

THE ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

ACCORDION REVIEW



M A R C H 2 0 1 6

VOLUME 33 ISSUE 1

CONTENTS

PAGE	3	ASA (INC NSW) COMMITTEE DIRECTORY
PAGE	4	HELLO FROM THE EDITOR
PAGE	5	PRESIDENTS REPORT
PAGE	7	ASA VIC ANNUAL CONCERT 17 JULY
PAGE	8	AN EVENING WITH RICHARD NOEL
PAGE	11	RICHARD NOEL VISITS MELBOURNE—MUSIC JUNCTION
PAGE	12	VICTORIAN NEWS - A WALK THROUGH BETHLEHEM
PAGE	14	NSW NEWS - HOT FUNDRAISER AT ASHFIELD BUNNINGS
PAGE	15	“ - BUCKLANDS ANNUAL CONCERT
PAGE	17	ACCORDIONS ALFRESCO MAY 1ST CONCERT
PAGE	18	NEWS FROM THE BEDIC MUSIC STUDIO
PAGE	20	AUSTRALIAN ACCORDION CHAMPIONSHIPS, FESTIVAL AND WORKSHOP
PAGE	21	SNIPPETS GOSSIP & NEWS
PAGE	21	HELLO FROM JEDDA IN LONDON
PAGE	23	IN MEMORY, MONICA MOSCHELLA
PAGE	24	GIG GUIDE & WHATS ON
PAGE	26	ROYAL MILITARY TATTOO DOWNUNDER
PAGE	27	BIG SQUEEZE ON CRUISE SHIP (2000 ACCORDIONS)
PAGE	28	TIME FOR A LAUGH
PAGE	29	SINGER JOSH GROBAN PLAYS ACCORDION
PAGE	30	NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND
PAGE	31	TEACHERS DIRECTORY
PAGE	33	APPLICATION/RENEWAL FOR MEMBERSHIP
PAGE	35	REPAIRERS & RETAILERS DIRECTORY

Cover: Melbournes 'Big Squeeze Band', story on page 12, 13

Back Row Left -Right: Phillip Naughton, Paul Smyth, Nohemi Quispe-Chavez, Frank Berens. *Front row Left-Right:* Holga Golinski, Jimmy Photopolous, Suzanne Napolitano, Tineke Sydekum, Jeanette Dorbolo. (Paul Feikema is out of shot but is included on page 13 in **'the lads'** photo, 3rd from left.

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Editors Vic newsletter

Margaret Berens & Holger Golinski



Hello from the Editor

Our first Review for 2016 brings you lots of news, both local and overseas plus information on upcoming concerts and gigs and some great feedback on recent performances. However this month also brings us the sad news on the passing of Monica Moschella, wife of our dedicated member Vince. Monica was a wonderful lady and we will miss her, our thoughts go out to the Moschella family.

The Big Squeeze Band (featured on our cover) performed once again at the famous 'Walk through Bethlehem' Christmas Nativity which attracts 60,000 people. It sounds amazing and I will be sure to visit if I am ever in Melbourne at Xmas, refer page 12.

A very enjoyable night was experienced when Richard Noel visited Australia in January. Thank you to Jan Jurus for arranging Richards visit to Fivedock and for taking the time to write the article on page 8.

Congratulation to Zeljko Bedic who was recently honoured with an AMEB 25 Year Examiner's Service Award for Accordion examining. Refer page 18 for the full story and photos.

A very exciting event this year is the ASA Victorias Annual July concert at the Austrian Club, which for the first time will include both the NSW and Victorian ASA orchestras. Book a table and invite your friends and enjoy the afternoon, refer page 7.

Accordions Alfresco will perform a free concert at Fivedock on May 1st and I encourage members and friends to come along, details page 17.

Finally the Australian Accordion Championships and Festival organised by AATA will be held on the long weekend in June 11th, 12th. Refer page 20 for details or the AATA website.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this edition and please keep sending in your articles. Happy reading.

Cheryl Mills

PRESIDENTS REPORT

The last three months has flown by, the Society members in Sydney who call themselves Accordions Alfresco have been worked off their feet. They have had many different functions to attend and host. In these last three months they have had 3 fundraising BBQ's at both Masters and Bunnings. These fundraisers involve very long days not to mention the amount of preparation that goes in beforehand. We thank both committee and general members who volunteer themselves for these perilous shifts. Hardware goers are lucky enough to hear the tunes of our players in and around the store. The Society works hard to raise funds to sponsor it's players to travel to different events all over Australia. It is through these fundraisers that we are able to do this.

