

THE ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

# ACCORDION REVIEW



J U N E      2 0 2 2

VOLUME 39 ISSUE 2

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## DISCLAIMER

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## *Hello from the Editor*

Thankfully live music is back and this edition has a few articles reflecting this. Thank you to those who sent in your news.

Our cover photo shows our own Emma Smith from Adelaide in her new band 'Feierabend'. I have listened to their music via Facebook and I am very impressed. Emmas mother has filled us in on the band plus their other Adelaide music gigs, refer pages 7, 8.

Congratulations to Finn MacDermid on his success in the 2022 South Pacific and International competition held in New Zealand earlier this month, page 11 has the details.

How exciting is 'Funkordion', a new accordion group for young players initiated by Tatjana Marx. Playing with others in a group is a wonderful experience for musicians so I hope we hear more about these young accordionists in our 'Kids Corner', read about it on page 18.

Palmi Snorrason and I have met several times over the years and all I know about him is that he is a good accordionist, very kind and helpful. I imagined he would have a great life story so I asked our roving reporter 'Glenny Grunfelder' to interview Palmi for our Profile. Together they produced an interesting story of Palmi's life which I thoroughly enjoyed reading and I am sure you will too, see page 19.

Thanks Palmi and Glenny, great team effort.

Hope you enjoy this Review and please keep your articles coming in. Thank you.

*Cheryle*



## *Presidents Report*

Welcome everyone to our June Accordion review.  
It is a pleasure to have you all here.

Congratulations to Finlay MacDermid who we recently sent to New Zealand to compete in the New Zealand Accordion Association championships in Auckland. He has come back with a sack of trophies and a great life experience. We are happy to have sponsored him and look forward to what he does next.



As you all will know our Vice President Anthony Shultz has been working on the survey of the Accordion Society. Our deadline for this is 1<sup>st</sup> July. If you missed it here is the link <https://forms.gle/vYAXkaLpyocn2Ukw8>. When all the surveys are in, we will start looking at the data. With this information we can start looking into providing Accordion Society members with services that suit them, whilst gaining a better perspective of reasons why people become members of the Accordion Society. I am looking forward to hearing from you all.

Recently a member of ours came to me with a story. It was a story of travelling by plane to New Zealand. The trip was enjoyable for all on the plane, however...this trip was not so good for the accordion.

This got me thinking about what advice is available to people who travel internationally with accordions. I have travelled for many years with accordions on planes. I have developed many systems to keep my precious instruments safe. Towels, bubble wrap, packing tape, the more the better.

I have started drafting an article about how to pack your instrument. We will be adding this to our website so that you can see some of the methods that are used and will also publish this advice in our September edition. Because there are so many differences in accordions I cannot

describe one simple method, in the meantime if you have any questions contact me either by phone or email and we can discuss some of the steps you can take to protect you precious cargo.

***Public Announcement:***

*July 1st Medusa's Wake are coming to Melbourne town with the mighty [The Go Set](#) then back to Sydney to do it all again on July 2nd with the cracking [Looch Lewis & the Press Gangsters](#) in tow! Put the date in the diary !!!! Get your dancing shoes on and come and see me play [The Gasometer Hotel Collingwood](#) and [The Vanguard Sydney](#) July 1st and July 2nd.*

More information at <https://www.facebook.com/medusaswake>

Thank you everyone for reading the review and stay tuned for the next edition where we will show you some new design concepts for our branding and let you know about some workshop collaborations coming up later in the year with myself and Anthony. As always enjoy your music.

*Benny*



## *News from Adelaide*

*by Yvonne Smith*

This year has been off to a good start here in Adelaide, with most venues returning to a kind of normal after COVID. Time to write a little update!

The Indian Pacific Train is running again so we were super excited to re-commence our regular Thursday night Bavarian dance and music show at “The Haus” restaurant in Hahndorf with the Bund Der Bayern dance group. It's always a joy to see so many smiling faces, and we get free beer and pizza as well - which makes it even better.

The Easter long weekend was the first time in over two years where our little hills German town of Hahndorf was absolutely packed full of tourists from... everywhere! It felt just like the old days!



Paul and I (“Heidi & Herman”) are performing our traditional German accordion music every fortnight at the Hahndorf Inn for the weekend lunchtime patrons. We have also entertained at a few aged care / retirement homes and been hired for several Corporate Functions, so it’s been busy. Not busy enough to give up our daytime jobs...but hey, we can dream about it, can’t we?



And with Oktoberfest season soon approaching there is a lot more accordion music to look forward to.

