

THE ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

# ACCORDION REVIEW



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## CONTENTS

PAGE 3	ASA (INC NSW) COMMITTEE DIRECTORY
PAGE 4	HELLO FROM THE EDITOR
PAGE 5	PRESIDENTS REPORT
PAGE 6	NSW NEWS - NSW XMAS PARTY
PAGE 8	“ - CHARITY LUNCHEON AT PANORAMA HOUSE, BULLI TOPS
PAGE 9	“ - AN EVENING WITH RICHARD NOEL, USA ACCORDIONIST
PAGE 10	“ - LEETON BAND SPECTACULAR
PAGE 13	GRIFFITH NEWS - FESTIVAL OF GARDENS
PAGE 14	“ - GRIFFITH SEQUENCE DANCERS
PAGE 15	“ - MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL
PAGE 16	VICTORIAN NEWS - WHITTLESEA SHOW
PAGE 18	“ - CUP EVE CONCERT
PAGE 21	SNIPPETS GOSSIP & NEWS
PAGE 21	“ HELLO FROM FRANCE
PAGE 23	“ BEGGARS V BUSKARS
PAGE 24	“ EMILIO & GLORIA ESTEFAN AWARDED MEDAL OF FREEDOM
PAGE 25	“ GIG GUIDE & WHATS ON
PAGE 26	“ NICHOLAS SMITH ‘ARE YOU BEING SERVED’ DIES
PAGE 27	“ PHOTO ALBUM ‘MEMORIES OF YEARS PAST’
PAGE 28	NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND
PAGE 31	TEACHERS DIRECTORY
PAGE 33	ASA APPLICATION RENEWAL FOR MEMBERSHIP
PAGE 34	ACCORDION REVIEW SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL
PAGE 35	REPAIRERS & RETAILERS DIRECTORY

*Cover: ‘Accordions Alfresco’ at the Leeton Band Spectacular.*

*L-R Amelia Granturco, Sam Tripodi, Sandra Mackay, Ben Pattinson, Cheryle Mills, Rob Bourne, Maria Worthington, Dominique Granturco.*

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Margaret Berens & Holger Golinski



## *Hello from the Editor*

Christmas time and our last Review of the year.

October saw the election of a new ASA President and committee and I must thank the members who accepted a committee position in NSW and Victoria and congratulations to Ben Pattinson on his new position of President. It is the dedication of the committee and support of the members that enables the ASA to continue.

Ben is excited at the prospect of promoting the accordion and directing the ASA in a positive manner and I hope all members will give him their help and support.

November has been a busy month with NSW members attended the 'Leeton Band Spectacular' and despite being the only non 'Concert Band' that performed, we played a lot of accordion over two days and it was a great weekend, page 10. In nearby Griffith Joe and Bruno were kept busy playing at the Garden and Multicultural Festival and meeting Costa Georgiadis, page 13

Victoria had their annual events in the Melbourne 'Cup Eve' performance, page 18 and the ninth year for the Big Squeeze Band at the Whitelesea Show, page 16 .

A winning photograph on page 28 of 'a farmer practising his accordion' from a NZ photographic competition is an absolute classic.

If anyone has old photographs from years gone by that would be of interest to our readers, then please send them to me and I will be happy to publish them in 'Memories of Years Past', page 27.

Those in NSW, please pencil 'Concert Richard Noel', Fivedock' Jan 11, 7pm into your diaries and come along, page 8,9 has the details.

Sorry to our international email recipients who did not receive the Accordion Review for several months. This was due to an email group error on my part which has now been rectified.

Merry Christmas to all our readers, ASA members, family and friends and hope you all have a wonderful and musical 2016.

Happy reading.

*Cheryl Mills*

## *PRESIDENTS REPORT*

Welcome everyone to a new and exciting new year. We hope you enjoy your Christmas and New Years holiday and wish you and your families well.

Thank you to all members who supported my election to President. This story began over 19 years ago when I walked into an old church hall in Haberfield Sydney, a Monday night the second day that I had my new license to drive and a night that changed the way I would see the accordion forever. Having grown up in the South Western suburbs of Sydney, I had barely heard any other accordion players let alone play with others. I met the most wonderful people in this group. They mentored me, cared for me and educated me, they were some of my closest friends and they remain so to this day.