The Accordions Alfresco group have also been busy not just with fundraising events, they have played at many shows at many retirement villages which they play for on a regular basis. A night was hosted for the well known Roland Accordionist Richard Noel who came all the way from America and although not here on business he played for us in both in Sydney and Melbourne, a special mention goes out to All Hallows church in Five Dock and Music Junction in Camberwell, Melbourne who provided the venues for Richard to play. It was great to hear a different style of accordion playing. Richard also commented that he was blown away by the Alfresco group having not heard many accordion ensembles play in America.

Accordions Alfresco will host a Sunday Recital at 2pm at All Hallows church hall Five Dock on the 1st of May, the first in a series of quarterly concerts to give our new and younger players the opportunity to play in public. Accordions Alfresco would also like to welcome Alex Zhao and Elisa Cavasini to the group.

While we have had a great time playing and hosting many of the fore mentioned events, as an organisation for the promotion of the accordion we would like to be considered forward thinking and innovative. In response to this, Sandra Mackay and I have started to look into new avenues where we can further promote our instrument and increase our membership base. We look forward to attracting new members and ideas from these different scenes and believe that it is good for our players to be exposed to the many different genres and styles of playing. One of these would be the many blues and folk festivals held all over Sydney and it's greater suburbs not to mention the whole of Australia, they are popular and attended by many.

The Illawarra folk festival in Bulli is particularly good, you will find no shortage of accordion players and different ensembles playing everything from gypsy to funk rock. To mention a few Black Vat Trio who play a variety of Eastern European inspired tunes. The Button Collective a well known touring band in these circles and Sydney and the Melbourne based group Alma Mater featuring accordionist

Anthony Schulz, bringing to life the traditions of Portugese fado and described as a group that will take you back in time, to a world where delicate beauty and unre-fined passion walk hand-in-hand down the snaking corridors of an antique city. These are just a few acts from a festival that hosts over 160 acts over three days attracting many different groups and enthusiastic audiences. With such positive reports it can only be beneficial to the Society to involve themselves in these events, acknowledging that before we do we must start to change some of our repertoire and even our presentation to suit these different events.

Melbourne and Sydney will join together on the 17th July for a concert at the Aus-trian club in Heidelberg, Melbourne, refer next page. We will also be having our AGM on this weekend and invite those interested to attend, specific times will forth coming. The Concert will feature the Melbourne Orchestra, Accordions Al-fresco and special guests such as George Butrumlis and John Kalkbrenner, we will also form a combined orchestra to play a few special numbers. This will be the first time that our orchestra's have played together in many years. It is great to see the society working together on the challenges that it faces in a modern day musical climate, this is a turning point for our organisation. It is through our unification that we will achieve strength.

To wrap it all up it pleases me to mention that the Australian Accordion Teachers Association will be having their annual competitions at Club Marconi on the 11-12 June as they have for over the last twenty years. This festival is the brain child of Tatyana Marx a well known Sydney teacher and former Coupe Mondiale runner up in 1988. We encourage all of our members to attend either as players or observers. Find more information at aata.org.au or in this accordion review. It is a great place to meet like minded individuals and acclaimed international acts such as Lionel Reekie, Vitely Voronko and International Competitors who battle it out for Interna-tional Acclaim. All players can join the combined orchestra of up to 50 accordion players who play up to three numbers in the final concert under the guidance of Lionel Reekie. It showcases the best and favoured acts of the Competition. Every-thing raps itself up on Sunday night at a final dinner that marks the end of this long and exciting weekend, There may be a few cameo's from a few well known accor-dion stars during dinner. Look forward to seeing you there.

If you would like any further information regarding up coming dates, locations and times, tune into Facebook, Accordion Society of Australia page or send us an e-mail, our details are on page 3 of this review.

Thank you for all of your support over this busy month and we look forward to a very exciting and different year.

Regards,

Ben Pattinson

ASA (Vic.)



Annual Concert 17 July 2016



**Featuring: Guest Artists NSW Accordions Alfresco
Also performing John Kalkbrenner jr
The Melbourne Orchestra with one of George's own
Compositions**

When : 17 July 2016

**Where: Austrian club 76-90 Sheehan Rd. Heidelberg
Mel. Ref. 19F 10**

Time: 2 pm

Entry: Members \$ 15.00 Non Members \$20.00

Meals available @ the Club

Raffle: 3 Tickets = \$ 2.00

Please book early with Margaret to reserve your Table

03 8707 4093

AN EVENING WITH RICHARD NOEL ASA SYDNEY CONCERT

On Monday 11th January the Accordion Society of Australia (NSW) hosted a special evening featuring the renowned U.S. digital accordionist, Richard Noel. Jan Jurus, on behalf of the ASA, introduced Richard to a large and enthusiastic audience at the All Hallows Church Hall, Five-dock. Some of the audience came from as far afield as Canberra. Richard entertained the audience with his enthralling virtuosity on the Roland FR7x V-Accordion. During his performance, lasting almost an hour, Richard played over 30 well-known songs, including:



