

THE ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

ACCORDION REVIEW



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VOLUME 35 ISSUE 2

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Cover: The late June Jones, details and tributes pages 7 to 14.

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Hello from the Editor

This edition covers the sad news of June Jones passing, a much loved member of the ASA who has worked tirelessly over decades for the ASA. June was an inspiration and a true friend and I will miss her greatly. Tributes are on pages 7 to 14.

Congratulations to Finn Macdermid for winning 8 firsts out of 8 entries at the recent competitions in N.Z. and Australian (AATA). Emma Smith must also be congratulated for her wonderful effort, details page 18 and 25.

Well done also to Tatjana Marx of the AATA for organising and running a very successful competition with some amazing accordionists both national and international. At the end of Saturdays competition, a mini concert was held with Accordions Alfresco closing the day, see photos on pages 25 to 27.

George Butrumlis has been an inspiration to the Melbourne Orchestra with new repertoire to squash the stereotype of tradition accordion music and they successfully played to a full house, refer page 15.

'Dancing on the Volcano' at the Sydney 'City Recital Hall' on 22nd August is a must for accordion and musical colleagues. It is an enthralling journey through German cabaret between the wars with George Butrumlis on accordion, details in the 'Gig Guide & What's On' page 32.

Thank very much to Ross and Joe for sharing the fun times they had in Griffith on Italian Republic Celebration Day, I really think we need to go along next year and join in the fun, see page 17.

I am pleased to report several accordionists out and about promoting our great music, pages 21 to 24 have some nice photos of them doing just that, keep up the good work.

Thanks to everyone that contributed to this edition and I look forward to receiving all your news for the September edition (by 15th Sept and if more time is needed then please let me know). Bye for now.

Happy reading.

Cheryle

Presidents Report



Winter is here and you may think that this could slow us down, however we have begun to plan and work on our upcoming events for the next 6 months. June saw us participate with the AATA at their annual accordion competitions. Held over 2 days it was a fantastic opportunity for accordion player of all ages to either compete or play together. Many thanks must go to Tanya Marx, Lionel Reekie, Richard and Melissa She and many of Tanya's former students who help make these competitions very enjoyable. We all look forward to the 2019 competitions. It was fantastic to see many of our Victorian members who came up to compete this year. Your performances were outstanding and we hope to see you again next year.

I have mentioned that we have been considering international competitions to help us gain a footing in the international arena. We will be travelling to the World Music Festival hosted by the Deutscher Harmonika Verband E.v in 2019 to play a concert with a group of Australasian players from the AATA, NZAA and the ASA. Lionel Reekie, Tanya Marx and myself are currently putting together the program. We are currently looking for accordionists would like to participate in this event. Please contact me if you are interested in attending and being part of this event. After returning from Innsbruck we will travel back to Sydney to play at the 2019 AATA championships.

Accordion master classes will be coming up again in New South Wales with some great presenters later this year. Our first workshops focussed on helping players to perform in public and

hone their performance and improvisation skills. To extend your performance skills we would like to show you some of the ways you can work on your performance delivery and how you can interact with other players at the same time. These masterclasses will focus on playing in small to large groups. More information will become available soon.

It is with regret that I mention to you the passing of June Jones. June was a most amazing woman and worked tirelessly to promote the accordion and the Accordion Society of Australia. I first met June when I worked with Elizabeth Jones in my early years with the Accordion Society. I will always remember her for the selfless devotion she had for The Accordion Society. June contributed so much and those of us who were privileged to know her will always remember her with a great fondness deserving a wonderful lady.

To wrap up I would like to just quickly mention the band Medusa's Wake. This is a group I have played with over the last 2 years. We play Irish rock and have just released our first full album Rascals and Rogues. You can find us on Facebook, Bandcamp, Spotify and basically anywhere. I would encourage you to have a listen and see what the accordion can really do. We are headlining the Huon Valley Mid Winter Festival in July if anyone is brave enough to make their way down to Hobart we would love to see you there.

Perfect Cadences to all

Benny

In Loving Memory of a wonderful lady

June Jones

3rd June, 1936 - 3rd June 2018

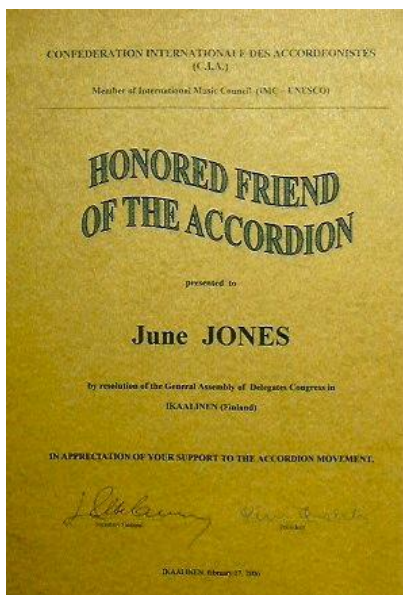


Sadly our dear friend and much loved ASA member June Jones passed away on June 3rd on her 82nd birthday after losing her battle with cancer.

