THE ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

## ACCORDION REVIEW



MARCH 2019

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**Cover:** The Smith Family from Adelaide, (Yvonne and Paul with son Ben and daughter Emma). Refer page 8 - 10 for what has been happening in South Australia.

#### **DISCLAIMER**

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#### Hello from the Editor

Welcome to our first edition of the Accordion Review for 2019 and there is certainly lots of music to report. However firstly on behalf of the ASA I would like to pass on our condolences to the family and friends of the Henke family on the recent passing of Margo Henke, a very supportive member of the ASA, she will be sadly missed.

In my view there appears to be more and more bands on tour in Australia that include accordionists, how exciting is that? Recently a few of us went to see Sharyn Shannon and her band from Ireland, and what a fantastic show. There are many bands with varied music styles which can be seen around the country such as 'Chaika' which are about to begin their 2019 tour, page 27. A Japanese band 'Zahatorte' was also on tour and a few members went to one of their gigs and has kindly given us a glimpse into their night on page 33.

On the subject of different music styles, Sandra Mackay and 2 other members were fortunate to attend a workshop with the infamous UK accordionist Paul Hutchinson. Sandra found it very rewarding and has filled us in on the day with an article on page 23. Workshops are a fantastic way to learn new techniques, presentation styles, improvisation skills and more so I look forward to the future workshop which the ASA will be running at the Blue Mountains, please keep an eye out for it, dates to be advised.

I am always thrilled when I hear about adults taking up the accordion! There is a lovely story on page 29 of Gaz Fawcus aka Forker, taking up the accordion in his retirement with a lot of encouragement from his friend Michael Glinski. We wish Forker all the best and also a warm welcome to Les Maroun who joined the NSW orchestra (Accordions Alfresco) several months ago and has kindly agreed to introduce himself, on page 15.

Thanks to Melbourne and Adelaide for keeping us up to date with the accordion movement in their state. Adelaide seem to be having a very busy time and even a TV appearance WOW! The Smith family have also incorporated slap dancing and Alpine Bells in their entertainment repertoire, impressive!

Don't forget to organise something special for your accordion on **May 6th**, **'World Accordion Day"**, join up with your accordion friends and make it a special musical day! Until next time, enjoy the music.

Cheryle

#### Presidents Report

It's three months into the new year and the Society is gearing up for a big year. Last year we proved we had what it takes to be progressive and forward thinking. In 2019 it is not what the accordion can do for you, it's



what you can do for the accordion. With this in mind I would love for members both old and new to let us know how we can help you achieve this and grow musically. We have many activities coming up however, we would love and appreciate any ideas that you may have. Remember to follow and like our Facebook page as we post all upcoming events and activities there.

We have been working hard for the last three years on improving the services that the Accordion Society provides for its members. After our very successful 2018 masterclass event we have started to plan our next masterclass/performance workshops. This year some of our classes will be multi instrumental. I personally feel that a person's musical experience and education is greatly improved through involvement of different musical instruments and musicians. This year our workshops will be held in Katoomba with a venue to be advised. I urge everyone to come along for a weekend of great music set in the enjoyable atmosphere that Katoomba offers.

This year we are focusing on providing activities that younger and less experienced players can be involved in. This will include everything from your repertoire choice, tuning and registrations to different venues where you can showcase your abilities and hone your performance techniques. We would encourage all players wanting to improve in these areas to come along to our rehearsals in both Sydney and Melbourne which are run on a weekly basis. There are many experienced performers and teachers who run our rehearsals they are more than happy to provide you with

guidance in these areas. Come along and get some great advice and enjoy the experience of being surrounded by like-minded musicians. I would encourage people wanting to seek a higher education on their accordion to consult our teacher's directory at <a href="https://www.accordionsaustralia.com">www.accordionsaustralia.com</a>

With March already here Alex Chao and I have been preparing for our trip to Innsbruck where we are representing the ASA. We have been practising with Tanya Marx, Richard She and Zelda Mormul. We are part of a larger group made up of players from all over the world including New Zealand and Austria. We are playing as a feature act in Innsbruck during the World Music Festival. Our group is called the Southern Cross Orchestra. All of our players are hard at work learning the program. We will only have 2 days together in Innsbruck to finalise the music and rehearse together as a group for the first time. Our Southern Cross Orchestra will return in time for the AATA championships to be held at Club Marconi on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of June. To find more information about the championships please go to <a href="www.aata.org.au">www.aata.org.au</a>. As part of the AATA final concert we will perform our program from Innsbruck.