*Ashokan Farewell
Under Paris Skies
Funiculi, Funicula
Turkey in the Straw
Waltzing Matilda
New York, New York
Kalinka
El Choclo
Czardas*



*Espana Cani
Don't Get Around Much Anymore
Sound of Music Medley (Fiddler on the Roof, If I Were a Rich Man)
Phantom of the Opera
In the Mood
Thus Spake Zarathustra
La Vie en Rose
That's Amore*

Following Richard's performance, *Accordions Alfresco* added to the enjoyment of the evening by playing several songs, including some from their recently released CD, "Accordions Alfresco - On Air".



At the end of the evening, the president of the Accordion Society of Australia (NSW), Ben Pattinson, thanked Richard on behalf of all present for a memorable performance and presented Richard with a gift to mark his visit to Australia and to the Australian Accordion Society (NSW).



Richard and his wife, Mary, who live in Bakersfield CA, USA, spent about 10 days in Sydney, en route to Melbourne, to spend a further week or so catching up with friends and accordionists and, in between time, watching the Australian Tennis Open.

While in Sydney, Richard and Mary stayed with Willy Stader. Willy (at 97 years young!) is a very keen Roland 3x accordionist. Willy featured in last year's June edition of the Accordion Review.



On his return to the USA, Richard posted a Youtube video, featuring photos he took around Sydney Harbour. The music is "Sunrise, Sunset" from the great musical and movie "Fiddler on the Roof." In the video Richard is playing the song with a Roland FR-7x v accordion using his "Strings" set.

The link to the Youtube video is playing the song with a Roland FR-7x v accordion using his "Strings" set.

The link to the Youtube video is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=In7C1X-jJAM>

Richard Noel's Website: <http://noelaccordion.com/>

Again, we thank Richard for giving his time so generously to play for the Accordion Society of Australia (NSW) and wish him and his wife, Mary, the very best for the future.

Regards,

Jan Jurus

ABOUT RICHARD NOEL

Most of us need more than a lifetime to leave a significant mark in our chosen field of endeavour. Well, Richard Noel has and continues to leave his own mark in a number of diverse areas.

In Music:

- *He started playing the accordion at the age of 9 at the urgings of his mother;*
- *He is the winner of numerous State accordion contests in Oregon & Washington;*
- *He was successful in the US National Titles in New York in solo, duet, quintet, and orchestra divisions;*
- *He has 20 years of playing experience in dance and combo bands;*
- *He has been a soloist for 10+ years, playing in community events and functions, restaurants, and concerts;*
- *He is an active supporter and consultant for the worldwide Roland v-accordion community, and an active participant in internet forums;*
- *He continues to be involved in the development of popular programming for all v accordion models;*
- *He is a strong advocate and expert exponent of the “customised linked pre-set system” of programming v accordions;*
- *His Youtube channel, which is entirely dedicated to the digital accordion, has nearly 3 million views.*

In Education/Teaching:

He has a BA Degree, University of Portland

He has both MA and PhD Degrees, University of Colorado

He is a former Professor of Psychology, California State University, Bakersfield (now Emeritus Professor) with 30 years of teaching behind him.

In the Sport of Tennis:

(One of Richard's lifelong passions and one of the reasons for his trip to Australia was to see the 2016 Australian Open).

- *He won a tennis scholarship to the University of Portland.*
- *He was a men's tennis coach, California State University, Bakersfield.*
- *He was a weekly tennis writer for the Bakersfield Californian.*

Richard visits Melbourne - Music Junction



Local accordionist Gary Lechte together with Palmi Snorrason organised for Richard to visit Music Junction on January 19th, during his Australian trip. I and many other accordion followers were privileged to listen to and watch Richard Noel from the USA play and demonstrate the Roland FR-7X virtual accordion. Richard had his first lessons from Charles Magnante, and went off in his teen years to win various competitions. On retirement, he resumed his interest in accordion playing and found the Roland digital accordion most interesting in that it had the ability to emulate orchestral instruments, was programmable, and could record within. He set about becoming a demonstrator and has written programs that can be loaded into the memory of the instrument that can bring into play treble and bass sounds he finds appropriate to any style of music or individual piece of music which can be recalled when playing. This instrument has lifted the accordion to another level, and will widen the appeal to people who previously disliked the instrument. On show that night were four models, the FR-1x, FR-3x, FR-7x and the FR-8x, Richard played the older model FR-7x which has 14 'voices' standard, but can produce over 30 sounds of other orchestral instruments. Included is a battery which can play for eight hours, without additional amplification or can be plugged into an amplifier if extra volume is needed. Richard produces accompaniments and instrument selection for many styles of music playing from classical to modern jazz and folk and sells them from his web site.

