THE ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

ACCORDION REVIEW



JUNE 2016

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Cover: Ben Pattinson and Tatyana Marx, President of ASA and AATA respectively, at the AATA Festival in June.

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Editors Vic newsletter Margaret Berens & Holger Golinski



Hello from the Editor

Once again I must thank all members who contributed to this edition and hope readers find their stories as interesting as I did.

ASA Victorias annual concert at the Austrian Club is fast approaching with Melbourne and Sydney accordionists busy practising for the event. The date is Sunday July 17th and we encourage you to come along and

support your fellow accordionist, refer page 7. The AGM will be held at 10am on the same day and location, and everyone is welcome to attend.

Our condolences go to the family of Mary Corsetti from Cairns who passed away this month. She was an active and long time member of the ASA, a tribute to her will appear in the next edition.

Accordions Alfresco have been busy performing at the All Hallows Church Hall at Fivedock as a way of thanking the church committee for their kindness in providing a practice hall every Monday night at no charge. Pages 9 covers the last concert. The next concert will be held on Saturday July 9th at 3pm (refer page 10), and it would be wonderful if you could come along and support them.

Griffith has been on fire with Joe Staltare playing here, there and everywhere and even a stint on channel 7's Sunrise. Thank you Joe for taking the time to send us your news and photos, you are a wonderful ambassador for Griffith and the Accordion, stories on pages 13-16.

The AATA held their Australian International Accordion championships and Festival on June 11 and 12 and several of us went along to watch. I was very impressed by the new young talent and hope we can encourage more young players to participate in the future. Thanks to Tania Marx for a great weekend and hope ASA members join in next year to assist in promoting the accordion. Photographs of the event are on pages 17, 18.

Keep your articles coming in and happy reading.

Cheryle Mills

Presidents Report

Welcome all to the cooler part of the year. Although it may be cold and wintery the accordion scene is still cooking. We are all looking forward with great anticipation to our concert in Melbourne on the 17th July. This is the first time in many years where



players from both Sydney and Melbourne will feature in an event together, not only will they play in the same concert but they will join together into a combined accordion orchestra under the guidance of some of our best musicians. This is the beginning of this organisation rebuilding itself and focusing on important tasks ahead. We have a long way to go and I am pleased this organisation has started to work together, there is a wealth of ideas and experience in the ranks, we will continue to use it.

The Accordion Teachers Association held their annual competitions on June 11th. It was a great weekend with some very good accordion playing especially from Lionel Reekie who always loves to put on a show. Beware if you play with him though, he may throw in a kazillion personalised chord progressions. It is a great platform for students to showcase their talent and receive reviews on their performance. The competition was full of new up and coming players. Events like these are very important for our instrument. I personally would like to thank Tania Marx for all her hard work realising this event every year and thank her for inviting me to adjudicate. The AATA has worked alongside the ASA for many years, we are excited to see what will come of this.

It was also great to see Tatyana Marx behind an accordion again playing with her new group JAGA Band who can be seen playing in Sydney from time to time as they become more well known (find them on Facebook if you would like more information).

The Society will hold the AGM whilst in Melbourne on Sunday 17th July at 10am at the Austrian Club Heidelberg West before our concert. I invite anybody who has any ideas that they think are important to e-mail them to me before the 11th of July so they can be voiced at the meeting. You will find email addresses at the front of this booklet. All members are free to attend.

For those members who didn't know Cornelia Baier moved to Luxembourg and is now enjoying the European life, beautiful reds and plenty of accordion playing. Cornelia has spent the last six months in Luxembourg after having sold her house in Sydney and embarking on this sea change. Cornelia was a great teacher and supporter of the Accordion Society, we wish her all the best. I would also like to pass on my regards to the Corsetti family who recently lost Mary. A fantastic lady who worked tirelessly to promote the accordion. She will be sadly missed but honoured by those of us who knew her.

Keep Playing

Ben Pattinson

ASA (Vic.)



Annual Concert 17 July 2016







Featuring: Guest Artists NSW Accordions Alfresco Also performing John Kalkbrenner ir 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

Victorian news

Accordion Accents Ensemble

Once again the Accordion Accents Ensemble played at the Melbourne Language Picnic in Doveton on 10th April.

