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VJAZZ

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN JAZZ ARCHIVE

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CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

By Ray Marginson

The jazz world mourns the loss of George Tack, one of Australia's individual musicians and singers. George's passing after a long period of illness was remembered at a wake at the Rosstown Hotel on Monday 7th October. The VJA send our sincere condolences to Lorna. Also I had the sad business of my brother Max's funeral.

He was an early member of the jazz Archive, a founder of the Melbourne High School Jazz Society and briefly played an interesting style clarinet, before electing to concentrate on biochemistry.

Despite the refusal of support from Arts Victoria, the committee have managed to create a new working space and storage area beyond the containers. This is now painted, carpeted and fitted with steel shelving and filing cabinets, purchased from the Performing Arts Museum. When we can raise the necessary finance it will be air-conditioned. The room has been named the "Ron Halstead Room" as a tribute to our founding sound engineer and generous donor.

A great new development by the energetic and tireless Marina Pollard is the creation of the "Over 25 Jazz Musician's Workshop 2002". This follows on the completion of the extremely successful

Junior workshops held weekly at the Archive. This project although not under the auspices of the Victorian Jazz Club, will run for seven weeks.

It is Annual General Meeting time again, and this year we revert to our own premises. For details see the enclosed flyer. There will be the usual BBQ to follow (BYO all but bread and salads). There will be music from the VJA Workshop Band and the Eric Child Exhibition will be launched, and a sneak preview of the Bob Davidson painting exhibition (see back page). Also the Archive Shop is having it's first Sale of LP, 78rpm recordings and CDs. We hope to see all members there.

We wish to give everybody advance notice of a major fundraising event to coincide with the Melbourne International Jazz Festival. Over two nights in **January 22nd and 23rd**, we will be holding a Jazz Cabaret, with the Frank Traynor Reunion Band at **45 downstairs** in Flinders Lane. There will be an exhibition of Frank Traynor memorabilia in the gallery space.

This is all being done with the wonderful help of entrepreneur Diana Allen, a great supporter of the Archive. We desperately need to raise funds as our financial position at the moment is under quite a deal of strain.

We rely on your help and support for this important function.

VALE

It is with regret we announce the passing of the following Jazz identities. Obituaries will follow in the next newsletter.

**George Tack, well known musician and larger than life personality
Max Marginson, loved brother of our President, bon vivant and one of our
founding members.**

**Bob Davidson, musician, artist and leader of La Vida Jazz Band. An exhibition
of some of Bob's paintings will be on view at the A.G.M.**

The Committee and Members express their deepest sympathies to family and friends

RECENT DONATIONS

Bill Haesler, of Balmain in Sydney has forwarded a further donation of material from the Eric Child collection, bequeathed to Bill by Eric's widow, Angela. And what a collection of material it is! As mentioned in the last issue of VJAZZ we had received a bronze bust of Eric along with photographs of Eric and Angela with Louis and Lucille Armstrong. This time Bill has forwarded a priceless item in one of Louis' white handkerchiefs autographed by the members of the Louis All Stars, and the touring group. Also included are three photos of Lucille back in 1936 when she was acquainted with Eric in London, and a photo of Eric from the same period. There is the Order of Australia Medal awarded to Eric in 1979, plus assorted correspondence including a letter from Clem Semmler. All this material will be on permanent exhibition from the date of the AGM.

Allan Browne, who is on the road to full recovery after his lung transplant, has donated two CDs "Some Sweet Day" and "Out of Nowhere". Graeme Bell has forwarded his copy of the George McWhinney Method of Modern Piano Playing (1930). As Graeme says in his letter "I learned from him personally, and this is a replica of what he taught me. His tuition, and classical training from Jessie Stewart Young comprises the sum total of my musical training. To them, plus the invention of the gramophone, I owe everything". Graeme also sent two admittance cards to Leonard's Cabaret "Chicago Club" 9th April 1941, and Young Jazz Lovers Society "History of Jazz" at the Stage Door 276 Flinders Street on 9th August 1941. The Graeme Bell band were the featured attraction on each occasion. Kevin Goodey of Forestville, NSW delivered a batch of Australian and overseas 78s, plus two CDs of the Peoria Jazz Band and the Sydney Swing Five.

Regular donor Geoff Orr has been busy producing new titles for his Lyric label, and has donated the following CDs by "Gus Merzi - Dizzy Fingers" - "Bob Gibson- Talent In Abundance" - "The Legacy of the Cairo Club Orchestra" - "The Green Mill Palais Picture Orchestra and the Rex Cabaret Melb 1920's" - "Singers and Swingers Volume One with Edwin Duff" - "Charles and Beryl White" - "George and Gary Dobson - That's My Dad" and "Russ Arno Sings".

