

THE ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA INC.

# ACCORDION REVIEW



D E C E M B E R      2 0 2 3

VOLUME 40 ISSUE 4

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*Cover: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year*

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Australia

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## *Hello from the Editor*

Firstly I would like to begin with a big thank you to all the members that kindly sent me news of where they have been 'out and about' with their accordions, well done.

Well just how busy is the Victorian branch of the ASA? My goodness what a dynamic team with so many wonderful events, ideas and initiatives generated in such a short time frame. The Accordion Festival 2023 in Melbourne, which I attended, was a great success. The Festival had an enormous level of media coverage with Anthony Schulz and the ABC, The Age, SBS Radio and others and if the Festival had not been held on the AFL Grand Final day, I believe the venue would have been to capacity. Pages 9—11 includes a summary and photos of the day.

Another Victorian initiative is the creation of a Performers website directory of ASA accordion players. This will connect with local players and provide a means to book players for a variety of engagements. Details on page 22.

The ASA would like to know more about the Accordionists in Australia and what better way than to conduct a Survey! **Refer page 28** to take part (*be quick, it will close in the middle of December*).

A very important moment occurred at the recent Accordion Festival when long time ASA Member John Kalkbrenner Snr, was honoured with the inaugural ASA Lifetime Achievement award. I have only known John for about 13 years but over that time I have observed why this award is so well deserved, congratulation John. A tribute from George Butrumlis to John may be found on pages 12, 13.

If you would like to watch a modern documentary about the accordion, its history and makers, then 'Open Link' on the 'Behind the Bellows' documentary on page 20 to view this one hour film. I thoroughly recommend it.

On behalf of the ASA I would like to wish all our members, their family and friends, a wonderful Xmas and all the very best of health and music in 2024.

*Cheryle Mills*



MERRY  
*Christmas* ★  
& HAPPY  
*New Year* ★

## *Presidents Report*

Hello everybody. So, this is Christmas and what have you done? At the Accordion Society of Australia (ASA), we have accomplished a great deal and I believe that we have laid a strong foundation to continue building on next year.

This year has seen us become more active in seeking out available grants. The key use for these grants is the betterment of services that we can provide to our members, whether that would be in the form of a bigger rehearsal space or a better amount of storage in a cloud based server. We are always looking at ways in which we can improve the ASA and make it more attractive and appealing to new and current members.

I would like to make mention also of the Victorian branch of the Accordion Society, it has been a great year for them. Victoria has grown its membership almost double what it was last year. As you will also have seen, they have hosted event after event, concerts, planning days and much more. Anthony Schulz has been doing a great job and has proven himself as a great leader who gets things done. However a leader will amount to nothing unless they are surrounded by a great team. A big thankyou to Robin Mullen for all her secretarial skills, Jeannette Benzing for the great job she does as Treasurer. Phil Nadvesnik for his amazing IT technical charm, Lucy Riddett for all her hard work and inspiration she provides on her YouTube Channel (*have a look if you get the chance*). I realise there are many more people to thank and I cannot get to you all. I personally thank you all for putting the Accordion Society of Australia Victoria back on the map.



From time to time within the society there is a changing of the guard when people invariably come and go. Vince and Sylvia Granturco never went! Twenty seven ( 27) years ago, with their two young daughters Amelia and Dominique, Vince and Sylvia began their service with the ASA with Vince serving many of these years as Treasurer and Sylvia as the Public Relations Officer, Secretary, Public Officer. To be honest Sylvia Granturco has most likely done every job that the ASA had available. Now after 27 years they have decided to retire from the Accordion Society who they humbly served for so many years to seek a life of helping Amelia and Dominique with their young children. Thankyou Vince and Sylvia for your service, it was a pleasure to work alongside you both.