It looks like we will be playing at the Melbourne Hofbrauhaus in Market Lane for the opening of Oktoberfest on 17th / 18th September. We really hope to catch up with some of our Melbourne ASA accordion friends while we are there, it's been a while since we last visited Victoria!



Speaking of Oktoberfest, our daughter Emma has started an Oktoberfest themed band called “Feierabend” (pronounced Fire-ah-bend). The line up includes Emma on Accordion, her friend Marina on Tuba, as well as band members Alex and Casey on Trombone/s or Bass Guitar. They are all great musicians and also excellent singers, the sound is fresh and fun as they play the big party hits in Oompah style. You can follow them on their social media, just search for “TheFeierabend” in Facebook or Instagram and look for the orange pretzel logo. So far they have done three public performances, and as a result have already been booked for a few regular appearances at the Prancing Pony Brewery, and for the Hahndorf Oktoberfest.

Best Wishes to all our friends around Australia...and...keep squeezing!

*Yvonne Smith*



## *German Club Tivoli*

*'Accordion Accents Ensemble' performed on May 7th at the German Club Tivoli in Prahran, Victoria.*

*They had a great time performing German sea shanties for a sing along and also some solos with two singers. The event was sold out and it was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.*

***Holger Golinski***





## Anzac Day 2022



*The NSW Orchestra aka Accordions Alfresco had a very early morning gig at Drummoyne on April 25th. The group assembled early for the 6am Anzac Day service and were ready to commence playing at 6.30am! An extremely early start for the night owls in the group.*

*Their accordions were decorated with a red poppy as a flower of remembrance for those that lost or suffered in the war. Thank you to Sylvia Granturco who busily knitted them for the occasion. Despite the early start they performed well.*

*Lest we forget.*

*2022 South Pacific International and  
New Zealand National  
Accordion Championships and Festival 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> June*

Finn MacDermid, accompanied by his grandmother Maria Worthington, caught a very early morning flight on June 3 from Sydney to Auckland, New Zealand, to compete in the 2022 South Pacific International and New Zealand National Accordion Championships and Festival. They were warmly met by Heather Masefield, the secretary of the NZ Accordion Association who took them to their hotel and then to her home for a traditional roast lamb dinner!

The competitions were held all Saturday afternoon in Takapuna. Unfortunately, Finn's accordion did not travel well and arrived with many of the bass buttons depressed right in! In spite of this shock, Finn borrowed an accordion and played in six categories for 13 year olds achieving 4 firsts and 2nds!



On the Sunday morning all the competitors and other accordionists, including Maria, joined as an orchestra for a workshop rehearsal then performed to an appreciative audience in the afternoon. The orchestra was conducted by Heather Masefield, followed by New Zealand conductor Gary Daverne, well known internationally as a composer for the accordion.

The Festival ended with everyone having dinner together, with fun and laughter following until late into the night and early Monday morning! (Finn and Maria had very little sleep because they needed to be up at 5am to catch their flight back to Sydney! A whirlwind weekend!)



*Glenny Grunfelder*

## SNIPPETS, GOSSIP & NEWS

### BLAST FROM THE PAST

*Do you recognise these stars?*

*When was this photo taken?*

*Where and when did they perform?*

*If you know, please email the editor for the next edition.*

The Australian Accordion Concert Ensemble members  
(left to right) Vince Fuda, Victor Lange, Catherine Day, Ben Pattinson, Marcell0 Maio



Australian Accordion Concert Ensemble

### *BCA International & National Diploma Examinations*

In May, Finn MacDermid achieved 2nd place in his category with the British College of Accordionists 2022 International Festival.

This international online examination required Finn to upload a video via YouTube of his solo.





*Congratulations*

*Congratulations to Dominique Granturco, our NSW Musical Director on her marriage to Jacob Maruca on the 1st of May 2022. We wish Dominique and Jacob every happiness as they begin this new journey together.*



### *Get Well Maria*

*On behalf of the ASA, we would like to wish Maria Worthington all the best with her current health issues and prayer it returns good results. We are thinking of you.*

## *Victoria Night Food Market*

On a recent visit to Melbourne I came across the Wednesday night Winter Food Markets at Queen Victoria Markets which is held throughout June, July and August.

It was a wonderful night with multicultural food stalls cooking their dishes resulting in a fabulous selection of food and lots of smoke! My night was topped off seeing this roving accordionist and saxophonist!

*Cheryle Mills*



## *Balalaika Orchestra Perform live after Lockdown*

On May 29, the Sydney Balalaika Orchestra (in which I play first accordion), performed at Richmond Club in north western Sydney. It was not only a fund-raising performance to help Hawkesbury River flood victims, but also the first concert after a whole year of numerous COVID restrictions.