Lastly, I would like to mention World Accordion Day to be held on the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2019. It marks the 180<sup>th</sup> birthday of the accordion. The accordion was first patented in Vienna 6<sup>th</sup> May 1829 by Cyrillius Demien. The event is held worldwide and generates great publicity for this instrument. You can find out more about past events at <a href="http://www.accordions.com/cia/cia/wad\_general.php">http://www.accordions.com/cia/cia/wad\_general.php</a>. We encourage people who are interested to come along to our Monday rehearsal night in Russell Lea Infants School Hall, Lithgow St Russell Lea and to join in our celebration.

Hard work and passion will get us there

Benny



What are you doing for <u>World Accordion Day</u> to promote the accordion in your country? World Accordion day is on May 6th, which is the day the accordion was patented in 1829.

World Accordion Day was started in 2009 by the <u>CIA</u> and has been very successful, generating a lot of positive publicity for the accordion. A key part of this event is the World Accordion Day website.

Every association, group, orchestra, performer and teacher, is asked to actively support this event by encouraging national and local accordion activities to happen in their country on this day or the weekend either side of Accordion Day if that should be more convenient.

Everyone can register their World Accordion Day activity on the website and send a report of their event after, for that website.

No event is too big or too small. ALL accordion events celebrating World Accordion Day are welcome. This is a CIA promotion for the accordion in which every accordion enthusiast can participate and help bring our accordion world together as well as strongly promote the accordion.

#### News from Adelaide Accordion Orchestra, South Australia

Hello Accordion Friends! A lot has been happening here, including the temporary closure and relocation of the German Club in Adelaide which of course has always been the home of our accordion orchestra. The closure of the club was commemorated with one big last event "The Final Bash" in early February, where the Accordion Orchestra played, as well as the Adelaide German Band, Bund Der Bayern dancers, and DJ Herbert Stauber as well as many other contributions from the groups of the club. It was a very sad occasion but a fitting farewell party to the club house, with positive thoughts that change is sometimes necessary and a new and exciting chapter is ahead for the South Australian German Association.



Whilst we are looking for a new permanent venue for our practice sessions, we have been rehearsing at Orchestra member Gisela's house and at a church

hall in Enfield. Practicing at Gisela's house is a big problem as Gisela insists on baking the most beautiful cakes for us, so we are all putting on weight . But seriously, Gisela's hospitality is really appreciated. We recently performed at the Feast of St Gabriel Italian Festival and were very well received. Orchestra member Alan, who has classical voice training, performed an amazing rendition of "O Sole Mio" and we had feedback that this was one of the highlights of our show.

You can see it on our Facebook channel, just search for us under "Adelaide Accordion Orchestra", and hit LIKE to stay in touch!

In other news, orchestra member Heloise was involved in the Womadelaide Festival playing accordion with a Brazilian music group for a Samba de Roda Dance workshop, Carlo & John worked with an Italian Choir for a combined performance, and Julie has been travelling extensively around country Australia - always with her Accordion, always on the ready to play a tune, and always on the lookout for a good folk festival to attend. Her favourite is Nariel Creek, and she is looking forward to the Drovers Camp Festival in Camooweal later in the year. Last year in Camooweal Julie was invited to play accordion for country balladeer Tom Maxwell, a wonderful experience to remember.



