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Cover: 'The Fillies' on St Patricks Day, details page 7.

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Anthony Schulz

Hello from the Editor



March 2023 is here already and our first edition for the year. Hello to our readers and welcome to all the new ASA members that have joined this year.

St Patricks Day celebrations seem to be slowly disappearing over the years. TV news in the past

would be filled with vision of the various celebrations around the country however this year I didn't see any, is it waning? That was my view but certainly wasn't for the our lovely ladies on the cover. Maria Worthington and Glenny Grunfelder dressed up for the occasion and shared their enthusiasm with a grateful audience and deserve the 'best dressed' award, *details page 7*.

Cheers to the accordion! The accordion has increased its visibility in bands around the country which is very exciting. The versatility of the accordion itself and the accordionists creativity to play diverse music has made audiences sit up and take notice. The Gig Guide on pages 20 to 23 highlight the various bands that will perform in March and April and they are all very different. One band to play on April 2 is Zydeco Jump, a band I have always wanted to see live so my ticket is booked and looking forward to it, *despite the 6 hour drive*.

On the subject of versatility, an article on page 24 is about Cate Blanchetts' new movie Tár. Cate says she played the accordion in the movie? Well I will make a point of seeing the movie for what may only be 30secs of Cate the accordionist but the movie should be great!

Looking forward to receiving your articles and news for the June edition, you have 3 months to prepare so give it a go. A special thank you to Glenny for all her support and assistance.

Yours musically,



Cheryle Mílls

Presídents Report

Hello everyone and welcome to the March edition. I hope you are all looking forward to the various activities we have coming up this year. The committee in New South Wales and Victoria and the AATA have been working hard in these past few months and it is with great pleasure that I get to tell you about our upcoming events. It has taken some time. The wheels are in motion again.



The NSW Orchestra (Accordions Alfresco) are looking for a new hall to rehearse in. Many years ago, the Russell Lea Primary school provided us their hall for a gold coin donation. We are very thankful to the school which allowed us to stay for so long. It is however time to move on. We are feverishly looking for a new home for the group. We want to procure a rehearsal space as soon as possible. If anyone knows of places available, please let me know.

As I have discussed previously Tanya Marx, Glenny Grunfelder, Maria Worthington and I have been working with the Funkordeon group. The students and group members have been progressing in leaps and bounds. Late last year we decided that we would like to take a group of students to the New Zealand Accordion Associations (NZAA) championships. Earlier in the year we had confirmed the people attending. Everything was moving forward until cyclone Gabrielle brought devastation to the island of New Zealand. At that stage the competitions were instantly on hold, it looked like it may have been indefinite. I am pleased to report that they are back on and that our small group will be attending. Tanya and I agree that musical experiences abroad provide students with positive experiences that can help them to stay engaged with their musical schooling.

The competitions will be held in Auckland, on the 3rd and 4th of June. This event is open to overseas competitors this year and has a variety of age group classes for soloists, duos, trios, ensemble and orchestra categories.

Entries close on **April 14th 2023**. For more information check out the website <u>https://www.accordion.co.nz/</u> or you can look at the rules and prospectus here <u>https://www.accordion.co.nz/2023/2023nz_prospectus.pdf</u>. We would certainly love to see you all there. If not this year maybe 2024.

We have also been working together on our next event which we have planned for the 28th May 2023 to be held in Sydney. We are currently in the process of procuring a venue. If anyone could assist us with this or knows of some reasonably priced rooms, we would love to speak to you. This year the AATA has scaled down their competitions. In the morning session we will be holding a small competition for students and accordion enthusiasts followed by a workshop on modern accordion playing techniques. In the afternoon we will be holding a combined concert with members from the AATA and ASA. We will send out more information through emails and our respective social media accounts closer to the date. If anyone would like more information about this is would be best to give me a call to discuss.

I would also like to announce that the Accordion Society will be holding our first accordion festival in many years on the weekend of the 30th September-1st October 2023. Anthony Schulz and the Victorian committee have been working towards this goal since the planning day we held in Melbourne last year. I would like to thank all the members from the Victorian division who have and are providing their time, services and help to bring this festival to fruition. Many hours of work go into organising these events. You will find more information in following Accordion Reviews and social media as details are finalised. We look forward to seeing many of our members attending our events and are looking forward to meeting new members who will join the Accordion Society in the future. Thank you for all your hard work.