Although the orchestra performs in a Russian folk music setting, the musicians are truly multinational including Malaysian, Armenian, Irish, Danish, Indian, Chinese, Belorussian, Serbian, Ukrainian, Russian, Japanese, and Australian. It's the music that really unites us.

The concert performed well to a full house. I really appreciate that ASA friends Bob and Sue Bourne came along to attend the concert. I think it's a good start to get back to the stage to appreciate live music.

*Alex Chao*







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### *Welcome New Victorian Members*

The ASA would like to formally welcome five new members who recently joined the Victorian branch, they are::

Selina Di,

Lucy Kerr

Branko Tomazic

Carolyn Connor

Guy Bellman (Accordion Repairer in Melbournes east, see Repairers Directory on page 31)

### **WANTED**

Jim Dickens resides in Queensland's Coolangatta area and would like to catch up with other accordionists who would like to play some music together. Jim plays most styles and is happy to learn any type of music.

If you would like to meet up with Jim to play some music together, email him at [jimdicken@live.com.au](mailto:jimdicken@live.com.au)

## *A Digest of Don'ts for Accordion Players*

**DON'T**—fail to prepare your ears, your mind, your heart and posture before you even attempt to produce a sound.

**DON'T**—open or close you bellows intermittingly between a phrase or long note. Think of how you would sound if you were to do that to your breath whilst talking.

**DON'T**—overlook slow, steady, long notes.

**DON'T**—hold the accordion loosely away from your body, think of it as being part of you.

**DON'T**—tap your foot or rest your chin on the accordion whilst playing.

**DON'T**—leave the accordion standing flat on the floor, or on a chair because if you don't knock it down, someone else will.

**DON'T**—imagine you can achieve any degree of success without regular, diligent practice.

**DON'T**—forget YOU WERE TOLD!

# ACCORDION music lovers



Come play your accordion, concertina or harmonica with other like-minded squeezebox players.

**Saturday 16th July 2022**

**9 am - 3.30 pm**

**ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH HALL**  
431 Bridge Street, Wilsonton, TOOWOOMBA

**\$5 per person**

**BYO - cushion, tea/coffee and food**

Light refreshments available as a fundraiser

**ENQUIRIES: Joan 0427 170 857**

# KIDS CORNER

*Benjamin*

*Accordionist from Sydney*



Hello, my name is Benjamin. I'm 10 years old. I play the accordion and really enjoy it.

I started around 5 months ago and got convinced to play by my best friend Alvin who also plays accordion. Also my Mum wanted me to play an instrument, so I picked this.

I recently joined an eisteddfod for school and got to play a solo. Now I'm in another band with many other accordion players called FUNKORDION.

I fit in my accordion practice when I am not playing soccer or Pokémon cards.

Hope to hear about many other young accordion players.

Benjamin

# FUNKORDION

Tatjana Marx has created a new accordion group in Sydney called FUNKORDION especially for young accordionists so that they can experience the enjoyment and fun of playing with each other!

In May, about 20 youngsters and adult ex-students met at Baulkham Hills, Sydney in a huge double garage with their accordion, chair, music and parents (important roadies!) to play for the first time in an orchestra – 4 parts! There were so many new skills to learn – listening to each other, learning to read music quickly, counting bars, rests and keeping in time with the different parts. Everyone was excited by the concept and families were very supportive.

Tatjana is a renowned Australian piano and accordion educator in Sydney with over 70 students and is Director of the Piano Music School. She has been the President of the Australian Accordion Teachers Association since its inception and is an international adjudicator and performer.



# *Palmi Snorrason – Australia’s ‘Music Junction’ Legend*

*Co-written by Palmi Snorrason and Glennly Grunfelder*

**From small beginnings** Palmi Snorrason was born in Iceland. His uncle played the accordion...but not very well. When Palmi was 10 years old, he was given a 24 Bass Scandalli and taught himself to play the instrument. There were no teachers where Palmi lived on the small island of Hrísey (the population in 2022 is now estimated at 169, many of whom are Palmi’s brothers and sisters and their families!).

**Multi-talented young musician** At age 14 Palmi left his family and went to Reykjavik to further his education. He started a small band and played music which he had



K.F (1955)  
*Palmi Snorrason – Accordion*  
*Gunnar Pall Ingolfsson – Gítar*  
*Asgeir Egilsson – Saxophone*  
*Gudmundur Steinsson – Drums (not in photo)*

**World at his feet** When he was 22, Palmi and three of his musician friends decided to travel the world. They eventually found themselves in Australia where Palmi fell in love with this country, its lifestyle and its people. He stayed in Tasmania for 5 years where he was soon playing with bands and teaching the accordion. He moved to Melbourne in 1966 and in the same year established a music school which very quickly developed into... Music Junction! .



learned by listening to the radio. Later, as a 16 year old teenager, he had formal tuition with a teacher who had a professional band. His teacher liked his playing and told him that if he also learned to play the vibraphone and the trombone he could join his band! Palmi became a member of his teacher’s dance orchestra at 17 years old!



