

THE ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

ACCORDION REVIEW



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VOLUME 36 ISSUE 2

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Cover: Ben Pattinson serenades passerbys on the bridge in Salzburg during his recent trip to Europe for the World Music Festival in Innsbruck, Austria.

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Hello from the Editor

Mid year is an active time for accordion championships and festivals in Australia, NZ and Europe. Some of our members were fortunate to attend the 'World Music Festival' in Innsbruck and have kindly shared the experience with us. Paul and Yvonne Smith have sent us an article, page 19. Ben and Alex participated in the 'World Music Festival' and NZ Cham

pionships as part of the 'Southern Cross Ensemble', a brief summary of their experience is on page 7 (with a full story promised for our next edition.)

Congratulations to Tania Marx (AATA) on the success of the 25th International Accordion Championships and Festival held in Sydney on the June long weekend, pages 27-29 share highlights of the weekend.

Zeljko Bedic has some very, very special news to share with us on page 13. Congratulation Zeljko, well done!

Many accordionist have a passion for their instrument and the music it creates and how wonderful to receive news from one of our **longest members, newest member** and **oldest member!** Long time member Rhonda Bates shares her passion on page 32. New member Cheryl Beckett on page 18. Our oldest member **Willy Stader is 100!** Willy is a regular performer, page 15 has his remarkable story. Congratulations Willy on this wonderful achievement, and keep on playing.

Griffith is again filled with the sound of accordions for the annual Italian Republic Day with maestros Joe Staltare and Ross Maio regular performers. A big thank you to Joe for taking the time to keep us up to date.

The Macglagan Squeezebox Festival is a major event in the Qld music calendar and is holding its 17th annual festival on 12th October, in the Toowoomba Region of Qld. Organiser Joan van Kuijck has kindly briefed us on the history of the Macglagan festival and the reason for its success, page 22 has the details, it sounds like a lot of fun.

Thanks to all who contributed to this edition and please keep your news coming in, it is great to learn what is happening in your part of the country.

Cheryle

Presidents Report



2016 I put forward my suggestions that I thought would improve the Accordion Society in areas that were hindering us, and at the same time further removing us from what I considered to be mainstream music.

With these ideas, I looked forward to a new chapter, a new zest and zeal in the organisation. To some extent we managed to change the Society and we did indeed work on new ways of playing music, promoting ourselves and fundraising on multiple platforms.

I believe that we are far stronger than we were three years ago. However, with our membership numbers roughly the same and our group sizes lacking a little I suggest that there is more that we need to do. We are at a cross road where we can either transform ourselves into something new or we will just teeter away.

My time in Innsbruck, Austria at the World Music Festival helped me to identify problems that face the accordion player in the Accordion Society of Australia and moreover many other countries around the world and their groups and organisations. The biggest hurdle that we have in front of us is what to do with our accordion orchestra. Only 2 weeks ago I heard the Nuremberg Accordion Orchestra, The Hohner Youth Orchestra and The London Accordion Orchestra. These groups are very well trained, their music is performed perfectly. When you listen to them you cannot help but be moved by their amazing sound. It has been 22 years since I last toured Europe and had the opportunity to play and converse with groups of this calibre. I began to think of our small groups back in Australia. Have we been trying to recreate what happens in these other countries? If we have been, then we will surely fail as I believe some of these other places face the same problems we do.

The principle focus of the Accordion Society for many years has been to create the best and strongest orchestra that we can. We have stayed with this antiquated way of playing music across Australia, from Queensland, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide. All of us have seen these large groups diminish and stop playing all together. I watched as members became older with no younger members coming along to replace or bolster these players. I have talked to these people and they have asked me why no one comes along. People tell me that the accordion is not as popular as it once was in Australia and that it may never be. I will tell you that the accordion is indeed alive in Australia, all over Australia in folk festivals, the Sydney pub scene, Melbourne's music venues. There are more accordionists playing in more groups and bands than ever before, there is however less accordion players working together in accordion orchestras. I suggest that we all need to think about how and if at all the orchestra assists us.

The accordion is a great and versatile instrument and is suited to almost every musical application. As we make our way forward we need to use this unique quality that few other instruments have, I look forward to seeing us instigate positive and new changes in the Accordion Society of Australia. Although there may be some discomfort along the way we will no doubt be part of a stronger and more relevant organisation.

Think about your next step, not the last one you took.

