Quartet @ Berowra RSL Berowra. NSW
04 OCT 1:00pm-3:00pm	Bavarian Duo @ Samba Cafe. Campelltown Catholic Club. NSW
10 OCT 6.00 PM	Bavarian Quartet @ Club Menai. Menai. NSW
11 OCT 1:00pm-3:00pm	Bavarian Duo @ Samba Cafe. Campelltown Catholic Club. NSW
17 OCT 7:00pm-11:00pm	Bavarian Quartet @ Club Rivers. Belmore.NSW
18 OCT 1:00pm-3:00pm	Bavarian Duo @ Samba Cafe. Campelltown Catholic Club. NSW
24 OCT 7.00pm	Bavarian Quartet @ Dooleys Catholic Club. Lidcombe NSW
25 OCT 1:00pm-3:00pm	Bavarian Duo @ Samba Cafe. Campelltown Catholic Club. NSW
30 OCT 5:00pm-7:00pm	Bavarian Duo @ Bavarian Bier Cafe @ Miranda Westfield. NSW
31 OCT 7.00pm	Bavarian Quartet @ Eastern Suburbs Leagues Club. Bondi Junction NSW
03 NOV 10.00am	Melbourne Cup @ Campelltown Catholic Club. NSW
05 NOV —13 NOV	Cruising Fremantle to Melbourne
18 NOV 10:00am	Great Divas & Maestros @ Smithfield RSL. Smithfield. NSW
13 DEC 1:30PM	Back to the Tivoli @ Mingara Recreation Club.Tumbi Umbi.NSW
19 DEC 8:00PM	Ross Maio Cabaret Spot@Liverpool Catholic Club. Liverpool.NSW

2016

8 JAN 8:00pm	Great Divas & Maestros @ The Juniors. Kingsford. NSW
16 JAN 8:00pm	Great Divas & Maestros @ Canterbury Leagues Club. Belmore NSW
6—7 FEB TBA	Carnevale Italian Festival with Tony Pantano @ Adelaide Showground SA
23 FEB 10:00am	Great Divas & Maestros @ Twin Towns Services Club.Tweed Heads. NSW
25 FEB 10:00am	Ross Maio Cabaret Spot @ Penrith RSL Club. Penrith .NSW
31 MAY 10:00am	Ross Maio Cabaret Spot @ St George Leagues Club. Carlton NSW
3—5 JUNE TBA	Italian National Day Celebrations @ Griffith Central. Griffith NSW
8 JUNE 10:00am	Ross Maio Cabaret Spot @ Mounties Club. Mount Pritchard .NSW
14 JULY 7:00pm	Bastille @ Bistro De Philippe. Gordon NSW
19 JULY 12:00PM	Ross Maio Cabaret Spot @ The Builders. Wollongong NSW

Melbourne Gig every Friday and Sunday nights

John Kalkbrenner and Heinz Dabernig perform at the 'Hofbräuhaus' German restaurant, 18-24 Market Lane, Melbourne. Phone 9663 3361.



Le 14 Juillet 2015 Bastille Day

Contributed by Annick Lucchetti

It is exactly 50 years since I celebrated the 14th July 1965 in France and danced in the streets of Paris with Luigi, to the sound of the accordion.

Two years later I started a new life in a new country and the 14th July became almost extinct, except for my good friends who would ring me and wish me a happy Bastille Day

My daughter has never missed a year to wish me a happy Bastille Day, an important date for me and many other French people, this is the date that France got rid of The King and the time France became the country of Liberte Egalite Fraternite, the time Rouger De Lisle wrote La Marseillaise with very gruesome lyrics.

The 14th July often was a sad day for me, no more dancing in the street of Paris, no more accordions, well no more Bastille Days.

Many years later I encountered the ASA and heard the ACCORDION again and got the opportunity to hear many great accordionists , accordionists who even could play French tunes. During my ASA years I heard Ross play many times and after my ASA years I heard him less and less.

This year I saw on Facebook a show about Bastille Day at the Foundry in Sydney,

with Nadia Piave, Ross Maio and guitarist Gino Pen-gue. I must go to this show and as I was committed, I decided I was going to



this show with friends or alone. Luigi and Sophie joined me and both commented “anything to make you happy, then we will come with you “

The show is about to start, Nadia is dressed accordingly almost like the revolution time, Ross is wearing a beret Basque a red scarf and navy and white long sleeves stripped T-shirt and look like a Frenchman and the guitarist is in black. A great trio, Nadia is the vocalist, Ross the Accordionist and Gino the guitarist.

I got to hear many French songs and tunes close to my heart, Nadia is now singing la Complainte de la Butte, the lyrics and music of this song create and move my emotions. I have not heard this song since I left France. (I was in Montmartre over two years ago) I am having visions of Place du Tertre with all the artists, musicians, the cafes, the Sacre Coeur and the view of Paris

Sophie is loving every minute of the show and takes lots of photos, Luigi is enjoying the performance, he loves Paris, and I also loved every second of the show. The show ended far too soon.