*Palmi Snorrason Quartet (1965)*  
*Palmi – Accordion & Vibraphone*  
*Kevin Wells – Trumpet*  
*Gary Britton – Drums*  
*Lindsay Totham – Piano*



Palmi played six nights a week performing with bands. A lot of functions were organised by Dennis Farrington, described as Victoria's No. 1 dance band man. Palmi played in Dennis' bands for over ten years. By 1986 the workload of playing nearly every night as well as working during the day became too much and he retired from playing!



Cero Quartet, 1958  
 Palmi Snorrason – Accordion  
 Magnus Karlsson – Clarinet  
 Palmar Jonsson – Piano  
 Baldur – Vocals  
 Haukur – Drums



Palmi Snorrason (1962)  
 ABC TV appearance, Tasmania

Palmi Snorrason (1965)  
 60 York Street, St Kilda, Melbourne

**New directions!** Nearly a quarter of a century later, after having not touched a musical instrument, Palmi re-discovered the accordion! An ex-student of his, Frank Berens, had invited him to his home for a party with a few accordion players including two accordion performers from Paris. At the end of the night, Palmi asked Frank if he had the music scores of any of the French tunes that were played. Frank brought him some of the music and said that he would come and listen to Palmi...soon! That's when Palmi started to practise! One year later he started to record some of the tunes on a CD called 'Accordion around the world' (which can be found at Music Junction!). He played for himself both old accordion tunes that he remembered from his youth and more recent accordion compositions. His favourites include composers like Pietro Frosini, Michel Legrand and Astor Piazzolla

**Accordionists together** When Bernadette Conlon, (Melbourne's 'Piano accordion busker' and 'First Lady of the accordion') came into the music shop at Camberwell to order accordion straps, she asked Palmi to deliver them to her home which was not far from where he lived, specifically asking whether he was able to bring the straps on Monday at 7:30pm, which suited him well. Bernadette came to the door and invited Palmi inside where there were 12 accordion players waiting! Bernadette pointed him to a chair and said, "Here is your chair and here is your accordion!" At 10pm, when the



playing finished, Palmi wanted to know when the next rehearsal was! Bernadette knew that he was destined to join the Melbourne Accordion Orchestra. (There's a limit to how much an accordionist can play alone before needing to join others in making music together!) Palmi is still playing with them!

**Music Junction now** Over the years Music Junction has expanded with a store in Blackburn and has promoted 'Future Music' which provides orchestral and band musical instruments, repairs, software and print music to the education sector. In the early 2000s two accordion shops closed down in Melbourne and there



was a shortage of new Italian accordions. Palmi decided to go to Italy and establish Music Junction, Camberwell, as the agency for accordions such as Scandalli, Pignini, Excelsior, Paolo Soprani, Dino Baffetti etc. Since COVID began, Italy has suffered badly and there are now long waiting times to have accordions built. However, because Palmi had developed many friendships with the Italian accordion suppliers over the years, they have worked closely together with him to ensure that supplies will get through. Palmi is vitally involved with Music Junction at Camberwell, but also makes time to enjoy playing his music, especially as his granddaughter, Ella, is showing great interest in the accordion! Thanks, Palmi, for everything you've done for accordionists in Australia and around the world!

**Palmi** "From the early days of playing in bands and attending the Musicians' Club in Melbourne, playing music (especially the accordion) has brought me many musician friends and much joy."

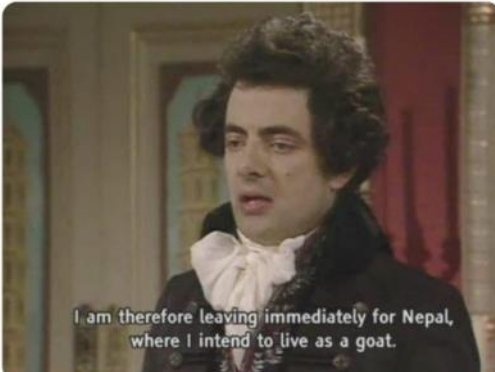


**Glenny** "I will always remember a tip Palmi gave at a presentation a few years ago. "If you want to improve then practise daily and leave your accordion out, where, as you walk past it, you'll pick it up! (don't have it packed away!)"