I would also like to thank Sandra Mackay who has been my guiding light in a world of diplomacy that I do not always get right. Sandra is the person who makes my life that little bit easier by just a quick phone call. She has been the ASA National Secretary for 9 years. Thankyou Sandra for all your hard work

I am really looking forward to the next year with the Accordion Society. If this year was anything to go on, I'm sure we will knock it out of the stadium next year. Remember also if you would like to get more involved in the Accordion Society please get in contact with Anthony or myself and let us know as we would love to have you on board.

I would like you all to have a safe and wonderful Christmas. We will see you all again next year.

Merrily, merrily, merrily

*Benny Pattinson*



## *Accordions Alfresco deliver Christmas Cheer*



The orchestra of the Accordion Society of Australia NSW, 'Accordions Alfresco', played carols at Birkenhead Shopping Centre, Sydney on Saturday, 9th December during the extreme heatwave (43 degrees!).

Ten players all arrived much earlier than the scheduled event so that they could start playing at 10am to escape the direct sunlight on themselves and their precious accordions! (*the Santa hats were rather hot!*)

The Management of the Centre were very considerate of the orchestra's needs and shoppers passing by were appreciative of the concert.





## *Accordion Festival 2023 a Success*

All things Accordion took place on Saturday 30th September at The Accordion Festival 2023 held at the Church of All Nations, Carlton (Melbourne) thanks to the hard working team of the Victorian Accordion Society of Australia.

Participants were eager and arrived early which proved beneficial as they had time to mingle and chat over a cuppa and become aware of the varied musical backgrounds within the group.

The Festival commenced with 'How to play Musette Accordion' workshop conducted by Lucy Riddett. The workshop was well attended and Lucy demonstrated how a tune can sound after embellishments are added. Participants were given a tune 'Pigalle' which was gradually played with differing embellishments. The workshop was a great success.



A Digital Accordion workshop by Richard Stacewicz also took place in an adjoining room and it too was a success and very well attended.

Music Junction had a large display of Accordions, accessories and a varied selection of music for sale which was very popular.



A midday concert featured student performances including Sven Balvan (all the way from Christchurch N.Z.) followed by Judy Gunson and the Prahran Accordion band. There were lots of wonderful performances within a fun and relaxed atmosphere within the church.



The afternoon workshops were equally well received with George Butrumlis running a classroom style workshop where students played a piece and George critiqued their performance with constructive feedback.

Peter Anderson was pulled out of retirement for the day to hold an

Accordion Repair & Tuning workshop which attracted many enthusiasts and could have kept going all afternoon.



The day's events finished with the Evening concert which featured the ASA orchestra ASAVO performing El Choclo, Por Una Cabeza and a composition by Anthony Schulz titled. Gertrude.



The ASA Festival 2023 Massed Accordion Orchestra followed with a moving rendition of 'Andachtsjodler' followed by Hungarian Dance' and 'Que Sera Sera'.



One very special moment was a presentation of the inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award to John Kalkbrenner Senior who has been an active member of the ASA for 40 years! John is a very deserving 1st recipient of the award. Congratulations John!



Ending the Festival was a surprise performance by Zulya and the Children of the Underground Trio, (which includes ASA's Anthony Schulz), this was the result of a sudden late change to the program ,(The Stiletto Sisters were to perform but had to pull out on the day due to ill health.)



Congratulations to Anthony Schulz and the ASA Victorian committee and team for bringing the accordion back into the focus within the Victorian music scene. Well done on the success of a memorable Accordion Festival and we all look forward to the next festival and all the exciting events being organised by the ASA.

## *John Kalkbrenner Senior receives*

### *ASA Lifetime Achievement Award*



*The first ASA Lifetime Achievement Award was been awarded to John Kalkbrenner Snr. on Sept 30th at the Accordion Festival 2023 in Melbourne . This award was well deserved by John for his 40 years of hard work and dedication to the Accordion Society of Australia, running the Victorian branch and its orchestra, and the promotion of the accordion to the wider community.*

*George Butrumlis has provided us with an insight into why this Award was so deserving.*

### **Johns devotion to the Accordion**

*By George Butrumlis*

I have known John for around 50 years having first met him when he invited me to be an adjudicator at various accordion eisteddfods beginning with the Hartwell Eisteddfod in the early 1970's. Yes, believe it or not, back in those days there were so many eisteddfods to choose from, even little Hartwell, which could almost be described as a suburb of Burwood or Camberwell, had an eisteddfod. John's energy and enthusiasm for our beloved instrument was evident to me immediately. His son, John Jr., and daughter Terezia both competed in eisteddfods, and I adjudicated both of them. John was always at the forefront of organising the competitions and encouraging students and teachers alike.

