

THE ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

ACCORDION REVIEW



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Cover: Emma Smith playing Christmas music in Hahndorf (SA), story page 13/14.

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Editors Vic newsletter

Margaret Berens & Holger Golinski



Hello from the Editor

This is our last edition for the year and thrilled I managed to publish it before Christmas so we can pass on seasons greetings and Xmas cheer to all our readers.

Our cover photo of Emma Smith playing her accordion in such a beautiful setting reflects the magic of Christmas, well done Emma. Thanks to Yvonne Smith for sharing this photo and sending us an update on what's happening with the accordion in South Australia, see pages 13, 14.

Ben Pattinson has played the accordion for most of his life but how many of us know what inspired him to be an accordionist? Bens mother Susan will fill us in with her article 'From Humble Beginnings' on pages 21, 22.

I often think about looking after my fingers and hands to ensure I will always have the ability to play the accordion and I hope you all do. Annick Lucchetti has thought a lot about fingers and has kindly written an article titled 'Fingers', refer pages 25, 26.

Exciting news for 2018 is the Master Class being held on February 17th. I am personally thrilled to have such great accordionists impart some of their knowledge at a full day Master Class. If you play the accordion and want to improve either your presentation, expression and dynamics, improvisation skills, and more then I encourage you to read the details on pages 7 & 8 and come along, I will certainly be there.

Merry Christmas to all our readers, ASA members, their family and friends. May the New Year bring you the best of health, happiness and music.

Cheryle Mills

PS Thank you to members who renewed their membership, we appreciate your support for the ASA.

Presidents Report



Welcome to the Christmas season, this is a very special time of the year that we urge you to spend time with your family and friends and reflect on the year gone by and look forward to new challenges and goals in the new year. Remember to share your love of your instrument with your friends and family during this time music always enhances the joy and cheer of any celebration especially accordions.

I have spoken many times about the different accordion organisations in Australia and other countries and how we have been working on developing ties and co-operative relationships where our members will benefit from a greater base of players and educators. For those who do not know the AATA is the only Accordion organisation to provide international type competitions. Students benefit greatly from these competitions and the workshops they run once a year. They are able to hone their skills and reach their potential, a little competition never hurt anyone. Recently the AATA held their annual AGM, they put forward a motion to create an Associate membership which they will extend to the ASA and other musical societies. You can be an associate member of the AATA if you are a financial member of the ASA. Associate membership will cost \$10 per annum. We thank the AATA for taking the initiative to help this to happen.

As part of our goal of bringing the accordion alive in Australia we are pleased to announce the first set of performance workshops to be held in February (event details are located in this accordion review). I often see students with great potential lacking in performance abilities. The ability to perform as opposed to just playing

what is written on the score is integral in making music enjoyable for both the student and the audience. It is however difficult to develop your performance skills as there are not many avenues available to students where you can develop these skills. We decided to address this and provide a series of masterclasses aimed at improving your performance skills. Many months of work went into the finer details of who, what, when and where. We look forward to this event being a success and being the pilot to the next to come in the series of regular masterclass workshops.

We at the Accordion Society look forward to next year and are very pleased to have the support of our members and look forward to providing current and new members with the opportunity to develop their skills. We have come so far, this year and will go forward to the next with more strength and determination than ever before. From this point on we will Create the Future.

Benny Pattinson

“To play a wrong note
is
INSIGNIFICANT.
To play without passion
is
INEXCUSABLE.”
- Beethoven



Master Class February 2018

EXPAND YOURSELF AT OUR ACCORDION MASTERCLASS



*We are very excited to announce that the Accordion Society of Australia NSW is holding our first ever Accordion Masterclass in Sydney on **February 17 2018**.*

If you are ready to take your accordion playing to the next level, come along and join us for a full day workshop with great presenters and welcoming and participatory sessions. The day will suit adult players of all levels.

Some of our presenters will be familiar to you, having been long time members of our accordion family.