Lee Puccini

WALK THROUGH BETHLEHEM

DECEMBER 2015

60,000 visitors a year!

Since 1978, when this special Nativity Scene was first created by Virgilio Marciano, this is the average number of visitors who have queued for hours to be able to walk, completely astonished, through this wonderful re-enactment of the City of Bethlehem during the time of King Herod over 2000 years ago.

Held for three nights leading up to Christmas Eve, every year more than four hundred volunteers are involved.

Nothing is left to chance in the details of uniforms & clothes, Roman chariots & centurions. The sumptuous court of Herod with ancient crafts is faithfully reproduced.

Wool weavers, blacksmiths, wine makers & bakers all at work together. As the sun sets & the lines grow, the Three Kings



arrive – complete with camels!! No one is permitted into the pag-eant area until nightfall, when the public enter into Bethlehem through guarded arched gates.

The Big Squeeze Band has provided entertainment for those waiting, for many years. On this occasion we played on opening night, sharing the stage with the Italian Choir “La Voce Della Luna”. Our first bracket included some well-loved, less traditional Christmas numbers as well as many popular Italian songs. During our break we had time for photo-



graphs with this really lovely shot of “The Squezettes” and happy smiles all round from the lads! Every year we feel truly blessed to be part of such a wonderful event and it is a very special way for us to celebrate Christmas as a group.



Hot Fundraiser at Ashfield Bunnings

ASA NSW held another Bunnings fundraiser on Friday 19th February at Ashfield Bunnings in Sydney. It was a long, hot day and even hotter in the kitchen. However, the heat did not make all those tradies any less hungry, and lots of sausages were cooked and quite a few tunes played. The hard work of all those who assisted raised \$700 for our group. We have another Ashfield Bunnings BBQ coming up on Sunday April 3rd, so love to see you there if you are in the area.



Maria on guitar, accompanied Ben



Ben, Bob and Leo slaving over a hot stove!



Emma, Leo, Sylvia, Vince, Sandra, Ben



Organisers Maria, Sylvia and Emma having a well earned rest.

Buckland's Annual Concert

This year's annual concert at Bucklands Retirement Village was on Sunday 13th March. Eight players, and a considerable support team, made our way up to Springwood in the lower Blue Mountains to play for residents of the village in the auditorium.



We had prepared a program that included orchestral pieces, familiar tunes, improvisation around the 12 bar Blues and several solos. Maria Worthington did an excellent job of her solo, 'Granada', as did our newest member Alex Chao (below).

After only a few weeks with the group, Alex was brave enough to go solo at his first performance playing 'Beer Barrel Polka', which had the audience members singing along with .♪♪roll out the barrel ♪♪.



Sylvia Granturco, who, as many of you will know, thinks of everything, had brought along some door prizes for the residents. To everyone's amusement, the first prize drawn was won by the MC of the event (photos below), who had just finished jokingly instructing Sylvia to make sure the winning ticket was hers!



The audience and the players all enjoyed the afternoon. After the performance we joined the residents for afternoon tea, before heading back down the highway with a promise to be back next year.

Sandra Mackay



Accordions Alfresco May 1st Concert

*Accordions Alfresco would like to invite members,
their family and friends to a*

*Free Concert at
All Hallows Church Hall
2 Halley Street, Five Dock NSW
Sunday 1st May, at 2 p.m.*

Afternoon Tea will be provided (gold coin donation)



News from the Bedic Music Studio (Sydney)

Dear ASA members / accordion friends,

I am pleased to announce, that on Sunday, 13 March 2016, I was honoured in receiving my **AMEB 25 Year Examiner's Service Award for Accordion examining** (first ever in NSW and maybe Australia), at the inaugural annual **AMEB Presentation Ceremony for 2016**. There were three AMEB examiners including myself who were presented the service award this year by **Professor Anna Reid**, Acting Dean



and Principal, Sydney Conservatorium of Music / Acting State Chairperson AMEB (NSW) (*pictured above*), **Dr Rita Crews OAM**, Deputy Chairperson AMEB (NSW) and **Ms Maree Lucas**, AMEB NSW State Manager, two for Keyboard and one for Woodwind. These awards were also announced and highlighted at our annual AMEB Examiner's meeting last week. Another win for the Accordion!

