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# AUSTRALIAN SHAKUHACHI SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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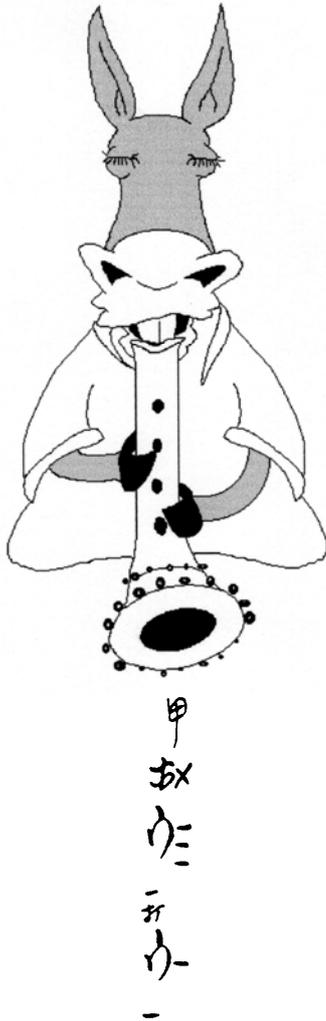
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Nr. 13 June 2003

ASS P.O Box 63 Woodford NSW 2778

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## Greetings!

Suddenly it is Autumn again - "the fall of the leaf is no idle affair"

The **BIG** news is that ASF 2004 will be in Sydney at the Conference Centre at Mona Vale October 1 - 5 2004. See following column for details.

*Patricia Lee* says: If you save \$2 a day for the next 16mths they will more than cover the costs. Price not fixed yet but it will certainly be advantageous to be a financial member of ASS and pay before the end of June 2004!!!

## ASF 04

1 - 5 OCTOBER 2004

### *Where:*

Mona Vale Conference Centre Northern Beaches of Sydney NSW.

### *How much:*

We are looking at a price for the whole package of around \$600.

For those of you not familiar with NSW and the northern beaches suburbs. Mona Vale is about 50 minutes from Sydney CBD and on the Pacific Ocean.

The conference centre has been happening for the last 15 years, managed by the same person.

It is owned by AMP (let's hope their present state of affairs doesn't affect our booking for next year!!!)

The accommodation is in double or twin rooms and the food looks delicious. [Yes, vegetarians are catered for as are other dietary requirements. -Ed]

There are plenty of break-out rooms for small group activities as well as large rooms for the whole group. There is also a swimming pool with exercise equipment and a sauna. I would rate it as about a 3 - 4 star resort hotel. The beach is a couple of minutes walk away.

### *The Public Concert*

#### *When:*

Saturday 2 OCT at 5pm

#### *Where:*

Verbruggen Hall Sydney Conservatorium of Music

The Verbruggen Hall seats around 500 people and is a beautiful ambient space. Riley performed there with the Australian Chamber Orchestra in January this year. It is also near Circular Quay so that we can take a coach from/to Mona Vale - Manly and have return trip ferry rides across the harbour.

Possible additions to the performers will be Matthew Doyle Didj, Satsuki Odamura Koto, and a Taikoz drummer or two....these are ideas I am working on.

Bookings are tentative at the moment but will be confirmed and secured with a deposit in September this year.

Go to: [www.mvconference.com.au](http://www.mvconference.com.au) for a look at this venue.

*Patricia Lee* ASF 04 co-ordinator

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## Presidents Report

Firstly I would like to thank all members of the previous committee for their support and hard work. Thank you Margaret Tung, John Holmes and Graham Ranft Welcome to the new members and new positions. Treasurer: John Holmes, Secretary: Bronwyn Kirkpatrick, Newsletter Editor: Graham Ranft and Publicity Officer: Paul Reynolds. The 2003 ASS Festival was a great success. Again thank you to the organizing committee Stuart Ransom and Carl Rathus for their hard work, the weekend was a great experience. To the teachers from both Japan and Australia you were greatly appreciated. Once again we were pushed to another level. It is just fantastic to be involved with cultural exchanges that are just so positive.

We had fun, laughs, communication stumbles and of course hard work or should I say practice. Ending in just a great weekend leaving such good memories and a warm feeling of good times.

Like most events there are always important people helping behind the scenes, Susie, Heather, Patricia and Lockie [Kevin] a huge **THANK YOU** for all your hard work thought the weekend, so we could attend lessons. It was very much appreciated.

