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VJAZZ



Quarterly Newsletter of the Victorian Jazz Archive Inc.
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PATRON : WILLIAM H. MILLER, M.A., B.C.L. (Oxon.)

MUSEUM REGISTRATION APPLICATION SUCCESSFUL

A recent submission by the Victorian Jazz Archive to Museums Australia (Victoria) for registration as a Museum under the Museum Accreditation Program has been successful. Registration is the first process whereby the VJA can work towards Accreditation as a Museum, a standard of excellence as stated in the MAP Mission Statement "The Museum Accreditation Program provides a framework to help Victorian museums build sustainability and innovation in management, governance and operations, and fosters and promotes professional museum standards across the sector."

On Friday 11th February, the Archive was visited by Ms Barbara Wels, Museum Accreditation Program Manager, and Ms Anna Long, Professional Development and Training Manager, both of Museums Australia (Vic). After a guided tour they discussed with the committee members present, the process of Registration, where granted gives the Archive three years to submit an application for Accreditation as a Museum/Repository.

The approach taken by the Archive in relation to systems, conservation, disaster response, backup of records and data base, security, and access to the collection by the public and researchers, had gone a long way towards the necessary Registration standards. Accreditation of the Archive, will be a more difficult exercise, involving visits by Museums Australia to monitor our progress, but the committee are confident that this will be achieved within the three year timeframe. Apart from raising the standards of managing the collection Accreditation will be a benchmark for future applications for funding.

Ray Marginson

THE VICTORIAN JAZZ ARCHIVE WISHES TO THANK ARTS VICTORIA, THE VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PREMIER AND CABINET FOR A GRANT OF \$4,200 FOR A COMPUTER TO BE USED FOR VOLUNTEER TRAINING, AND AN EPSON 200 NEGATIVE/SLIDE SCANNER FOR TRANSFER OF PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGES TO CD-R FOR PRESERVATION.

AUSTRALIAN JAZZ LEGEND INSPECTS ARCHIVE.

Roger Bell and his wife Lorraine paid a visit to the Wantirna Repository on 22nd February. Both were impressed with the variety of the Australian jazz material held in the Archive. Roger was especially interested in the display of the various musical instruments, including Bob Barnard's silver cornet, (with Louis posing in the background), as can be seen in the photo opposite.

Roger listened to some of the acetate recordings whose personnel have baffled the keen ears of the staff, and made some pertinent observations on these recordings. The Archive is hoping to involve more musicians in helping with personnel identification.



Photo: JOHN KENNEDY

EDITORIAL. The volunteer training workshops for data base insertion, commenced in January, and February, and were well attended, as can be seen by the photo below. Volunteers to heed the call were David Bell, Nigel Buesst, Liz Currie, Dick Morgan, Barbara Holland, Sam Meerkim, Evelyne Perks, Tim Harding, Jack Ricketts, John Farrand, Betty Joyner, and Keith Corben. Special thanks to Ron Halstead, VJA Computer Manager, who instructed the volunteers on the technique of data insertion via templates, and whilst everybody was tolerant of the problem of cramped conditions around Ron's computer for the instruction, a great deal of positive work has been accomplished.

As noted elsewhere in this issue, Arts Victoria has accepted an application for a grant that in part will provide a computer to be used for training of volunteers. The balance of the grant will enable the VJA to start work on our photograph collection, with the transfer of print photos, negatives and slides to CD-R for preservation.

The Archive wishes to thank Tom Lord of "The Jazz Discography" fame for the donation of the "Jazz Discography — A to R" on CD-ROM, that will be used as a research tool in the Reference Library. The sheer size of Tom's marvelous work, which is now into its twenty third printed volume, is borne out by the mind boggling statistics. The CD-ROM contains entries for 17,445 bandleaders, and 100,071 sessions, whilst 549,488 musician entries, and 540,548 tune entries were made in compiling the work. In return for this donation, the VJA have offered to send to Tom all the information on Australian jazz releases since Jack Mitchell's "More Australian Jazz On Record". Jack Mitchell himself is playing the major role in this collection of data, for which we thank him.

Recent donations of equipment to the Archive for the setting up of the video display in the Reference Library have come from Ken Farmer, Dick Morgan and Barbara Holland. Ken delivered a video player, whilst Dick and Barbara gave a large screen TV, for the display and also donated a complete sound system for the Catalogue Room. The Archive thanks these members for such generous donations which will be put to good use. We are still seeking a Video recorder and a CD player.

Included with this issue is the renewal forms for annual membership subscriptions, and the notice and proxy form for a Special General Meeting to be held on the 30th April, at 12 noon. Prompt return of these forms would be appreciated.