June was a dedicated ASA member for many, many years and worked tirelessly for the society as well as for her family Allan, Elizabeth, David, grandchildren and her many friends.

June's enormous efforts were recognised by the Confederation Internationale Des Accordeonistes (C.I.A.) for her contribution to the accordion and the society with the 'Honored Friend of the Accordion' award.

We will miss you June, Rest in Peace.



June would have been moved by the enormous love and respect so many people had for her. Tributes have been flowing in and the following are some touching tributes received.

Tributes to June Jones

My personal memories of June Jones.

(from Ross Maio)

I have been a member of the ASA since its inception in 1970 at age 21. In 1986 I took on the role of musical director and conductor for the ASA .

In that year I first met June Jones as mother of Elizabeth Jones who was part of the Combined ASA Accordion Orchestra and presented a stunning gala concert to end an Annual Accordion Festival that was held at St. George Leagues Club. Kogarah.NSW.

From that time, I can remember June as a gracious lady who commanded respect and who you could easily talk to about anything. I had the honour also to be an accordion tutor to her daughter Elizabeth for some time in her teens.

Throughout the years June had been a great supporter of the ASA in fact without her very hard work the ASA would not have survived to this day.

I can remember many a time when we had “unexpected issues” that would surface at ASA competitions she would be the “rock” we could rely on and of course her ever faithful husband Alan, who would be the other “rock”.

I could always pick up the phone and call June for a chat regarding ASA business and feel that I could talk to her in confidence and not worry at all.

There are very few people one can do this with. I am going to miss her.

Rest in Peace, Dear Lady June.

Your friend.

Ross Maio.

Dear June,

(from Annick Luchetti)

I was in France when I got the news that you left our beautiful world, and I could not attend the funerals to say good-bye. When I was in London one week before the royal wedding I was thinking of you, the city was full of flags and souvenir shops the Londoners were so happy, it was magic.

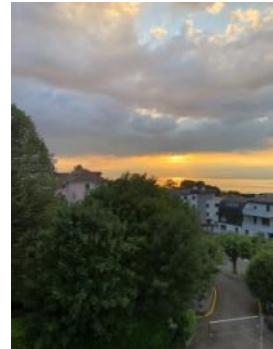
I met you in the late eighties when I joined the A.S.A. I remember clearly the first time I stayed for the meeting after the orchestra practice. (I often hear the past is the past but my memories of a good past will remain with me forever). At the meeting I got to meet you and other A.S.A. members. You were the treasurer and a very good one. I also got involved with some A.S.A. work and got the opportunity to get together many times, we become friends and our A.S.A. times were work and lots of fun.

You were a lady, intelligent, clever and smart, a true friend. You had a great knowledge and we could chat for hours. You were what I say in French (*Une femme très cultivée*). Over the years I met most of your family.

About a week after your passing I was sitting on the balcony watching a glorious sunset over Le Lac Lemman (probably known as the Geneva Lake) and thinking of the great times we had, and when you fell ill.

I am so happy for the time I stayed with you at Mittagong and visited you before going away on my European vacation. Due to the distance I could not visit as much as I would have liked. I will miss you dearly June and you will remain in my heart for ever. Rest In Peace June.

Annick Lucchetti



Our dear friend June,

(from Hera Antoniadés)

We are all deeply saddened to lose you June. You have been a true inspiration to all of us. I remember meeting you in 1988/1989 at my first ASA festival which was held in Glebe, where you warmly welcomed fellow accordionists and myself to the event. I was inspired and soon became a part of the ASA and future festivals. These 30 years have rushed past so quickly and I have greatly treasured your enduring friendship.

June you are a fantastic example of a selfless person, you idolised your family and all the happenings that were important to Alan, Elizabeth and David and their extended families. You never said no to anyone or to any task that was required. There were many nights where you worked late into the night to produce the ASA Review and distribute to the members; your involvement with the ASA committee and as an office bearer over the many years is a true inspiration to all of us. When you received the prestigious award *Honoured Friend of the Accordion* during the 59th Confederation Internationale des Accordeonistes held in Norway 2006, we all cheered with joy as this was a great form of recognition towards your devotion and dedication to the ASA.

When we spoke a few weeks ago I was devastated to hear that your cancer had returned and your eyesight was failing. Yet you kept your spirits flying high and with a positive outlook you occupied yourself learning how to use an audio software application on the computer so you could continue communicating with us via email. You kept yourself going until you heard the call of God and your spirit flew.