Well known performer and teacher, and long-time ASA member and mentor, Cathy Day, will present 'Express yourself: Using dynamics to enhance playing and musicality'. Without expression even the most beautiful pieces of music may not sound quite so beautiful! Cathy is going to demonstrate how players can work to improve dynamic control and phrasing.

Music teacher and performer, our very own Amelia Gran-turco, will be presenting 'Explore yourself: Gaining confidence in improvisation'. This workshop will be really valuable to those of us who feel just that bit too attached to our sheet music but would love to learn to jam with others.

Our ASA President and accordionist about town, Ben Pattinson, will present 'Extend yourself: Developing performance skills'. There is much more to performing than just

playing the notes correctly. In this workshop Ben will share tips and tricks on how to play confidently, embellish your playing and engage your audience.

The last session for the day will be 'Go folk yourself: The Accordion in Folk Music and Good Tunes Session' presented by David De Santi. David is very well known in the Australian folk music scene, and is the Artistic Director of the Illawarra Folk Festival, Perisher Folk Festival and Folk by the Sea. David is the accordionist in two Italian bands 'I Viaggiatori' and 'Zumpa'.

In a 'Good Tunes Session', David provides sheet music and leads the participants in playing folk tunes from around the world. If you are interested in finding out more about Good Tunes Sessions and the folk tunes collections take a look at <http://www.goodtunes.com.au/>

*The full day Masterclass will be held at **Canada Bay Club** in 'The William Room' 4 William Street, Five Dock, February 17 2018 and will run from 9:00 am to 4:30pm. The Masterclass will cost \$40 which includes a light lunch.*

We have been fortunate to receive some sponsorship for the event from Canada Bay Club.



To book a place, please email accordionsalfresco@gmail.com or telephone Sandra on 0422 105 147

Keep an eye out for more information on the Masterclass, as we are planning an evening event following on from this workshop.

NSW Christmas Party

NSW ASA held their Xmas party at the Five Dock Tigers Club on Monday Dec 11th. It was an enjoyable evening of good food and also great music thanks to Amelia, Dom and Ben. Thanks also to Finn who played with George Washingmachine on violin. Thanks to Sylvia, Vince Moschella and Sandra for organising a lovely night.





'Tis the season for Xmas Carols

Accordions Alfresco visited Huntingdon (Bexley) and Ferndale (Mortdale) Aged-Care Homes on Monday Dec 18th. Ben regularly entertains at these homes and they love him. On our arrival a few residents were puzzled when not one accordionist arrived but **NINE!**..I assured the concerned residents that our volume would not be Ben times 9, but not sure they believed me. We played a varied repertoire included Xmas carol medleys and some good old oldies. A nice day.



Raising Funds for the Disabled

On Sunday 15th October Amelia, Dominique and Finn performed for Handital's fundraising luncheon at Ottima House in Five Dock.

The trio performed for free to raise funds for the disabled. The attendees were very appreciative and overwhelmed with Finn's performance. Keep up the good work Finn!!!!!!



News from Adelaide

The Accordion Group has been busy updating their repertoire to include some fresh new material and our music Director Carlo Anzellotti has created some great arrangements this year. Concerts have included a major show at the Grand Ballroom for the Adelaide Music Club, various private functions, and the Rotary Club of Walkerville "Pleasant Sunday Afternoon" concert. The Adelaide Music Club show was particularly exciting as we had the beautiful Biela (daughter of band member Eloise) as guest singer, professional percussionist Fa-



bian on the Cajón, and Eloise's husband Peter delighting the audience with his appearance as "The Phantom of the Opera", with mask on, sweeping his cape while walking from table to table.

In fact, costumes have become a bit of a trade mark for the group and we often bring a selection of fun hats and masks along to make our concerts visually fun for the audience...for example we have cowboy hats for when we play "The Magnificent Seven" and Carlo wears a Spanish hat for playing "The Jolly Caballero" and "El Relicario". It always adds a surprise factor and brings a smile to everyone's face as well as extra cheers from the crowd. We finished the year by accompanying the Santa Lucia ladies choir for an Italian christmas function.