Leon Trimmings, one of our hard working volunteers donated three books and a cassette. Bob Pattie, of Gordon sent via Eric Brown a plethora of magazines, programs cuttings, posters, scrap books and photocopies of the sheet music of all the Australian Jazz Convention Original Tunes. Also via Eric, Jim Mills sent a packet containing photos and a video. Len Davis donated a complete set (68) of "Jazz Notes" and 9 magazines and programs.

Ian Williams left two volumes of his CD "Ian Williams & Friends". Diana Allen one of very regular donors, donated two videos, four overseas LPs and 14 Australian jazz CDs. Tony Newstead left a photo of himself with George Tack, and Don Reid. Don Anderson donated a photo of George Tack, Willie McIntyre and Ion Nicolades taken at Clem Meadmore's house. Whilst on photographs, Neil Mowat from West Midlands, UK, sent to Jeff Blades wonderful colour photographs of Bob Barnard and trombonist Roy Williams, plus Bob with Humphrey Lyttleton, and with altoist John Barnes.

Drummer Ron Lennon loaned a number of black and white photos for copying to Photo CDR for preservation and donated a 1950 photo of Keith Hounslow, Ian Pearce, Mark Albiston, Ray Simpson and Ron, on the back of a truck advertising "A Dance Supreme" at the Collingwood Town Hall on the 29th July, 1950. Lois Stephenson keeps the videos coming, and recently lodged another 12 videos covering the "Southern Highlands Jazz Festival", "The Moe 11th Jazz Festival" and the "16th Grampians Jazz Festival -Hall's Gap".

Geoff Swift donated 20 cassette tapes of the Downbeat Centenary Concert to be sold in the Archive Shop. Denise Dwyer of the York Jazz Festival in WA donated posters and an Andrew Firth CD. Verdon Morcom of Sydney sent to our Chairman a copy of the CD "The Abbotsford Session - June 1944". Marina Pollard kindly donated a watercolour of Nick Polites. Alan Martin forwarded a radio script he wrote for 3XY "An Introduction To Duke Ellington" plus some cuttings. Gerry Koster of Newmarket Records donated 10 Australian Jazz CDs, with a promise of more to come. Martin Jackson handed over copies of the Perth jazz News magazine, brochures and a cassette and CD of Australian jazz. We thank Elvie Simmons for the delightful photo of her and Duke Ellington, shown on the opposite page.

John Kennedy, Collection Manager

The Committee wish to appeal for the donation of used (new if you like) carpet or carpet tiles. Also we badly need a refrigerator in working order for the kitchen. Contact Gretel or John.

GENERAL ARCHIVE NEWS**AGM.**

Enclosed in this issue is the notice for the Archive's Annual Meeting to be held on Sunday 27th October, 2002 in the Archive's Library. Attendees will have a preview of the Bob Davidson Exhibition of jazz paintings, along with the unveiling of the Eric Child permanent exhibition. Any member wishing to nominate for the General Committee is asked to contact our Public Officer Don Anderson as soon as possible for the necessary nomination forms.

NEW VOLUNTEER

It is with great pleasure that we introduce a new volunteer to our general Collection Management team. He is Jason George from Victoria in Canada, who is a student in Museum Studies at Deakin University just down the road in Burwood Highway. Jason has had extensive experience in Canada in digitization of photographic material and Web page design. He is working with the Collection Manager in formulating a program of transfer of loan photographs to CDR for preservation. This also applies to rare and fragile photographs and posters.

STRINGY BARK FESTIVAL

The Knox shire is holding its annual Stringy Bark Festival at the Rowville Community Centre, Fulham Road, Rowville on 19th & 20th October, 2002 from 9am to 5pm. This is annual Festival and is a real fun place to be. As part of our commitment to the local community, the Archive will have a stall inside the Centre, with a small exhibition of photographs, merchandising items and general advertising material on the work of the Archive. We will be very pleased to see or members supporting this Festival, so come along and say "hello".

LIBRARY DAYS

Commencing Sunday 10th November the Archive's Library will be open each second Sunday of the month during the daylight saving period for the loan of jazz books and magazines.