Benny

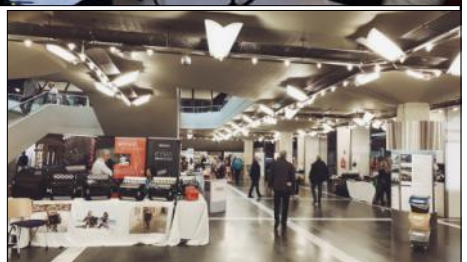


World Music Festival—Austria

By Alex Zhao

Thanks to the ASA, Ben Pattinson and myself had the opportunity to attend the World Music Festival in Innsbruck, Austria in late May 2019. It was the first-time I had visited Europe and it was absolutely amazing. We performed at the festival under the name of ‘Southern Cross Ensemble’, together with other accordion players from Australia and New Zealand. The performance went quite well, with hundreds in the audience excited by the very essence of the Southern Cross music, i.e. “Aussie Medley” and “New Zealand in Song”. Meanwhile, it was good to see how the Europeans take the accordion culture seriously. We witnessed some very professional accordion orchestras, each with over 30 people on stage. The audience were very supportive with more than 900 people seated when the “Star Wars” main theme was performed

by the Nuremberg Accordion Orchestra. Full details of our trip with photos, will be included in the next edition, keep an eye out.



Bucklands Annual Concert

On May 19th, Accordions Alfresco headed to the Mountains for their annual concert at Bucklands Retirement Village, Springwood, one they always enjoy. They performed 10 popular tunes including 'Espirito Santo', 'The Entertainer', 'Tarantella' with the introduction of a new piece 'Gabriel's Oboe', a slow pretty tune. Amelia performed a solo 'Waltz for Margaret' by Richard Galliani. Finn also performed solo, and dressed as a clown he played 'Comedian's Gallop' followed by 'Bel Viso' polka. A lovely afternoon tea followed and time to chat to an appreciative audience. Thank you Bucklands and hope to return next year.



Italian republic day at Griffith Shopping Centre

Hello from Griffith and what a wonderful day at the Central Shopping centre. Once again close to 300 people gathered around to watch the entertainment on Saturday 1st June. As always Ross Maio together with Mark Hudson kept the crowd on their toes, singing, clapping and dancing to the popular melodies that were put together for the day's activities. Children waited in line to receive their favourite shape's made from the balloons by Debbie .This year Elio Simonetti's magic presentations had them all amazed. The Italian choir sang many favourites as the guest's joined in the singing, then the Disalvatore Dance Studio group danced the Tarantella, they were just fantastic.

Joe Staltare



Scalabrini Village is filled with Music



With formalities over, Griffith Scalabrini Village was buzzing with enthusiasm as Bruno strapped on his accordion and played everyone's favourite tunes. Another wonderful afternoon was had, singing and dancing (well a few danced) to our master's music.

So good to have you entertain Bruno.

Joe



Italian Consul General visit to Griffith

On May 16th, we had a wonderful morning playing a few tunes for guests attending the Griffith Art Gallery to welcome Italian Consul General Arturo Arcano and The Appointment of the Honorary Vice-Consul for Italy in Griffith Monica Busnello.

Arturo will be moving on in his work to possibly another country so Monica will be our representative and will be based here in Griffith and having a Griffith Office will be a big step forward in streamlining issues with the Italian community, saving trips to Sydney or Canberra.

Joe



Mayor John Dal Broi, Arturo Arcano, Monica Busnello and Joe



Joe welcomes Vince to Griffith

So good to meet up with Vince Morschella from Sydney while he was visiting his daughter Jane.

A quick tour of the citrus trees, followed by a guide on orange picking, which they enjoyed. We then played a few tunes on the good old squeeze box and shared ideas on music arrangements followed by a cuppa at our home and the afternoon passed so quickly.

Regards

Joe

NB: Vince is a member of the NSW Orchestra (Accordions Alfresco)

Vince giving my old Scandalli a squeeze



Jane & Vince satisfied with harvest technique



Cathy Staltare, Vince & Jane just before tasting.

*News from the **Paddington Music Studio*** *By **Zeljko Bedic***



Dear ASA members / accordion friends,

I am sincerely honoured and humbled to share with you some very rare and wonderful news. Towards the end of last year I received a formal letter from the Governor General's office advising that I have been nominated and will be receiving the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) award which was officially announced to the public in the **2019 Australia Day Honour Role**. On 17 May 2019, I attended the Order of Australia Association Luncheon at Parliament House, Macquarie Street along with other award recipients and my family. On **22 May 2019**, I was invited (with my wife Sonya, daughter Tanisha, son Joel (couldn't attend), mum Stefica and my special guest of honour, **Mr Ivica Glasnovic - Croatian Consulate General**)



to the **Investiture Ceremony at Government House, Sydney** where I was presented with the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) by **Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AO QC, Governor of NSW**. This was truly one of the highlights in my life and a memorable occasion that I will never forget. When she presented

me with the award she specifically and sincerely asked me about the

accordion and its popularity in Australia and around the world, which of course I was more than delighted to share with her.

The official award ceremony was followed by drinks and canapés in the beautiful gardens at Government House where we had the opportunity to mix and mingle, take some photos and even have a lovely conversation with Her Excellency The Governor of NSW. Once the formalities were concluded, we moved on to the Opera Bar with family and friends for some celebratory drinks and nibbles. I was absolutely thrilled to have my good friends Ross Maio, Margaret Brandman, Bin (Terry) Lu and other diploma students join me to celebrate this momentous occasion at one of the most spectacular settings in beautiful Sydney Harbour. It was the perfect way to finish the evening and memorable day.



Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) Award Summary:

For distinguished service to humanity in Australia, and humanity at large globally (including Dunblane - Scotland, September 11 - USA and Croatia), in the capacity of National and Sydney NSW Coordinator, for two of the most highly successful charity CD singles, "Side by Side - Song for Port Arthur" and "Stop the War in Croatia", National Coordinator for the NAIDOC Week / Reconciliation, "Now It's Time (put things right)" and the Suicide Prevention, "Hold On" charity songs / CD singles, as well as distinguished services to music education and the arts in the capacity of Diploma Music Teacher / Pedagogue, AMEB Diploma Level Examiner, ASA Examiner, Senior Adjudicator, University Academic, Musical Director and Performer.

Citation:

For service to the community and to the performing arts, particularly through music.

Australia's oldest accordionist turns 100 this year!!!

I also have another huge announcement to make, and that is that my former accordion student and dear friend **Willy Stader, celebrated his 100th birthday on the 25th of May**

2019...and still going strong!

He is currently on a three month world cruise with his accordion by his side, on which the captain, crew and his friends had a 100th birthday celebration in his honour. Congratulations and best wishes from all of us Willy!



Last year my close and dear friend Judith Hague (accordionist) and I visited Willy at his home in Cremorne Point over looking beautiful Sydney Harbour, Opera House and the Harbour Bridge. Willy asked me to come over to play him a few songs on the accordion which I gladly did. He absolutely loved it and was completely mesmerised. His dear friends Jan and Maria Jarus were also staying with him at the time. It was a lovely morning filled with accordion music, coffee, tea and delicious cakes.

Willy was originally inspired by one of Ross Maio's amazing performances on a cruise ship holiday a few years ago, after which he had a long chat with Ross. Upon his return to Sydney he ended up buying the Roland FR3x which he still plays every day and takes with him on holidays. He called me at the time (2015 - age 96) to commence accordion lessons, however the lessons were short lived. Willy said to me, "I'm enjoying the lessons very much, but unfortunately by the time you are leaving through the front door I have already forgotten everything you have taught me":) In the end, learning and playing by ear was the answer for Willy.

His dear friends Jan and Maria first met Willy in January 2016 through their association with Richard Noel. Richard was holidaying in Australia and together with his late wife Mary, stayed at Willy's place for a couple of weeks. Their friendship with Willy developed through their mutual love of the accordion and Maria and Jan now regularly visit him for a meal, which he insists on cooking himself, to chat about old times, and of course, to play the ac-



cordion together. At times he would first hum a melody of a song which he remembers and is fond of to Jan. Jan would then find the sheet music and they would practise and play together. Once he rang Jan in the evening after one of their visits and started humming this well-known German march. Jan was familiar with the melody, but did not know the name, so after many hours of searching and listening to marches on the internet, he found the name and the sheet music. It was "Wien Bleibt Wien" composed by Johann Schrammel. The next time Maria and Jan visited Willy, he and Jan had a really great time playing this rousing march together.

On one occasion before one of Willy's world cruises, Jan helped him learn "Charade" and "La Paloma" and a few other popular songs. Afterwards, Willy said that he performed these songs in front of a packed auditorium (800 people!)



on the cruise and received a standing ovation. How about that when you're in you're late 90s going on to 100!!!

New AMEB Accordion Syllabus status update:

As you would all be already aware from my previous updates on this topic over the last few years, Tania Marx, Milica Krga and I have been working on reviewing and completely overhauling the current AMEB Accordion syllabi. The new proposed AMEB Accordion syllabus was submitted to **Mr Bernard Depasquale, CEO AMEB Federal and Mr Steven Hodgson on 7 Feb 2018** for a comprehensive AMEB review and approval by a panel of AMEB Examiners/ Specialists. This long and time consuming process has included a review of all the proposed grade and diploma pieces as well as all of the revised technical requirements. Following the AMEB review, we received comprehensive and extensive questions and suggestions regarding the technical work earlier this year to which we had to respond in detail in February 2019. Thank you Milica for assisting me with this import piece of work and the detailed response back to the AMEB. **I am extremely pleased and excited to announce that I have just been advised that the new Accordion syllabus is now in the process of being type set, in readiness for our final review/proof reading and is planned to be released for examining later this year.** It has taken a long time to reach this point but is fantastic news for all accordion teachers and students across Australia.