Contrary to last year, the weather was perfect and resulted in a much larger audience.

People originating from many countries enjoyed our tunes and it is always wonderful to feel how music can bridge all cultures and puts smiles on so many faces.

In turn we loved the children's singing and dancing in their colourful native costumes which culminated in the whacking the Piñata until lots of delicious sweets came tumbling down for them while the ensemble played some lively tunes to highlight the finale.



NSW news

Free Concert was well received

Accordions Alfresco performed to an enthusiastic audience at Five Dock on Sunday May 1st, a free concert which drew a good crowd. The group played several tunes interspersed with solos from Maria Worthington (Granada), Alex Zhao (Beer Barrel Polka) and a very special solo from Marias 7 year old grandson Fin MacDermid (pictured below). This was Fins debut performance and he played very well, no nerves, and was presented with a trophy for his fine effort!

Afternoon tea was served at the end of the performance and we all had a chance to chat to the audience and were pleased to receive their positive feedback.

The ASA promised to continue these concerts every couple of months at the same venue and the next will take place on **Saturday July 9th at 3pm** (refer flyer on the next page). Sydneysiders please come along with your family and friends.





CONCERT

EVERYONE WELCOME

Saturday July 9th, 2016 at 3 pm

Accordions Alfresco

would like to invite everyone to a bright and happy musical afternoon at

All Hallows Church Hall 2 Halley Street, Five Dock

Donation on entry appreciated. Afternoon Tea will be provided



ccordions Alfresco **Fund Raising For Local Community Groups**

We Guarantee the Lowest

e on a stocked item, we will

Bunnings, A Busy but Fun Day

Sunday April 3 was the ASA's allocated day for holding the 'Sausage Sizzle' at Bunnings Ashfield, where we cooked hundreds of sausages, kilos of onions and served hundreds of Bunnings customers with the popular 'sausage on a roll'. Ashfield is one of the busiest Bunnings in Sydney so we were all kept on our toes from the time we opened until we closed.

Customers were surprised to hear live accordion music throughout the day and to witness dancing behind the counter. Some of the customers consumed their Sausage roll in the immediate vicinity so they could listen to the music and we even had customers return for 'seconds' and to request more live

> music (if the accordionists happening to be having a break).

We received a letter of thanks from Bunnings complimenting the ASA on the days success and for being such happy and cheerful volunteers and welcomed us back.

Thank you to all who came along on the day to lend a helping hand in raising a record breaking profit of \$1,780, well done!









Griffith news



Accordion Sounds at Sunrise

by Joe Staltare

Sunrise presenter Sam Mac and his crew spent a day or so in our region covering the hay delivery to Queensland and in doing so spent Tuesday morning (early April) in Griffith so we had a chance to show case just a little of our town in the short time that Sam spent in Griffith. Cycle clubs, soccer clubs, schools, sculpture group from our Pioneer park, a glimpse of Banna Ave our main street, are well known





Bertoldos Bakery, we had a demonstration on how wine was made in the early days from Bill Calabria Chief wine maker of Calabria Family wines, the winery is now 100 years old. Bill's grandfather commenced wine making when he arrived from Italy all those years ago, and yours truly was called on to add a little Italian flavour to the morning with that famous Scandalli accordion. All involved were bright eyed and bushy tailed for the 5.30 am start to the program.

Regards to all our squeeze box lovers

Joe Staltare

Congratulations Joe on receiving this letter from the Mayor recognising the wonderful contribution you make to the community.



quote:

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

13 May 2016

Mr Joe Staltare RMB 1125 Whites Road THARBOGANG NSW 2680

Dear Joe,

On behalf of my fellow Councillors and the Griffith community, I write to express my thanks for your support to Council and the community for 'waving the Griffith flag' during the recent visit of Channel 7's Sunrise program.

You are an amazing ambassador for our City and I appreciate your enthusiasm in putting Griffith on the map, even at such an early hour! We are aware of people visiting Griffith as a direct result of having seen this coverage, and for that we are thankful.

