

Accordion Music Lovers Showcase of 'One-Man Bands'

A small hall in Toowoomba recently hosted eleven 'one-man bands' at a concert providing music which rekindled memories of decades past. These 'one-man bands' are accordion players because an instrument can play chords and melody simultaneously, while the player can sing along and beat the rhythm with their feet.

The glory days for the accordion worldwide were the 1950s and 1960s and those who attended this Accordion Music Lovers concert were able to recall, with great fondness, memories of family functions, weddings and local dances where the accordion was the instrument of choice as they were growing up.

St John's Lutheran Church hall at Wilsonton was the venue of the Accordion Music Lovers first concert. This group have been meeting for jam sessions in this hall for the past 18 months and had decided to stage a formal concert due to popular interest in this musical genre.

Talented players on the double-row and triple-row button accordions showcased their talents by playing traditional, popular and classical music to an appreciative audience.



Karl Quail from Burpengary and Peter Davenport from Elanora had the audience spellbound when they showed off their very fluent cross-rowing techniques during their individual performances.

1 July 2023



Clarrie Schefe (Beerwah)



Rob Hawton (Toowoomba)

District players Jeanette Kummerow, Harold Kowitz, Graham Reinke, Les Weedon and Colin Tonscheck also performed as soloists or in a group and provided polished performances throughout the day. All have strong ties with the annual Maclagan Squeezebox Festival, having attended this event every year since 2003.



Laurie Wendt (Boonah)



Graham Reinke (Crows Nest)



Joyce Ridgeway (Toowoomba)



Col Tonscheck (Toowoomba)



Les Weedon (Toowoomba)



Harold Kowitz (Oakey)

Ninety-two year old Don Purnell, who drove himself to the concert from Oakey, loved the jam sessions where all players joined in playing popular tunes while the words were displayed on the large screen for the audience to join in.



Sheryl Kreusler and Margaret O'Mara of Toowoomba



Jeanette Kummerow (Formartin) co-ordinated the concert players

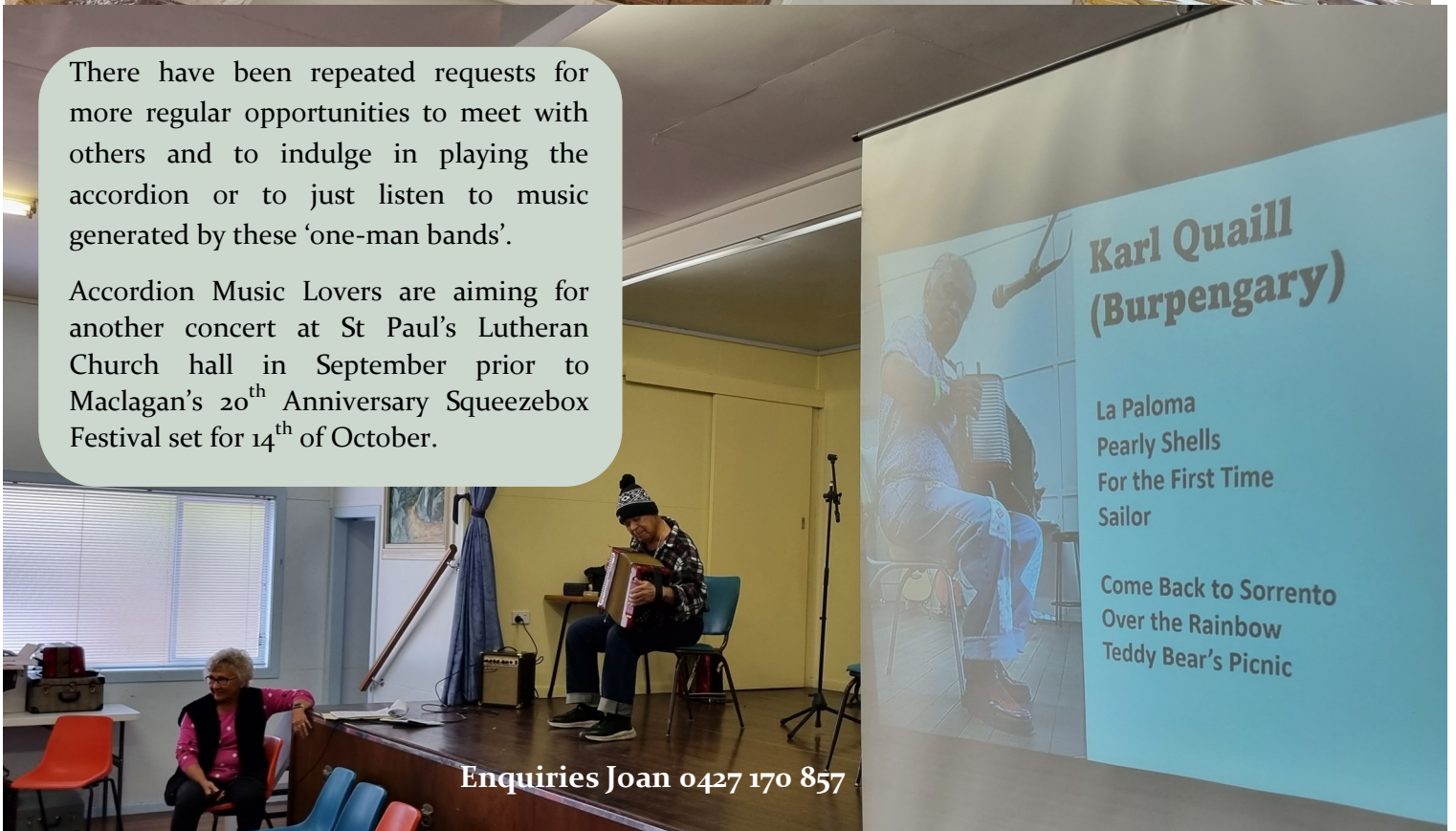




Thank You to Dianne Spies and Diane Otto from St John's Lutheran Church congregation for providing such a variety of tasty hot and cold food options throughout the day.

There have been repeated requests for more regular opportunities to meet with others and to indulge in playing the accordion or to just listen to music generated by these 'one-man bands'.

Accordion Music Lovers are aiming for another concert at St Paul's Lutheran Church hall in September prior to Maclagan's 20th Anniversary Squeezebox Festival set for 14th of October.



Enquiries Joan 0427 170 857