The event took place at the prestigious **Sir John Clancy Auditorium** at the **University of New South Wales (UNSW)**, where over two hundred diploma awards were presented to successful candidates for a variety of instruments and disciplines, ranging from; AMusA, LMusA (including distinction level) and even two FMusA awards (a rarity). This year the awards included Pianoforte, Organ, Violin, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, Classical Guitar, Recorder, Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Basson, Saxophone, Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Singing, Speech and Drama, Theory of Music (Musicology), Theory of Music (Harmony & Counterpoint) and numerous AMEB Teaching Awards. There was no Accordion diplomas awarded this year, so definitely something for our young budding accordionists to strive for in years to come.

We were privileged to hear four amazing and inspirational performances throughout the award ceremony who also received diploma awards on the day. They were:

Timothy Liu – Piano, **Piano Sonata No. 3 in B minor, Op 58** (4th movement), **Frederic Chopin**,

Tulip Foug – Violin, **Sorina Zamfir** – Piano, **In the Style of Albeniz** for Violin and Piano, **Rodion Schedrin**,

Henry Liang – Flute, **Soliloquy for Solo Flute Op 44**, **Lowell Liebermann**,

Erin Bubb and **Cassandra Kerr** – Speech and Drama, **Scene from The Importance of Being Ernest**, **Oscar Wilde**

The day was also made extra special for me with my family; my wife Sonya, my daughter Tanisha and son Joel, my mum, friends and some students who were able to attend. Thank you!



Special Award Dedication

I would like to take this opportunity to dedicate this award to my very dear friends and colleagues, some who have sadly passed away, who started this AMEB examining journey with me back in the mid 1980s; the late **Mrs Elsea Brandman**, the late **Mr Ross Lombardo**, the late **Mr Gunter Henke**, the late **Mr Severino Guiducci** and **Mr Geoff Mills**. I am saddened to say that I am the only remaining AMEB examiner out of the original team of six that we started with, under the leadership and baton of the late Mrs Brandman or Mrs B as we all affectionately knew her. Having said this, I am very pleased and happy to say that I have been joined by Tania Lukic-Marx and Milica Krga as AMEB Accordion examiners in the last few years with whom I have been working on a comprehensive review of the AMEB Accordion Syllabus and which is close to completion and submission to AMEB Federal for review. Subject to their approval, the revised Accordion syllabus may be available for candidates and teachers as early as 2017 as was announced at our annual AMEB Examiner's meeting last week. Happy Easter to all of you and your families!

Yours musically,

Zeljko Bedic

Director - Bedic Music Studio
ASA TDip, MMTA, MASA, MAATA
Australian Music Examination Board (AMEB) Diploma Examiner
Sydney Conservatorium / Sydney University Accredited
NSW Music Teachers Association (MTA) Accredited

11-12 JUNE
2016

CLUB MARCONI
121 PRAIRIE VALE RD
BOSSLEY PARK

AUSTRALIAN ACCORDION CHAMPIONSHIPS & FESTIVAL

If you could **SING** it!
You can **PLAY** it!



Elena Reekie - LRSLS - renowned music educator, teacher trainer and piano teacher. Elena is the head consultant for Auckland's Music Education Centre's early childhood programmes, and one of the owners of the Forte School of Music in the East Auckland suburb of Howick. Her students have achieved outstanding results in the London-based Trinity classical piano examinations, but her wide musical knowledge means she was one of the first in New Zealand to complete her Licentiate Diploma in Music Teaching from the UK's Rockschooll examination body. Thorough her association with the Forte system of Music Education, Elena has a passion for teaching music in a holistic fashion, using aural development integrated with traditional visual and kinaesthetic learning styles to develop well rounded musicians.

The AATA welcomes **1st TIME IN AUSTRALIA** A workshop with **ELENA REEKIE**

*Designed to develop the basics of
improvisation, harmony, practically
applying your skills to instrumental playing.*

WORKSHOP for all ages all levels

- Primary chords - what are they and how can you use them
- Secret to every hit song ever!
- $1+6+4+5$ does not equal 16!
- It's all about the bass - featuring Lionel Reekie

Interactive, and educational, this is no "lecture" - with participants encouraged to join in on the piano, and of course the accordion. Elena's husband, Lionel will be on-hand to relate these skills directly to the accordion, so accordionists should all BRING YOUR INSTRUMENTS to join in for the JAM SESSION at the conclusion of the workshop.



**DONT MISS OUT ON THIS
SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY!**

Register TODAY
email: tats64@gmail.com

FREE to all AATA members
(non-members \$25)

SNIPPETS, GOSSIP & NEWS

Hello from Jedda in London



A very big hello to my accordion family from the other side of the globe, London. It has been so good to continue to receive and read up on Aussie accordion news - keep doing what you're doing because it's great!