Paul and Yvonne have been regularly playing German accordion music in and around Hahndorf, South Australia's German tourist town and Australia's oldest surviving



German settlement. You may have spotted them on Channel 9's TV show "Travel Guides" which aired recently - look for Season 3 episode 6 South Australian Foodie Tour, where they played at the German Arms Restaurant. The whole Smith family has also been regularly performing with the Bund Der Bayern Bavarian Dance Group, including Ben slap dancing and Emma on

Alpine Bells.



The Orchestra is currently rehearsing a new repertoire of music and also revisiting some favourites from a few years ago. You can see what we are up to on our brand new web page <a href="https://www.adelaideaccordion.com">www.adelaideaccordion.com</a> - a big thanks to orchestra member Gerdy for creating the web page for us.

Best wishes from Adelaide!

Adelaide Accordion Orchestra

#### **Italian Saxophonist joins New Year Concert**

Our New Years Concert for 2019 was not only a sell out but we had people trying to knock over our wonderful volunteers Sylvia and Denise at the door they were so keen to gain entry to the event. Our stage crew were running around trying to find extra chairs to accommodate the influx of guests, this is what the Accordion Society is really all about. Spreading the joy of our music.

The concert was started by the Coro D'Abruzzo, who performed 6 traditional Italian folk songs. The audience loved it and was singing along for a quite a bit of the performance. Next Livio Berardi a saxophone professor from Italy took to the stage and performed three tunes, to thunderous applause and people screaming for more. Unfortunately the show had to go on.



Next Accordions Alfresco took to the stage and performed 6 pieces. At the end of which they were joined by Livio and his saxophone to perform Cherry Pink and Apple Blossom White together.



The crowd again were astounded and loved it.

The concert was a great success for our NSW team and we are currently planning more events for mid to late 2019 so stay tuned!

#### Amelía





#### Big Squeeze Band Go Dutch for a Day

Akoonah Park in Berwick, held their annual Dutch Festival on 16th March. The BSB (Big Squeeze Band) arrived around 9.00am and began setting up on the main stage for this years festival. We were the first act for the day, due to begin at 10.30am.

After our first set from 10.30am-11.30am, featuring the band playing numerous Dutch tunes amongst some other popular songs, we had a short break until 12pm. During this first set, 3 of the bands female members also performed a couple of tunes together, as well as Tristan Kalkbrenner performing 3 solo pieces.



The second shorter set which went to 12.30pm, also featured numerous Dutch songs which the audience enjoyed.

After this set, the band relocated to the SBS mobile stage on the other side of the venue. Due to this being a much smaller stage than the main stage, most of us sat in front of the stage, with Uwe on percussion and Paul on bass accordion being the only ones on the actual stage. We were only supposed to perform 2 pieces to start with, but as we were

attracting quite a crowd, the SBS crew had us perform an additional 4 Dutch songs. It was great seeing passers by stop and enjoy listening to us play their favourite Dutch tunes.

It turned out to be a successful day and although it started off somewhat slow in the morning, by mid afternoon the grounds were buzzing with people, all enjoying the fantastic weather and traditional dutch food and festivities.

The band looks forward to performing at the festival again next year.



Great aerial shot of the venue, compliments of Paul Feikema and his drone.



#### Welcome Les Maroun to NSW Orchestra

#### Les has kindly agreed to introduce himself:

I've always wanted to play the accordion since first seeing one in a stage production of Pinocchio when I was a kid. As the accordion wasn't offered at school, I ended up learning piano and sax until finally, a few years ago, I bought an accordion. I was introduced to the ASA by my former accordion



teacher when I first started playing, but have only just joined now that I live a lot closer to orchestra rehearsals. It's been a blast playing accordion in an ensemble, meeting others with shared musical interests and learning from them. I look forward to making more music with this welcoming, enthusiastic and talented group of musicians! Les

#### Accordionists entertain Bunnings customers

NSW ASA volunteers manned the Bunnings Sausage Sizzle on Friday March 1st and although it was a slow day it certainly wasn't quiet with accordionists pumping out some wonderful music throughout the day. Big thanks to the hard working crew and musicians, making

\$802 profit, a lot of money we would not have had without the efforts of all who volunteered. Good work team!