John played a little but not much. His focus was on teaching young people about life, how to play the accordion and on promoting the accordion. He has taught me a lot about life but it is his devotion to the accordion that is the focus here.

John joined the ASA around 1983 for the ASA festival in Adelaide. Not long after he became president of the Victorian Branch and remained in that position for more than 20 years, John devoted countless hours to the ASA and to the accordion. He organised the committee meetings every month at the Austrian Club in Heidelberg, organised and ran the rehearsals every week for the Big Squeeze Band in Templestowe at the school where the late Guenter Zalisc enabled use of a large rehearsal room for many years. Members of the orchestra paid \$2 each rehearsal session, not to cover any work or music printing but to cover tea, coffee and cakes at the rehearsals. The refreshments were organised by the late Ratko Crnic, a good friend of John's and another devoted helper of the orchestra.

John kept the ASA alive for all those years and without his selfless dedication there would not be an ASA in existence in Victoria. He organised concerts every year at the Austrian Club both for students and for seasoned performers and his ongoing relationship with the Austrian Club ensured that there was always a very receptive venue and audience. John was aided by long serving committee members particularly Margaret and Frank Berens who took on an enormous workload because of their relationship with John.

John maintained a relationship with the ASA headquarters in Sydney and through this was able to ensure that the Victorian branch was always well represented at the ASA festivals held in different cities around Australia and each year at the National Congress.

He ensured that the ASA newsletter was produced through all those years and enlisted the help of many willing committee members including Holger Golinski and Jeannette Benzing.

John is a treasure trove of information about the accordion in Australia. There is hardly an accordionist of any note that John doesn't know about and he can tell stories and histories about them all. His knowledge of the instrument and its players in this country is unequalled.

John was and is very strong about his convictions and ideas and if it is exactly that characteristic which, while putting some people off-side, at the same time meant that he got things done and pretty much single handedly ensured the survival of the ASA as a body to promote the accordion in Victoria.

Without John there would not be an ASA presence in Victoria and there would not be an ASA orchestra or Big Squeeze Band as it was known. John has always been totally committed to the promotion and encouragement of the accordion and he has no peer in this regard and all these years of work and devotion have been totally voluntary of course. I have never once seen John Kalkbrenner try to "big note" himself. As strong and as certain as he can be of his position, he is a man of true humility.

So, I would say that the new president and committee have a very high standard to aspire to and I hope that John's example of selflessness and devotion to our beloved instrument will always be an inspiration to you.

I am very proud to call John Kalkbrenner a real friend and a life mentor and I unreservedly endorse the ASA Victorian Division's decision to make this Lifetime Achievement Award to John Kalkbrenner.



## AAO—ADELAIDE ACCORDION ORCHESTRA

Over the years we have played many times at the “Pleasant Sunday Afternoon concerts”. They are a project of the Rotary Club Walkerville and are designed to bring entertainment for senior citizens. This program and its organiser won a Community Award this year, so it is very popular. Late May 2023 we were contacted to perform last minute at the June 2023 performance as the group who were scheduled to perform had to opt out. We managed to quickly put a program together and a few of us were available to play.

On September 23 we performed at the 68th Festa della Madonna di Montevergini Feast, Adelaide. This feast brings together the Italian community and the wider SA Community built on the vision of migrants from the Campania region of Italy.



The picture on the left features Eloise, rhythm player and Emma, bass player as well as the sound technician standing in the background “wiring us up” for a sound test at the Italian Festival.