Onwards and upwards.

Benny Pattínson





St Patricks Day was enjoyed by the residents of SummitCare— Baulkham Hills on March 17th when they were entertained by The Fillies, (Maria and Glenny).



They were grateful for the air conditioned venue as it was 37C degrees outside. The audience were singing and clapping and even had the odd waltz. It was enjoyed by residents & the accordionists.



Sandra Mackay—Our hardworking Secretary

The Accordion Society of Australia (ASA) has a long-serving member who has been actively committed to the promotion of the accordion in Sydney since she joined in around 2014.

Sandra Mackay is a multi-instrumentalist. As a young child growing up in Campsie, Sydney she first learned the piano with a teacher who was very strict. She persevered in her practising with encouragement from her mother who loved music and played a bit of piano. At school Sandra played the recorder. Over the years she added the clarinet, mandolin, violin, ukulele and guitar to her list! About 10 years ago Sandra decided she wanted to play the accordion. The playing of Scottish tunes on the accordion by family members had been part of the soundtrack of her youth.



Initially she bought a no-name 48 bass accordion on a trip to Adelaide but soon realised that was not the best purchase! Sandra discovered the Facebook page of Accordions Alfresco, a Sydney-based orchestra which plays musical scores with many parts as well as accompanying

popular songs with chords. With some trepidation and limited playing skills, Sandra joined the group. Through the group Sandra was introduced to the wellknown Australian accordionist Ross Maio and took lessons with Ross. With Ross's help Sandra ordered a Fisitalia 96 Bass accordion from Italy and has played that accordion ever since.

Sandra with Alex and Dominique



She was attracted to the orchestra because of the social aspects of playing with a group of like-minded musicians, all accordionists with a wide range of ages, abilities, cultures, occupations, interests and life experiences. She almost immediately volunteered to be the secretary on the ASA committee, the position which she has held ever since she joined Accordions Alfresco. As well as her role as secretary, Sandra spends guite a lot time organising fundraising, booking venues, communicating with the players, distributing music and booking events. Last year Sandra organised the orchestra to play on AN-ZAC Day after the Drummoyne Dawn Service, Five Dock Italian Ferragosto, Bucklands Retirement Village and the Canada Bay Council Christmas Carols. Many of the performances in the past have been playing to people in Residential Care Centres and nursing homes. After the imposed Covid restrictions began to be lifted, Sandra arranged last year for the orchestra to start playing at these venues again. She arranges the monthly Zoom workshops led by Ben Pattinson. (These Zoom meetings were in lieu of face-to-face rehearsals and given by Ben, president of the ASA and were started at the beginning of the pandemic to keep the orchestra connected.) Many interstate accordionists have joined during the last three years. All have continued because so much is learned during the sessions! (Accordions Alfresco will welcome any new accordionists to join these sessions or the orchestra.)



Sandra & Ben

Sandra's background is in Linguistics, working in adult education in a range of Access and Equity areas at TAFE NSW, Sydney University and then as Diversity Manager at Fair Work Ombudsman. Since her retirement Sandra's main focus

has been her love of music. As well as Accordions Alfresco she plays the clarinet with two groups of musicians – the New Horizons Concert Band and the Inner West Community Band.





Her favourite music genres are Folk, Country, Jazz, Celtic and Bluegrass. She loves listening to music, attending Folk Festivals and playing in the sessions, going

to live concerts and supporting small festivals locally and around the state. A highlight in her accordion life was when Accordions Alfresco attended the Maclagan Squeezebox Festival in 2019, (near Dalby, Queensland) playing to over 400 supporters of the accordion! An amazing uplifting experience held annually!

For Sandra, the ASA and Accordions Alfresco is as much about the people as the music and she loves the feeling from the orchestra of inclusivity, respect, support and encouragement.

She acknowledges the challenges that playing together bring. Her advice is to be willing to take some risks musically, to persevere and keep playing with and learning from others.

Sandra is the beating heart of ASA and Accordions Alfresco!





Brothers JDO and Ryan

Hi, my name is JDO Nguyen.

I have been learning piano for a number

of years and for the past year have taken accordion as another instrument.