We are appealing to all accordion teachers across Australia to put forward as many students for Accordion AMEB exams so that we can keep the Accordion syllabus alive for many years to come. We are hopeful that the new, freshly updated syllabus will start to see a significant increase in the number of candidates sitting for their Accordion grade exams and all the way up to AMuSA and LMuSA Diplomas. If numbers stay very low as they have been for a number of years now, or even worse, decline even further, the AMEB will remove the Accordion syllabus from being able to be examined, and that would be an absolute tragedy after all of the incredibly hard work that has been carried out to have the Accordion included into the AMEB Manual of Syllabuses, and now to completely overhaul the Accordion syllabus in an attempt to bring it into the 21st century. Everyone, please help us keep it alive!

I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Yours musically,

Zeljko Bedic OAM
Director -**Paddington Music Studio**

News from Victoria

Welcome Cheryl Beckett

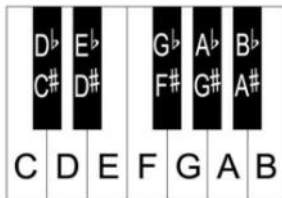
In Melbourne, Cheryl Beckett belongs to The Big Squeeze Band, and has lessons with Jeanette Benzing. Cheryl learnt the piano for many years, then a neighbour got her interested in the Accordion.

Cheryl plays at several Senior Citizen homes every month, where the residents clap and sing-along to lots of Cheryl's tunes. She also busks in her surrounding areas, when her time permits.

The Big Squeeze Band has performed at the Dutch Festival and the Tulip Festival for the last 2 years. Cheryl has only been playing the accordion for 6 years, starting in 2013 at nearly 70, but loves the instrument, and hopes to continue and do more in the future.



Just 12 Notes



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News from The Smiths (Adelaide)

Greetings from Germany!

Paul and I are currently touring around Germany and Austria visiting various music festivals.

Our first stop was the Innsbruck World Music Festival, one of the world's largest accordion orchestra competitions. Everyone was super friendly and it was great to meet so many other accordionists and make some new friends. The exhibitor's stands were a good resource for new sheet music, and also an opportunity to try out and compare different brands of accordions.

The various accordion orchestra performances were very inspiring, but we also enjoyed the ensemble and solo performances. The main attraction of the festival was of course a concert by world famous accordionist Martynas Levickis from Lithuania, he is top class and we really enjoyed his show. But the surprise act for us was the solo performance by Zoran Zorko, who plays a modified midi diatonic accordion – Zoran has a unique fresh modern style and received three standing ovations, basically the audience would not let him leave the stage! He also has a great sense of humour. If you have not heard of Zoran, search on youtube for “U talking to me – Zoran



Zorko” to see an example of his rock/jazz fusion.

On Friday evening we enjoyed the show by Tango Orchestra “Guardia Nueva” from Finland, and the Hohner Klang Orchestra had the whole crowd partying and dancing on Saturday late into the evening. With so many performances and concerts in various halls it was impossible to see everything and we did miss out on a few things we really wanted to see, including the Southern Cross Ensemble (who performed at the same time as Martynas Levickis).

Around the festival, there was so much to see and do in Innsbruck, which would have to be one of the prettiest settings in Europe with beautiful historic buildings and impressive mountains all around.



On Sunday all festival attendees met up in the Olympia Hall Stadium for the prize presentations. The atmosphere was electric with plenty of Mexican waves, cheer squads, team colours, and audience participation – it felt more like a major sports event! The Hohner Klang Orchestra entertained us again and the Europa Orchestra performed, this was the open orchestra which rehearsed during the festival. We really enjoyed Innsbruck and hope to go again next time.

The second festival we attended so far was in Kirchhaslach in country Bavaria, this featured various brass bands and also some modern folk-rock music bands which incorporate accordions into their act. Our favourite band so far were the Fäaschtbänklers from Switzerland – all of them great musicians and singers who had the audience of several thousand people totally engaged, singing and dancing along. Their accordionist had a key role in the performance and this goes to show that the accordion is a popular and versatile instrument in modern and traditional music. They also make a big point that traditional instruments can play any genre of music – see “Fäaschtbänkler - 26 Genres” in youtube for an example that is sure to put a smile on your face.

Yvonne & Paul Smith

Adelaide

Accordianists Out and About

AMELIA IN "A WORLD OF MUSIC"

On Sunday 26th May I performed at the Galston Concerts 2019 Series. The concert was titled "A World of Music" to Celebrate World Music Day on June 21st. It was the first time the Galston Concerts had featured an accordion - and if you'd believe it, it actually featured two! The Sydney Balalaika Orchestra performed with Richard She on accordion as well which was a treat for the audience.

The majority of the concert featured some very interesting pieces by Debussy, Dun, Bach, Brahms as well as some newer Australian composers; Pikler, Kovacs and Simonds. I performed an international set

featuring: Variations on a Ukranian theme, Valse a Margaux and Cubanola. As always it is a pleasure to share music with an audience that really appreciate it and sit very quietly and attentively.

After the concert I joined the members for afternoon tea and a chat about all things Accordions and Music.

Amelia





Calling all **PERFORMERS & SPECTATORS**

We want you at our festival this October!