The Society in the last few years has gone through great turmoil. When I rejoined the society two years ago it had been through the ringer and if not for the dedication of a select few, may have disappeared altogether. The NSW orchestra was lucky to have three people attending rehearsals every week. We are now growing, both Amelia and I are teaching many younger students and our orchestra has grown to 12 players. We will continue to grow.

We look forward to teaching a new generation of players and increase our membership. Our marketing, especially our Facebook profile has been very successful in discovering new and younger students. Due to this increase of students we will need more teachers. Together collectively, I would like us to look at how we teach our students and the curriculum from which we teach. I invite all members to join me in this discourse of utmost importance.

Accordions Alfresco has been very busy this year playing many events all across NSW. In 2016 we are excited to expand and grow. We will be having a regular recital every 3 months for our students and I will be introducing a street music program. (more information in 2016) to further expose the instrument and players to the public. We will be playing with other musicians and developing different ensemble groups to further expand players experience and competency in playing with other musicians.

Stay tuned to our facebook page this year. We will post our upcoming events there.

*Ben Pattinson*

## NSW XMAS PARTY

NSW members celebrated Xmas on Dec 7 at All Hallows church hall, Fivedock. It was lovely to see some long term members rejoining the group and new members as well as Ben and Amelias accordion students. A lovely dinner was enjoyed by all followed by Accordions Alfresco playing carols and some of their repertoire with Vince Moschello, Ross Maio and his son Lukas joining in. Thanks to all who came along and made the night a success. Special thanks to Sylvia, Vince, Emma and Leo for organising and preparing a great meal.

*Cheryle*





## *Special Concert on January 11 —Everyone welcome*

*American accordionist Richard Noel will be holidaying in Australia during January and has agreed to visit the ASA and perform for us at the All Hallows church hall, Fivedock on January 11th at 7pm. Our own 'Accordions Alfresco' will also perform as part of the concert. A flyer with details of his performance may be found on the next page. Supper will be provided and we encourage you to come along . Please RSVP to Sylvia by January 5.*

## *Charity luncheon at Panorama House*

Accordions Alfresco were invited to play at a wonderful location, Panorama House at Bulli Tops, situated on top of the cliffs north of Wollongong at a benefit luncheon for Handital charity.

A large Italian contingent were present which resulted in Tarantellas and Italian Medleys being played with Dominique singing in Italian and encouraged guests to join in, as shown in this photo.







ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA  
(N.S.W.)  
cordially invites you to

## AN EVENING WITH RICHARD NOEL

World-renowned Digital Orchestral Accordionist  
(3 Million hits on his YouTube Channel, dedicated to the digital accordion)



Monday, 11th January, 2016 7:00 p.m.  
ALL HALLOWS CHURCH HALL  
2 Halley Street, FIVE DOCK N.S.W.

Please R.S.V.P. by 5th JANUARY 2016 to  
Sylvia Granturco at [granvs@bigpond.com](mailto:granvs@bigpond.com) or  
Call (02) 9636 2674 and leave a message.  
Supper will be provided.

## *Leeton Band Spectacular*

What an exciting and busy weekend, the Leeton Band Spectacular!. The ASA were invited to perform in four different locations around town over the 2 days. Concert bands from around Australia also performed at their allocated spots. Our final performance, as part of the *'Music & Marching in Mountford'* was on stage in the park (photo right)

Locals came with picnic blankets & chairs and the children were able to march and dance to the music, a lovely venue.



Our first location was the *'Information Hot Spot'* on the main street (photo left).

Glad we remembered the pegs for our music but unfortunately we forgot our sunglasses!

### *Coffee Time!*

We were thrilled to have Joe Staltare drive from Griffith to see us . He made time to join us for coffee before the drive back. Thanks Joe.



*Washingtons Furniture Store* was our next venue and what a great audience they were, although the setting may have been a contributing factor as they were all able to relax in any of the lounge and chairs for sale. Morning tea was available to everyone, and as a token of our appreciation, Amelia presented the owners with an 'Accordions Alfresco' CD and some were also purchased by the audience.