There are no words to describe the loss and sadness felt by your family and friends, however we are consoled and comforted knowing that God offers you eternal rest. Many Blessings.

Love from

Hera Antoniadés



A Donation website in memory of June and in support of the Cancer Council has been setup, to make a donation go to:

<https://inmemory.cancercouncil.com.au/fundraisers/elizabethjones>



Happy times with the ASA



June with her wonderful family (below)



Happy times with the ASA from years gone by:

I met June Jones during my teenage years when I became a member of the Accordion Society of Australia (ASA). I remember wanting to learn an instrument and my parents decided to introduce me to the wonderful 'fisarmonica', I didn't know much about it. Back in those years, the early 80s, the place to go was Lombardo Music Centre at Rockdale (The HQ of the ASA - located where Volkswagen now have a dealership), so, that's what we did and I got my first piano accordion, a Giulietti.

After a couple of years of lessons at Lombardos' I was encouraged to join the ASA. Little did I know what effect the ASA would have on the rest of my life. The ASA rehearsals were held at the St George Leagues Club on a Sunday afternoon, so one Sunday in 1987 (I was 15 years old), Mum (Annick Lucchetti) took me to the Club. The memories come flashing back when I write this. The room was filled with other young teenagers, the Domenica, Edwin, Vince, Patrick and an amazing musician, who then became a lifelong friend, Elizabeth. I remember unforgettable Mrs Brandman organising everyone and the wonderful Ross Maio who conducted the orchestra and then, there was June Jones. June was kind of 'in the background' if you know what I mean. It didn't take long to realise that June was in fact very involved in making things run smoothly.

Lucky for me, I made lots of friends and continued to participate in Orchestra rehearsals, Festivals in Sydney, interstate and overseas. I also competed in competitions and performed at various clubs during the years that I was an acting member. In that time, my mum and June became very dear friends and I also had my own friendship with Elizabeth.

Over the years, June spent hours tirelessly on the committee, organising competitions and festivals. All the i's were dotted and t's were crossed, nothing was left unchecked. Whenever there was a co-ordination of people needed to make things done, June was always there, making things happen, so that us kids 'the noisy lot', could arrive at a festival with everything organised. Buses were booked (well, that wasn't too hard to plan, since the Jones' owned a Coach) and rooms were organised, welcome

dinners were planned, t-shirts were printed, trophies were engraved...the list goes on! Looking back now, I realise just how much went into the planning of these events and June 'the quiet one' made this all happen so we could enjoy the benefits.

To this day, I still have friends from my teenage years of playing the accordion with the ASA, they live far and wide. The friendships that were cemented during those days were due to the fact that the ASA was a strong organisation and June certainly was involved very heavily with that.

Now, I receive the Accordion Review via email, but that's not how it used to happen, Oh no!!! Back in the day, I remember my Mum and June spending many an afternoon together as they cut and paste articles, photos, advertisements into a format that could then be copied and then distributed to the members. I can still visualise the two of them laughing together as June entertained my mum with her stories. Once the Accordion Review was printed and ready for distribution, June hand-wrote all the addresses. Her writing was immaculate, everything was perfect.

Everything was perfect when June was involved. I was fortunate enough to become a 'friend' of the family, which meant that I personally got to experience the hospitality of June. From the napkins, fine dinnerware and cutlery, wonderful English meals and most of all, the conversation, everything always came together beautifully.

I attended Junes funeral, to receive her life story in print was perfect. June was always a writer and a teacher, what an honour to be part of her life.

It's now my turn to be a parent of a 15 year old...my turn to be involved in the activities that they are passionate about, it's their time to flourish and grow. My job now, as a parent, is to be the one behind the scenes, making things happen...thanks June for leading by example. I thank you for everything you've taught me. RIP June. Always in my heart

Sophie

Tribute to a wonderful friend

I first met June in about 2009 after making an enquiry as to whether the ASA still existed, as it had been 35 years since my previous involvement with the ASA. June telephoned and to my surprise she only lived a few kms from my home in Mittagong and invited me over and from the moment she opened the door I felt the warmth and kindness that she radiated. June had prepared a lovely morning tea, explained the structure of the ASA and the orchestra, and encouraged me to join the players at their Monday night practice and we became friends from that moment on.

I soon became aware of the enormous impact June had on the success of the ASA over the previous decades.

When planning a Ghan trip with my mother-in-law, June asked if she and Alan could join us, I was thrilled. I will never forget the wonderful holiday we had staying in Darwin, Arnhem Land then the Ghan down to Adelaide and the Indian Pacific home. We played board games, crosswords, discussed tennis and had a thoroughly wonderful time, June was a huge source of knowledge and a great travel companion. I was privileged to have June as a good friend and I will miss her very much. I will always remember you with love.