I have thoroughly enjoyed it, espe-

cially being able to play in a group and perform in different environments. I love listening to different pieces of accordion music on the internet and I'm hoping one day to be as good as them. Besides music, I enjoy swimming, outdoors activities and playing computer games, which keeps me busy.





Hi, my name is Ryan Fu.

I can remember trying out karate and art then started with piano like many other kids still in my early grades and liking it. I have been given an accordion to try. I found it easy to adapt to it quickly. I'm proud to be in an accordion group with other kids and adults.

I have learnt a lot and have heaps of fun along the way. My goal is to play my favourite theme song from Jurassic Park. Being a kid, I love to play with my friends, watch movies and eat a lot of food.

Accordionists Out and About



Nethercote Music Factory

The Mallacoota band 'FarOut' were captured here playing at the Nethercote Music Factory Open Mic, located on NSW far south coast. A wonderful night of music showcasing many local bands, singer/ song writers and musicians.

'FarOut' is a six piece band that play a wide range of meaningful songs which includes some in Greek and Italian with Cheryle Mills on accordion.

The three songs chosen for the night were 'Cool Change' by Little River Band, 'Vai Vedra' from Cirque Soleil's Alegria plus an original 'Good Earth' by the bands singer Kate Jackson. It was a varied selection which appealed to the audience and in particular the haunting sound of 'Vai Vedra' sung in Italian. A wonderful night.



Ross Celebrates 100 years of Disney

Ross Maio helped celebrate 'Disneys 100 Years of Wonder', which honours 100 years of everything we know as part of the Disney Legacy.

Ross Maio played a great rendition of 'A Whole New World' from Aladdin in his repertoire.

Photographed at Westfield Mt Druitt is Ross with Shiho Sparkle Hooper, hoop dancing with an audience of very enthusiastic children and adults.



FEIERABEND—The Party band!

Emma Smith on accordion with her band Feierabend had a blast at Schützenfest Adelaide in February. Great crowd and fantastic atmosphere. Feierabend is a Euro Party Band based in Adelaide playing modern hits with a brass pop—oompah twist! Fantastic!



BAVARIAN AT HAHNDORF

Yvonne, Paul and Emma Smith form part of the Bavarian show that perform <u>every Thursday night</u> at the Haus Hahndorf. They thoroughly enjoy every performance nearly as much as the audience. Get along and see them.



Vale Davíd Krygger

It was with sadness that we announce the passing of David Krygger on 26 December 2022. His funeral was held 17 January 2023 in Fremantle, WA. David was a member of the Accordion Society of Australia.



David started playing the accordion in 1948, initially by ear and then tuition from Peter Piccini Snr. David had several roles in life but eventually became a professional teacher and arranger of music.

He was an Honorary life member of Music Arrangers Guild of Australia (MAGA WA) being its Co-founder and honorary secretary for 12 years. He was a specialist examiner of the accordion for the AMEB at the Uni of WA.

Over the years, David taught students, student groups and formed several orchestras, both senior and junior orchestras.

In July 1998, a small group of accordion players were looking for direction and approached David Krygger. David, then retired, suggested one of his former students could help but due to ill health this was not possible. With the addition of several new members, David agreed to act as director and brought in a few talented players. The group met weekly for practice. By August 2002, a constitution had been drawn up by a committee to form an incorporated Orchestra. and the Perth Accordion Orchestra was born, with keyboard, electronic(midi) accordion, percussion and acoustic accordions. David was conductor and musical director and orchestrated many pieces which were played.

The repertoire initially included more than 40 pieces of varied tempo, background and technicality encompassing music from many different countries. The music played included tangoes, marches, waltzes, paso doble and light classics from Brahms, Strauss, Verdi and others. The orchestra often played at the Perth Accordion Clubs monthly meetings and at other venues around Perth. Over the years more pieces were added and the Orchestra performed over 100 concerts. The final performance was in May 2008 when David announced his retirement. With no one to take over the role of musical director, David's music was sent over East to the Accordion Society of Australia.

A small group of accordion players still meet every fortnight in a Perth suburb to play together-- still playing David's music.

Karen Sagenschneider



Bus Stop in South America

Busker in Geneva

Photos & message from Annick Lucchetti

Coucou Accordion lovers and players.