Once again, I wish to pass on my thanks and appreciation of your support for our City and I look forward to continue working with you into the future.

Yours sincerely,

CR JOHN DAL BROI EMERITUS MAYOR

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Griffiths Italian Weekend



Church Hall filled to capacity

Griffith Church of England Hall was full to capacity on Friday 20th May as some of Griffith families united for a night of music, song and trivia games for a fund raising evening.

Bruno and I kept the momentum going as guests sang and clapped to the music before the games began. According to the committee, a great time was enjoyed by all with another night being planned for the near future.





NZ Accordionists Unite

Kevin Jobbitt was in Dargaville New Zealand earlier this year and gave me this newspaper article from the 'Kaipara Lifestyler' dated March 22, 2016 and thought some readers may find it of interest.

Toe

4 MARCH 22 - 2016 KAIPARA LIFESTYLER

An afternoon in concert

Kevin Friedrich is back in town for his annual concert and this year he is presenting 'Around the world', a musical afternoon with the performance involving local talent representing various countries.

"We are highlighting different musical compositions from various parts of the world," said Kevin.

"There is a wide variety of local singers and instrumentalists, and we also have the Music Makers youth accordion orchestra joining us from Auckland, Lionel Reekie will be supporting us again and his daughters will also take part - it is great having the next generation coming through."

Kevin will be performing selected pieces including Sakkijarven events throughout the United States Polkka, a famous Finnish Polka.

"There is no better way to present this piece than from an authentic Finnish musical tribute to the late artist and instrument so I will be using the 1936 friend of the museum, Colleen Urlich. Onakeyhtic Harmonika which has been with live music and a multimedia gifted to the Museum. The system of presentation of her work whilst the instrument is unique to Finland. It we remember her support of the has been fun being able to play it. It is community in years gone by. quite different from any other - we are blessed to have it and it will be great to with the community again. It is a great use it in this concert.

"It seems like only yesterday that I was here saluting the Anzac centennial. Kevin and friends and it will take I am quite involved in international accordion organisations and have been participating in festivals and Dargaville Museum.



Kevin Friedrich is preparing for his 'Aro World' concert at the Dargaville museum

and internationally.

"This year we are producing a

"I am looking forward to working afternoon ending with a jam session."

This is the ninth annual event with place on Sunday April 3 at 1pm at the Lighthouse function centre at the

2016 AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL ACCORDION CHAMPIONSHIPS AND FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 11th/12th June 2016





20 Years & Under International Pacific Champion

Owen Fan (China/New Zealand)

Tatjana Marx (AATA President) presents trophies to winners of 15 Years & Under International Pacific Champion:

Emma Smith (Aus) 1st, Alanah Jones (NZ) 2nd, Marina Jin (Aus) and Teodora Djukic equal 3rd



Below: Emma Smith playing 'Flight of the Bumble Bee' wearing her bumble bee outfit.



Above: This 5 year old was the youngest competitor and performer at the concert.



Jaga Band (right) performed as part of the Sunday concert. Jaga is a very talented Sydney-based Ukrainian/Gypsy ensemble and played some impressive music. Lead by multiinstrumentalist and singer Mar'yana Sywak, every performance and song ac-



quaints the audience to a wide range of Carpathian traditional music and unique folk instruments such as the bandura, sopilka/recorder, violin and cymbalom. Here the cymbalom is being played by Belarus virtuoso Lucy Voronov, and accordion played by Tatjana Marx.

Right: Junior players perform together at Sundays concert.





Above: ASA members Maria, Sandra, Cheryle and Ben thoroughly enjoyed Sundays concert;

Below: Lionel Reekie and Ben Pattinson provided some of the entertainment at Sunday nights dinner.



SNIPPETS, GOSSIP & NEWS

Sounds of a Paolo Sopraní on a warm Kyoto níght

By Sandra Mackay

Before leaving on a recent trip to Japan, I wondered whether I would hear any accordion music while away . Although I am sure there are many accordion lovers in Japan, it is not a country that I immediately associate with the accordion, and for almost two weeks I did not hear a note.