Photo: Preparing the onions & cooking the snags.





#### Great music being played at the Bunnings Sausage Sizzle









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### Accordionists Out and About

#### AMELIA PERFORMS FOR THE SHEEP AND THE CATTLE

A few local Sydneysiders host a weekend away at their farm in Braidwood, NSW. The weekend raises money for kids with Kidney disease. I took along my accordion and was able to play a few times across the weekend.

First on Friday night was the all in jam session by the sheep pen. This was a lot of fun and there were a few accordions around which was excellent. Then on Saturday morning I was able to play with one of sydney's favourite accordionists: Alf Scognamiglio. We performed for about half an hour at 10am as every-

one was waking up ready to start their day. If you know Alf you know it was a fun set full of singing and jokes. Looking forward to playing in other random places throughout the year!

**Amelia** 





#### EUROPE—THE SOUND OF ACCORDIONS

Annick Lucchetti holidayed in Europe in 2018 and sent us these great snaps of Buskers she encountered in her travels.



Paris Bridge







Refugee on the train in Italy

#### SUMMER SHINDIG AT BREWERY





On Wednesday the 13th of March, Evergreen Music held their Summer SHiNDiG at the 4 Pines Brewery in Brookvale. The event is essentially a large sing along in the truck bar of the brewery and participants are encouraged to bring their instruments along and play.

The hosts have a large screen and project lyrics, chords and the occasional melodic passage for the attendees to play along with. Being huge fans of the SHiNDiG, Jedda Kassis and myself were in attendance, this time we were joined by Les, who has also recently re-joined Accordions Alfresco. Previous accordionists at the event include Ben Pattinson, Dominique Granturco, Alex Zhao, Anita Connell and Alf Scognamiglio just to name a few.

You can find out more about the SHiNDiG and other events by following Evergreen Music Sydney on Facebook or by following the Accordion Society of Australia on facebook. The next SHiNDiG will be 1990's themed in early June.

Amelia

#### 100 YEAR CELEBRATION

Maria Worthington, Sam Tripodi and Vince Moschella are seen here entertaining the visitors in the grounds of All Hallows Church, Fivedock for their 100th anniversary celebrations.





#### CAUGHT IN THE ACT



This little fella was caught trying out this accordion! His owner Glenny Grunfelder wondered if he might like to join Accordions Alfresco at their Monday night practice hehe

#### SNIPPETS, GOSSIP & NEWS



In Loving Memory
MARGO ILSE HENKE
30.7.1939 - 25.2.2019

Sadly Margo Henke passed away on Feb 25th. Margot was a long time member of the ASA and was very supportive over the years.

Several ASA members attended a memorial for Margo on Sunday 3rd March to celebrate her life.

She will be sadly missed. RJP.



### Paul Hutchinson - The Secret Accordionist by Sandra Mackay

In January three members of our Sydney ASA orchestra (Sandra Mackay, Glenny Grunfelder and Kate Parsons) were lucky enough to attend a really inspiring private workshop with the wonderful Paul Hutchinson, also known as 'The Secret Accordionist' (pictured below with his Beltuna).

Paul grew up in Bournemouth in the United Kingdom and studied piano and church organ. At the age of 17 his father persuaded him to

take up the accordion and they formed a very successful ceilidh (Scottish dance party) band called the' Old Pull and Push' that performed all over the UK and at many folk festivals. Paul now is involved in many musical composition, performance and teaching projects including his band, 'Belshazzar's Feast' that has been successfully touring and performing since 1995.

No. of the second secon

As a composer, Paul believes in the importance of strong melody and harmony. His tunes are very varied and are not just accor-

dion pieces. Many have been written for his classes and are quite straightforward, whilst others are quirky and hard to play.