*Lillypilly Winery* (below) was another venue with the smallest stage we have ever played. Ben (our bass player) was hidden behind a tree however it added to the excitement of the weekend.

Thanks to Bruno Peruzzi (seen filming below) who visited us from Griffith, it was great to see you.



## *Special performance for Leetons Aged*

Saturday afternoon and when we thought our day of performing had ended, an audience member asked would we be available to entertain the residents at a nearby Nursing home of which her mother was a resident

We arrived to find the majority were Italian and absolutely loved the music. We were also fortunate that several of our group spoke Italian which helped translate their requests. It was wonderful to see a couple of aged residents dancing (with a nurse hovering behind in case they fell). Special requests were competently played by Amelia, Dominique, Ben and Sam. It was a pleasure to see the happiness on their faces.

*(Grapevine has it, that the next day, locals at the GP were heard discussing how happy the residents were and wished it could be regular entertainment for them).*



*Residents enjoying the music.*



'Accordions Alfresco' after our final performance and time to hit the road home.

*Thank you Leeton for an enjoyable weekend.*

Festival of Gardens

The Festival of gardens in Griffith is now in its 25th year with over 60 citrus sculptures set up again between 11th & 25th October.



This year our guest celebrity was Costa Georgiadis (Gardening Australia) visiting and speaking at each garden and also attended the Long Italian Table Dinner open air at Pioneer Park Oct 17th .

To keep our spirit alive God sent 20 minutes of light rain all were prepared with their brollies then beautiful blue sky till midnight. *Joe Staltare*

Costa Georgiadis & Joe



Brollies up!



Joe Staltare, Kevin Jobbitt, Bruno Peruzzi



Louie Forner was seen entertaining the seniors at Yenda Memorial Hall not far from Griffith, to an audience of close to 100 people who enjoyed the sing along afternoon with Louie.

With Louie in this photo is Sylvano Codemo, the chief salami maker at Codemo small goods butchery. Sylvano is in tune with the accordion with some favourite Italian melody. Well done Louie!



Also busy entertaining was Joe Staltare and Bruno Peruzzi seen here roving in a marquee playing to 300 guests at a birthday party.

Thanks Bruno I enjoyed the accordion duo night.

*Joe Staltare*

## *Griffith Sequence Dancers*

Griffith Sequence Dancers had a wonderful surprise when Ben Pattinson arrived through the evening with his accordion in a gig bag strapped over his shoulder.

Ben (*who was in Leeton for the Band Spectacular*) joined us to play songs he may never have heard, thanks Ben you made the dance night a special evening, we all enjoyed your playing.

Here we are at the Hanwood Sports Club . Joe , Ben and Kevin Jobbitt



## Multicultural Festival Griffith



Griffith Memorial Park showcased the diverse cultures with food stalls and entertainment from mid morning till late afternoon on Saturday 17th October. The Italian segment was in good hands thanks to Bruno Peruzzi (pictured above) also congratulations to Carmel LaRocca and her team for a fun filled day. Parade through the park of more than 60 nationalities starts the day as each nationality proudly hold their flags high for the thousand plus people to see and cheer.

*The Abruzzi committee* would not be the same without one of our older members Angelo Ippoliti, pictured here with his accordion.

Maybe next year we will have ASA members come over with the Sydney Abruzzi Choir, lets see how we go. More than 250 people enjoyed Abruzzi porcetta luncheon and the dancing .



## **WHITTLESEA SHOW NOVEMBER 2015**

This was our ninth year at Whittlesea Show

*by Suzanne Napolitano*

The Whittlesea Show is held every year on the first weekend in November – over both Saturday and Sunday. This year was the **156<sup>th</sup>** show.

We played on the Sunday and the weather was perfect. We really appreciate the fully covered stage. As the sun rose higher, it had some November heat in it!



We entertained with two forty five minute brackets; a varied selection of well-known melodies with good response from the growing crowd.

The show provides great shaded seating for the audience and members of the public can enjoy coffees or eat lunch in the cool, whilst sitting through a number of different entertainers.

As in past years we like to arrive early, unload our gear, grab a coffee and “chillax” before our first performance.