*Palmi and Glenny*

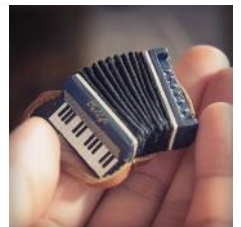
When the orchestra conductor asks you to play the difficult passage on your own.

Time for a laugh



### Symptoms of being a musician:

- Inability to withhold comments when an instrument or vocalist is out of tune
- The urge to walk on beat any time music is playing
- Headaches when an audience is clapping off-beat
- The need to immediately analyze a new song
- Has an extensive library of music in the brain at all times
- Intrusive musical thoughts in the middle of conversations
- Musical dreams with occurrences of singing in sleep
- Paranoia related to protecting the ear drums



## *Music lovers unite in Toowoomba*

Eighteen players braved the winter chill to join other like-minded squeezebox players in a small church hall in Toowoomba in June to network and play the instruments they love so dearly.

With the Maclagan Squeezebox Festival on the 8<sup>th</sup> October, players were wanting to get in as much practice as possible before then.

Despite little preparation and a few apologies, this day out confirms the need to hold informal outings such as this for players to mingle and share their love of the accordion on a more regular basis.

A small audience of friends, family and local church members loved the impromptu sing-alongs and the hall came alive with hymn singing to the accompaniment of accordion, lagerphone and ukulele.

Most players on this particular day came from within a 100km radius but other players travelled from Coolangatta and Caloundra to join in the jam sessions.

Another informal gathering is planned for Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> July. Please ring Joan to find out more. 0427170857.

*PHOTO : Part of the informal gathering in Toowoomba in June.*





American  
Accordionists'  
Association

[www.ameraccord.com](http://www.ameraccord.com)



**American Accordionists' Association (AAA)** Contest Chairperson **Frank Busso Jr.** (pictured) invites accordionists from all corners of the world, to enter and enjoy participating in the 2022 **AAA** Festival Virtual Competitions.

Categories include Standard & Open solos, Standard & Open duets, and Open Ensembles & Bands. Contestants in Standard categories must choose a selection from the Standard music list. All other categories are Open, which means you can play anything you wish, except in the Ethnic, Pop, and Jazz categories, where the style of music is designated.



Download the virtual competition Rules, Categories and Required Composition List at: **[2022AAARules.pdf](#)**

Entry Forms Due Date is July 1, 2022. Video Submissions Due Date is August 1, 2022.

For any enquiries, please contact **Frank Busso Jr.** Contest Chairperson, at **[frank@bussomusic.com](mailto:frank@bussomusic.com)**

*NEWS FROM  
NEW ZEALAND  
ACCORDION ASSOCIATION*



*World Accordion Day Double Celebration*

By Heather Masefield

On Friday May 6th, 2022, accordionists in Auckland, New Zealand celebrated **World Accordion Day**. The day was a double celebration as they were joined by the President of the **New Zealand Accordion Association**, Lawyer Sonja Palinich, after her capping with a Bachelors of Music from The University of Auckland.



Photo, Left to right, Jessica Chen, Grayson Masefield, Roseanne Rosario, Lionel Reekie, Sonja Palinich, Amber Masefield, Heather Masefield.  
The photo has the Sky Tower and Auckland City in the background



# North Shore Accordion Orchestra Reunion 50 years

By [Christine Johnstone](#)

**Video.** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SRS3X6iKnZQ&t=4s>



**North Shore Accordion Orchestra** Inc celebrates 50 years with a Reunion video with former players from around the world playing along with the original recording in the background.

Thanks to [Gary Daverne](#) ONZM for this arrangement of Swinging Safari by Bert Kamfert and to sound engineer [Grayson Masefield](#).

Original members, all of whom had children play in these orchestras, feature along with [Accordions Worldwide](#) Editor [Christine Johnstone](#) and founder of Accordion Worldwide [Harley Jones](#).

The **North Shore Accordion Orchestra** made 6 major international tours, to Europe, North America and Asia including first accordion orchestra to tour China, receiving many standing ovations for their concerts. They recorded 4 albums, which remain available as mp3 albums. Three Musical Directors, [Fay-ElLEN Schaw](#) (conductor), [Harley Jones](#) and [Heather Masefield](#).

View and hear sound samples at: <http://www.musicforaccordion.com/inform/anzao/index.htm>

To celebrate World Accordion Day, if you want a free download of any of these albums, send an email request to: [musicforacc.com@yahoo.com](mailto:musicforacc.com@yahoo.com)





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