Be a part of this year's **Maclagan Squeezebox Festival**
- the only accordion festival in Australia

**Join us again in our 17th year of
Keeping the Accordion Traditions Alive...
New players welcome.**

PLAYERS: Ring Joan on 0427 170 857
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VISITORS & SPECTATORS: General Enquiries
Ring Sherryl on (07) 4692 1265

Be part of a festival which truly embodies what our
small rural communities are all about; resilience,
friendship, and having as much fun as possible!

12 October 2019

- 9.00 am - Walk up and Play
- 9.30 am - Morning tea
- 11.00 am - Official Opening
- 12 noon - Lunch
- 1.00 pm - Main concert
- 3.00 pm - Afternoon tea
- 6.00 pm - Dinner
- 7.00 pm - Jam session

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Maclagan Squeezebox Festival

We believe Maclagan holds the only accordion festival in Australia. This year will be our 17th year of running a festival for those who love and play accordion music.

Where is Maclagan, you ask? We are a small town in the Toowoomba region of Queensland. The township and surrounding area has a population of 195 but we pack well above our weight when it comes to keeping our community alive. Our festival truly embodies what our small rural communities are all about: resilience, friendship, and having as much fun as possible.

We all know that immigration has influenced the accordion's popularity in Australia, but did you know that more German peoples came to southern Queensland from the Germanic regions of Europe from the 1850s until the start of WW1 than any other ethnic group? These immigrants brought with them their skills and homeland traditions and folkways and came in search of fresh opportunities, land and freedom. Music and food were two particularly strong traditional elements of the German culture that have transplanted to regional Australia.

Maclagan, (once named Bismarck after Chancellor Otto von Bismarck who reigned Germany) is a pioneering German agricultural region. The legacy of the musical styles brought from Germany by the early immigrants can be seen in Maclagan. The township attempts to rekindle the old time song and dance traditions each year for the public and aims to keep some of these accordion traditions alive.

The seed for the festival was planted in 2003 when the Toowoomba Accordion Festival ceased. Les and Stella Weedon, Graham and Lyn Reinke, Mark Schuster and Maria Zann initiated that first festival to showcase their own skills and instruments and to keep the song and dance tradition alive.

Today, the Maclagan Squeezebox Festival is a major event on the annual southern Queensland musical calendar. Accordion players from

'all over' come to perform and there are visitors in the audience from every state in Australia.

A 212-page anthology of stories by those who love and play accordion music was launched at last year's festival showcasing the transformative powers of the festival in bringing back the emotional binds to the brain of music heard in dance halls and at weekend dances of decades past. Copies of this book have made it to the Hohner factory in Trossingen, Germany and to the 2019 Frankfurt Music Festival – Europe's biggest trade fair for the music industry. Details of this book are located elsewhere in this newsletter.

The annual squeezebox festival is a winner for the Maclagan community and is cemented firmly in the yearly plans of most visitors. Why don't you add your name to the growing list of players and spectators who keep the second Saturday in October each year marked on their calendars?

You can find us on Facebook and on the web at www.maclagansqueezeboxfestival.org

Joan van Kuijck



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SNIPPETS, GOSSIP & NEWS

Portrait of Lindy Lee wins Prestigious Archibald Prize

How exciting to see a portrait of Lindy Lee win the 2019 Archibald Prize, by artist Tony Costa.

Lindy is also a renowned artist and the partner of Rob Scott-Mitchell, our previous ASA President and bass player with the NSW Orchestra (Accordions Alfresco) before they relocated to northern NSW.

Below is an extract from a Sydney newspaper of an interview with the artist about Lindy Lee and his winning portrait.



Sydney artist Tony Costa has won the 2019 Archibald Prize for his portrait of artist Lindy Lee. Costa spoke of his subject, Lindy Lee, who is a leading contemporary artist and practicing Buddhist.

"I listened to an interview Lindy gave at the AGNSW and found myself agreeing with many of her ideas. I was attracted to her wisdom, humility, courage, humour and, above all, her deep focus regarding her art practice," Costa said.

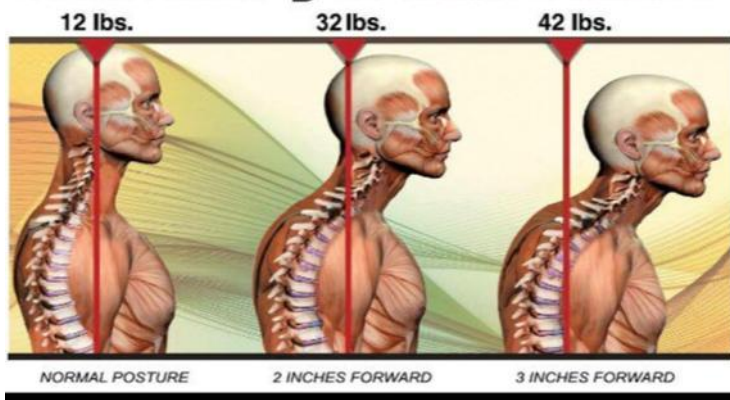


Rob and Lindy Lee

Did you know?