Emma Smith has had a busy year juggling her accordion studies and year 9 school music commitments. She completed her Grade 7 Accordion AMEB with Honours, and played accordion for a school concert at Burnside Uniting Church. In the lead up to Christmas she was asked for the third year running to be an official performer for the annual Hahndorf Christmas Market and perform Christmas songs in front of the wonderfully decorated window of the Hahndorf Candlemaker store.



Emma also attended some studio recordings for the Adelaide Russian Club and features on a track of their latest CD, playing "Flight of the Bumblebee" with the Junior Balalaika Orchestra.

So from all of us in Adelaide to Accordionists everywhere, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Yvonne Smith

Elite Accordion Orchestra

Accordionists Out and About

BUSKING AT HABERFIELD



Busking at Haberfield on Oct 28, what a fun day! A local retail initiative, stores along Ramsay St provided samples of their goods to passers by. The ASA were invited to Busk as part of the festivities, allowing us to raise money for the ASA. The liquor store owner liked our music so sent fruit vino across the road for the thirsty accordionists (centre photo). Amelia, Dom, Jedda, Cheryle & Alex were the buskers on the day.

PLAYING AT THE TRUCK BAR



Wednesday 6th December, Ben, Alex and Amelia played at the 4 Pines Truck Bar in Brookvale, (northern Sydney), along with approximately 15 other musicians. Everyone present had a wonderful evening with instrumental pieces, Karaoke and an A' Cappella Choir, not to mention all the wonderful varieties of Beer even a Coffee Flavoured Beer!!!!

OKTOBERFEST AT PARRAMATTA



Ben Pattinson livened up the Bavarian Bier Café at Parramatta during the month of October. Ben (in his lederhosen) was the roving musician, playing between tables (& on some I hear), and covering 3 floors of this very busy restaurant.

Bens energy level was amazing and despite learning the traditional polkas, the crowds demand differed and he managed to play exactly what they liked. ASA members went along to cheer him on and enjoy dinner (below).



SNIPPETS, GOSSIP & NEWS

Oh soooo French



On the 13th October 2017 Ben, Amelia & Dominique made their way into the city to perform at Sydney University's exclusive St. Pauls College Annual Formal. This year the Formal was themed "French" and suitingly the Accordions took centre stage in one corner of the quadrangle.

The event was extravagant to say the least, it featured a 2 meter ice sculpture of the Eiffel tower, pretend pastry stores lined a cobblestone street, a

harp player at the entrance, a small vineyard, a night club within the Arc de Triomphe, street performers, and a few ladies walking around with french poodles.

We filled the evening with french waltzes, musettes and a few tangos shifted into 3/4 time just for the fun of it. It was "Tres Bon" to say the least and a lot of fun to again get the Accordion name out and about in this great city. Looking forward to sharing more adventures in 2018!





ONE MORE REASON TO...

CRANK UP THE MUSIC

Need to solve a problem, asap? Blast some happy tunes. Research published in the journal *PLOS One* revealed that when people listen to positive music, they're able to think of solutions faster.

Researchers split 155 people into groups and asked them to perform a number of tasks that required them to think creatively. While the volunteers completed their tasks, the researchers played them music that was either happy, calm, sad or anxious, and treated one group to complete silence.

Compared to the other groups, those who listened to happy music (in this case Spring from Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*) thought up the most original and useful solutions. So if you need a creativity boost, maybe save that Adele album for later.

MUSIC IS
LIFE. THAT'S
WHY OUR
HEARTS
HAVE BEATS.



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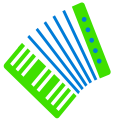


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Faith and Branko Ristic

Red Hot Summer Tour 2018



Genre

World Music / Serbian / UK / Ro-
mani / Balkan / Jazz

Band Members.

Faith Ristic
Branko Ristic

New Zealand tour - December 30th to Jan 7th

Australia tour— January 12th to March 29th

Check their website for performance dates and locations.

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 Ross Maio Facebook page for his gigs and venues.

