



VJAZZ

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN JAZZ ARCHIVE

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Archive, your Archive, is now reaching a major stage in its development. We have battled through the first round, fund raising, the scrounging for furniture, floor coverings, equipment and doing a large amount of sheer physical work.

Now we have secure storage in the containers, adequate treatment areas, primary data input computers, a reference library plus public access computers, video and CD playing capacity. At the heart of the operation is a well equipped re-recording studio with digital audio tape equipment and a CD burner. Also in this area is a high capacity computer with printer and scanner that houses our data base.

Operation acetate is forging ahead with some 75 CDs cut, including major holdings in pristine condition from Bill Miller, Mary Traior and others.

Many of you will have heard Roger Beilby's session on 3CR on Saturday 1 July (GST day!). From the remarks John Kennedy, Tom Wanliss and I made between the tracks you will know that the Archive still needs a great deal of help.

What is outlined above sounds great but we still have only 150 ordinary members and \$4,000 in operating funds. It costs about \$9,000 a year to operate the Archive. Subscribers produce around \$3,000 and our invested \$30,000 capital yields about \$1,600. So we battle each year to bridge the \$4,400 gap; we must have more members and donation support.

In addition we need -

- ◆ Further vital equipment (minimum \$10,000);
- ◆ Help to manage the public interface on Tuesdays and Fridays;
- ◆ The backing of jazz musicians and bands if only to donate their CDs;
- ◆ Help with the setting up of our major exhibition in connection with the Melbourne International Jazz Festival (opens 1 December 2000); and
- ◆ Help in putting material on the data base, using a fairly straightforward list of instructions (even 2 hours is a substantial help).

Please help us get the membership numbers up and give us a bit of your time at Wantirna. Ring me (98536633), John Rippin (98944935) or John Kennedy (0412 867 587).

RAY MARGINSON

VJA WINS CONSERVATION AWARD

"Acetate Action", an initiative set up by the VJA for the transferring of aging acetate discs to CD-R for preservation and public access, has won a coveted Museum Industry Recognition Award 2000 for Conservation, at a recent International Museum Day awards presentation.

Ray Marginson, Chairman, and John Kennedy, Curator received the award from the Honorable Mary Delahunty, MLA, Minister for the Arts and Education, (see photo) who has shown interest in visiting the Archive in the near future. The Executive Director of Museums Australia (Vic.), Ms Jessica Frean writing in the Melbourne Herald – Sun, described the Archive as "displaying the ingredients of a healthy, robust museum. Most of the group is made up of retired jazz musicians who are copying and preserving jazz recordings from across Australia"

"Acetate Action" has now reached the point where over 75 CD-R discs contain some 100 hours of Australian jazz recordings, mainly from single one off acetate recordings, dating back to

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new members & Life members.

Page 3 : Book and record reviews.

Page 4 : Recent Donations.



JAZZ EXHIBITION

As mentioned in the last VJAZZ newsletter, from 1 December, 2000 to 25 February 2001 the Victorian Jazz Archive will be mounting a jazz exhibition at the Arts Centre, St. Kilda Road Gallery, in conjunction with Performing Arts Museum, Screensound Australia, and the Melbourne International Jazz Festival. The Performing Arts Museum Curator, Ms Margaret Marshall, will professionally curate the exhibition, with the provisional working title of "Melbourne - Cradle of Australian Jazz", and the possibility of touring to Canberra later in 2001. The exhibition will be focussed on the strengths of the Archive's collection, namely musical instruments, photographs, posters and memorabilia. Sound, video, slides and data base demonstrations will be available. Unique for this type of exhibition will be the inclusion of live music at the weekends, in the form of solo piano, and small groups. The venue would not be suitable for larger group performances. The November VJAZZ newsletter will contain all the details, so make sure you come and see the VJA collection displayed at its very best. JK

CONSERVATION AWARD

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1942. Ninety-five per cent of these recordings have never been issued commercially, and the core of the program has been the transfer of the acetate collection of our Patron, William H Miller, comprising 320 sides of valuable heritage Australian jazz recordings. Many local and interstate collectors have forwarded further copies on loan for transfer, thus presenting a wide range of performances now safely preserved for the future. JK

REGISTRATION AND ACCREDITATION

The Archive was successful in May with its application to Museums Australia (Vic.) to become a registered museum. A lengthy and detailed submission outlining the structure and purpose of the Archive, along with collection and preservation procedures, was presented and accepted.