Paul believes that the accordion should be taken more seriously as a beautiful and versatile instrument. He uses a lot of sustained left-hand notes, block chords, and drones or pedal notes Paul also is a master of harmony, frequently adding extra lines in the right hand.

His playing is inspired by the sound of the church organ and he tries to avoid the old-fashioned limited use of the instrument (note-chords rhythmic "boom-chit" sound) at all costs. Paul's sound has been mistaken for a violin, a church organ or a concertina, which he takes as a compliment not a criticism! He is an experienced teacher who loves teaching and enjoys developing the potential of a group or individual to deepen and improve their musicianship.

Paul is thinking of coming back to Australia later this year or next year to do some more teaching. Don't miss Belshazzar's Feast if they come back to Australia, and watch this space for more news on future workshops with Paul!

Paul playing for a VIP. Who knew the Queen liked accordion?





Belshazzar's Feast: Paul Sartin and Paul Hutchinson

#### Did you know?

# USE SOUL MUSIC TO SMASH A PB! Researchers from Brunel University in the UK have found that blasting the soulful beats of Marvin Gaye during exercise can reduce the amount of fatigue and discomfort you feel, which in turn may enhance your performance. During the study, a group of volunteers were asked to squeeze a hand grip on and off for 10 minutes. While those who completed the session without music found the task boring, those who tuned into I Heard it Through the Grapevine breezed through. According to study author Dr Marcelo Bigliassi, the music activates the part of your brain that limits fatigue.



We would like to wish Rob Scott-Mitchell a speedy recovery after his recent illness and hope he is back on his feet again real soon.

Best Wishes from your ASA friends.



#### NSW Accordions Alfresco—April 7th

Central Coast Italian Festival, Ettalong NSW.
Playing at the Ettalong Tourist Centre and Gallery. 2:15pm on April 7th.

#### World Accordion Day—May 6th

Accordionists get your thinking caps on and create an event or gig to celebrate World Accordion Day.

#### ASA Victoria 'Austrian Club Concert'—May 19th

Big Squeeze Band and several other performers. 90 Sheehan Rd, Heidelberg West. Vic.

#### Regular Performers/Gigs

#### Ross Majo

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

#### Ben Pattinson with Medusa's Wake

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

Every Friday and Saturday night and Sunday lunch.

Cuckoo Restaurant in the Dandenongs

#### Chaika Launch Tour 2019 - Australia

by Christine Johnstone

"Chaika Band" (which includes accordionist Emily-Rose Šárkova) will tour Australia from April 20th to June 30th to launch their latest CD "Arrow". Their first tour performance will be held at Smith's Alternative, 76 Alinga Street in Canberra followed by concerts in Sydney, Katoomba, Brisbane, Wauchope, Wollongong, Avoca Beach, Bellingen, Nambour and Gosford. Please see poster below for concert details.

Pre-sales are now open for the band's new CD, which is their third to date and comes in a lovely gatefold card case with art-

work by band members

Laura Altman and Susie Bishop.

The band also played some of their new songs at the Cobargo Folk Festival March 1st-3rd.

For further concert information email: info@chaikaband.com



# Time for a laugh

#### Tempo Police

Clocked you at 145 in a 126 metronome marking...





### If you steal their accordion I won't call the police





"You can play pianos any time because their batteries never need to be recharged."



#### Forker's Accordion Passion

My great friend Gaz Fawcus, affectionately known as Forker was Groomsman at my wedding in 1999. I have known Forker for a long time; he and I were work colleagues at the Victoria Police Academy in the 80's and 90's, when we instructed police recruits in physical training and law.

I played the accordion at my own wedding along with a Greek band, and at this time Forker made it known to me how much he enjoyed



the accordion and would love to learn to play it.

This was 'music to my ears', if you'll pardon the pun, and I immediately, well not immediately, as I had a honeymoon to go on, offered to help him with buying one and arranging music lessons for him. As Beethoven said, "to play a wrong note is totally acceptable, but to play without passion is inexcusable". I could see that Forker had a real passion for the instrument, and although like me not a young man, would benefit greatly in his quest to play by virtue of his overt passion.