Ben Pattinson with Medusa's Wake (Sydney)

Please check Medusa's Wake Facebook page for their gig guide.

From Humble Beginnings

by Susan Pattinson

As the mother of the president of the ASA I thought you may be interested in learning about Ben's humble beginnings. I am often asked how Ben came to play the accordion. I am disappointed to say that I did not teach him myself.

It was Ben's grandmother, who was instrumental in this beginning. After my siblings and I had grown up, my mother had more time to herself and she was able to indulge her secret passion. She had always wanted to play the accordion. She purchased an accordion and began learning from the well known performer, Billy Cowper.



Further on Billy was too busy to continue teaching and she moved on to Brandman Studios where she learned from Morris De Pierto. At this point Ben entered the music scene. Mum had decided that she wanted to do something special with each of her grandchildren. Ben's passion for music and his musical ability were obvious. So, Mum and Ben took turns every other week and shared the lessons. Eventually mum could not continue and Ben took over the lessons completely.

This beautiful relationship between my son and his grandma was the humble beginning of his career. He went around with grandma to her Arts and Craft Shows and was well known for his busking. He is still busking today and he has progressed from his early busking days to the dizzy heights of his present day performances.



Ben wanted the story to be titled "Humble beginnings." He made a humble start as a little grandson with his grandma. I know she would be more than proud to see him now. I am sure that many of you can relate to the relationships that children have with different relatives. Aren't we lucky

to have so many different influences on our life!

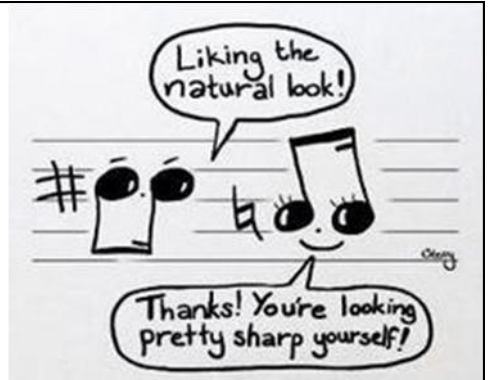
I have one final thought. Do you perhaps have another Christmas present to buy? Please consider buying the ASA CD. I could give you no better recommendation than this. I have two – one for the house and one that stays permanently in my car. You must put this on in your car, put the windows up and turn on the air conditioning. Do not turn on the news, do not listen to talk back radio! Just surround yourself with the intoxicating sounds of this enchanting instrument played by these talented musicians. You will surround yourself with the sounds of an instrument that has such an incredible depth that it will lift you up and fill all the gaps in your soul! The day I bought mine I played it all the way home from Five Dock. Then I truly understood my mother's secret passion for the accordion!



On behalf of Ben and our family we wish you all the joy and happiness of the season and in the words of Ben's favourite carol we wish you Feliz Navidad!



Editors Note: Bens stance hasn't changed over all these years (see photos above) .



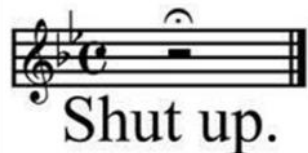
A down and out musician was playing his accordion in the middle of a busy shopping mall.

Striding over, a policeman asked, "May I please see your permit?" "I don't have one", confessed the musician.

"In that case, you'll have to accompany me." "Splendid!" exclaimed the musician. "What shall we sing?"



"Not bad, guys. Now let's do one more take, with more emphasis on tone, harmony, melody, rhythm, composition, lyrics, musicianship, tempo, and originality."



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

The next accordionist in our series is Branko Tomazic of Victoria.

Name: Branko Tomazic

When and where did you start to learn the accordion? About 1972 or 1973 at Helmut's Music Place.

How old were you? 8 years old

Who was your first teacher? Heinz Dabernig

Were there any other teachers involved in your musical education?

Joseph Macerollo, Accordion (Toronto) and Helen Jowsey, Piano

Your first accordion was a? Baille or Parrot

What make and model accordion(s) do you have now? Giulettili

Who or what most inspired you during your musical education? Heinz Dabernig, Helen Jowsey and Joseph Macerollo

Tell us about your music achievements, family and how your involvement with the accordion helped you in your journey through life?