NEW MEMBERS SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER**LIFE MEMBERS**

Victorian Jazz Development Association.
Melbourne Jazz Co-operative

ANNUAL MEMBERS

Heather Allan, R.N.Boys, C Bryant, Michael Clarke, Kaye Greaney, Keith Hamilton, Tom Harling, Tom Harrison, Gus Leich, Kevin Leydon, Jim Loughnan, Mike McKeon, Clint Smith, Ian Travis, Frank Van Den Boom.

CASH DONATIONS SINCE THE LAST ISSUE OF VJAZZ

Max Marginson

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP TO THE FERN TREE GULLY UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE.

At a recent Executive Committee Meeting it was decided to confer Honorary Membership of the VJA to the Jazz Appreciation Course of the U3A, Fern Tree Gully. We feel that the Archive should recognise the work the course administrators do in presenting the history of jazz music to their students, and we as part of the local community offer the resources of the Archive to help with the research, needed to assemble these programs especially using our Library facilities. The course administrator is Maggie Kamiensky, a name know well in jazz circles.

VJC WORKSHOP REPORT by Marina Pollard

When I was appointed Workshop Co-ordinator earlier this year, I did not anticipate the sheer joy it would be to work with such an enthusiastic group of young people and with the jazz musicians who passed on their knowledge and jazz experiences.

For nine weeks the Workshop was led by Graeme Pender (reeds) with the assistance of Wes Brown, Jim Mills, Maurie Fabrikant, Tony Newstead, Clint Smith, Ron Trigg, Ian Smith, Fred Clark and Ivan Videki.

The first band called themselves "Jazz Retro" and the second is called "Jass Roulette". Both bands played five tunes each and as a finale they all joined together to play and sing *Varko Yiallo* with Graeme Pender and special guest Nick Polites—a wonderful experience for our young musicians. Thank you, Nick.

Each week the practice was held in the Victorian Jazz Archive Library, and whose help and assistance played a big part in this year's workshop being so successful. A special mention also to Archive Committee members Jeff Blades and Margaret Harvey, who were in attendance for every session.



Singer, Elvie Simmons can't decide between "The Kissing Bug" or "Prelude To A Kiss", but Duke Ellington seems to like it!
Photo donated by Elvie Simmons.

EXHIBITION OF JAZZ PAINTINGS AND PRINTS BY BOB DAVIDSON

OFFICIAL OPENING

SUNDAY, 10TH NOVEMBER, 2002 AT 12 NOON IN THE ARCHIVE'S LIBRARY.

This special exhibition of jazz paintings and prints by the recently deceased musician and artist, Bob Davidson, has been arranged by the Archive in conjunction of Ms Judi Anderson and the Davidson family. Bob who was leader of the La Vida Jazz Band painted the members of the band plus musicians from New Orleans, also our own Bob Barnard.

Examples of other jazz art work by Bob will also be on show.

At the close of proceedings a barbecue will be provided by the committee of the Archive. For further details contact the Secretary, Gretel James on 9800-5535 (Tuesday & Friday)

ERIC CHILD PERMANENT EXHIBITION

With the lodgment of material by Bill Haesler from the estate of Eric and Angela Child, the Archive has decided to mount a permanent exhibition of this most important material. Included is a Louis Armstrong white handkerchief autographed by the members of the All Stars, photos of Lucille (Wilson) Armstrong from 1936 given to Eric with suitable inscriptions, a bronze bust of Eric, plus his OAM medal and his ABC 20 years service medal. Also included are photos of Eric and Angela with Louis and Lucille in Sydney.

The official opening of this permanent exhibition will take place on the day of the Annual General Meeting—27th October, 2002

NEW WEB PAGE— WWW.VICNET.NET.AU/~VJAZARCH

The Committee and members wish to thank member Peter Robb for his untiring work over the last six months in redesigning the Archive's Web Page. The original page was designed by the late Ron Halstead, and was in urgent need of updating, and Peter responded to the call. Whilst still not complete as yet the page offers all the needed information on the Archive's Mission Statement, Project Brief, Collection Policy, Location, History, Membership advantages and subscription forms, along with some photos showing the inside of the Archive. If you have any suggestions to offer Peter on the form of the page, his e-mail address is listed on the home page. We are hoping to add the current VJAZZ Newsletters in the near future. Ultimately it is the intention of the Archive to have our InMagic database available via the web.