We sourced an accordion for Forker, and I could see the excitement in his every move as he first tried the red 120 bass accordion on. I referred him to a music teacher who I thought would be suitable for him, and relatively close to Forker's geographical location.

Unfortunately the teacher was not what Forker or I had expected, and rather than encourage Forker with his endeavours, displayed negativity that caused Forker to become disillusioned with the lessons and

give them away after only a few. This to me was a tragedy, because Forker put the instrument down and within a short period of time sold it, choosing rather to concentrate on his work and other responsibilities in his worthy, and very busy life.

Forker would come to my home on occasions, and I would play for him. As you all know, I love the accordion so much, and will play for anyone from two weeks old to 120 years old, so Forker would always be privileged, or more accurately forced to listen to a couple of numbers, if not more!

It was great to hear Forker say to me back in June last year, "F.A.S (Former Acting Super), I want to buy another accordion and learn it; the passion has not left me'. Immediately I encouraged Forker to start looking for an instrument, offering to check out any accordion he found for suitability.

Sure enough, within a couple of weeks Forker forwarded me a photo of a 1960's Scandalli, which by all accounts looked really good and reasonably priced. We arranged a time for him to come for dinner and we'd head out to Warragul to view the instrument. Warragul was a fair way for Forker to go, considering he lives in Sunbury, but his passion over-ruled the tyranny of distance, and we made the considerable trek south east.

When we got to the seller's place I was pleasantly surprised to see it was one of the regulars from our terrific monthly Sunday afternoon 'jam session' with Frank Berens, and we had a good look over the accordion. 40 minutes later we left, with a very proud Forker carrying the Scandalli complete with case, out to the car.

Getting back to my place about 10.30pm Forker immediately strapped the accordion on and made it quite clear he wanted a few tips to go on with before he arranged for some more lessons with another teacher. A cup of tea and some advice about basic scale work and bass routines, and Forker was on his way back to Sunbury, beaming like a Cheshire cat.

Since that time back in mid July Forker has made significant progress, coming to my place and practising quite regularly. Whether or not Forker eventually becomes proficient in playing is to my mind not the issue. It's about the passion that Forker has shown, not only for the accordion but in his life, and the reward he will enjoy from making those small but significant steps with this great instrument.

Just looking at him in the photo is clear evident how much Forker loves his accordion, with him continually reiterating how much he loves the instrument and wants to be able to fluently play a few tunes.

Forker is the type of guy who inspires others; he spends his every waking moment looking at ways he can help others in need, in my opinion he is the type of person the accordion fraternity needs; someone who is committed, continually sings the accordion's praises and loves every minute he spends with his Scandalli.

I wish Forker all the best with his endeavours, both personal and professional, and wish him well as he experiences the magical and most rewarding journey of learning the greatest instrument on earth.

Míchael J Glínskí



#### New CD "Mirror Suite"



by Christine Johnstone

A new CD by the Penny Sanborn Trio entitled "Mirror Suite" has just been released. The trio features Penny Sanborn (accordion), Jamie Philp (guitar) and Rubim de Toledo (bass).

The 11-track album is a collection of French, Italian and Tango music, including familiar and original pieces such as "Passion", El Choclo, Oblivion, O Sole Mio to name a few.

Canadian accordionist Penny Sanborn has performed with Luciano Pavarotti, Renée Fleming, and the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra.

The CD is available on iTunes and Spotify and also as a physical CD. For further details email: penny@pennysanborn.com



#### Zahatorte Gig

by Kate Parsons

Hailing from Kyoto, a city known for its traditionalism, Zahatorte are a genredefying trio that blend old-world European café sounds with the Japanese penchant for perfectionism. The band have spent the past 15 years mastering their craft. They've played over 100 shows each year including festival slots at Summer Sonic (Japan), Le Grand Soufflet Festival (France) and the World Music and Dance Festival.