Nadia has a great voice and is very articulate with her French songs. The musicians were also great. Vive Nadia, Ross, Gino, Vive la France and of course vive l'accordeon.

The Italian background of this Trio delivered a true Bastille Day feeling to us and the whole audience. I am now looking forward to my next year Bastille Day in 2016.

Annick



Travellers Tale

By Sylvia Granturco

Vince & Sylvia Granturco with friends and ASA members Leo and Emma Kroon recently had a short holiday in America.

While staying in LA we took a trip to Tijuana where we had the obligatory tourist photo with a donkey, shown below with our guide Angelica. We also came across an Accordion player in the Piazza which we had to capture (below).



While in New York and sight seeing close to Central Park, the Kroon family came across this Accordion busker.



This poster of Monsieur Marcel was a false facade in Universal Studios close to the Moulin Rouge building.

**MEMORIES OF YEARS PAST
ASA FESTIVAL
1988**



Giorgio Albanese in Sydney Concert April 2015

Contributed by Sam Tripodi

On April 30 I attended an accordion jazz performance by Italian Giorgio Albanese with my wife Maria plus Sylvia Granturco and Maria Worthington,

It was a very good performance, a totally different style of music from what most people are used to hearing from an accordion. He played the accordion like an acrobat showing the best of his virtuoso where his left hand on the bass was as fast as his right hand was on the keyboard. He produced special sounds and at times testing the very limits of the accordion and even included strange and varied sounds by way of tapping all around the outside of the accordion and even improvising by whistling.

At the end of the show, Sylvia noticed a sheet of paper on one of the chairs which was a summary of Giorgio Albanese music career that the show presenter had left behind. As the presenter had already departed, it was suggested it be passed to the ASA for inclusion in the Accordion Review which has been done and may be found on the next page.

Giorgio is 29 years of age being born in Feb 1986.

Sam



Giorgio Albanese **Accordionist, composer, improviser**

(1986)

Giorgio Albanese is a young Italian accordion player, composer, and improviser from Ostuni in the Apulia. Giorgio began playing the accordion at the age of eight and soon after he started participating and winning various national and international competitions.

He has been involved in various musical projects ranging from Jazz to contemporary music, world and free improvisation collaborating across various multidisciplinary artistic fields such as theatre, dance, and cinema.

He obtained a degree summa cum laude in “Jazz Music” at the Conservatory “Niccolò Piccinni” in Bari, Italy, a second degree in “New Composed and Improvised Languages” at the Conservatory in Monopoli, Italy, and at the 2009 Umbria Jazz Festival he won the title of “The Best Talent” in his category which included a scholarship at the Berklee College of Music in Boston. He studied and attended seminars with performers and musicians such as Kent Carter (USA), Jhon Thicai (DEN), Jerry Bergonzi (USA), Gianluigi Trovesi (ITA), Karl Berger (USA), Luigi Giannatempo (ITA), Greg Burk (USA), Alessandro Sbordoni (ITA), Dick Oatts (USA).

Throughout his career, he has collaborated with several Italian and international renowned musicians including Jhon Thicai (DEN), Gianni Lenoci (ITA), Steve Potts (USA), Mikael Swafrowski (FIN), Ricardo Tejero (SPA), Dominic Lash (UK), and William Parker (USA).

Giorgio Albanese has taken part in several musical projects and performed in concerts throughout Europe, in China, USA, Argentina, Russia and North Africa.

He has been awarded the following prizes:

- Italia Award – Jazz Accordion – 1st prize;
- World Accordion Championship – 2nd prize;
- Trophée Mondiale de l’Accordeon – 2nd prize;
- 4th Accordion Art Festival – Italia Award 1st prize;
- International Competition “Premio Leo Ceroni”- 1st prize;
- National Roland V-Accordion Festival – 1st prize;
- Primus Ikaalinen Competition – 2nd prize;
- International Competition “Città di Lanciano” – 1st prize;
- International Competition “Città di Capistrello” – 1st prize;
- International Competition “Trofeo Città di Palagianello” – 1st prize;
- International Competition for Accordion Player for Soloist and Group – 1st prize

NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND



Extract from NZAA Presidents Report July 2015

By Sonja Palinich (President)

Our annual championships and festival were held over Queen's birthday weekend and this year attracted overseas competitors from Australia and China. We were once again very fortunate to have some financial assistance from the Pub Charity and the Four Winds foundation which does assist us greatly to cover our venue costs. We thank both organisations for their support.

The Farewell Concert featured the South Pacific and New Zealand solo accordion championship winners, a guest performance from 3 Accordions, the guest artist Jincheng Xue from Australia, the Auckland Accordion Symphonietta and a performance by the specially formed Massed Orchestra conducted by Lionel Reekie. The weekend was concluded by a dinner at Aubergine Restaurant in Takapuna. We thank our entertainers Stephen Cope, Maurice Jones and Lionel Reekie for helping to make the evening a memorable one.