I am a non active ASA member and I love and enjoy reading the Accordion Review. Thank you Cheryle for a great job and the interesting articles and photos.

Over the years during my travels, I have taken many photos of Accordion players and all things accordion, a few are shown on this page. When I was living in Paris I often heard Accordion music in the metro corridors and would follow the sound of the Accordion and end up missing my metro connection. I really love the musette.

With musical love to every Accordionist.

Annick Lucchetti



Griffith Museum





Welcome Gía

Congratulations to our Musical Director in Sydney - Dominique Maruca (Granturco) and her husband Jacob on the safe arrival of their daughter Gia Lucrezia Maruca.

Her Grandparents Vince and Sylvia Granturco and cousin Julian are very smitten with the new addition to their family. Amelia



Vince and cousin Julian with Gia



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What a Surprise—a blast from the past!

by Cheryle Mills

Recently a close friend (a Ukelele player) asked me if I had seen the YouTube video of the London Ukelele Orchestra? Of course I hadn't, and with an urge at that moment to promote the accordion, I mentioned there was also a London Accordion Orchestra. While searching YouTube I came across one better, the **WORLD ACCORDION ORCHESTRA** and decided it might be interesting to watch. It immediately became extremely familiar and I thought "I remember that conductor! ", "I remember that tune! " and realised that I was actually in the orchestra as were eight other NSW ASA members representing Australia. **I had not seen this video before!**

This Orchestra was the combination of accordionists from all around the world with many being competitors in the 64th Coupe Mondiale (World Championship). Its success was through the enormous effort by conductor Chen Weiliang (China) and Joan Sommers (USA).



Oh my, what a surprise to see myself in the orchestra beside Kate Parsons. Other NSW members who

attended were Amelia, Dominique, Jedda, Chris, Matilde, Liz and Rob.

On the night, my husband and mother-in-law were in the audience and after the performance they commented that Kate and I were often displayed on the large video screens around the theatre. It was then realised that Kate had

a **RED accordion** and reddish hair and red being the Chinese lucky colour they couldn't help but zoom in on this player that was symbolic of good fortune, luck and prosperity..... I just happened to be sitting beside her!

For those wishing to view the video— Grayson Masefield can be seen at the start sitting in front of the lady introducing the orchestra. Kate and myself appear several times in the top right hand corner. Unfortunately I cannot see any of our other players—see if you can!



The Spring Festival by World Accordion Orchestra in 2011 Shanghai China 世界手 风琴乐团《春节序曲》2011年上海 指挥: 陈伟亮







When: 6th May (Concerts and events during the month of May, may be dedicated to May 6th)

Why: a unified global effort to celebrate and promote the Accordion

Where: Worldwide

Contact World Accordion Day:

Harley Jones, CIA Public Relations Officer.

Send an email Register Here

Since 2009, World Accordion Day has been very successful, generating a lot of positive publicity for the accordion. 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 World Accordion Day if that should be more convenient.

Please join us for this annual celebration, as accordionists from around the world pay homage to our wonderful instrument. This global event will serve as an exciting means of bringing us together in our efforts to promote and elevate the awareness and status of the accordion!

General Information

Our first World Accordion Day was held on 6th May 2009, marking the 180th birthday of the accordion - 6 May 1829, the date the accordion patent was filed.

On May 6, 1829, Cyrill Demian (1772–1849) an organ and piano maker of Armenian origin, accompanied by his two sons Karl and Guido, filed a patent in Vienna, Austria for the accordion.

Consign: No. 1433 listed a new type of instrument consisting of a small box with "feathers of metal plates and bellows fixed to it" making it easy to carry and play. The new instrument was seven to nine inches long, three-and-a-half wide, and two inches high. The bellows were fixed above the box with five claves fixed below.

The makers claimed it was possible to perform marches, arias, melodies, even by an amateur of music with little practice, and to play the loveliest and most pleasant chords of three, four and five voices with little practice. The patent was approved a short time later on May 23, 1829.



PRAHAN ACCORDION BAND

GIG GUID'E PRAHAN "LOUNGE" Saturday 25th March 2pm

German Club Tivoli 291 Dandenong Road, Windsor Tickets: \$20 (includes coffee and cake). Bookings: 0499 188 826

See page 23 for details of their monthly get togethers.