Cheryle Mills



RIP June

Melbourne Orchestra play to Full House

By George Butrumlis

The Melbourne Accordion Orchestra has surely established itself as the most imaginative, inspiring and creative Accordion orchestra to explode onto Melbourne's music scene. At The Austrian Club on Sunday 27th May the MAO presented over an hour of all new repertoire arranged by musical director George Butrumlis. George is determined to throw off all the old stereotypes around the accordion and accordion orchestras and Sunday's performance was clear evidence of that.

After what seemed to be an interminable delay, due to rather sloppy programming by the organisers, the MAO hit the stage running and breathed life into a "full house" event. The programme started with a tribute to iconic Aussie/New Zealand rock band Dragon then continued with a medley of songs by the great German composer Kurt Weill, Arthur Benjamin's Jamaican Rumba which George had arranged some years earlier for the Big Squeeze Band and a wonderful arrangement of a collection of songs from the musical Fiddler On The Roof.



Next, a piece by contemporary American accordionist and composer Guy Klusevcek called Many Happy Returns and a song by the great Randy Newman (Toy Story amongst others) called Lonely At The Top which featured the

vocals of Alma Zygier out front. Alma stayed on to sing Money Makes The World Go Round from the film version of the musical Cabaret and her performance added a new highlight to the concert.

David Bowie's Starman was next and this was followed by a rousing New Orleans second line rendition of Down By The Riverside. Probably the biggest surprise of the concert was Led Zeppelin's iconic piece Kashmir, a very textural piece featuring extensive improvisation from George and a wonderful call and response section in traditional Egyptian orchestral style. The official programme finished with a tribute to AC/DC and the audience demanded an encore. The orchestra obliged with the beautiful Boeve's Psalm by beloved Swedish composer and accordionist Lars Hollmer and finished with the highly infectious African Market by world renowned South African jazz pianist and composer Abdullah Ibrahim.

The Melbourne Accordion Orchestra consists of: George Butrumlis, Jenny Banks who also plays bass accordion, Jeannette Benzing, Karine Descoubes, Holger Golinski, Palmi Snorasson, Iryna Stepko, Tineke Sydekum, Gary Samolin on drums and percussion and Sam Slamowicz on electric bass. The orchestra would also like to thank Tracey Claire whose expertise in all matters regarding social media, publicity and cake is invaluable and Uwe Sydekum for his behind the scenes support.

For concert videos and more information:

[MAO Facebook](#)

[MAO Website](#)

[MAO Youtube](#)

Festa Della Repubblica 2018

Griffith Central Plaza was once again the place to be on Saturday 2nd June for the Italian Republic Celebration Day .

The shopping centre was filled to capacity as people flocked in to be entertained by our master accordionist Ross Maio together with Mark Hudson who sang and danced with the people, keeping them entertained for hours .



Debbie was kept very busy making all the configurations with the pump up balloons for the children, they were in their glory walking away with the many different puppets etc that were made for them .

Sound engineers Mark & Gail Condon supplied the great sound system that set the tone for the day, great stuff Mark .

Big thanks to Ross and Mark Hudson for the entertainment after dinner at IL Corso Restaurant on the Friday night and at La Scala Saturday night .

A weekend not to be missed in Griffith.

Cheers.

Joe Staltare



Debbie, Joe, Mark and Ross

Congratulations to ASA members, Finlay Macdermid and Emma Smith who achieved fantastic results in the recent Accordion Championship held in Australia and New Zealand. Well done!

Finlay Macdermid



New Zealand competition:

1st - 10 years & Under Entertainment Solo

1st - 12 years & Under Accordion with Self Vocal

1st - 10 years & Under Original Accordion Composition

1st - 10 years & Under

Australian Competition:

Entered 4 categories and came 1st in each one including:

1st - 9 years & under
Championship

Emma Smith

1st Place in 15 years and under Accordion Solo Championship.



Accordions Alfresco would like to welcome their newest member Kate Parsons. Kate has kindly agreed to introduce herself;



Kate Parsons

I started playing piano accordion 7 years ago as a way to be able to play music with others. I joined the Accordion Society of Australia at the time, thanks to finding out about them during lessons with Amelia Granturco. It was amazing to play along with so many accordions!

Around that time I also started playing in a country folk band, touring around regional Australia putting on concerts to raise farmers' spirits after bushfires and floods. I also got to travel to China with the Accordion Orchestra which will remain a highlight of my life. I have also taken my accordion to the US, to play in jams at RockyGrass Bluegrass Festival which inspired setting up a bluegrass jam night in Sydney, which my friend and I have been running for the last 5 years.

I am very happy to be back in the Orchestra, it feels like family and the players are an inspiration!