Later in September we played for the RSL Community and Social Club at the RSL Club Colonel Light Garden. The playlist is carefully compiled with lots of singalongs. Song sheets with lyrics to the songs are distributed and the members sing along in full voice.

We love performing in the Adelaide Irish Club at their Friday night openings. These nights are fun with lots of different musical and vocal entertainment.

On Friday 29th September the Adelaide Accordion Orchestra was first up, followed by Paddy Kelly and Celtic Sounds. If you are in Adelaide on a Friday night check out the Irish Club in Adelaide CBD in Carrington Street.



Early November 2023 we played at the German Club's annual Spring Carnival or Fruehlingsfest which is always fun. This festival attracts young and old.

As you can see from the photo below, the families were having a great time and loved to dance to our music. So when we had played all the pieces on our playlist, the audience kept dancing and we felt obliged to keep playing!

*Gerdy Kelson*



## *Accordion Accents Ensemble at Tulip Festival*

The Accordion Accents Ensemble (AAE) once again performed at the annual Tesselaaar Tulip Festival Dutch themed weekend on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September.



In stark contrast to last year, the weather was absolutely wonderful with the sun shining down on the tulips, creating a sea of colour for the many visitors to admire.

AAE performed 3 sets of around 40mins each throughout the day, beginning at 10:30am. By the time the second set had ended at 1pm, the event had sold out, with patrons still queuing to get in!

The audience thoroughly enjoyed the variety of Dutch and German music performed and some even joined in dancing on the stage!

After a thoroughly enjoyable day, the ensemble finished at around 3:30pm.

It was also nice to see a few friendly familiar faces who came and supported the event. Hope to see you all again next year!

*Holger Golinski*





## *Old Melodies Stay Young* (AAE continued..)

Dance and sing along to beloved Evergreens, was the theme the Accordion Accents Ensemble chose for their concert in October in the Austrian Club, Melbourne.

Our program featured music from around the world, but we lingered quite often in Paris because the accordion is so suitable for the French chansons, and in South America, because those tunes are so good to dance to.

Tineke, our two Jeannettes, Paul and Holger were joined by singers Heather Jameson and Julia and Raphael Nafisi while Uwe earned accolades for his work behind the scenes.



After this fun filled afternoon, we once again performed at the German Church Bazaar on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December in Springvale. Another yearly event such as the famous Tulip and the Holland Festival in the hills, that mainly German and Dutch listeners enjoy.

*Margrit Zalisz*



# KIDS CORNER



## Let's Meet Harvey



Hello everyone,

My name is Harvey. I'm in Kindergarten. I started learning how to play the accordion in May this year when I turned six.

I can play 'Mary had a little lamb' and 'Jingle Bells', sometimes with both hands.

I love playing basketball, soccer and Touch Football. I have swimming lessons and I'm also learning chess. I go to Hip Hop dance lessons at school.

Harvey





## *Guest Performer at Maclagan 20th Squeezebox Festival*

*By Robert Grant*

I was pleased to accept an invitation to play a Guest Performance at the Maclagan Squeezebox Festivals 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 4<sup>th</sup> October this year. With engagements the day before and after I was only able to hear a few acts either side of my performance.

I arrived to see 12 - 15 enthusiastic accordionists enjoying a jam session playing Old Time favourites to a full country hall before lunch. Button and Piano Accordions of all shapes and sizes ringing around the rafters, playing tunes that would have been played there decades before. Lunch was served from a very busy Volunteer group. I played a one hour set with Music from around the World, Tarantellas, Viennese Waltzes, Ragtime and Irish Jigs to name a few.

We had a great sing along and I was able to demonstrate the versatility and expression of our beautiful instruments. My set was well received with a large number of CD's purchased.

There were players of all standards and everyone was able to perform on stage. I heard some lovely expressive Italian Folk songs performed in the afternoon and a visiting NSW accordionist playing Bush Ballads.

The organisers were so welcoming, as were the audience members. A really great Country atmosphere and musical day thoroughly enjoyed by all.