A few evenings before coming home we were walking down towards the river in Kyoto after dinner when I heard the unmistakeable sound of someone playing accordion. I turned around and immediately headed back in the direction of the music and was lucky enough to meet up with Osamu Miyogoshi. Osamu was playing his first song for the evening on his Paolo Soprani alongside one of Kyoto's beautiful canals. I think he was a little surprised initially to be accosted by a strange foreigner twice his age, but the accordion meant that we had plenty in common. He loves a range of music including French Musette and is hoping to go to Europe next year to learn more and play more. Osamu is now following the ASA on Facebook and would love to come and play with us if he gets to Australia.

Sandra





JUNE JONES Happy 80th Birthday from the ASA

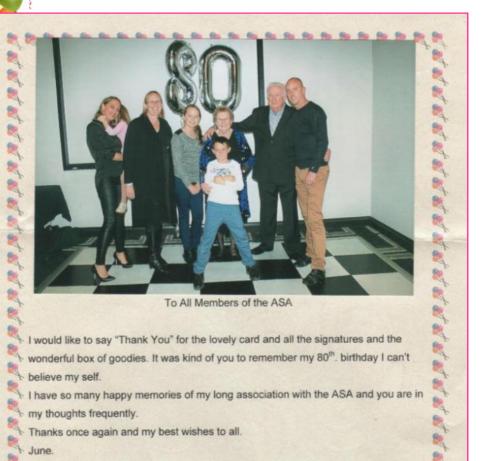


Photo: June and Alan with daughter Elizabeth, son David (and his wife far left) and June & Alans 3 grandchildren.



Our Treasurer debuts with d'Abruzzo Choir

Our ASA Treasurer Vince Granturco made his debut with the Coro d'Abruzzo Sydney Choir on Sunday 22nd May at Canada Bay Club. Vince joined the Choir several months ago and this was his first performance (he appears 3rd from left).

The Choir sings several Folk Songs from the Abruzzo Region and have now commenced with other folk songs from other Italian Regions.



Dominique (right) is their resident Accordionist in Jedda's absence and Amelia is their Choir Master (as seen above).

A wonderful afternoon of song, food and music.





Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of our much loved and respected ASA members who have recently passed away.

Mary Corsetti (Cairns, QW) Alan Parkin (Yallambie, Vic)



Vale Alan Parkin 18/4/2016
Long-standing member of the ASA.
Our deepest sympathy to his wife and family, from the committee of the Accordion Society of Australia.
May he rest in peace.



Accordions Alfresco Concert

Saturday 9th July 2016 at 3pm

All Hallows Church Hall, 2 Halley Street, Five Dock NSW Refer page 10 for details

ASA Víctoria Annual Concert

Sunday 17th July 2016 at 2pm

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

John Kalkbrenner

Every Thursday and Friday nights

Sam Rauza

Every Saturday and Sunday nights

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

Heinz Dabernig

Every Friday and Saturday night and Sunday lunch.

Cuckoo Restaurant in the Dandenongs, Victoria

Ross Maio

Please check with the venue to confirm performance times.

www.rossmaio.com/gigs.html

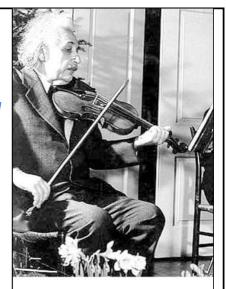
<u>2016</u>

14 JULY 7:00 pm Bastille @ Bistro De Philippe. Gordon NSW

19 JULY 12:00 pm Ross Maio Cabaret Spot @ The Builders. Wollongong NSW

These are the only gigs for Ross available to the Editor at the time of publishing.

Every band exists because people took the time to listen, to go to shows, to buy albums, to spread the word...... Music talent is everywhere!! Help and support your fellow musicians!!



"IF I WERE NOT A PHYSICIST, I WOULD PROBABLY BE A MUSICIAN. I OFTEN THINK IN MUSIC. I LIVE MY DAYDREAMS IN MUSIC. I SEE MY LIFE IN TERMS OF MUSIC. I GET MOST OF MY JOY IN LIFE OUT OF MUSIC."