Kate



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Accordionists Out and About

SMITHS ENTERTAIN CHINESE VIP GUESTS

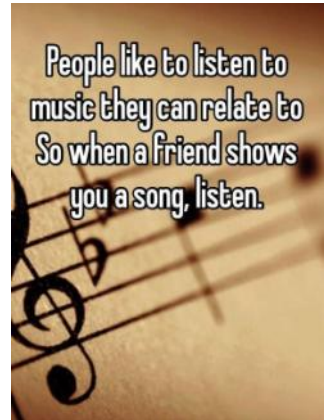
Captured here is Paul and Yvonne Smith at the Hahndorf Inn playing some German music for the guests, VIP tourists from China

They included a 'come and try' accordion workshop for the guests, with the motto "Accordions are fun" !!!
Great initiative, well done!



SHARING A TUNE

Friday nights at the home of Sam Tripodi is a night of music and laughs, thanks to the wonderful hospitality of Sam and his wife Maria. Anyone who would like to play some of their favourite tunes with others are welcome.



'OLD TIMEY' MUSIC FOR KATES BIRTHDAY

Ben and Amelia performed by special request at Kate Parsons 40th birthday party, which was as open community music night at the Petersham Bowling Club. The night started with an 'old timey' jam followed by two Timey Bands. The roots of Old Time music emerge from the traditional songs and tunes of the British Isles, blended with African and perhaps Native American influences in North America. This represents the oldest form of North American traditional music other than Native American music; hence the term "old-time", and grew to form the basis for Bluegrass and Country music in the USA and many countries around the world.

Everyone had a great night!

Kate is pictured here, singing with Amelia and Ben on accordion.



ACCORDIONISTS ACCOMPANY CHOIR

The Italian Coro D'Abruzzo Sydney Choir performed a lunchtime concert at Canada Bay Club on Sunday 3rd June. Ben Pattinson, Jedda Kassis and Dominique Granturco accompanied them on accordion with Amelia Granturco conducting.

Amelia then put on her accordion and joined the others for a bit of a show, well done.



LIVESTOCK FESTIVAL

Through May a good friend of the Granturco family held a Music festival on their property in rural NSW. The festival featured a large range of Music from pop and funk to heavy metal and chamber music.

Amelia Granturco was featured on the Accordion on the evening performing with two friends who play the Cello, they performed Oblivion and Libertango by Astor Piazzolla with a flock of sheep eagerly listening in the background.



A musical weekend was had by all!



AATA Competitions June 2018

The Australian Accordion Teachers Assoc (AATA) held the annual Australian International Accordion competitions on June 9th at the Marconi Club. There were some wonderful competitors and musicians which made for a very enjoyable day of music. Here are some photos from the day.

Emma Smith from Adelaide
won:

1st Place in 15 years and under
Accordion Solo Championship.

Aleksa Mirkovic from Bosnia
won:

1st Place in Open Accordion
Solo Championship



Huang He from China won:

1st place in Open Virtuoso Solo
championship.

Finlay Macdermid from Sydney
won:

1st place in 9 years & under
Championship.

Finn also won 1st Place in each of
the 4 categories he entered





Adjudicators



Competitions now complete, a Saturday afternoon concert took place involving some competitors and invited guests to round off the day.



SNIPPETS, GOSSIP & NEWS

Swap malady for a melody

PLAYING music to young patients during surgery can reduce their pain afterwards, a new study suggests.

In a study of 50 children having their tonsils removed, half were played gentle music throughout (all the patients had a general anaesthetic).

The results showed that the children exposed to music rated their pain as less severe.

Soothing music is known to lower pulse rates, reduce stress and curb anxiety.



FACEBOOK GOALS 2018

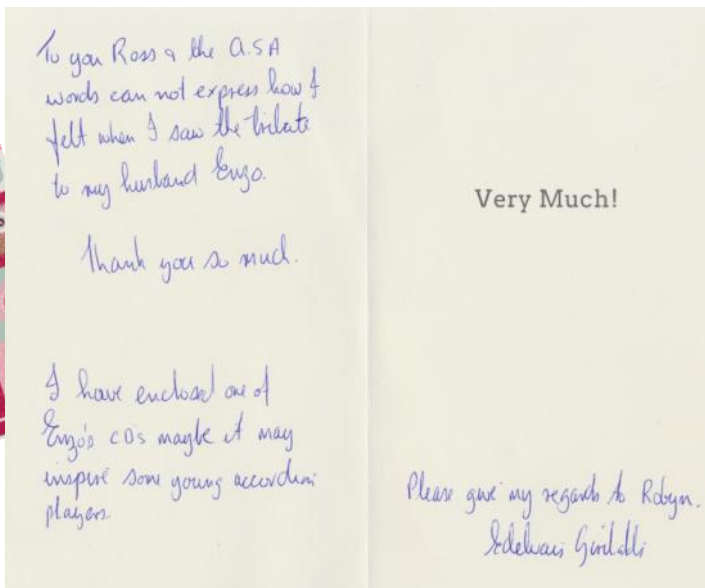
The Accordion Society of Australia has set a goal for 2018 to get to 1000 Likes on our page by the end of the year