On Friday 8th February, Jedda Kassis, Les Maroun, Kate Parsons and her friend Sole were lucky enough to see Zahatorte at the Petersham Bowling Club.

Dressed in immaculate black and white outfits, the cellist Yosu-Ke wore a bowler hat and long plait, the guitarist Uekko sported hipster round spectacles and the accordionist Tomoharu Tomaru had a most excellent mohawk.

"Hello! We are from Kyoto" the Uekko greeted us enthusiastically. Without further introduction they launched into a spellbinding set of energetic, gypsy folk music including Turkish, French and Irish influenced original tunes. The

music evoked cinematic scenes of riding across the desert to search for hidden treasures and Amelie-style adventures Paris. The accordionist's playing was fluent, fast, effortless and fun!

The audience gave a standing ovation and called 'encore', something they said they don't see that often with Japanese audiences.

At the end of the show the band burst into a series of circus tricks; the accordionist bent almost completely backwards like a limbo dancer, counterbalanced by his accordion! The cellist twirled his bowler hat on his bow and flipped it onto his head and the guitarist made shapes of the Opera House and Harbour Bridge with a trick sushi mat.

During the show they mentioned that unfortunately Tomoharu's accordion had been cracked during the flight. Jed Da came to the rescue, calling Ben and then Louie and offering to help them find accordions in the remaining cities of their tour. They went to see Louie who was keen to help, however the required part would take too long to source. They managed to tape it up and carry on with the tour.

Zahatorte are available on Spotify or check out some of their concerts on You-Tube.

Kate



### NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND ACCORDION ASSOCIATION

### Jacob Noordzij Visits "Accordion Gems" at Dargaville Museum, NZ

by Christine Johnstone

Accordionist, teacher, orchestra conductor and musical director, Jacob Noordzij (Austria) received a warm welcome when he visited the Dargaville Museum Accordion Gems collection on January 24th accompanied by **Harley Jones**, **Christine Johnstone** (who is the Museum Manager and an accordionist), Museum Director Maree Saunders and committee members.



Jacob conducted the 2014 World Accordion Orchestra VIII and at the conclusion of the concert performance, he presented his 9 row Hohner Marino to **Kevin Friedrich** to be included as part of his **Accordion Gems** collection at the Museum.

While at the Museum, Jacob entertained the museum committee

members playing "Edelweiss" and a traditional New Zealand Maori love song "Pokarekare Ana". This was followed by a tour of the Museum where Jacob and his family could see his donated accordion displayed in the newly established Music Room (Picture above). In addition to a variety of instruments from the accordion family, the display includes original manuscripts, rare recordings, a 300 piece Accordion Figurine Collection and other accordion related archives and information.

<u>Kevin Friedrich</u> sent a message to Jacob which was read out to him at the Museum and ended: "My sincerest thanks to you, for donating your beautiful Hohner accordion to my '<u>Accordion Gems</u>, A Master Collection of Accordions Through Time' collection". A front page article appeared in the local newspaper.

Pictured below - Jacob Noordzij conducting the World Accordion Orchestra VIII at the 2014 <u>Coupe Mondiale</u> in Austria and right after this orchestra performance, Jacob, presented the accordion to <u>Kevin Friedrich</u>. His 7 grandchildren were in the foreground for Do-A Dear.



#### Kokatahi Band 108 Years Old, Hokitika – NZ

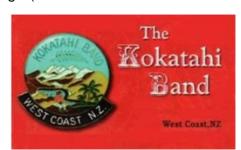
by Harley Jones



The Kokatahi Band from Hokitika on the West Coast of New Zealand celebrates its 108th anniversary this year. When first formed, the band followed the principle that they should only use instruments that were commonly available in the early years of the 20th century.

Now one hundred years on, the band is still pumping out the tunes on an eclectic mix of instruments including the accordion. Members come from as far afield as Invercargill (at the bottom of the South

Island) and Ashburton to don the colours and clothes of what people wore from the gold fields in 1910, and get the crowds singing.



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