- To learn how to play/read music.
 - Compete in competitions
 - To become a better musician and be able to place or even win competitions.
 - Play in a band and with other musicians
 - Getting the accordion accepted as a musical instrument in HSC Exams (Australia wide)
 - Accepted in University of Toronto
 - Working around Melbourne's international hotels and restaurants.
- I live on a farm (Equestrian) and help run the Equestrian centre
 - I have 2 adult boys (and no they do not follow in my footsteps musically).
- My knowledge of music and what is involved has made me realise how music makes people happy! At times I cannot realise how important it is in life, to be happy at any level!!!

Fingers

By Annick Lucchetti



We are all blessed with fingers, fingers have different shapes and sizes, long, short, small, big, fat. There is the thumb, index, middle finger, ring finger, and little finger. Each finger has its purpose and can be used separately. When I was growing up I often would hear he or she has long fingers, pianist fingers. I was never told that, I would sadly look at my short fingers and wished I had been born with long fingers.

Each person use their fingers for different jobs and tasks, working fingers, crafty fingers, cooking fingers, garden fingers, musical fingers. My preferred fingers are the cooking fingers, I love my food and sweets, the results of cooking fingers are amazing, when I see the food and pastry decorated I know I will have a great meal. I also love crafty fingers; I can use my eyes for hours just watching paintings, tapestry, knitting, woodwork, typing and so many other crafts. Garden fingers are very important to me, I love flowers.

But most of all I absolutely love musical fingers, I have named musical fingers GOLD FINGERS, all I need are my ears, I can listen to music almost anywhere at any time. Everyone is talented with their fingers. Talented musical fingers are on top of my favourite list, I could not live without music.

My favourite musical instrument is the ACCORDION; I also love other musical instruments. Going to an Accordion show can be one of my favourite outings, during the show I use my ears, the pleasure I get is sublime, I also use my



eyes to watch the way musicians use their fingers with great precision, the speed, the way they caress the key board and the buttons on their Accordion, the speed they hit key board, and I can not stop hearing the music. Musical fingers are the greatest assets for musicians.

To all my accordion friends out there, please take care of your fingers. I pray for your fingers to stay healthy and arthritis free. For me all I want is good healthy ears.

Annick.



Wanting to Buy

The accordion stand shown here was available in the 60's and known as the 'Deiro Multi-Stand'.

If anyone has one or a similar stand which they no longer require and would like to sell, could you please contact

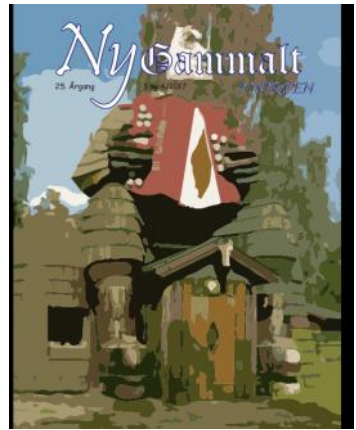
Cheryle Mills 0414 915 154
cherylemills66@gmail.com



NyGammalt i Norden Norwegian Accordion Magazine

The ASA receives an electronic copy of the NyGammalt i Norden Accordion Magazine, a wonderful Norwegian publication full of accordion news, printed in Norwegian (not English).

If anyone would like a copy, please contact Cheryle Mills and a copy will be emailed to you.



For Sale

Silvestrini 24 bass accordion for sale.
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\$300 ONO

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NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND ACCORDION ASSOCIATION



Trio Vishtën tours New Zealand

The Trio Vishtën (Canada) featuring Acadian and Celtic genres with rock and indie-folk influence toured New Zealand in October. The trio comprises multi-instrumentalists Emmanuelle and Pastelle LeBlanc (twins) from the Evangeline Region of Prince Edward Island, and Magdalen Islands' native, Pascal Miousse. They sing in French.