ANNUAL HERBSTFEST '23



Saturday 25 March Karka Pavillion 335 Melville Gully Rd, Belair (Adelaide S.A.)

There will be Bavarian Dancing by Bund der Bayern. Listen to Heidi and Herman play traditional folk music on accordion. Then rock

with the wonderful Euro party band 'Feierabend' with accordionist EmmaSmith at **3:45pm onwards**.For more information and to your book tickets,check out this link:https://www.trybooking.com/CFGDB

VARDOS LIVE AT OPEN STUDIO

Friday 31 March 6.30-8.15pm(Doors open 6pm)204 High St, Northcote

Vardos are a stunning trio, serenading and interacting with their audiences with Transylvanian dance tunes, popular Hungarian cafe con-



cert music and the latest horas from Bucharest, driven by Alana's wild violin, chased by accordion and double bass. Energetic, fun and always entertaining, Vardos generate tremendous enthusiasm wherever they play.



ZYDECO JUMP

Sunday April 2 (Doors Open 2.30pm) 89-91 ARCHIES CREEK ROAD, ARCHIES CREEK

Led by accordionist George Butrumlis, the line up will include Paul Neuendorf on guitar and vocals, Gary Samolin on drums, Ben Taylor on washboard, Dean Hilson on tenor sax, and Mark Ferrie on bass, special guest the wonderful Justin



Brady on harmonica, mandolin and fiddle and we're very happy to announce that our original sax player, Toots Wostry, will also be appearing with us on alto sax.

Zydeco Jump at Caravan Music Club, Archie's Creek

ASA (VIC) STUDENT CONCERT



Where: Christ Church 8 Glenlyon Rd, Brunswick Sunday 26th March Time: 2:00pm Cost: \$10.00 (general audience only - performers admitted free)

ASA Victoria is excited to present our 2nd student concert featuring students from a number of teachers and music schools in Melbourne. We invite you, your family and friends to join us and celebrate the wonderful variety of accordion music that the students are looking forward to performing as solos, duos, with piano, and other accompanying instruments. Special guests performers are Oscar France (Accordion) and Joseph Kanniah (Bassoon).



Easter Weekend Fri April 7th - Sun 9th Mallacoota (Vic) 40km across NSW border

The Far East Music Festival will take place on the wilderness coast in the

MALLACOOTA BAND 'FAROUT' AT FAR EAST MUSIC FESTIVAL



small and remote coastal township of Mallacoota in Victoria on the Easter weekend. This fledgling festival, born out of the ashes of a black summer, brings forth the green shoots ...

The festival will feature many bands including touring artists along with local and regional acts and an array of activities and workshops to inspire participation and connection.

Cheryle Mills on accordion is part of the local six piece band 'FarOut' pictured above L-R Kate, Jim, Lisa, Cheryle, Phil and Lou. Read all about them and all the other bands appearing over the weekend on the festival Website;

https://www.fareastmusicfestival.com.au

PIAF- A TRIBUTE FEATURING NORIA LETTS



Saturday 8th April 6.30-8.10pm \$45 Paris Cat Jazz Club 6 Goldie Place Melbourne Website

A tribute to Piaf, acclaimed French chanteuse Noria brings back the songs of Piaf to the

stage and takes her audience on a journey from Belleville's gritty trottoirs to the nightclubs of the Champs-Elysées and Broadway.

Phil Collings: Drums

Noria Letts: Vocals Dave Evans: Accordion Steve Sedergreen: Piano Mark Elton: Double Bass

GIG GUIDE

THE BAND WHO KNEW TOO MUCH

Sunday 16th April The Lomond Hotel Corner of Blyth and Nicholson Sts, Brunswick 5PM. Two Sets \$10

The Band Who Knew Too Much will play the songs they love for all comers.



Dancing will be encouraged. As will singing along and carousing of all sorts. It'll be fun. And there's great pub meals to be had.

Andy Reid: Clarinet, Washboard & Vocals, Craig Fermanis: Guitar Dave Evans: Accordion & Vocals, Matt Earl: Drums Rory Boste: Double Bass & Vocals

<u>Website</u>

Facebook

<u>YouTube</u>

THE PRAHRAN ACCORDION BAND

The Prahran Accordion Band

Meet: on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month

Beginners band meet: on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month

Where: German Club Tivoli in Windsor

Time: 7-9pm.