Did you know your head is this heavy? Allowing it to tilt forward, or to the side, or letting your chin jut out when playing, typing or texting, is a strain on your neck and spine. Sit up in neutral positions, shoulders down when you are playing your instrument!

How Heavy is Your Head?



**Thank
You!**

Frank Moschella

The ASA would like to thank Frank Moschella for his ongoing support of the Accordion Society and its members, it is greatly appreciated.

Would you like to support the ASA?

If so, then 1st August is the time to renew your Membership or Accordion Review Subscription, or you may like to become a member.

It is so easy with direct debit/Bank transfer.

Refer pages 41, 42 for details



2019 Australian International Accordion Championships and Festival - Sydney

by Lionel Reekie

Sydney played host to a real variety of accordion music with the Australian Accordion Teachers Association (AATA) annual Championships and Festival, held on 8th and 9th June, by President Tania Lukic-Marx.

Each year this event attracts international competitors and guest performers and this year was no exception with participants from Poland, China, New Zealand, Slovenia together with local and out of state Australian accordionists.

Competitions for solo and duet categories gave an opportunity for players of all levels and ages to showcase their skills. The youngest competitor (pictured right) was just four years of age, and for several categories it was some of the performer's first time on stage.

The 20 years and Under Junior Virtuoso was the highest International category, with the title being won by Jianan Wang and Zelda Mormul (Australia) won both the 12 years and 15 years and under International classes.



Jianan Wang



Zelda Mormul

The Festival also featured a masterclass with internationally known Primoz Parovel (Slovenia) demonstrating why he is so much in demand as an international adjudicator and teacher. Primoz has recently released a CD recording of Scarlatti works on free bass accordion available through Sony Music.

Music Junction (Melbourne) also exhibited a number of accordions and accordion accessories.

Guest performances throughout the weekend culminated in the Gala Prize winners concert. Held in Club Marconi's impressive auditorium, artists included the ever-popular Sydney Balalaika Orchestra, Southern Cross Accordion Ensemble, (recently returned from the DHV World Music Festival in Innsbruck), Gennady Savkov (Lithuania/Russia), Eduard Bronson and Lionel Reekie (New Zealand).

Selected prize winners also played before a memorable performance from Poland's "The Modern Trio" concluded the concert. Marzena Bernatowicz (conductor, recitation, singing), Elwira Sliwkiewicz-Cisak (accordion) and Jakub Niedoborek (guitar) presented an interesting program that featured everything from Piazzolla's "Libertango" through to the world premiere of a composition specially written for them by Ukrainian, Volodymir Runchak entitled "I had see the Lord ...".

AATA president, Tatjana Lukic-Marx closed the event with the presentation of certificates to the Trio and Primoz Parovel, and extended an invitation to accordionists all over the world to attend next years' Festival which will be held in August 2020.



Primoz Parovel (Slovenia)



Modern Trio Band

*Happy 25th birthday to the AATA
International Accordion Champi-
onships and Festival,
Congratulations!*



By Glennly Grunfelder

The Australian Accordion Teachers Association (AATA), founded in 1993, promotes and encourages the playing (and enjoyment) of the accordion in Australia through music festivals, competitions, music examinations and master classes.

Since 1994, the AATA has held the Australian International Accordion Championships and Festival where international and Australian artists and competitors are invited so that accordionists and enthusiasts can see and hear the best players in the world.

On the weekend of 8th and 9th June (Queen's Birthday weekend) I attended the competitions held at Club Marconi in Bossley Park, (my third year of enjoying these championships and festival).

As an enthusiast and beginner accordionist I thoroughly recommend this very professional and well-run annual event. It was great to see so many entrants for the many classes offered, with representation from Australia, New Zealand, China and Taiwan. I sat there full of admiration at the skills and talent of so many accordionists, especially the international players (and the children whose ages ranged from 4 years to 15 years old!).



With the dedication of the AATA committee and their many teachers, the participation of international accordionists, the entrants' passion for the instrument and the parents' commitment to supporting their children, the future for the accordion in Australia is looking great! (Check out the AATA's website and also Facebook for all the many accordion groups here in Australia! There'll be a group near you!).

Glennly



Maclagan Squeezebox Festival

Saturday 12th October at Maclagan (Toowoomba Region of Qld)

Refer page 22 for details

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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.

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Cuckoo Restaurant in the Dandenongs

Time for a laugh



"No, Jenny, there's no such thing as Poison Ivory."

Pianissimos



© 2016 BY DOUG SAVAGE



My Accordion paid for a seat and wants another Martini.