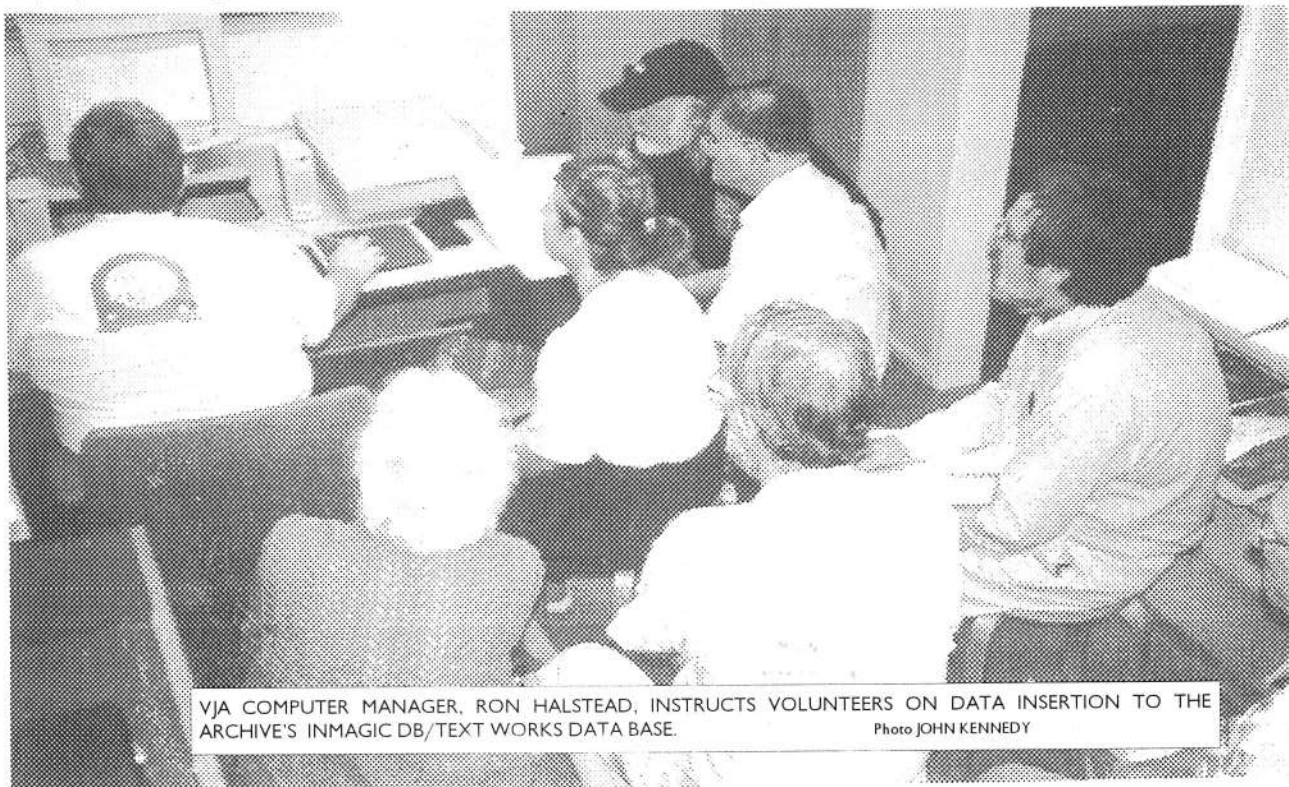
A RECORD COLLECTION WITH A FASCINATING HISTORY.

Generally the Archive does not accept non jazz material, per se, but recently we were contacted by Miss Hilary Bullock, who wished to find a home for a collection of 27 rare early "ragtime" records. Her uncle James Stuart, collected these records prior to 1915, many bought from the States Music Shop, 103-105 Bourke Street, Melbourne. James joined the army in 1915, at the age of 18, but died of meningitis some two weeks later. The collection was cared for by his sister, Mary who died in 1992 at the age of 103, and the collection then came to Miss Bullock, through family natural selection. Most are by the Three Rascals and the American Ragtime Octette, and some of the tunes are "The Skeleton Rag", "That Slippery Slide Trombone", "Red Pepper", "Ragtime Baby", "Alexander's Ragtime Band", even "Ragtime Suffragette"! Thanks to Margaret Marshall of the Performing Arts Museum for introducing Miss Bullock to the Archive, so a home could be found for these pre-jazz recordings

NEW MEMBERS,
since the last Newsletter are:-

LIFE MEMBERS:-
Marylyn Cowdell.