—ALBERT EINSTEIN

The note below from Heinz Dabernig, was sent to me to advise of a 'Gig Guide' change. I personally found it interesting and have therefore taken the liberty of publishing it. Editor

I've Come Full Circle

By Heinz Dabernig

Just a short note to let you know I am no longer gigging at the Hofbrauhaus in Melbourne's CBD. It seems that my playing life has come full circle.

I came to Melbourne from Adelaide in 1970 to be a house musician at the Cuckoo Restaurant in the Dandenongs and as of earlier this year I'm back there every Friday and Saturday night and Sunday lunch.

I do feel guilty every time I receive an email plea for extra material for the Review. I am however on the wrong side of seventy and still working basically two jobs (running the shop & playing) so there never seems to be enough hours in a day.

People ask me how much longer will I do this and I tell them I plan to retire when I'm 92 'cos it's going to take that long to finish everything I have to. However miracles do happen. Watch this space.

Regards,

Heinz Dabernig
UPWEY MUSIC





"My husband will be home at any moment—quick, take the accordion!"

A guy left his car in a bad part of town with 2 accordions on the back seat and had forgotten to lock the doors, when he returned there were 3 accordions on the backseat!



Cultural Dance Exhibition

By Amelia Granturco

On Sunday 8th May at Gladesville (Sydney), Lucas Maio and myself went along with several other musicians to participate in a Cultural Dance Exhibition.

Miss Simona Ferrigno of the University of Palermo, Sicily provided a Traditional Dance Workshop along with a short documentary of Traditional Musical Instruments.

It was a well attended afternoon with over 150 participants in the workshop. The day was organised by the Italian Consulate, Italian Institute of Culture and C.A.S. (Sicilian Associations of Sydney).

Amelía



La consegna delle pergamene



Il gruppo di musicisti

Conjunto Music

One of the most enduring musical traditions among Mexicans and Mexican Americans is the accordion-based ensemble known as "conjunto" (and as "musica nortena" outside of Texas). Popular for more than one hundred years, especially since its commercialisation in the 1920s, this folk ensemble remains to this day the everyday music of working-class Texas Mexicans and Mexican "nortenos" (northerners).



During the course of its long history, the conjunto evolved into a tightly organized style that speaks musically for the aesthetic and ideological sentiments of its adherents. In the process, this music of humble beginnings along the Texas-Mexico border has spread far beyond its original base, gaining a vast audience in both Mexico and the United States.

The diatonic, button accordion that anchors the conjunto made its first appearance in northern Mexico and South Texas sometime in the 1860s or '70s. The first accordions were simple one or two-row models, quite suitable for the musical capabilities of the first norteno and Texas/Mexican musicians who experimented with the instrument. A strong regional style developed by the turn of the century, as the accordion became increas-

ingly associated with a unique Mexican guitar known as an "oajo sexto." Another local folk instrument, the tambora de rancho (ranch drum), also enjoyed prominence as a back-up to the accordion. In combination with one or both of these instruments, the accordion had become by the 1890s the instrument of preference for working-class celebrations on both sides of the Texas-Mexico border.

In the United States and Mexico, a conjunto band is composed of four main instruments: the button accordion, the bajo sexto, an electric bass, and a drum kit. They are popular in northern Mexico and southern Texas.

Origins

Europeans from Germany (first during Spanish time and 1830s), Poland, and the Czech Republic migrated to Texas and Mexico, bringing with them their style of mu-

sic and dance. They brought with them the waltz, polkas and other popular forms of music and dance. However it was not until the Mexican Revolution (1910–1917) that forced many of these Europeans to flee Mexico and into South Texas, that their musical influence was to have a major impact on Tejanos.