Following registration there is a three year period to attain accreditation by May 2003. The accreditation procedure entails the monitoring by the museum industry of the workings of the Archive, and its continued pursuit of higher conservation and preservation standards, and includes the upgrading of public facilities. Accreditation will hopefully give greater access to State Government funding, and the employment of a paid part time Curator. JK

VISITORS

Now the Archive is open to the public two days a week (Tuesday and Friday -10am to 3pm) there has been a constant stream of visitors to view the Archive at work. In the last two months, notable visitors have included, Roger Bell, Ade Monsborough, Frank Johnson (from Noosa), Adrian Jackson, Martin Jackson, Eric Myers, Diana Allen, and also Mal Eustice, Pam Swanson and Arno Ramp from Adelaide. Musicians Graeme Pender and Jex Saarelaht have been using the facilities of the Reference Library for research purposes. From ScreenSound Australia in Canberra, Ian Gilmour, Preservation Manager, and Jane Van Balen, Australian Jazz Archive Collection Management, were very interested and welcome visitors. JK

NEW MEMBERS

Performing Arts Museum; Lee Treanor; Mollie Clarke; Marge Burke; Brenton, Suzanna and Brock Coombs; Margaret Ricketts; Andrew Thompson & family; Neil Murray & family; and Frank Dunlop.

LIFE MEMBERS

Nigel Buesst; Kim Harris; Sam Meekin; Evelyne Perks; Brian Brown; and Ron Halstead.

EQUIPMENT DONATIONS

Our Membership Coordinator, Liz Currie, has kindly donated a video recorder, in excellent condition, for the Reference Library, plus a coffee percolator to supplement the workers' caffeine fix.

Ashley Keating, of Louisiana Shakers fame, has generously donated a CD player to be used in the Public Access area of the Library.

Ron Halstead, our intrepid computer manager, has donated a Canon SLR camera and copying stand, to be used in the yet-to-be-completed photographic room, so that objects (awards etc.), LP covers, can be photographed for transfer of the image to the database. We will also be able to copy deteriorating photos for archiving. JK

RECENT DONATIONS

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Lee Treanor has loaned for copying acetates of the Yarra Yarra Jazz Band with Ken Colyer, and also the Climax Quartet.

Martin Jackson, Melbourne Jazz Co-op Coordinator, spent a few hours at the Archive recently, and left a number of posters and tee shirts, with a promise to alert contemporary musicians and collectors about the Archive in his newsletter. JK

NEW GRAEME BELL CD AVAILABLE SOON

Through the good offices of Eric Brown the Victorian Jazz Archive has gained the opportunity of importing limited stocks of a new CD due for issue in the UK late this month (July). The disc is being issued on the Harlequin label under the title **Graeme Bell and his Australian Jazz Band - The Unheard Titles of 1948**. There are 20 tracks in all, from sessions in April, May and June 1948, including many alternate takes, remastered by John R T Davies and with notes by Jim Godbolt.

Prices and availability will be notified as soon as information is to hand.

RECORD REVIEWS

THE RAY PRICE QUARTET in concert Armidale NSW 03-08-65
Ray Price, bj; Bruce Johnstone, bar, c, as, f; King Fisher, t; Col Nolan, p.
Jack Mitchell FJM-001

This is one of several CDs available to members from the VJA (\$25 incl GST and post). It is really a 'must have' for anyone with a liking for the jazz that Ray Price gave us in the years from 1947 until his death in 1990.

Recorded live in Armidale, the session contains a wide variety of material, 12 tracks in all, and the first impression is that Col Nolan is a great rhythm pianist; the beat that he produces, backed by Ray Price's solid banjo, is enormous.

We are lucky this session has been preserved. King Fisher and Bruce Johnstone are both excellent in their respective roles. JR

THE PORT JACKSON JAZZ BAND Sydney, 1958.

Collective personnel: Ken Flannery, t; Dick Hughes, p, v; Ray Price, bj, g, elg; Harry Harman, sb, bb; poss. Pat Rose, John McCarthy, c; Billy Weston, tb; Frank Coughlan, tb, fh, t, v (tracks 7-16 only); John Sangster, Johnny Blevins, d.
Jack Mitchell FJM-002

Another item available to members from the VJA (\$25 incl GST and post), this was recorded by a solicitor and jazz fan, Dick Vale, at various venues. As Jack Mitchell says in his notes "although Dick did a marvellous job in recording this music....he failed to keep full details of the personnel and dates of recording".

It matters not. This is great jazz, particularly the tracks with Frank Coughlan, which were recorded at the Arts Ball at the Trocadero on November 7, 1958.