ANNUAL MEMBERS:-
Paul Burke,
John Duffy, (WA)
Betty Joyner,
Tony Lambides



VJA COMPUTER MANAGER, RON HALSTEAD, INSTRUCTS VOLUNTEERS ON DATA INSERTION TO THE ARCHIVE'S INMAGIC DB/TEXT WORKS DATA BASE.

Photo JOHN KENNEDY

RECENT DONATIONS

"Acetate Action" still rolls on with the majority of donated material now being these unique recordings.

Paul Burke, lodged a number for transfer, mostly radio transcriptions including the 3rd Battle of the Bands at Wirth's Olympia. Nick Stefakis loaned two acetates of his band recording in 1940's, for the US record market.

Mary Traynor has deposited 10 broadcast recordings of the Len Barnard Band on Station 3KZ in 1951, with Frank Traynor and Smacka Fitzgibbon in the band. There are also discs of the Melbourne Jazz Club Band, plus some performances of Frank on trombone and Murray Bassett drums. There are many reel to reel tapes of the Traynor band which will have to be assessed in the near future.

Mary Bould forwarded a 12" acetate LP of the Len Barnard Band, University Jazz Band and Tom Pickering Group.

Nevill Sherburn donated the Treasurer's book and passbook along with the Minutes of the Melbourne Jazz Club from 1951 to 1954, plus the Club's Constitution and Newsletters.

The Performing Arts Museum, has donated a number of Australian and overseas recordings from "The Betty Pounder Collection". Ms Pounder made a vital contribution to dance and theatre in Australia, especially her work with J. C. Williamson Theatres. These recordings were used by her for inspiration in her work especially in the "jazz dance" sphere of the theatre. Thanks to Carolyn Laffan of PAM for forwarding these recordings to the Archive.

Keith "Honk" Atkins has donated his famous scrapbook, used in the making of Nigel Buesst Film "Jazz Scrapbook". This is a rare and important document on Australian jazz from the 1940's. Keith also donated an excellent book of photographs "Jazz Milestones" for the Reference Library. He also forwarded a donation by Dave Edwards of a large colour photo of Ron "The Tortoise" George, who passed away recently.

Royston Coldicott, who always brings a donation when he visits us, recently left a Jim Davidson LP, and a photo of Joe Aronson and His Synco-Symphonists. Mrs Meg Benwell forwarded a tambourine sent and inscribed, to her late husband Dr Sam Benwell, by Jim Beal.

Tom Wanliss has collected the wonderful jazz library of his late friend Bruce Chalk, for which we thank Bruce's widow Margot. The collection consists of 73 jazz books plus many jazz magazines, including bound editions of "Matrix" and "Discophile" jazz research magazines. Tom Wanliss brought in 7 LPs donated by Mrs Val McLean.

Archive Chairman, Ray Marginson, decided it was time that his vast collection of jazz books (128) and numerous jazz magazines should grace the shelves of the Reference Library.

Jack Mitchell, of Lithgow NSW, has donated two CDs of the Port Jackson Jazz Band and the Ray Price Quartet (see merchandise list) and a tape of Orm "Slush" Stewart and Russell Jones recordings. Thanks to all donors for their interest in the Archive.

PREPARATIONS FOR DISASTER CONTROL.

By Ray Bradley, Disaster Response Team Co-ordinator

The Archive has established a Disaster Response Team of five committee members to examine safety procedures and mechanisms for recovery from unexpected disasters. The procedures to be adopted are in line with recommendations made in a Disaster Response Workshop document prepared for Museums Australia (Victoria), attended recently by VJA curator, John Kennedy.

The prime consideration is for the safety and evacuation of volunteer workers on the repository site in case of an emergency. The mechanisms in place involve:

- (1) Portable alarm apparatus available in all areas to alert others in the building of any untoward occurrence.
- (2) Exit signs for all emergency exits if evacuation of the building is necessary.
- (3) Prominently displayed diagrams illustrating the nearest exit to each area, and main assembly area.
- (4) Strategic placement of five fire extinguishers.

The possible disaster states envisaged are fire; subsequent foam & water damage; electrical malfunction with possible fire risk; environmental damage such as storm and water depredation involving the roof and/or windows; flood and earthquake.

Vandalism is another possibility of damage to the Archive's resources and to cope with this, a security alarm system is already installed to notify the security system headquarters and subsequent notification of Disaster Response Team members.

As the repository is not occupied for a large percentage of each week, it is necessary to consider extending the capability of the security system to function as a detector of smoke and fire, which will be a further financial outlay.