Rhonda still has the Passion

People often ask me “Do you still play your accordion?”, and of course I reply yes! Whilst not playing for functions every weekend I do get asked to play at quite a few charity events and at retirement villages where they have their own theatre and conduct the likes of Morning Melodies, Old Time Musical Halls and Melbourne Cup Functions.

I was asked recently to play for the Mater Hospital Auxiliary Ladies afternoon tea which was held at Magpies Sporting Club in Mackay. Initially I was to play one bracket however only a week out they asked for a second. My music is totally organised and alphabetised in filing cabinets so I quickly found another set of pieces and set about brushing up on them.

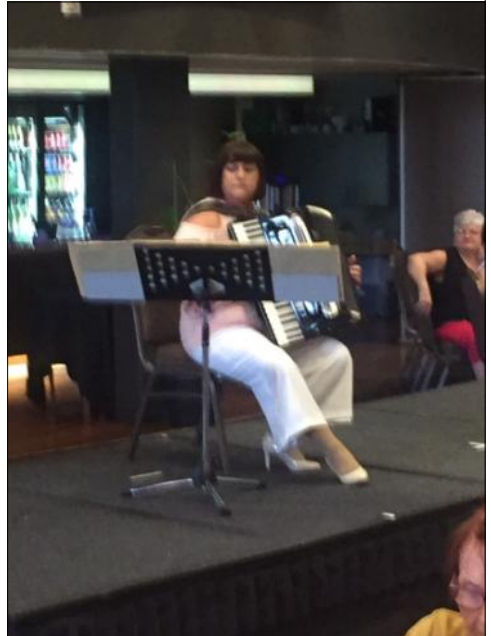
The function was wonderful and my music greatly appreciated. I like to show the versatility of our wonderful instrument and played music ranging from Rock Opera to Accordion Classics.

As they say “if you have music in your heart, you will have love forever”, and this was oh so true for this performance.

It was equally pleasing to have my accordion teacher in the audience. Mrs Lidia Rokic taught me accordion from day one right through until I sat for my teaching certificate in Sydney. You never lose the respect for your teacher and I have to say I did have a few nerves having her in the audience.

On the whole it was a great afternoon and my music was greatly appreciated by the audience.

Rhonda Bates (nee Creber)



Joe visits NZ's Dargaville Museum

By Joe Staltare

Dargaville Accordion Museum on the north island is a must see if any person is travelling to New Zealand and especially if you are there around the last weekend of March when the variety show is held featuring Kevin Friedrich and his many friends. Special thanks to Kevin Jobbitt, a fellow musician and Chris Davidson a Dargaville entertainer for giving me the inspiration to visit.

Kevin Friedrich thank you so much for giving me the red carpet tour of the Accordion Museum it was just amazing, and for organising an Accordion for me to play whilst in Dargaville, the Titano was great.

The afternoon had entertainers from all parts of NZ and it was so good to meet many of them, and I was also thrilled to be part of the entertainment together with Kevin Jobbitt and Chris Davidson.

A big buzz for me was the finale when Kevin Friedrich invited accordionist to jam with him on stage, my heart skipped when Grayson Masefield gave me the accordion he was playing and I was on stage with Kevin Friedrich and Lionel Reekie. Kevin Jobbitt thank you for giving me a great time in N Z

Chris and Linda Davidson thank you for a wonderful time in Dargaville, Kevin Friedrich and friends thank you for an amazing day of entertainment.

Photos from top:

1. Joe Staltare with Kevin Friedrich:
2. Lionel Reekie, Joe Staltare, Kevin Friedrich
3. Grayson Masefield with Joe Staltare



Dargaville Social Club

I must thank the committee of the Dargaville social Club from myself, Peter Smith and Kevin Jobbitt (pictured here) for a great night of food and drinks .

We all travelled over to enjoy a night to entertain Chris and Linda Davidson's guests, a wonderful group of friends.