In between brackets, it's great to wander around for half an hour or so, checking out the wonderful displays in the produce and handicrafts pavilion or to dawdle over to watch the horse jumping or wood chopping events.



*Here's Paul our bass player, enjoying an Anzac Biscuit - another tradition of the day.*

Sometimes it's stinking hot; other years we have played in the rain. One year we were almost blown off the stage - but the Whittlesea Show is an annual event for us. It's a time for the band to enjoy a day out together before the mad rush of the silly season.

Our next gig is **"Walk Through Bethlehem"** - a wonderful pageant recreation of the Christmas Story. This is a huge event that takes weeks to set up and runs for three nights leading up to Christmas.

Thousands of people visit this event and queue for hours before the gates of Bethlehem open at dusk; when the true magic of the night unfolds.



We are one of many performances that provide entertainment for the waiting crowds. This is another regular event for us and a wonderful way to finish the year.

*CUP EVE" CONCERT*  
*Melbourne Accordion Orchestra*

*By Lee Puccini*

The Bentleigh Music Organ Club presented their 19th Cup Eve Concert at the Coatsville Bowls Club on Monday night, November 2nd. and again invited the Melbourne Accordion Orchestra to present their tenth straight concert to their members and other guests.

This tradition started nine years earlier when Bernadette Conlon played the entire concert solo with the first half with her prepared selection, and the second half being audience requests. Lee Puccini was given the job as compere for the nights performance whilst Manager Peter Maz, apart from playing bass guitar also provided mood lighting and the sound system. There was a good attendance and the concert commenced at 8pm.

First off was an old favourite, Frankie Boy Forever, a medley of Sinatra's biggest hits, arranged by Werner Kunsmann, next was Under Paris Skies arr. by Stefan Schalamon, followed by Liebertango by Astor Piazzolla, the most popular of his works. The major work for this year was next being the Freddie Mercury medley - The Best of Queen, featuring six of his most played songs , this



medley arr. by Matthias Hennecke, a longer piece but which received a long and loud applause from the audience. To finish the first part , Ross Maio's Australian Medley was played and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The orchestra left the stage and the first soloist to take the stage was Finn Kelly

playing Dolores by D.Camileri then he was joined by Iryna Stepko to play La Niña, a



beautiful Colombian piece, again well received.



The next item was a duo of Jeannette Benzing and Iryna Stepko playing Little Storey by Janusz Wojtarowicz, here we had two excellent players displaying their mastery of the instrument and its effects. Another student of Iryna's, Jessica played Russian Dance by Andani Ivanov, receiving a generous applause.



Our current Australian Champion, Dino Kocic then came on stage to play Nuite Blanche, a French musette and Basso Ostinato by V.Vlasov, again, an excellent performance and showing off the finer points of the Scandalli super 6.



The next duet saw Palmi Snorrason and Jeannette Benzing play the old favourite Irish tune, Danny Boy, followed by a Scottish piece by Jimmy Shand called Blue Bell Polka. The last solo to conclude the first half was a performance by George Butrumlis playing two pieces from the



golden days of the accordion in Australia, Begin the Beguine, followed by La Vie En Rose, both well known, excellently played in George's smooth easy style, and a perfect way to break for supper, which was put on by the ladies committee.

The second half saw the orchestra return to the stage commencing with La Paloma by Sebastian Yradier, followed by Tango of the Roses by Schereier-Bottero. Next came Spanish Eyes by Bert Kaempfert who also wrote the next piece played - A Swinging Safari. The honour of a grand

finale was allocated to the Best of Abba, a medley which incorporate seven of this groups most popular hits and was thoroughly enjoyed by all in attendance.

As an encore, the orchestra played Trumpeton Echo Polka by Slavko Asvenick. Lee Puccini thanked the performers, the members of the Organ club for attending and presented a bunch of flowers to our musical director, Iryna Stepko for guiding the orchestra members throughout the year, culminating in this annual concert.

Vice President of the Organ Club Ms.Jenny Retarick thanked the orchestra for a wonderful night's performance, and looked forward to their return in 2016.