The page is used to keep members up to date daily on what is happening in the Accordion World, particularly in Australia and connecting Accordionists

We are currently at 589 Likes

If you are on Facebook and haven't yet liked our page please go to:
<https://www.facebook.com/accordionsocietyofaustralia/>

Thank you note received from the family of the late Enzo Giribaldi.



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USA School Tour 2018

by Amelia Granturco

Over the April school holidays I was lucky enough to be sent on a school Music tour to the USA for two weeks. It was an incredible trip visiting and performing in New York City, New Orleans and Los Angeles.

Of course it wouldn't be a trip without finding a few accordions around the place. Attached are a few I found on my travels. One was inside Planet Hollywood in NYC - there was a wall of photos of famous artists who had visited the restaurant, but tucked away in a corner was a small photo of an Accordion Orchestra who visited many years ago.

Across in New Orleans we were told we should have lunch at an authentic New Orleans restaurant called 'Mulates' which was dedicated to Zydeco music and featured a MASSIVE Diatonic Accordion hanging from the roof.



There were also a number of groups busking in the street - many of which featured accordions. It was a great musical trip and while there wasn't nearly enough Accordion playing featured it was great to experience a show on Broadway, the preservation hall in New Orleans as well as experiencing Disneyland and Universal Studios.



The Squeeze Book



Hello to all Squeezebox enthusiasts out there, My book *The SQUEEZE BOOK* (published by Design for Today) is a fully illustrated concertina book, with illustrations of accordion music from around the world - and features a mini booklet that has photographs and histories of global accordion music. If your interested in purchasing this book you can pre-order from www.designfortoday.co.uk - Also if any of you are in London (UK) on 28th of June 2018 there will be a book launch and special squeezebox performances to celebrate the publication! Thank you.

Source: Facebook



Dancing on the Volcano—with George Butrumlis *City Recital Hall—SYDNEY*

Robyn Archer (vocals), Michael Morley (piano), George Butrumlis (accordion).
It's an enthralling journey through German cabaret between the wars.
Highly recommended.

[Wednesday 22 August, 2018 7:30 pm—City Recital Hall, Sydney](#)

Link below for more information, tell your accordion and musical colleagues.

[Dancing On The Volcano](#)

Ross Maio

Please check Ross Maio Facebook page for his gigs and venues.

Ben Pattinson with Medusa's Wake

Headline act at Tasmanias, Huon Valley mid 2018 Winter Festival.
Please check Medusa's Wake Facebook page for details and gig guide.

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

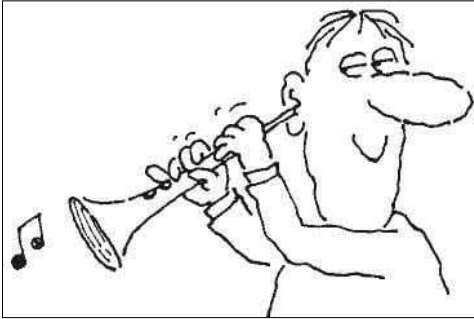
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Accordion Bandits??
Or are they attempting to
hide from the Dental Centre
behind them!!



Q: What do you call a successful
accordion player?

A: An accordionist whose partner
has 2 jobs.



An Opportunity I Am Forever Grateful For

By Michael Glinski

I started to learn the accordion in 1964, when I was about seven years old. My father was Polish, and had been forcefully taken from his parents in 1939 when he was 13 years old. He was sent to the labour camps, and never saw his parents or family again.

I consider that he felt that upon being liberated by the Americans in 1942, everything after the life he had suffered, which included being fed solely turnip soup three meals a day for three years, was a party!

The accordion to him, was a way to recreate European music, mainly polkas and waltzes that he really loved, and he took some lessons from the man that continued on to teach me the basics of the instrument, an Italian gentleman by the name of Mr Peter Bernar, who lived in Elwood. This was quite a trip for my father and I, as we lived in Mount Waverley, and would head off each week in the car on a Saturday afternoon about 2pm, have the lesson, a cup of tea or coffee and a chat, and then drive back home. Fortunately, in those days the traffic was nowhere near as bad as it is today.