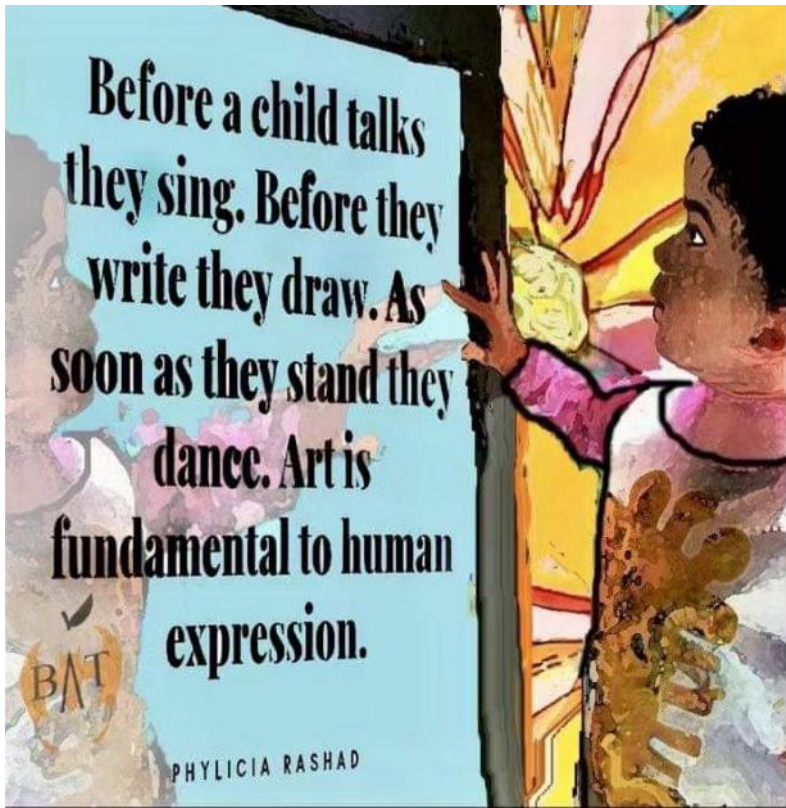
The night started with a few tunes on the squeeze box around the dinner tables (*thank you Kevin Friedrich for organising a Titano for me*). Peter Smith singer song writer (from Griffith) kept everyone singing and dancing as Kevin and Chris walked around to all the guests singing their favourites at the dinner tables, we then joined in.

A very enjoyable night was had by all.

All The best

Joe Staltare





New Accordion Music

Franco Cambareri is an Australian Accordionist, composer and producer and has composed hundreds of pieces in many different styles and types. His latest composition is "Fantasia Lunatica".

To view and/or purchase any of Franco's pieces go to <http://www.musicforaccordion.com>

To contact Franco:
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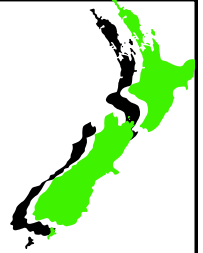
FANTASIA LUNATICA
Dedicated to my beautiful Sister, Tina CAMBARERI

Arrangement Solo
Cello Solo 2/4

Musica by Franco Cambareri

The image shows a musical score for the piece "Fantasia Lunatica". It is a solo arrangement for cello in 2/4 time. The score is written on ten staves, with the right hand (treble clef) and left hand (bass clef) parts clearly visible. The music features a mix of rhythmic patterns and melodic lines. At the bottom of the page, there is a copyright notice: "Copyright © 2017 by CICCIO'S MUSIC PUBLISHING, LLC. Printed in the Melbourne, VIC, Australia. All rights reserved. International copyright secured. www.musicforaccordion.com or Email: ciccio_franco@hotmail.com".

*NEWS FROM
NEW ZEALAND
ACCORDION ASSOCIATION*



Afternoon of Music with Kevin Friedrich and Friends

The 12th Annual Afternoon of Music with Kevin Friedrich and Friends took place on Sunday March 31st with a capacity audience at the Lighthouse Function Centre at the Dargaville Museum.



Featuring a variety of artists performing

music from the Stage and Screen, the event serves as an annual fundraiser for the Dargaville Museum.

The afternoon featured a very unusual opportunity to feature a duo of instruments made from the very precious and rare native New Zealand Kauri wood. The wood, often 40,000 years old was used to make both an accordion and a drum, which were featured in duo during the concert. The Kauri accordion was part of a joint project between New Zealand and Finland where the instruments were hand made.

The show opened with the Auckland Accordion Symphonietta conducted by Lionel Reekie and included a stunning rendition of the theme from Schindler's List by John Williams with Maiadean Martin as Violin Soloist. A young violinist from nearby Whangarei, Maiadean has performed each year at the concert with her talented siblings.

The concert featured the donation of an accordion from the Christchurch Accordion Orchestra, made available by member Merle Kershaw. The instrument was formally accepted by Museum President Ross Newlove and played in the concert.



National Accordion Association, Inc.
Hyatt Regency Hotel in Richardson, Texas
March 7 - 9, 2019



By Rita Barnea

For accordion aficionados, there was something to please everyone from beginner to professional. I attended many workshops, concerts, and jam sessions and was inspired by them all. The pervasive feeling was one of joy, great interest, and acceptance of all levels of performance. Everyone was very friendly, willing to share their talents and knowledge, and respectful of time limits which facilitated the easy transition from one event to another. An important musical event took place: The World Premiere of the accordion orchestration of "Two Plus One" composed by Gary Daverne, was performed by the [NAA](#) Festival Orchestra and conducted by New Zealand conductor, vocalist and accordionist Lionel Reekie. Lionel's enthusiasm inspired the orchestra to a lively and musical performance. Additionally, Lionel conducted workshops, sang and entertained during the [NAA](#) event.

The 2019 [NAA](#) presented many concerts/workshops followed with jam sessions in numerous locations during the convention. Musicians, new media, and the general public attended to see the action on all the fascinating days. Over 200 people attended the evening concerts and banquet!



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