*Lee Puccini*

# *SNIPPETS, GOSSIP & NEWS*

## *Hello from France!*

*By Mathilde Auroux*

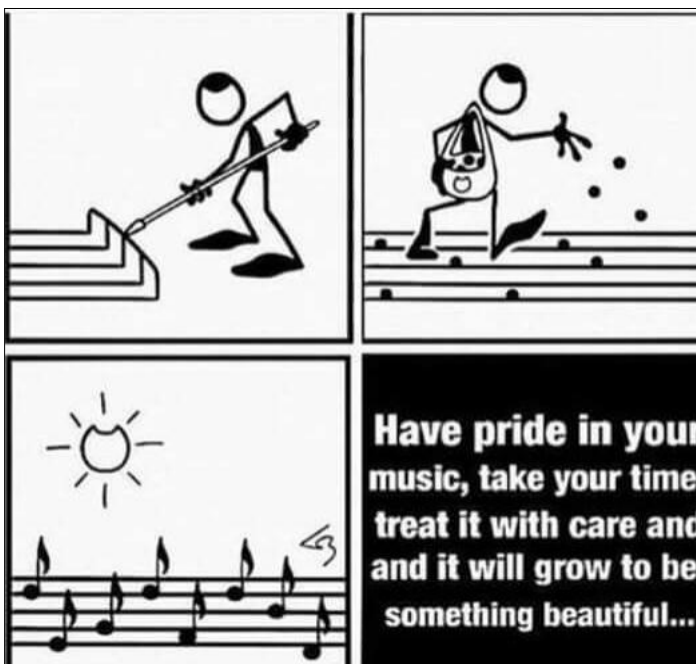
Hello Down under ! It has been a roller coaster for me this year and it is still going. I haven't been playing the accordion since February because of my thumb injury which I had operated last June. The operation went well, the recovery was long, and still going, but now I have a wrist tendonitis, so still not playing for the moment.

I am still in Jacques Mornet's school studying accordion and all the musical theory. I am hoping to play real soon.

I hope maybe to come and say a little hello in December or sometimes next year in July. Big hugs and kisses to all of you, I miss playing with you guys !

Mathilde

*PS Mathilde hurt her thumb last February with a ski boot! It fell on her hand and smashed her thumb.*



# **ACCORDION ADVISORY & REPAIRS**

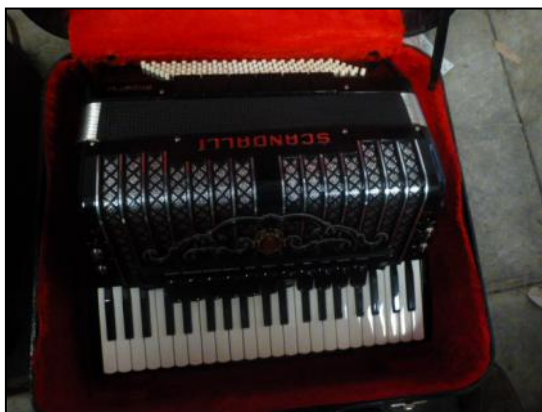
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# BEGGARS V BUSKERS

Musician accuses homeless of assaults, demanding cash

**JOHN MASANAUSKAS**  
**CITY EDITOR HERALD SUN**  
November 17, 2015

BEGGARS have been accused of demanding money from buskers and in some cases assaulting them.

It has been claimed that the problem has worsened with the rising number of people sleeping rough on city streets but that the city council isn't doing enough to protect buskers.

Musician Charlie Griffin said that he had been assaulted twice over the last year, including by a beggar or homeless person who poured orange juice over his amplifier and guitar case.

"Abuses against me, other buskers and the public continue regularly," he said.

"They have grown exponentially in the past few months along with a big increase of homeless people living and sleeping on the sidewalks."

Mr Griffin, 65, said it wasn't unusual for beggars to demand cash from buskers.

"They come and beg from us because they see the money and think 'He understands, he'll share it with us,'" he said.

The Salvation Army's Major Brendan Nottle said he wasn't aware of buskers



being targeted by beggars, but would not be surprised.