Pastelle LeBlanc: accordion, piano, percussive dance, vocals

Emmanuelle LeBlanc: whistles, octave mandolin, bodhrán, piano, jaw harp, percussive dance, vocals

Pascal Miousse: fiddle, mandolin, guitars, vocals

The band has performed thousands of shows at international events and venues in Canada, USA, UK, Europe, New Zealand and won a number of awards.



Schenwsc from Schenzhen Festival

by Angela Chen

July 23th to July 27th 2017, the Shenzhen Bao'an International Accordion Festival was held in Shenzhen, China, and I had the opportunity to compete in it. My Dad and I travelled together to Shenzhen and it was a great experience. I decided to enter because my parents thought I should have more opportunities with playing the accordion and have a good learning experience. Also, I had never experienced an international competition before so it was new to me.

I entered a month before it and in the last 2 weeks prior to leaving, which were luckily the school holidays, Lionel let me practice at the Music Education Centre every day for about 8 hours. This was what definitely helped me improve a lot before the competition. With Lionel and my teacher Campbell's help, I learnt so much about how to play, and to not just play the notes, but express yourself, and to feel the music.

Shenzhen is a new technology city, in 30 years it had grown from 20,000 to 15 million people and I had a lot of fun seeing the different culture. I went to some Chinese theme parks and also went to a lot of very large busy malls, which are so much bigger than malls in New Zealand. The subway was also a very efficient way to travel, so we were able to see a lot of different areas of Shenzhen and saw a lot of great sights. A good thing about going to China for me was the fact that I know Chinese so I could understand what people were saying. This made it way more convenient to communicate with people.

The competition was spread out over 5 days, and I performed on the last day of it. Every night I got to watch musical concerts and learn how professional musicians perform. It was such a great learning experience.

On the last day of the festival I competed in something called a Knock-out competition, where there were four rounds and after each round people would be eliminated. I played in the first and second rounds, and came fourth overall, winning about \$100 in New Zealand dollars.

I am very grateful for the opportunity to be able to compete internationally playing the accordion, and it also made me love my instrument much more.

Thank you Lionel and Campbell for helping me succeed at this competition. I learnt so much from this experience and I can't wait to do more with the accordion in the future.

ED: Other NZAA members in attendance were Heather & Grayson Masfield - both adjudicating and Harley Jones and Kevin Friedrich covering the event for Accordions Worldwide.

<http://www.accordions.com/china/shenzhen/2017/index.htm>

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Mob. 0417 361980
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APPLICATION/RENEWAL FOR MEMBERSHIP OF ASSOCIATION



ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (Incorporated NSW)
(incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1984)

I,
(full name of applicant)

of
(address)

Phone Email

hereby apply to become a member **OR RENEW** my membership of the abovementioned association. In the event of my admission as a member, I agree to be bound by the rules of the association for the time being in force.

.....
Signature of applicant Date

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

General Member	\$ 40.00
Teacher Member	\$ 50.00
Family Member	\$ 55.00

Bank Transfer **Accordion Society of Australia Inc**
BSB: **062 349**
Account Number: **10030067**
Please email a payment advice to **granvs@bigpond.com**

Cheque payable to the **Accordion Society of Australia Inc.**

Please forward to:	
Treasurer/Secretary	Victorian Members only send to
Accordion Society of Australia (Inc.NSW)	Accordion Society of Australia (inc VIC)
51 Bogalara Road,	67 Doveton Ave.
OLD TOONGABBIE NSW 2146	DOVETON VIC 3177

ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (Incorporated NSW)
(incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act 1984)

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The Accordion Review is published 4 times per year by the Accordion Society of Australia Inc for distribution to its members. Subscription rate for non members is \$18.00 per year (within Australia). **Note:** *Full Members automatically receive the Accordion Review.*

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Cheryle Mills
Email: cherylemills66@gmail.com
19 Campbell Street, Ramsgate. NSW 2217
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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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12 Auckland Street,
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Email: accordionsrepairs@hotmail.com

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