The most important parameter in the prevention of development of any disaster state is inspection and regular maintenance of the building and its contents.

Disaster restoration involves the provision of bins with materials to cope with reduction of damage to rescued items. For this, the Knox Council has donated two large 120 litre wheeled garbage bins to be housed outside the building proper. These bins will contain torches, gloves, mops, and materials for blotting and air drying photographs, books and other print items.

The Disaster Response Team are at present preparing the printed protocol to be operative in the case of disasters, which will be distributed to all committee members, and will be reviewed annually.

Repository & Office:-
15 Mountain Highway,
Wantirna. Victoria.

All correspondence to P.O. Box 442,
Ashburton. Vic. 3147.

Phone: (03) 9800-5535

Secretary/Curator Mobile:- 0412 867 587

E-mail:- vjazarch@vicnet.net.au

Donations of \$2.00 and over made to the
Victorian Jazz Archive Inc., are tax
deductible.

Ref No. DGR 900444123.

Membership subscriptions do not apply.

ACETATE ACTION

The Victorian Jazz Archive is urgently seeking the loan, or donation, of acetate recordings of Australian jazz material for transfer to an appropriate archival medium (e.g. Digital Audio Tape and/or CD-R) for the preservation of these unique one off jazz recordings.

Most of these recordings are now over 50 years old, and with the passage of time, there is a breakdown of the recording surface, which if not transferred, will mean the irretrievable loss of precious jazz performances.

Since its inception, the VJA has been committed to the preservation of this unique form of recorded performance, and urge all jazz record collectors with acetate recordings in their possession, to have the performance transferred, cost free, to the appropriate archival medium as soon as possible. The VJA guarantees the security and safe return of the recording. No access to the performance will be given without the donors agreement.

VISIT OUR WEB PAGE WWW.VICNET.NET.AU/~VJAZARCH

CASH DONATIONS.

The VJA committee wish to thank the following for cash donations since the last newsletter:- Arts Victoria, Ray Marginson, Ray Bradley, Tom Wanliss, Margaret Anderson, Jack Ricketts, Liz Currie, Ron Halstead, John Kennedy, Tony Newstead, John Rippin, Marg & Jeff Blades, Jack Mitchell.

VJAZZ MERCHANDISE

ALL MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE FROM THE ARCHIVE OR PO BOX 442, ASHBURTON. 3125. \$3.50 PACK & POST EXCEPT "MY JAZZ LIFE", \$5.00 PACK AND POST. CHEQUES MADE PAYABLE TO VICTORIAN JAZZ ARCHIVE INC.

VJA LOGO CLOTHING (See front page for the VJA logo.)

Polo Shirt Top quality material. Navy only. Sizes M to XXL \$30.00 Logo Caps Navy. One size fits all. \$15.00

BOOKS., DISCOGRAPHIES.

"BODGIE DA DA & THE CULT OF THE COOL" by John Clare. VJA very special price \$10.00 each.

"BACK TOGETHER AGAIN" by Jack Mitchell. The story of the Port Jackson Jazz Band. 89 pages many photos. Soft cover. VJA special price - \$20.00 plus pack and post.

CD'S

"SWING, BROTHER SWING - THE BEST OF CLUB 177 - VOL. 1 & 2"

This DOUBLE CD has very exciting jazz performances by well known Australian jazz musicians Special VJA price \$27.00.

KEITH HOUNSLOW'S "MY JAZZ LIFE" - 6 CDS. Unique and excellent packaging.

The VJA is privileged to be able to offer to members this truly historic sound biography of one of Australia's most versatile and accomplished jazz musicians. FOR VJA MEMBERS ONLY - \$100, plus \$5.00 pack & post.

SINGLE CD'S AT SPECIAL MEMBER PRICES OF \$20.00 EACH Plus Pack & Post.

GRAHAM COYLE. "Australian Traditional Jazz Piano Solos & Duets" w. Simon Stribling, Joe Stevenson, Fred Parkes & John Withers.

KHYAT'S KHORTET. "A Nice Cup Of Tea" w. Fred Parkes, Bill Howard, Graham Coyle, Tom Carter & Nina Ferro.

THE PORT JACKSON JAZZ BAND. "Live and Hot" Previously unissued recordings from 1958

RAY PRICE QUARTET. "In Concert - 1965".

Please note that all CDs are sold by the VJA at a price less than the usual retail, with any profits going to Archive funds.

**The Victorian Jazz Archive is open each Tuesday & Friday
10.00 am to 3.00 pm, or by appointment**



THE MYER FOUNDATION