"If desperate people see a busker with a guitar case or a hat with cash in it, they will make a beeline for the money," he said. Maj Nottle said there was a wider issue of people choosing to sleep rough in the city that had to be addressed.

A City of Melbourne spokesman said the council was aware of three incidents where two buskers reported assaults or threats.

"The City of Melbourne urges anybody who experiences or witnesses any sort of abuse to immediately report it to Victoria Police," he said.

"There are more than 2500 registered buskers in the (inner city) whose music and art greatly contribute to the city's vibrancy."

But Mr Griffin, who has

also been assaulted by a city store owner, said the council was not doing anything to help buskers. "We pay for a busking licence but they are not showing a duty of care," he said.

"The number of people sleeping on the streets has gone off the charts. The council should be working with police to step up patrols."

In August, the Herald Sun revealed that the council had ordered a review into an influx of homeless people and beggars into the CBD.

Welfare groups noted an increase of up to 80 per cent in homeless on just one city block while Lord Mayor Robert Doyle was concerned at people being "confronted" by the rise in those sleeping rough.

[john.masanauskas@news.com.au](mailto:john.masanauskas@news.com.au)

## *Emilio (Accordionist) and Gloria Estefan Awarded Presidential Medal of Freedom - USA*

*by Rita Barnea (accordions.com website)*

*The Accordion is Instrumental to Emilio and Gloria Estefan. Did you know that Emilio Estefan started his musical career by playing the accordion? I found this out when reading the Wall Street Journal the other day. Read the full article at: [Estefan.pdf](#)*

*Gloria Estefan first met Emilio when he was playing the accordion in a wedding band and was mesmerized. The rest is history! Gloria Estefan, 58, and Emilio Estefan, 62, have won 26 Grammy Awards.*

*Emilio says that the accordion is his most treasured item, even today!*

*On 24 November, they were awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for their contribution to music. The Broadway musical "On Your Feet!" is based on their lives.*

*Emilio and Gloria Estefan at their home on Star Island, Miami.*







## *Gig Guide & Whats On*



### *Ross Maio Gigs*

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

[www.rossmaio.com/gigs.html](http://www.rossmaio.com/gigs.html)

#### 2016

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 8 JAN 7:00pm    | Great Divas & Maestros @ The Juniors. Kingsford. NSW               |
| 16 JAN 7:00pm   | Great Divas & Maestros @ Canterbury Leagues Club. Belmore NSW      |
| 6 - 7 FEB TBA   | Carnevale Italian Festival with Tony Pantano @ Adelaide Showground |
| 24 FEB 10:00am  | Great Divas & Maestros @ The Entrance Leagues Club. 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*

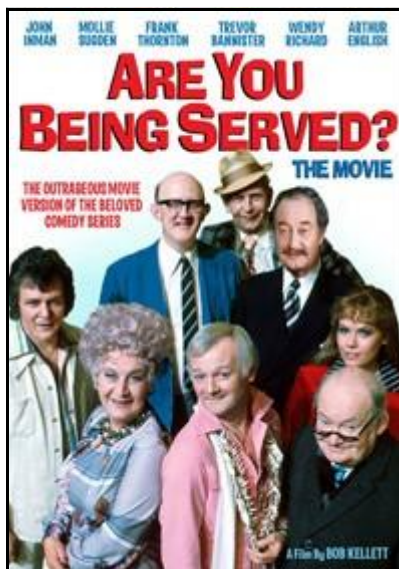
John Kalkbrenner and Heinz Dabernig perform at the 'Hofbräuhaus' German restaurant, 18-24 Market Lane, Melbourne. Phone 9663 3361.

**Audience member warming to the accordion !**



## Nicholas Smith (1934-2015), Surrey – UK

by Rob Howard (Accordions.com website)



Nicholas Smith, the actor who played the Grace Brothers department store manager Mr Cuthbert Rumbold in the popular BBC comedy 'Are You Being Served?', which aired from 1972 to 1985, has died aged 81.