I have been extremely lucky in that I have got to travel quite a bit since being here. It seems, and I'm sure you can relate, that as soon as buskers (or any music for that matter) is heard, our ears tune sharply in hope of hearing an accordion - even if it's a violin, we tell ourselves that it's an accordion just playing on a violin register, right?

So my travels throughout Europe over the past year have no doubt meant that I've come across a few accordions and accordionists at that. Monday nights just don't feel right anymore but I've travelled past a few buskers who have kept me going along the way.



Seeing a few older style accordions at the Musical Instrument Museum, Brussels, which was not far from a busking group of older gentlemen (3 accordions, a trumpet and percussionist), to the traditional/tourist trap



accordion buskers along the Maltese coast, the tunes of an organetto conducting the 'choir' of on-board guests on a ship sailing alongside mine through the Adriatic Sea, the Yugoslavian tango/gypsy band in Brighton, UK or the fortunate walk through the quiet back streets of Athens where an accordionist was casually greeting hotel guests, it has been just



like music to my ears. These travels have taught me that if you want to take a classic photo of a busker with a beautiful backdrop of Madrid, you need to tip them otherwise there'll be a 'minor' issue and they become quite upset. It was also quite awesome to learn that Prague is known for it's street musician scene; many a jazz band to marionettes, opera singers and of course, accordionists. I had a mini Coupe Mondiale flash-back whilst listening to a world-class button accordionist on a late night stroll through Prague...as you do.



The past year has been an absolute blast living in London, however, I do miss you all. Although I haven't played the accordion in over a year, I feel that I've become more of a muso living on 'the' Abbey Road. Driving past Abbey Road Studios and through the infamous crossing has become an occurrence as common as a C major chord. So here's hoping that in just a short while, Accordions Alfresco will have a new recording studio lined up!

I hope the sales of our 'On Air' CD, growing numbers of the ASA and awesome road trips/tours throughout the Aussie countryside continue - keep up the great efforts. Wishing you all a very happy, healthy and harmonious 2016.

Jedda Kassís



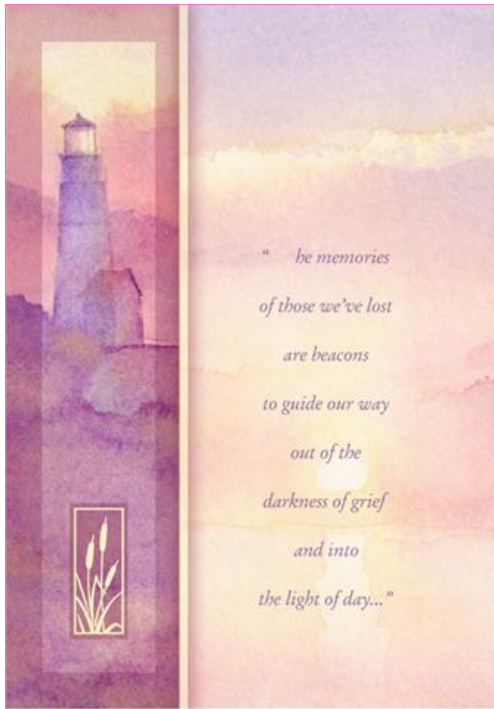
*In
Loving
Memory*



Monica Moschella sadly passed away on March 20 after a long battle with illness.

Condolences to Vince Moschella and his family at this very sad time, our thoughts and prayers are with you.

*To the Moschella Family
On behalf of the ASA Victoria,
our deepest sympathy.*



Accordions Alfresco (free concert)

Sunday 1st May 2016 at 2pm

*All Hallows Church Hall, 2 Halley Street, Five Dock NSW
Refer page 17 for details*

AATA Accordion Championship, Festival, Workshop

Weekend 11th, 12th June 2016

*Marconi Club Prairie Vale Rd, Bossley Park
Refer page 20 for details*

ASA Vic Annual Concert

Sunday 17th July 2016 at 2pm

*Austrian club 76-90 Sheehan Rd. Heidelberg
Refer page 7 for details*

Ross Maio

Please check with the venue to confirm performance times.

www.rossmaio.com/gigs.html

2016

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

John Kalkbrenner and Heinz Dabernig

Every Friday and Sunday nights

*'Hofbräuhaus' German restaurant
18-24 Market Lane, Melbourne. Phone 9663 3361.*

Come sing those old German songs

CALLING everyone with a German-speaking background and living on the Central Coast: the German Friendship Circle wants you for a toe-tapping good time.

Members get together socially on the first Tuesday of each month from 10am at Ourimbah/Lisarow RSL Club.

There's singing led by Gerhard on his piano accordion, lots of chat, a few jokes and stories, a lucky door prize and lashings of coffee and tea.