Now, leaving fond memories of ASS 2003, we are in the process of organising **ASS 2004**. Patricia has located a lovely venue situated in Mona Vale in Sydney. Having had an opportunity recently to visit the Mona Vale Conference Centre, the venue blew me away. Go to the web address [see page 1 - Ed] for more information.

It is more like a hotel with services such as 5 minutes walk from the beach, pool, sauna, so many small and large rooms, a full size pool table, and karaoke to which Riley pointed at and groaned. [I'll take my ear plugs -Ed]

So, all I will say is get in early and book because there is limited accommodation. I have already booked, the facilities are too good to miss.

Another reminder if any one would like to be involved with *Blowing Zen* when we are practising, contact us if you would like to participate it's a great way to meet friends and practise.

So till next time, regards to all.  
Cathy Andrews.  
President ASS.

## AUSTRALIAN SHAKUHACHI SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

26<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2003 BRISBANE

STARTED 4.40PM COMPLETED 5.40 PM

### Attendance

Cathy Andrews, M. Tung, J. Holmes, A.Wyatt, MacGregor, B. Kirkpatrick, Adrian, I. Cullen, A.Jennings, M. Timmerman, D.Dixon, P.Reynolds, N. Scofield, F. Halls, J. Sysak, R.Lee, P.King, S.Ranson, D.Kotloy, J. Franklin, R.Hichel, A.Demy-Geroe, M.Choo, C.Rathus, R.Muhlberger, A.McClean, L.Dugan, A. Sherrif, A.Simmons, J. Kinney.  
(Apologies G.Ranft)

Sorry if I have not spelt your name correctly.

### AGENDA :

1. **Minutes** of the last meeting accepted..
2. **President's report**, thank you to secretary, Graham for the newsletter, and the treasurer.

### 3. **Treasurer's report:**

\$150 Separate account for *BLOWING ZEN*

\$1240.25 Subscriptions

\$1671.89 TOTAL

\$897.43 TOTAL EXPENSES.

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\$2533.44 BALANCE

### Treasurer's comments:

1st July fees are due. Pro-rata payment for fees needs further discussion.

Payments for festival will be credited till end of June 2004.

4. Thank you to all the committee for all their valued contributions in 2003.

All positions to step down.

### ELECTIONS.

PRESIDENT : CATHY ANDREWS

TREASURER : JOHN HOLMES

SECRETARY : BRONWYN KIRKPATRICK

NEWSLETTER : GRAHAM RANFT

See **P6** for email contact details - Ed.

### 5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

President given authority to co-op members on the committee for the next festival.

## 6.SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Last six months of the year pay half a year  
Last three months goes till next year, i.e 15 months.

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Minutes typed by president.

### ASS Meeting 28<sup>th</sup> April, 03

Meeting opened 4.45pm

Welcome and thank you from the president

New Business

#### Item 1 – Next shakuhachi festival

Location of next festival – Sydney

When?

7 votes for September, 04

4 votes for March, 05

8 votes for either

Committee members:

Patricia Lee – Coordinator

John Holmes

Margaret Tung

Anne Wyatt

Lindsay (surname)?

Carl and Stuart to confer with committee members re  
organisation of next festival

#### Item 2 – ASS membership fees & festival discount

Full financial year membership fee - \$25

Half financial year membership fee - \$15

Quarter financial year membership – free

ASS members to receive a \$40 discount to attend festival

#### Item 3 – Promotions officer

Paul Reynolds has been elected as promotions officer to  
oversee website, flyers, festival CD etc.

#### Item 4 – Bank account

President and treasurer will confer re transfer of moneys

#### Item 5 – Blowing Zen group

Jim Franklin will recommence the running of the Blowing  
Zen group. Rehearsal dates to be discussed. After expenses  
have been paid, any moneys earned will go into a reserve  
fund to finance future performances

Thank you to teachers and organising committee from the  
president

## NEW NEWS

Andrew MacGregor is competing in the all  
Japan National Music (Hōgaku) Competition at the moment.  
From his website <http://www.japanworldmusic.com/>

### STOP PRESS!

We are pleased to announce that Andrew MacGregor is one  
of a small number of shakuhachi players selected to perform  
in the finals of the All Japan National Music (Hōgaku)  
Competition (for Traditional Instruments) to be held in  
Kumamoto, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2003.

This is a rare honor and we wish him every success! See  
below -Ed.]

### KUMAMOTO HŌGAKU COMPETITION

Andrew MacGregor performed in the All-Japan National  
Hōgaku Music Competition in May. It was quite a  
wonderful experience and there were many great musicians.  
The Grand Prize winner was Biwa player, Tomoka Nagasu,  
quite an exceptional talent. Shakuhachi player Yasuda  
Tomohiro won an award.