ARCHIVE SHOP SALE

To reduce the stock of deaccessioned items of LPs and 78rpm recordings in the Archive Shop, the prices have been heavily reduced. Some CDs are also reduced in price. One new CD of importance is "The Last Will & Testament of John Sangster" (\$30), reviewed in the last issue of VJAZZ by Tom Wanliss. **SALE. SALE. SALE. SALE. SALE. SALE.**

GIVE A GIFT CERTIFICATE FOR CHRISTMAS

Wish to give a Christmas gift to a partner or friend? Gift certificates are now available from our Secretary Gretel James, for any amount. The certificate can be used in the Archive Shop for CDs, LPs, Books, Videos, etc or for a membership subscription or renewal.

THE VICTORIAN JAZZ ARCHIVE IS OPEN EACH TUESDAY & FRIDAY FROM 10.00AM TO 3.00PM.
OR BY APPOINTMENT.

DONATIONS OF \$2.00 AND OVER

Made to the VICTORIAN JAZZ ARCHIVE Inc are **TAX DEDUCTIBLE.**

(EXCLUDES MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS)

The Victorian Jazz Archive wishes to acknowledge the support of the following organisations. Arts Victoria and the Community Support Fund through the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Parks Victoria. The Ian Potter Foundation. The Myer Foundation. The Pratt Foundation. The Trust Company of Australia. The Helen McPherson Trust. The Archive gratefully acknowledges the financial support given to our Capital Fund by Dame Elisabeth Murdoch A.C., D.B.E. and the Estate of the late Ron Halstead, and the Estate of the late Don Boardman.

VICTORIAN JAZZ ARCHIVE INC

6TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE V.J.A. INC.

WILL BE HELD ON

SUNDAY 27TH OCTOBER 2002

IN THE ARCHIVE BUILDING AT "KOOMBA PARK"
MOUNTAIN HIGHWAY, WANTIRNA, VICTORIA
(PARK ENTRANCE OPPOSITE 'NUTRIMETICS' BUILDING – MELWAYS 63 C8)

COMMENCING AT 12.00 NOON

BUSINESS

1. OPENING ADDRESS BY DR RAY MARGINSON A.M.
PRESIDENT OF THE VICTORIAN JAZZ ARCHIVE INC.
2. APOLOGIES
3. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE 5TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT THE ROSSTOWN HOTEL, CARNEGIE, ON NOVEMBER 25TH 2001.
4. RECEIVE REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT
5. RECEIVE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH
SECTION 30(3) OF THE ASSOCIATIONS INCORPORATION ACT 1981.
6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
7. CLOSE OF BUSINESS OF A.G.M.

NOTE:

MEMBERS UNABLE TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MAY APPOINT A PROXY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES OF THE V.J.A. INC. (RULE 19 (1) AND 19 (2). PROXY FORMS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST. COMPLETED FORMS TO BE RECEIVED BY SECRETARY NOT LESS THAN 24 HOURS BEFORE THE A.G.M.

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR A SOCIAL AFTERNOON FOLLOWING THE A.G.M. BARBECUE FACILITIES, BREAD AND SALADS WILL BE PROVIDED BUT PLEASE B.Y.O. DRINKS AND MEAT.

OUR ARCHIVE SHOP WILL ALSO BE OPEN FOLLOWING THE A.G.M.

Gretel James
Secretary

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**ANNOUNCING
THE RELEASE OF THE FIRST VJA MEMBERS ONLY CD.**

It has been the intention of the Victorian Jazz Archive to start releasing material from the Archive's vaults, so the Committee has agreed to produce two series of CDs, namely "Historical Series" and "Contemporary Series".

The criteria used will be to issue where possible, all previously unissued performances.

The Historical Series will feature performances up to the mid 70's and will contain tracks with some minor imperfections of clicks etc., the historical significance outweighing all else.

The Contemporary Series will feature later recordings where the sound will be of very good to excellent quality, again all unissued material.

The first release **VJAZZ 001** will be from the Contemporary Series.

FRED PARKES NEW RHYTHM KINGS - 1987 including Bill Howard, Graham Coyle, Leon Heale and Ian Smith. There are two tracks of Fred playing with Art Hodes, John Scurry, John Bartlett and Allan Browne.

This CD will be available at the AGM.

All "Members Only" CDs will sell for **\$20.00**

VJAZZ 002 "The Melbourne—Hobart Sessions—1943 –1949" featuring Tom Pickering, Roger Bell, Ade Monsborough, Rex Green, Keith Stackhouse, Col Wells, Ian and Ced Pearce. These are taken from the acetate collection of William H Miller, of which six tracks have not been listed anywhere. Marvelous stomping music.

Due out prior to Christmas.