*Robert Grant*

[www.robertgrantaccordion.com.au](http://www.robertgrantaccordion.com.au)



*Did you Know?*

**BEHIND THE BELLOWS:  
A Documentary about the Accordion by Steve Mobia**



*to view this interesting YouTube video —right click on arrow to Open link*



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Everyone is welcome, details below & next page*



### **Adelaide Orchestra**

The Adelaide Accordion Orchestra would love to have some new accordionists come along and join their group. If you live in or around Adelaide please come and join us. Rehearsals are at the German Club, 7.30 to 9.30 pm, each Tuesday night. If you are interested please contact

David: [dmpeterson5159@gmail.com](mailto:dmpeterson5159@gmail.com)

### **ASAVO—ASA Victoria Orchestra**

The new ASA Victoria Orchestra meet at the Fairfield campus of Melbourne Polytechnic fortnightly on every second Saturday at 3.00pm for 1.5 hours with a \$10.00 session fee per person payable on the day.

The session fee includes room-booking, photocopying, arranging, and composition for the ensemble (and insurance).

Please note that the ensemble is inclusive of all experience levels, age, gender and musical tastes. If you are interested please contact

Anthony: [anthonyjschulz@gmail.com](mailto:anthonyjschulz@gmail.com)

### **Accordions Alfresco—ASA NSW Orchestra**

Sydney based Accordion orchestra 'Accordions Alfresco' meet in Sydney on **Monday nights 7pm - 9pm** at Russell Lea School hall, Russell Lea.

Note: *The last Monday of the month is conducted over ZOOM (everyone welcome)*. Anyone interested in coming along, please contact

Ben: [ben.h.pattinson@gmail.com](mailto:ben.h.pattinson@gmail.com)

### **Prahran Accordion Band—Victoria**

The Prahran Accordion Band meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month and beginners' band on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at the German Club Tivoli in Windsor, 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](mailto:judygunson58@gmail.com)



### **Hills Accord—Belgrave Library, Victoria**



A group of accordionists that regularly play in an informal and welcoming environment. Accordionists with some level of experience are welcome.

### **Important Notice for Performers**

### **NEW ASA PERFORMER DIRECTORY**

We would like to extend an invitation to ASA member accordionists to promote themselves on the ASA website. Increasingly, the ASA website is becoming a resource for people wanting to find out more about the instrument, how to connect with local players and ways to book players for a variety of engagements. If you would like to take part in the ASA Performer Directory please provide the following information to:

Anthony Schulz at :[anthonyjschulz@gmail.com](mailto:anthonyjschulz@gmail.com)

- Photo
- Blurb/bio (not too long)
- Styles/genres
- Full Name
- Website link and/or links to videos/recordings
- Contact phone number or email address (or both)
- State/city

## *Oh No! My Accordion Broke!*

*by Rhonda Bates*

What do you do when you are practising on your accordion and all of a sudden it plays by itself? No, it wasn't close to Halloween or the friendly ghost either. Immediately I thought I had broken a reed and carefully took the accordion apart to see if I could see if the reed (an F sharp in the right hand) was indeed broken. All reeds seemed intact and all the key arms seemed to be ok; but hey I'm only a player not a repairer!

Living in North Queensland we just can't take it to town for repairs, however the gentleman I bought the accordion from in 2012 now lives in Maryborough Queensland, a mere 8 ½ hours south of Mackay.

I messaged Fred Ferenczi to see if he still did repairs and when he confirmed that he did, I made arrangements to drive to Maryborough to take my Giuletti accordion to him. My daughter and I drove to Maryborough and delivered the accordion to Fred. We planned to stay the night in Maryborough so Fred asked if he could have until 10 am the next day to see if he could fix it for us overnight: of course we obliged.

Unfortunately, the next morning, Fred had sad news that it definitely was not a reed issue and that he would have to take the treble keys out to fix a loose pad and a slightly bent rod. How this could happen is anyone's guess as I am super gentle with it and it lives in its case. Whilst he had the accordion apart he also replaced the reed leathers which do not take kindly to the humidity in North Queensland and tend to curl up over time.