At the turn of the century, Tejanos were mostly involved in ranching and agriculture. The only diversion was the occasional travelling musician who would come to the ranches and farms. Their basic instruments were the flute, guitar, and drum, and they sang songs that were passed down through the generations from songs originally sung in Mexico. One of these musicians was Lydia Mendoza, who became one of the first to record Spanish language music as part of RCA's expansion of their popular race records of the 1920s. As these travelling musicos travelled into areas where the Germans, Poles, and Czechs lived, they began to incorporate the oom-pah sound into their music. Narciso "El Huracan del Valle" Martinez, known as the father of *conjunto* music, defined the accordion's role in *conjunto* music.

Central to the evolution of early Tejano music was the blend of traditional forms such as the *corrido* and *mariachi*, and Continental European styles, such as polka, introduced by German and Czech settlers in the late 19th century. In particular, the accordion was adopted by Tejano folk musicians at the turn of the 20th century, and it became a popular instrument for amateur musicians in Texas and Northern Mexico. Small bands known as *orquestas*, featuring amateur musicians, became a staple at community dances

In the last few years or so there has been an increasing Mexican influence on Tejano music resulting in a sound more like *Norteño*. The accordion, while a historically popular instrument in *Tejano* music, has gone from a secondary or specialty instrument to a "must have" instrument.

Festivals (below) are popular today especially in San Antonio & draw big crowds.







NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND

9th Kevin Friedrich & Friends Annual Fundraising Concert

by Harley Jones

The 9th Kevin Friedrich & Friends Annual Fundraising
Concert was held on Sunday afternoon, 3rd April at the
Dargaville Musuem Lighthouse Function Centre. The concert was sold out
over 10 days before the concert and the packed audience loved the show.

The concert consisted of various local performers and groups, often with Kevin Friedrich accompanying them on accordion plus Kevin's New Zealand accordion friends. The theme of the concert was "Around the World" and the music reflected that them with famous pieces from many countries of the world, including New Zealand compositions.

The North Shore Music Makers Accordion Orchestra of young people conducted by Christine Johnstone was one of the many popular performances. Special note must be made of accordionists Lionel Reekie and daughters Alina and Alexandra, Maurice Jones and daughter Alanah, Joan and Linda Emmett, daughters of Kevin's original Dargaville teacher, the late Ben Emmett.



Pictured above: Kevin Friedrich, Alanah and Maurice Jones, Alexandra and Lionel Reekie, Alina Reekie.

The star of the concert, Dargaville's favorite son Kevin Friedrich, performed with a number of groups and then performed a solo program of music from different parts of the world, including pieces with two museum accordions that finished with a standing ovation from the very happy audience.

As the above Dargaville concert was sold out the North Shore Accordion Orchestra hosted a concert on Thursday 31st March at the Takapuna War Memorial Hall to farewell the Music Makers and showcase Kevin Friedrich and his accordions along with Joan and Linda Emmett. The Music Makers, conducted by Christine Adams, Musicale, conducted by Megan Jennings and Auckland Accordion Symphonietta, conducted by Lionel Reekie also performed.

All proceeds were donated to the Dargaville Museum Accordion Gems Exhibition.

GRAYSON MASEFIELD

Has been performing and recording in Switzerland with his Piazzolla Quintet along with accompanying opera singers all whilst preparing for his University solo performance. He is also collating material for the Confederation des Internationale Accordeonistes for World Accordion Day, Friday 6th May.

OBITUARY

Trevor Taylor, New Zealand Accordion Champion in 1962 and 1963 passed away on Saturday 28th May aged 72.

The NZAA was represented at his funeral by committee members Stephen Cope (an ex student) and Heather Masefield. Heather Masefield placed the NZ Solo trophy that his name is listed on, under the coffin during the service and later spoke on behalf of the NZAA of Trevor coming to the Jones family home for accordion lessons.

Trevor was later to become a professional accordion entertainer and teacher. Two of his students Bruce Skelton and Grant Pearson had also won the NZ Accordion Champion title. Trevor had performed for many years as an Entertainer at Auckland's top hotels. He would often stroll with the accordion during these jobs.

Trevor and his wife Angela moved from Auckland to Whangarei, operating a Rest Home business, followed by another rest home later on. Trevor had Motor Neurone Disease which debilitated him in the last few years. He had generously donated accordion memorabilia to the Dargaville Museum 2 years ago.

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