So whatever your performance level from beginner to intermediate come and join in.

Members will have to join the Tivoli club eventually at a very reasonable rate.



Further details email Judy : judygunson58@gmail.com

Cate Blanchetts' new movie Tár Díd she really play the accordion ?



It's clear from the moment that *Tár* starts that **Lydia Tár** (Blanchett) is a genius. She is an EGOT winner and the first female chief conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic on the verge of a new career milestone: recording a version of Gustav Mahler's Fifth Symphony.

But as the movie slowly reveals the totality of her character over its two-and-a-half-hour runtime,

we learn that her status has come with some real consequences. Ghosts from Tár's past arrive in her inbox and lead her into a downward spiral she's too vain to escape.

There are few if any actors who could play a role this nuanced as magnificently as Blanchett does. She is able to communicate Lydia's musical talent and conflicting emotions so well that some fans were convinced that Lydia Tár was a real person.

One of Blanchett's standout moments is when Tár dresses down a Julliard student for his disinterest in problematic white composers canonized by classical music historians.



Blanchett isn't a musician by trade, but she does a nearperfect impersonation of one in *Tár*.

She relearned to play the piano (she took some lessons as a kid) and worked with Australian conductor Natalie

Murray Beale to develop a personal style of hand movements for the scenes when Lydia is conducting.

Blanchett also learned to play the **accordion** for one memorable scene, but there was much less time and effort put into that instrument.

"One day, [Field] came up to me and said 'the accordion teacher's here'. You've been practicing right", Blanchett recounted during an interview on *Jimmy Kimmel Live.* "I said "no, I've never held an accordion in my life. He said 'you'll be fine, just go spend half an hour with her' and then he asked me to come out and play the accordion."

In addition to all of these instruments, Blanchett picked up some German as well so that Lydia was believable as a long-term resident in the country.

Sounds like a great movie to see!

NEWS FROM NEW ZEALAND ACCORDION ASSOCIATION



Tracey Collins Tours with "Operatunity"

Tracey Collins (pictured left) toured New Zealand with the "Operatunity" in February and March 2023.

"Imagine sitting by the fire of a cosy Irish pub, surrounded by friends, singing along to all your favourite Irish songs! In When Irish Eyes are Smiling, Operatunity's lads and lassies transport you to the Emerald Isle with tunes such as "Ireland's Call", "Whiskey in the Jar", "Danny



Boy", and more! A stirring accordion, breathtaking ballads, jigs and jollity, you'll have Ireland in your heart to be sure!"

The tour began on February 7th, 2023 at Tauranga and visited many towns ending on March 10th in Whangarei but sadly two concerts were washed out.

Feb 11th Tracey performed at the Kati Kati Twilight festival with violinist Pascale Roggen and drummer/cajon player John Murray as The Blue-



light Trio. They were invited to perform after the organizers had seen them playing at the Tauranga Jazz festival a year earlier.

South Pacific International and New Zealand National Accordion Championships

The New Zealand Accordion Association Inc has been able to host the South Pacific International and New Zealand National Accordion Championships and Festival since the 1970's and twice host the World Cup. We were able to continue with live competitions even through Covid - the only annual accordion competitions that we know of internationally that were able to achieve this!

Our 2023 Competitions may interest you, either to attend as a teacher, an interested observer, competitor, performer, or take part in a massed accordion orchestra. If you know someone that may be interested please forward this information to them.

This competition and Festival is very attractive to enter your students into. One flight to Auckland, reasonable accommodation and a very friendly atmosphere.

I would like to introduce the NZAA Competitions Secretary, Renee Jeffries who is available to handle any queries you may have. She has been playing the accordion for over 30 years and is a member of the North Shore Accordion Orchestras. During this time Renee has trained young children, conducted, had a number of successes in accordion competitions & has also performed concerts in China, Australia and the USA. She has been a committee member of the New Zealand Accordion Association for a number of years and the Competitions Secretary since 2020. Contact email:nzaacompsec@gmail.com for more information and a link/copy of the 2023 Prospectus and the Regulations and Modus Operandi (Rules).

Ciao

Heather Masefield

TEACHERS DIRECTORY

NEW SOUTH WALES

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