Some people also stay to have lunch at the club afterwards.

The group began in Gosford around 1996 with an initial membership of more than 100, although there are not as many now.

That said, the size of the group makes it all the friendlier and very informal - for example, there are no office bearers.

New members are always welcome; email Michael at mandraschko@bigpond.com or call 4388-9715.

MR MUSIC – Gerhard really knows his songs and loves sharing them.



Come along on a Sunday Afternoon

by Ben Pattinson

Once a month on a Sunday I host and run alongside singer songwriter Wayne Brennen, a Jam on the 3rd Sunday of every month at the Crossways Hotel (Cnr of Homebush and Hume Hwy, South Strathfield, Sydney). All are welcome to drop in to have a beverage and enjoy the free show, which runs from 2.30 - 6:00pm.

Wayne and I having been playing together for 6 months now on both original and some cover material, they have just started to take their music into the studio and look forward to seeing how it turns out. They encourage musicians who would like to play with a live band to get in contact with them. Every month they like to have at least one new musician get up and play with them. It is great to see the Accordion used in a band, locals have been Impressed to say the least. The Accordion and the combination of these musicians has pleased audiences no end. Wayne's brothers Ted and Steven often come in and join us for the occasion

Unfortunately many accordion players do not get the opportunity to experience the fun of playing in a band and although there are many accordion orchestras available to play in, it sure is nice to have a change and interact with other musicians.

They take us on a journey from Originals to blues and of course a bit of rock. It makes for a great afternoon. Their next event is scheduled for the 17th April at 2.30, Please come along.

Ben



Royal Military Tattoo Downunder



On the 14th of February, ASA members, Sylvia & Amelia Granturco travelled down to Melbourne to see the Royal Military Tattoo. It was a wonderful 2.5 hour spectacular featuring bands from Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Tonga, Norway & Switzerland as well as the usual suspects from the

United Kingdom. To our surprise it also featured an accordionist for many songs as it is a popular instrument in Scottish highland music.

The concert included Highland dancers, pipers and drummers and the award winning New Zealand marching corp. We recommend the show to any members who happen to have the opportunity to see the Tattoo in person. This performance will air on Channel 7 later this year.

Amelia

MEMORIES OF YEARS PAST

Thank you to Rhonda Bates (nee Creber) for responding to my request for identification of people in this photo published in our last edition. Rhonda writes:

“the gentlemen at the left of the photo is Bert Beaton. He moved to Townsville from Sydney after emigrating from Canada. He was Qld President and also National President for a time prior to his untimely death.



It was in the days when Qld had a really strong accordion connection and it was Bert along with Mary Corsetti in Cairns and later Lidia Rokic in Mackay who were responsible for some really great talent.”

PS Rhonda was the Former Stradella and Convertor Australian Champion 1981 and her mother Bev Creber remains an ASA member. Rhonda still plays, mainly as guest spots in concerts, and in orchestras for musical theatre. Lovely to hear from you.

Big Squeeze onboard Cruise Ship

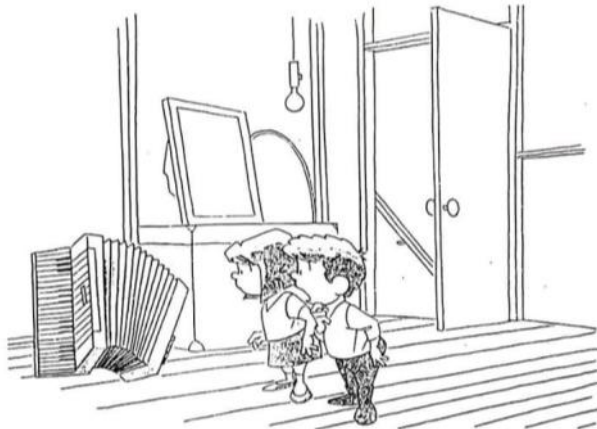
Extract from the Accordions Worldwide website

The famous and super popular 23-hours Winter Accordion Cruise from Finland to Sweden last week was once again a very big success.

This years cruise was the 25th time, that some 2,000 accordion players and enthusiasts meet on board for concerts, performances, playing, dancing and singing. The cruise ship "Baltic Princess" was loaded with **2000 accordionists**, their families and friends.

The highlight of the cruise is the Semifinals of the Golden Accordion and Silver Accordion competitions for young players. The boat cruise is organised annually in March by the Sata-Häme Soi Accordion Festival and Finnish Accordion Association.