Andrew's performance was good, and, in the words of one  
of the judges, very sophisticated. All speakers at the  
competition were pleased to mention that an Australian  
player had made the final of this prestigious competition

## MELBOURNE NEWS

### TAJIMA TADASHI & ANDREW MACGREGOR

There was a wonderful concert at the beautiful St Michael's  
Uniting Church, Collins Street, Melbourne on Sunday 1st  
June. Mr. Tajima played a moving rendition of Kokū during  
the morning service.

The programme for the evening concert was:

Kajimakura, Stella of Akané M. Angel, Onoé no matsu,  
Ryūkyū minyō ni yoru kumikyoku, Tsuru no sugomori.

A highlight for Melbourne students was the opportunity to  
play Sanya (Three Valleys) using 2.55 shakuhachi. Those  
taking part included Ken Chi, Molly Choo, Peter Neish,  
Adrian Sherriff, Adam Simmons, and Janusz Sysak. We are  
pleased to say that five students have now purchased these  
long shakuhachi which are great for many honkyoku.

### SPRING CLASSIC CONCERT SERIES

#### ANDREW MACGREGOR AND MIHO YAMAJI

Koto player Miho Yamaji will tour Australia again in  
August. The tentative schedule is:

Friday 8th Boite World Music Café, 8.15pm, Mark St,  
Nth Fitzroy

Sat 9th Montrose Town Centre, 8.00pm

Wed 13th ArtsSpace Wodonga, 6.00pm, Lawrence St,  
Wodonga

15th 17th Perth

Sat 30th Melba Hall, University of Melbourne,  
8.00pm

This final concert will feature Concordia Mandolin & Guitar Ensemble, Yukari Echo Japanese Women's Choir, Miyama Tokita (Sawai School koto teacher in Melbourne) and shakuhachi students from Melbourne

The programme at this final concert will include:

Hito omou uta (Distant Friend) (Fujii Bondai)

Double Concerto (FUNAKAWA Toshiō)

Yuki Monogatari (SAWAI Tadao)

Meikyō (KNEYA Seihō)

Banshū Sankei (KŌHACHIRŌ Miyata)

Melbourne students Molly Choo, Damien Kinney, Peter Neish, Adrian Sherriff, Adam Simmons, Janusz Sysak and Luke Wood will play in the two pieces Hito omou uta and Double Concerto. Both are quite demanding pieces and for many the learning curve is rather steep. Gambare!

Japan World Music

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AUSTRALIA

tel/fax: +61 3 9739 7340

info@japanworldmusic.com

www.japanworldmusic.com



### From Monty Levenson

Shakuhachi Headjoint for the Silver Flute

... where East Meets West

This headjoint for the silver flute is a completely new concept in woodwinds developed by Tai Hei Shakuhachi. It replaces the side-blown headjoint of the western transverse flute with that of an end-blown shakuhachi headjoint to create an innovative new sound and style of music. This hybrid instrument allows the player to employ blowing styles and techniques distinctive to the traditional Japanese shakuhachi while using fingerings common to the western classical Boehm flute. The resulting sound is a unique blending of East and West that can be achieved on no other instrument. It is perfect for the western flautist interested in producing music with a Japanese touch as well as the traditional shakuhachi player who wants to experiment with western scales and intonation.

For more info go to:

[www.shakuhachi.com/Q-Models-Headjoint.html](http://www.shakuhachi.com/Q-Models-Headjoint.html)

[www.shakuhachi.com/Q-Models-Headjoint-WER.html](http://www.shakuhachi.com/Q-Models-Headjoint-WER.html)

[www.shakuhachi.com/Q-Models-Headjoint-FAQs.html](http://www.shakuhachi.com/Q-Models-Headjoint-FAQs.html)



### Shakuhachi Carry bags

in beautiful fabrics oriental & Brocades  
*to suit the individual*

- \* Practical (fully Padded)
- \* washable
- \* Able to fit plastic sleeve
- \* All lengths with or without strap
- \* Affordable prices eg. \$50 for 1.8  
\$60 for extras

for further info call faith "The Bag lady!"

**Phone. 07 54476 914**

### Shakuhachi sleeping bags

I started playing the shakuhachi in 1995 after a breakdown in 1994 when my life came to a crisis point. All I knew was chronic pain and bewilderment. I remember hearing the haunting sound of the shakuhachi, probably on one of Riley Lee's CDs and I remember thinking, "If it's the last thing I do on this earth I will learn to play that". Soon after I got the chance to attend a concert with Riley Lee.