So home we drove **without** the accordion. Fred phoned 3 days later to say that my accordion was now fixed and in great working order. We could not drive south again for around 3 weeks, so it stayed in Fred's custody.

Being from Queensland we are used to driving long distances to get anything done so 3 weeks later my husband and I left home at 3.45 am and travelled the 8 ½ hours to Maryborough. We had a fifteen minute visit with Fred to try out the accordion and then strap it in to the car for another 8 ½ drive north to Mackay. We arrived home safe and sound at 8.15 pm! Not a bad day's work and even better my accordion is now home safely and being lovingly played once again.

# ACCORDIONISTS OUT AND ABOUT

## *Bellows & Beverages*

The second Bellows & Beverage meet up took place at the Open Studio Crepe Bar in Northcote on Saturday November 18th. Accordions were playing, coffee was flowing, and friendships were made in the courtyard and inside the café. Everyone is looking forward to repeating the Bellows & Beverage meet-ups hosted by ASA Victorian branch in 2024.



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## *Jazz Accordion Workshop*

Also at the Open Studio on Sat Nov 18th was a Jazz Workshop conducted by Gary Wasenko. It was enjoyed by all those that attended.





# ACCORDIONISTS OUT AND ABOUT

## *FarOut at Mallacoota*

The Mallacoota Band 'FarOut' performed on Saturday Dec 2nd in Mallacootas Mudbrick Pavilion with Phil Piper on Didgeridoo, Kate Jackson Vocals/guitar/percussion, Jim Sakkas Guitar/vocal, Cheryle Mills Accordion and Lisa Broome Violin/Cello/percussion. The band has a varied repertoire including Rock, Ballads, Folk and originals. Always a fun time when playing music together.



## *Tenor joins Accordionists for some Xmas cheer*

The Two Fillies teamed up with a tenor, Greg Simpson, to entertain a group of Catenians and their partners over dinner. This gig was the first of 3 weeks full of Christmas carols for the girls!



# ACCORDIONISTS OUT AND ABOUT

## *Probus encourages Music and Singing*



Maria and Glenny, the “Two Fillies”, were invited to play at a meeting of the Lane Cove Probus Club, Sydney.

Their focus was to encourage the members to find their voices and experience the therapeutic value of singing with others!

With a lot of cajoling (having discovered that only 5 or 6 out of the 40 Probians actually sing these days) the whole group ended up enthusiastically joining in (quite loudly and joyfully!). *(They were given song sheets so that there were no excuses of ‘not knowing the words’!)*

The feedback was wonderful...happy, animated people came up to share their thoughts and feelings and to remark on how much they enjoyed the session. *(Even some promises were made to sing in the shower, the car, with grandchildren and around the home!)*

People were curious and interested in seeing the accordions close up, asking challenging questions or relating their own childhood music learning experiences.

As an accordionist, if you have the time to volunteer, you can make a difference to people’s wellbeing through your music... (groups such as local schools, Long Day Care Centres and especially in Residential Care Centres.) The Fillies are enjoying their own musical journey in their retirement!



## *ASA joins in to celebrate Maria's 80th Birthday*

Maria Worthington aka one of the 'Two Fillies' celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on October 27<sup>th</sup> with the help of the ASA NSW members and friends

ASA NSW Accordion Orchestra members and friends were privileged and delighted to help our wonderful and much loved orchestra member, Maria Worthington celebrate her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Accordions were played and tarantellas were danced.

*Ben Pattinson & Dominique Maruca*



*Maria with the 2nd Fillee (Glenny) on right & friend Lesley*



*Maria with Sam Tripodi*





Accordion  
Society of  
Australia

## Accordion players of Australia survey

**Go into the draw to win:**  
1 of 2 \$50 Music Junction gift-cards,  
or 1 of 5 Accordion Society of Australia mugs

[accordionsaustralia.com](http://accordionsaustralia.com)

It's the final week (*end Dec 17th*) to be involved in Australia's first national survey of accordionists. Please join in to help the ASA deliver the best support to the accordion community! All of your responses remain anonymous and confidential. The survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete.