Mr Bernar sold my father a nice black and chrome Paolo Soprani 120 bass



piano accordion, (pictured). It is a rather unusual one because of the square mutes; most Paolo Soprani mutes are round. I remember it being in fairly good condition, but the mutes had specks of rust on them, and this wasn't acceptable to my father. Being a maintenance fitter, and very clever with his hands, he stripped the accordion down, removed the mutes and sent

them to his friend Archie Thompson in Glen Iris, who was an electro-plater. Needless to say, with Archie being an excellent tradesman, and knowing my

father was a perfectionist, the mutes came back looking better than new, and today, over 50 years later, they are still just as good. That is due in the main, to my love and respect for the instrument. I regularly carefully clean it, and in particular after playing, paying particular attention to the metal components. The bass couplers are made from aluminium, and hence not prone to rust. I also recently dismantled and refurbished the basses, hand engraving each one for future maintenance. This ongoing maintenance and general care, coupled with its original quality build, has kept the accordion functioning faultlessly over a long period of time.

This accordion was too big for me initially, and I clearly remember my parents buying me a red Excelsior 80 bass accordion. The best part of this accordion was that the treble keys were 'mother of pearl', and it looked fantastic! I still clearly remember how proud I was of the accordion, and wish I still had it today, but times were tough in those days, and when I lost interest in practising and playing, it had to go.

The first tune Mr Bernar taught me was 'Song of the Islands' in the key of F, and it seems quite unbelievable to me now, that when I started to attend the monthly 'jam sessions' with Frank Berens and all the great accordionists in this group, one of the first songs we played together was 'Song of the Islands'. Coincidence? No; I think this happened to remind me of those great nostalgic days when I was provided an opportunity I will always be thankful for.

Those years between the ages of eight and fourteen included playing the accordion at Polish parties in Fawkner at the homes of friends my father had come to Australia with in the mid 1940's. I always felt a bit shy, because none of the children of the other Polish families had been given the opportunity, or simply didn't want to avail themselves of the chance to learn the greatest instrument on the face of the earth; well, that's my opinion, and I'm sticking to it! However, invariably I would get a little applause, and I could see that although my father didn't say much, he was proud of me for the quite basic tunes I could play at these functions.

Although he would have loved to play well, he didn't have the time to commit to practice, and ended up playing only very basic pieces. I consider this

continuation of accordion playing within the family contributed to making him happy when he saw me exceed his capabilities. Mr Bernar was a good and experienced teacher, and no fool! I would often try to convince him I had done the required practice, but it was as plain as the generous-sized nose on my face that I hadn't! This didn't go down too well, but fortunately Mr Bernar's displeasure was measured. He would often play something really nice at the end of the lesson just to remind me of the reward of 'knuckling down' as a youngster and learning this magnificent instrument.

Sometimes I think I am very lucky to be here, because my father had a 1956 Chrysler De Soto (pictured), which had no indicators or seat belts, and as children my sister and I would be laid on the back seat to travel back from Fawkner to Mount Waverley, on many occasions at around 2am in the morning. As you can imagine, at Polish parties the drink of



choice is not always water! In fact, I don't think it's ever been water. Truth is, it is NEVER water!!! Anyway, here I am writing this article, so all is good.

I put the accordion down at 14 years of age, and at 18 we bought a Yamaha electronic organ and I started to learn this instrument from Shirley Radford, also of Elwood. Shirley was a very good pianist and organist, and I learned a lot from her in a short time. This I am sure, has helped me with my accordion playing. Today I have a Roland Atelier organ, and enjoy very much getting totally consumed in the enjoyment of playing this terrific instrument.

I never lost my affection for the accordion, and used to be spellbound by Johnny Le Piccolo on TV's 'Showcase' with Gordon Boyd. I remember the judges saying to most accordionists that their playing was great, but they needed to look up and smile more, which as we all know is not easy when you're concentrating on often tricky passages in a piece.

I never learned to read music, and to this day play by ear. I wish I had learned to read music, but still get an immense amount of joy and satisfaction from

playing the accordion. In 1996, at the age of 39 I re-commenced with the accordion, taking lessons from Ian Southwood for 12 months, and gaining a lot from his great capabilities, teaching style and encouraging demeanour.

Meeting with the late Yorkshireman Kenny Laybourne, who was a most accomplished player who also played only by ear, and who referred to all music as simply 'dots', helped me with technique. Meeting Kenny was a blessing, because not only did we play a lot of accordion together; we also became great friends. Kenny played some of the most amazing chords while having no idea how he did it, and would often comment to me, saying, "Can't you hear you're missing that half note, Lud?" (Lud was 'lad' with his Yorkshire accent). I, like many people, miss Kenny.