The irrepressible Dick Hughes is there on piano (and occasional vocals), and John McCarthy on clarinet. It all brings back some happy memories.

On this disc, as on the previous one, there are some sudden endings to several tracks, but it doesn't really matter. JR

AUSTRALIAN TRADITIONAL JAZZ
PIANO – GRAHAM COYLE Solos and Duets, with Simon Stribling, Freddy Parkes, Joe Stevenson and John Withers. No catalogue number. Recorded in October 1998

Also available to members from the VJA (\$25 incl GST and post) this CD, issued by Graham himself, contains 18 glorious tracks in which he shows what a master of his craft he is.

Graham acknowledges the fact that "Jelly Roll monopolised my musical development for years in my early 20s", and thus there are five Morton compositions here – "Kansas City Stomp", "Mr. Joe", "Spanish Tinge", "Sweet Substitute" and "Tom Cat Blues". In these 5 tracks Graham is supported by John Withers on banjo on 1, 2 and 4, while Joe Stevenson plays bass sax and clarinet on 5.

There is a group of three Fats Waller tunes – "Ain't Misbehavin'", "Black and Blue", "My Fate is in Your Hands" and also a Waller Medley comprising "A Hundred Years From Today", "My Very Good Friend The Milkman" and "I've Got My Fingers Crossed", all three of which have some fine trumpet solos, both muted and open, by Simon Stribling. The last of these tracks, with Simon's lively open horn, especially in the closing stages, is a gem. Shades of Ellis Larkins and Ruby Braff.

Graham's other main influence, Earl Hines, is represented by "Blues In Thirds" and "You Can Depend On Me".

Freddy Parkes adds his inimitable clarinet sound to "Robins and Roses" and a beautiful rendition of "When You Wish Upon a Star", while other tracks are "Embraceable You", "Easy Living" (what a great tune!), "Yancey Revisited" (a tribute by Graham), "I'm Coming Virginia", and the final one, "Muskrat Ramble", described by Graham as "a brief romp around this war-horse in a couple of keys" with the assistance of John Withers.

Graham says in his notes "an hour's dump of piano music can be deadly, so I invited some musicians to perform duets to be placed here and there to give listeners a break". To which I would say that he had no need to worry, for an hour of Graham's solo piano is a great pleasure, and the addition of the supporting musicians simply increases the enjoyment of this collection.

BOOK REVIEW

The Melody Maker History of 20th century Popular Music
Nick Johnstone – Hard Cover
Bloomsbury \$49.95

Melody Maker, first published in 1926 and still going, at first a monthly and later a weekly, once was required reading for jazz collectors. Edited by Edgar Jackson (who wrote at first a large proportion of the contents, and also produced jazz record sessions), it contained record reviews and news of musical events in Britain and elsewhere. Its masthead proudly proclaimed that it was "The only independent Magazine for all who are directly or indirectly interested in the production of Popular Music". Of course before and during the Second World War 'popular music' included jazz, swing, dance music, small bands, big bands, blues singers and other vocalists, so in those days *Melody Maker* was a useful source of jazz information.

But from the jazz point of view this book is a disappointment. The first three chapters: 1. **The Late Arrival of the Jazz Age: 1926-34;** 2. **The Swing Era: 1935-45;** and 3. **Hail Be-Bop!: 1946-55,** covering 88 of the 398 pages, are interesting enough in spite of the author's tiresome literary style of quoting freely from what seems like every issue. After that it's all down hill. **The Rock 'n' Roll Years: 1956-62;** **The Beatles and The Stones: 1963-69;** through to **Grunge, Rap and the New Dance Culture: 1990-94** and **Britpop and the New Pop Explosion: 1994-98** contain little of interest apart from the occasional mention of a jazz personality (mainly Miles Davis, oddly enough).

If anyone really wants to read this book, it's in the VJA library. JR

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Following John Kennedy's resignation from the position of Secretary, in order to give more time to his duties as curator, I have taken on that job and with it the production of this newsletter.

JR

CASH DONATIONS

Royston Coldicott; Elizabeth Durré; Max Marginson; Ray Marginson; Wal Mobilia; William H Miller; Deslys Milliken; and John Rippin

RECENT DONATIONS

Over the last three months there has been a flood of donations to the Archive, keeping the staff exceedingly busy, but nevertheless it is a very satisfying experience to know that the Archive now has the confidence and support of the jazz fraternity.

Whilst all donations are important to the Archive, some collections given to us are of great significance in the overall history of Australian jazz.