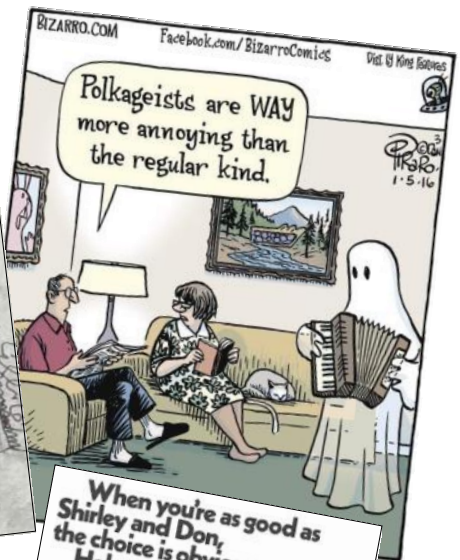




"I'm not sure...I think it's Grandpa's childhood computer."



"BEFORE YOU BEGIN, LET'S COME UP WITH A SAFE WORD I CAN SAY IF I NEED YOU TO STOP."



When you're as good as Shirley and Don, the choice is obvious. Hohner.



I don't think this Hohner advert was intended as a cartoon but I found it funny!

Singer Josh Groban plays accordion.

Following is an extract from the Herald Sun, Thurs Feb 18th, 2016 where Josh talks musical theatre and squeeze boxes.

Ever since Groban stood beside Celine Dion as last minute replacement for Andrea Bocelli to sing *The Prayer* at rehearsals for the 1998 Grammy Awards, his ambitions have soared as high as his preternatural voice.

He stayed patient, looking for a role which suited him rather than risk being compared to all those who had gone before him in a perennial favourite, and fate appeared to be at work when it came to securing the lead of Pierre.

After seeing the off-Broadway production, he asked his agent to reach out to the producers just as they were contacting his agent to seek his interest in the musical.

"I've been dipping my toes in musical theatre for a very long time and never more so than with the *Stages* album," Groban says. "I didn't want to play the 57th *Phantom Of The Opera*, maybe the 58th but I don't want to do it now.

"To have a new show and really pass the test is a great challenge and something I think will be fun."

He will start rehearsals for the show after his *Stages* shows in Australia in April. His fans here may get a preview of his accordion skills as Groban has been learning the instrument for the play. Groban admits to a deep affection for the squeeze box.

"It feels like part of my body now and I understand the thrill Weird Al Yankovic has had his whole life having felt this beautiful squeeze box against my chest every day," he says.

"I get drunk and practise it every day; for whatever reason I play the accordion better after a little whiskey, you need to relax into it. "Plus my character is a raging alcoholic."

His Australian fans may also wonder if Groban has belatedly embraced his inner hipster as he will be sporting a beard during the tour as part of his preparation for his Broadway debut,

"Pierre has to be pretty Rasputin looking. I like it, simple as that," he says.

The singer and actor professes to be allergic to having days off, juggling his Sundance duties, Broadway preparations, working on songs for his next album and the upcoming tour of Australia.

"I like being scared. When you are tackling a lot of different things, you have to do a lot of planning so your muscle memory is ready to go," he says.

Josh Groban will perform, Palais Theatre, April 25th



NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND



ALISON WORTHINGTON

Is now based in London and is performing with the 35 strong London Accordion Orchestra. They will be competing in Innsbruck in May. They also have a Junior group and rehearse twice a month.

NZAA MUSIC PRINTING PROGRAMME

A new composition first performed at the NZAA Competitions and Festival 2015 titled 'Tender Tango' composed by Andrew J. Glover, has been typeset and is the Test Music for the 15 and Under 2016 Competitions.

You can view a sample page and purchase online at: mfa8051

Also reprinted is the first piece of accordion music printed in New Zealand. Loganolo is the music for the 16 and under. The original music, composed by Clarrie Bruce in the 1930's with the bass written in the treble clef, will be on display at the 2016 Competitions. The original copy of this music was donated to the Dargaville Museum Accordion Gems display by Titano Accordion, director Maurice Jones. This was been typeset by MusicForAccordion.com. This is a promotion by the NZAA to preserve original NZ accordion music



Air New Zealand, the national airline of New Zealand (NZ) is featuring an accordion in its Inflight Magazine this month. Air New Zealand is well known internationally for its theme advertising, painting whole planes to promote the Lord of the Rings (filmed in NZ) and to promote the All Blacks Rugby World Cup win. This advertising picture features the All Blacks 7's who have won many titles. Current Captain of the team: Scott Curry (with accordion). Left to right: Longest serving Captain DJ Forbes (taking selfie picture), Gordon Tietjens (long time coach), Tim Mikkelson (sometimes Captain).

Accordion supplied by: [Accordion House Importer/Retailer](#)

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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.

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Signature of applicant Date

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

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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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