If you would like to go into the draw to win 1 of 2 \$50 Music Junction gift-cards or 1 of 5 Accordion Society of Australia mugs, please provide your email at the end of your completed survey.

Go to [SURVEY](#) to fill out the Survey.

*NEWS FROM  
NEW ZEALAND  
ACCORDION ASSOCIATION*



**THE NZAA COMMITTEE WISH YOU ALL  
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**BELLOWETES**

by Kim Waddell

On July 23rd, 2023, a brand-new accordion orchestra was born in Christchurch. The idea was the brainchild of Dave Thorne, the current conductor and musical director of the Christchurch Accordion Orchestra. The thinking behind developing this orchestra was that it could be used as a steppingstone to the Christchurch Accordion Orchestra, which to many may seem too daunting if they have never played in a group before. The learners began as a group of 5 but quickly grew to 8. We started the group playing music they had learnt and played during their lessons, from the Palmer- Hughes tutor books. Having success with these pieces we moved on to a version of Chopsticks, which quickly became a favourite (especially for the conductor). Other music includes Comin' thro' the Rye, Farewell to Thee, Melody of Love and I Love You Truly. We have been focusing on starting and ending a piece of music all together, listening to each other, taking notice of rests and learning about dynamics and how we make these on our accordions.

A big thanks to Merle Kershaw for helping us with these things at every practice. Probably our biggest challenge so far has been coming up with a name for the group. After several weeks of thinking and discussion and being affectionately being known as 'The Learners', 'The Bellowetes' was decided upon. 'The Bellowetes' had their very first official performance at the CAA's Jam Session on 8 th October. The appreciative audience heard 'The Can-Can' and 'Chopsticks' which the 'Bellowetes' performed most proficiently. We look forward to the next performance.

## MELBOURNES ASA VICTORIA EVENT

*Contributed by Sven Balvan*

The last time I set foot in Melbourne was nearly 20 years ago, for New Years Eve with family friends just as I turned 10. If you had told me then that for my next visit I would return for a local accordion festival as the only Kiwi participating (and jump in with a concert orchestra) I would have gone "Huh?"

Initially, what brought me to this event was mere curiosity when my own teacher mentioned it from her received newsletters. Little did I know that part of the drive behind promoting it was to help revive what has been a relatively inactive community within Victoria (ASA) for some time now apparently. Thanks to the hard work by Anthony Schulz and other members of the accordion society, they were able to get their first official Victorian festival going in a while.

The whole day consisted of workshops that included; Musette techniques by the locally renowned Lucy Riddett, Roland Fx MIDIs, and tuning/repairing reeds. All followed by a wonderful evening concert (where I was invited to join their orchestra), and a fascinating trio performance by a guest artist group that specialises in a unique flavour of Tatar-influenced pieces. Who would've imagined just how unique folk music from Tatarstan really sounds!

It was a pleasure to have attended this event, having received a very warm welcome by the local accordionists and making great new friends and connections. It is undoubtedly only the first time I shall be flying down for their festivals, and I am excited to see how the Victorian accordion community develops for my next visit!



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## NEW MEMBERSHIP / ANNUAL RENEWAL

ACCORDION SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA  
(Incorporated NSW under the Associations  
Incorporation Act 1984)

ASA Annual Membership is August to July. Renewal time is 1<sup>st</sup> August each year ;

General Member	\$ 40.00
Teacher Member	\$ 50.00
Family Member	\$ 55.00

**New Membership AND Renewals** can now be done using the ASA streamlined online system. Please log into:

**ASA website.** [www.accordionsaustralia.com](http://www.accordionsaustralia.com)

*Payment is via Bank Transfer. Note that Victorian members have a different Account to the other states, as indicated below.*

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