Today I have a Scandalli Super Six, which I love more and more as the days go by. I have a busy and often stressful job as a commissioned officer of police, and look forward to that time after dinner and assisting my teenage girls with their homework. I make a nice cup of tea and head in to my music room for about 30 minutes of playing along to European artists such as Ausseer Bradl-musi, Alf Hagedal, Toralf Tollefsen and Ursprung Baum, all who play the genre' of music I love. I also enjoy playing for my church group, at elderly citizens' centres and of course, with Frank Berens and the players at our monthly get together in Kew East.

I am thankful every day for the opportunity and encouragement I received from my parents, which has resulted in me deriving much joy and happiness from this great instrument, the piano accordion.

Regards to you all,

Michael Glinski



Vale Yvette Horner
22 Sept 1922 to 11 June 2018

Famous French accordeoniste, Yvette Horner was born in Tarbes in 1922 and passed away on June 11, 2018.

Yvette was a French musette accordeoniste and was known as the princess of the Accordeon. During her 70 year career she had 2000 performances, released 150 records with a combined sales amount of 30 million. The French mourn her passing.

The 2nd 2018 Asia Pacific International Accordion Festival - China

by Harley Jones

From 19 - 24 July 2018, the ship Costa Serena will host more than 3,000 accordionists and supporters for a cruise of 6 days and 5 nights! from China to Fukuoka and Kagoshima, Japan and back.

The 2018 Asia Pacific International Accordion Festival is an international accordion arts event. Accordion competitions, accordion concerts, accordion themed evenings, cruise deck accordion music parties, Asia-Pacific Accordion Development Exchange and Dialogue Forum, with visits and excursions to Fukuoka and Kagoshima in Japan during the event.



Directed by: Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China
Chinese Musicians Association Accordion Association
Organizer: Asia Pacific International Accordion Festival Organizing Committee

NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND ACCORDION ASSOCIATION



Students Success in New Zealand

by Harley Jones

Adam Perry (accordion),
Maia Perry (accordion)
and Yvonne Jin (piano)
of St Kentigern's School
represented their school
in the NZCT (New Zealand
Community Trust)
Chamber Music Contest.



Due to the quality of
their competition per-
formance, they were invited to play at the NZCT Chamber Music Con-
test Auckland Finals as guest performers while the adjudicators were
deliberating on the results at the conclu-
sion of the evening.

The trio also received the NZCT Award
for "Most Engaging Performance", a very
proud moment for their parents. The
group wanted to thank their teacher,
well know accordion teacher, performer
and vocalist Lionel Reekie (picture right).



11th Annual Kevin Friedrich and Friends Dargaville Museum Concert

by Heather Masefield

The Lighthouse Function Center in Dargaville, New Zealand was filled to capacity for the 11th Annual Afternoon of Music with **Kevin Friedrich** and Friends, a variety Show featuring accordionists and entertainers from throughout New Zealand. The show called 'A Touch of Kiwi' featured a variety of music, including quite a few items of New Zealand interest.

The Christchurch Accordion Orchestra under the direction of David Thorne opened the show performing a selection of items including classical and film music as well as the popular 'Invercargill March' by renowned composer Alex Lithgow, a piece he wrote in celebration of New Zealand's southern most city.



Other entertainers included Chris Davidson (vocalist), The Rivertown Singers and Take 6 (vocal ensembles), Frank Lunberg and Colin Rapana (trumpets), Heather Mitchell-Gladstone, QSM (vocals and accordion), Purotu, Xena, Maiden and Atawhai Martin (cellos and violins), Alexandra Reekie (vocals and piano), Roslyn Gilmour and Dennise Brownlie as the popular New Zealand duo the Topp Twins, **Maurice Jones** (piano) **Lionel Reekie** (accordion and vocals) and Alanah Jones (vocalist), The Dargaville Primary School Kapa Haka Group under the direction of Shelley Friedrich, Alison Worthington and **Harley Jones** (accordion duo) and Ken Cashin who prepared a multimedia presentation showcasing years of iconic New Zealanders and Kiwi-ana.

The concert host **Kevin Friedrich** performed a variety of accordion works including the seldom heard Whangarei March, an original Suite of four pieces called Rehutai which he wrote for the unique **Kauri** diatonic accordion, the premiere of the accordion and piano work Song of the Far North by renowned New Zealand composer **Gary Daverne** and the magnificent work Cinderella by Alexey Arkhipovskiy, (arr. A. Poeluev) which he performed with 11 year old Alina Reekie dancing the story of Cinderella.

A community fundraiser for the Dargaville Museum, the home of Kevin's permanent exhibition '**Accordion Gems**, A Master Collection of Accordions Through Time', the 12th Annual concert will be held on March 31st, 2019.



*Pictured here is the audience and **Kevin Friedrich** with the unique **Kauri** Accordion*



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ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA (Incorporated NSW)
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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.

.....
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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