The show regularly had audiences of 20 million viewers, and became popular in many countries, especially the USA. In an interview with American chat show host Ed Sutkowski, Nicholas Smith described that 'Are You Being Served?' got its chance only because of the chaos caused by the terrorist attacks at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

He said that the show had been recorded as a one-off for the BBC 'Comedy Playhouse series' but had not been shown because the BBC thought it "too trivial". But when the live Olympic feed had to be cancelled the BBC showed the episode, and "the public reaction was so enormous" the BBC commissioned a whole series, and the show went from success to success.

Also a musician Nicholas Smith played the accordion, organ and piano, wrote music, was a trained singer, and was featured playing the accordion and the piano in episodes of 'Are You Being Served?'. He played the accordion mainly for recreation, and especially enjoyed playing Swiss, Tyrolean and Austrian folk dance music.



**MEMORIES OF YEARS PAST**  
**ASA FESTIVAL**  
**EARLY 70'S**

*Janine & Cathy Jackett  
(Cathy Day)*



*Centre Else Brandman and Fred Garlick (ASA State  
President Qld). Who can identify the others?  
Please email the editor if you know.*

## NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND



### *Picture of the Year*

*NZ Photographic Competition  
(from NZ Herald)*



The New Zealand Geographic photography competition is held annually and for 2015, the "Overall Winner" was: 'Jason Hosking caught Gore farmer Danny Burgess outside his roadside vegetable shop, practising his button accordion.'

### *Winner of the "Accordion plus" in Russia*

**Arseniy Strovskiy**, winner of South Pacific Solo in 2014 has enjoyed major international competition successes in 2015 with:- 1st prize - The VI International Festival and Competition "Accordion plus" in Rostov-on-Don, Russia, March 2015. 1st prize - The XIII National Competition "Vivat, Bayan!" in Samara, Russia, May 2015.- 2nd place, September in the [Castelfidardo](#) Premio category. - 3rd place, October in the 68th [Coupe Mondiale](#) category in Finland.

## COUPE MONDIALE – FINLAND 2015

Contributed by Sonja Palinich

The 68<sup>th</sup> Coupe Mondiale championships were held this year in Turku, Finland from 6 October to 11 October. Turku is a town on the southwest coast of Finland at the mouth of the Aura river about a two hour commute north of Helsinki. Turku was settled in the thirteenth century making it the oldest city in Finland and the nation's first capital city. In 2011, Turku was designated the title of European capital of culture. This year, the official New Zealand delegation consisted of myself, Harley Jones, Grayson Masefield and Tony Davies-Jones. Harley Jones was also attending in his capacity as CIA Public Relations officer along with Grayson Masefield in his capacity as CIA music committee member and member of the international jury. Other Kiwis in attendance were Kevin Friedrich as CIA ambassador and Alison Worthington as part of the UK delegation.



After the concerts, there was further accordion entertainment every night set up at the bar of the hotel where most people were staying. It was a nice way to relax and wind down after the day's events. The tradition of the Kiwi party was upheld with mostly non-Kiwi guests turning up to sample some of our hospitality. The day after the championships finished, a number of us paid a visit to the Sibelius museum. This is the only museum dedicated exclusively to music in Finland and exhibits the life and music of the composer as well as a collection of instruments from Finland and overseas. Accordion magnets

were spotted in the museum's gift shop so these were promptly snapped up by those in attendance! Later that evening, about 40 of us boarded a Silja Line ferry on a 24 hour cruise bound for Stockholm and back. This was a fun-filled evening with lots of different entertainment options on board to suit everyone. After a brief stop in Stockholm in the morning (which most of us slept through), we made our way back to Turku enjoying the glorious weather cruising through the beautiful Aland island archipelago. We enjoyed some more accordion entertainment on board from Cory Pesaturo of the USA. We arrived back in Turku at 7pm and all headed to a local Italian restaurant for a final farewell dinner. It was a fantastic way to cap off such a great week.

The weather turned it on for us during the entire week. It was cold averaging around 8 degrees during the day and minus 5 degrees at night. I had to buy a snood! However, we had picture perfect, sunny autumnal skies every day without a drop of rain or snow. A big thank you and congratulations must go to Kimmo Mattila and Team Finland for putting on such a great, well-organised event and making us all feel so welcome in beautiful Turku –Kiitos.

**For further photos and information:** [www.coupemondiale.org](http://www.coupemondiale.org)

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