At the dinner, trophies and prize monies were presented to the following winners of the South Pacific championship classes:

- 12 years and under - Angela Chen;**
- 15 years and under - Marina Jin;**
- Solo Junior Virtuoso - Zhaodong Yao;**
- Accordion Solo - Patrick Liu.**

2015 special awards were also presented to the following recipients:

- Samantha Rutherford Memorial Trophy - Owen Fan;**
- Cecil Smith Trophy - Andrew Glover;**
- Cocurullo Family Trophy - Antoinette Rodahl;**
- Doreen and Ben Emmett Memorial Rose Bowl - Patrick Liu;**
- Emmett Family Classical Ensemble Trophy - 3 Accordions;**
- Ben Emmett Accordion Orchestra Commendation Trophy - Massed Orchestra 2015.**

The following week, a Kiwi contingent travelled to Sydney to compete, perform and adjudicate at the Australian Accordion Teachers' Association's competitions and festival. Congratulations to our New Zealand competitors,

Corey Jeffries and Owen Fan. Corey achieved three 1st placings and Owen achieved a 1st placing winning the 20 years and under Junior Virtuoso Australian National Championship. A massed festival orchestra was organised for the event conducted by Lionel Reekie. The Starlight Duo of Maurice Jones and Lionel Reekie also entertained at the finale concert.

Sonja Palinich

*Eddie Giffney, Studying UK, Farewell Concert, 2nd August
by Heather Masefield*

Eddie Giffney is a Auckland University piano graduate and NZ and South Pacific Accordion Champion in 2010 and 2013. In 2009, Edward Giffney achieved 3rd place in the Coupe Mondiale Junior Virtuoso Entertain-



ment Music category. This September, Eddie Giffney is leaving New Zealand to continue his classical piano studies in London with Prof. Ashley Wass at the Royal College of Music. He will also be doing some accordion study with Prof. Owen Murray, from the Royal Academy of Music.

Eddie Giffney writes: "Although I'll be sorry to leave friends and family, I'm greatly looking forward to starting this exciting stage of my musical journey. As part of my fundraising, I will be presenting a concert on Sunday 2nd August, 6pm - 8pm, Philharmonia Hall, corner of St. Albans Ave and Dominion Rd, Auckland. I will be playing some of the best of my piano and accordion repertoire - nothing like going out on a bang! I greatly appreciate all the support I have had from so many people."

LAS VEGAS ACCORDION CONVENTION 2015

By Heather Masefield

On the 18th June Amber and Heather Masefield left for Las Vegas via Honolulu to attend the Las Vegas Accordion Convention, held annually at the Gold Coast Casino, directly opposite The Palms Hotel of Rat Pack Fame. Temperature was up to 43 degrees, with the wind off the desert not a cool breeze but a heat that burnt your retinas . We had a few days to shop and see the day time and night time hotels/shows at the strip. When Grayson arrived we took him into the strip to see the large hotels, darting into Caesars Palace, Mirage, Paris and Bellagio to keep cool. Into accordion things with Grayson giving hour long lectures each day and practicing for his concert, 3 to 4 hours daily. Each day had a structure with the mornings being taken up with lectures, then a sit down lunch in the ballroom followed by a concert then orchestra rehearsal then a break (where we would sneak off to the pool) followed by a Formal Dinners then a further concert. I loved this well organized accordion convention attending as many workshops as I could.

Grayson was surprised to discover that at every morning at 9am he was advertised as a Clinician giving lectures. These proved very popular, with his audience growing each day. Amber and I realised that he is now a world authority on Accordion Effects, Different styles of Tango Music, Perfecting your Technique and giving Master Classes. I was amazed at the confidence he displayed and how he handled the audience of between 50 to 100 in these sessions, having them interact, and answering questions fluently in such an amusing manner that often had the crowd laughing. Paul Pasquali, the organizer was delighted with his young and enthusiastic Guest Artist. Grayson also took part in a question and answer panel with Joan Sommers, Mary Tokarski etc .

Maxine Hartman, my Fathers accordion teacher, lives in Las Vegas and came along with her sister to hear Grayson play at his concert on the final night. As this was sold out I had to ask for special seats to be placed for them. Each evening we have a formal 3 course meal in the hotel ballroom followed by a concert. Everyone dresses for dinner. Grayson certainly stunned the audience, playing 4 classical pieces, followed by different styles of tangos. The audience especially floored by the Maori work written for him by Gorka Hermosa titled Ka Mate - what was that angry young man doing yelling odd sounds when he was playing and slapping his hands everywhere??? They accorded him a long and prolonged standing ovation .

For more information and photos <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Las-Vegas-International-Accordion-Convention/256512974369284?fref=ts>

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.....
Signature of applicant Date

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