I was quite ill, with difficulty in talking and standing and it took tremendous effort after the concert to tell Riley that I wanted to learn. I'd reached a stage where I wasn't going to let an opportunity go by! Sometimes I think that the shakuhachi is the teacher, as it taught me so much about myself and turned a breakdown into a breakthrough.

Life does not come with directions. All I knew then was to put one foot in front of the other, fly on the good days and lie low on the bad days. Regardless of how I feel, the shakuhachi is a good traveling companion. Initially my goal was to play the shakuhachi "pain free", and yes, I have achieved that and I am now well.

When I first started playing I had no musical background, and a history of deafness and now realize looking back it was probably one of the most difficult things I could have done - like teaching a fish to ride a bicycle. I was once told that playing the shakuhachi was called "stripping the ego". I have been a slow but persistent student, and in my long journey I've been able to take in that view. My latest goal is to play in pitch and to learn to discern a flat note and to hear my own sound with accuracy.

All the teachers and players I have been involved with have been outstanding in their support and encouragement along the way and I think that is what will make the Shakuhachi in Australia a success.

I love to sew and buy beautiful unusual materials and be creative, so now I can justify that by making padded and

washable shakuhachi bags designed for your individual needs. I have decided to call them "Shakuhachi Sleeping Bags".

My shakuhachi is precious and it comes to life when I play it - so why not care for it and put it to bed! So don't let your shakuhachi go naked and unprotected, let me help you out!

Contact Faith - Ph. 07 54476914

or at [phattcherry@hotmail.com](mailto:phattcherry@hotmail.com)

Playing the shakuhachi is like a blossoming - it just gets better! Faith Halls

[I have a 1.8 and 2.4 of these and they are beautifully made. The 2.4 has a shoulder strap which makes carrying an assembled 2.4 very much easier. -Ed]

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**Recently seen in the land of the long white cloud:**



The little sign top right reads **MATRON**. We wonder what Riley was doing, lurking under the stairs... Photos by kind permission of Orpheus Music magazine [Cinnamon Sticks]. [[www.orpheusmusic.com.au](http://www.orpheusmusic.com.au)]

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"Learn how to listen as things speak for themselves".

Basho

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**And in the USA:**

From Elliot Kallen:



Note sitting in **seiza** position  
[read following short item on ASS - Ed]

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**From recent Shakuhachi News Group posts.**

When is an ASS is not an ass.

I recently posted a final call for articles etc for this ASS NL in both shakuhachi news groups:

This is definitely the last call for articles photos, snippets etc.

News editor ASS NL

Reg then wrote: With all due respect, I suggest a name change...

I.M BULB replied: I second that.....)

I said in reply:

Dear Gentleman I suggest you take this up with Daishihan Riley Lee who I think dreamed this up.

Deep bows to you

Graham

Riley then weighed in with:

Hello I.M. BULB, Reg, et al,

FYI, ASS stands for the Australian Shakuhachi Society, a perfectly respectful name for a very active institution with an ever growing membership.

The acronym ASS, is also a perfectly respectable word. It means a four legged animal, also known as a donkey. The word is used, for example, in this context in the King James Version of the New Testament. The logo for the Australian Shakuhachi Society is a shakuhachi playing donkey, sitting seiza and wearing a kimono.

At times I think, what better image of us shakuhachi folks could there be than a bamboo flute playing ass?

Respectfully,  
Riley Lee

Isaac followed this up with:

I see. Well...

With all due respect to Riley and his A.S.S, ....

Even deeper bows to you, Graham. ☺

From: **Nelson Zink** [zink@newmex.com]

## The Magic Flute Formula

To All,  
From a mass of calculations, a single, simple formula has appeared. It's the expression of acoustic balance in a shakuhachi and generates the measurements needed to achieve such balance.

<http://www.navaching.com/shaku/magic.html>

Nelson

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## Contacting our Committee:

President: Cathy Andrews  
[kevlock@bigpond.com](mailto:kevlock@bigpond.com)

Secretary: Bronwyn Kirkpatrick  
[bronwyn.kirkpatrick@bigpond.com](mailto:bronwyn.kirkpatrick@bigpond.com)

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Publicity Officer: Paul Reynolds  
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## Photos from ASF 2003

By Heather Matthews.

There were so many pictures to choose from and as I was not there I've chosen those that should print well.