In April, Mike Hancock and Jackie Das-Gupta arrived at Wantirna from Anglesea with a utility truck crammed with the memorabilia of 11 years of the Limerick Arms Hotel Jazz Club, including recordings, tapes, posters, diaries, programs, band promotional material etc. Included are hundreds of photographs, many framed and mounted, of the jazz artists, Australian and overseas, who appeared at the Limerick Arms. Those members, who attended this wonderful venue over the years, and accepted Mike and Jackie's hospitality, will have treasured memories of the array of musicians who performed there. Needless to say the Archive thanks Mike and Jackie for donating such a large slice of Melbourne's jazz history.

On his recent overseas venture to the USA, Ron Halstead accepted from James S Jones, of Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif., the Australian jazz collection of the late Shannon Clarke. This collection comprises 85 tape recordings made by Shannon in Australia and Hawaii of Australian groups in the 21 years he came to attend the Australian Jazz Conventions, before his death in 1998. Interestingly there are four tapes of the Bob Barnard Quartet recorded at a bar in Hawaii. Special

thanks to Ron, who picked up the tab for the considerable freight cost, and to James.

Last issue we reported the donation from the Bruce Chalk Estate, by his widow Margo Chalk, and family, of 73 books for the Reference Library. In May, Margo donated a further 502 audio cassette tapes with relevant catalogues, all annotated in Bruce's neat handwriting. Other donations of books have come from Truda Olson, John Rippin, Jack Ricketts, Pat O'Connor and Ray Bradley.

Roger Beilby, in the middle of his recent "Jazz On Saturday" 3CR program devoted exclusively to the Archive, donated an icon of Australian jazz in the form of Ade Monsborough's white plastic alto saxophone. Also Librarian Tom Wanliss accepted 46 magazines and 2 programs for the Reference Library. Thanks to Roger for allowing Ray Marginson, John Kennedy and Tom to be involved in the program, and for this important donation.

Neil Murray, now retired professional photographer, has donated his wonderful collection of Australian jazz photos and accompanying negatives. All the great photos of the early Australian Jazz Conventions have the Neil Murray byline, and the Archive will be using many of these in the forthcoming Jazz Exhibition. Also Neil left 14 copies of the booklets for the "Time-Life" series.

Diana Allen, of Jazz Australia, and a very staunch supporter of the Archive, recently called to see the Archive at work, and left donations of black & white 35mm slides used in the "Return to the Uptown Club". Also books, magazines, photographs and a full set of "Jazz Australia" Newsletters dating back to 1985.

Margaret "Maggie" Fitzgibbon

recently donated material pertaining to her brother, Graham "Smacka" Fitzgibbon, including photographs, cuttings, and CDs.

John Sharpe, of Canberra, and AJANC delegate, forwarded on behalf of the Ed Rollgejsr estate, posters, programs, badges, and recordings of Melbourne groups playing in Canberra.

Denis King of Roselands, NSW, sent a tape of a Duke Farrell radio program "An Affectionate Look at Frank Coughlan"

Jack Litchfield, Canada, sent two DAT tapes of unissued Graeme Bell material, from their trips to UK and France. Also from overseas, George Hulme (UK), sent two copies of "Just Jazz" magazine featuring articles and photos of the Graeme Bell Band playing at the RAF base at Yatesbury in November 1947. Eric Brown loaned for transfer, two reel to reel tapes, of the Yarra Yarra Jazz Band with Wild Bill Davison, and a church service organised by Nick Polites. Eric also forwarded from the Dick and Shirley House Collection, 61 copies of the "Quarterly Rag"; 74 copies of the VJC Jazzline" magazine and two colour photos, one of which shows Shirley with Johnny Dodds' son, Rudolph.

Victorian Jazz Club Members had a special day at the Archive in May, and donations were received from Geoff Plaw, Colin Martin, Bob Ashworth, Mari Ann Patterson, John Conheady.

Musicians to donate their own CDs, posters, etc have been, from Perth, WA, Danny Moss and wife Jeanie Lamb, who have been naturalised Aussies for a number of years, and local contemporary pianist Jex Saarelait. Jex has been using the Reference Library for a research project in which he is currently engaged.

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THE VICTORIAN JAZZ ARCHIVE
IS OPEN EACH TUESDAY
AND FRIDAY
10:00 am TO 3:00 pm
OR BY APPOINTMENT
WEB SITE: www.vicnet.au/~vjazarch
Email: vjazarch@vicnet.net.au

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