



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN JAZZ ARCHIVE INC.

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CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

This has been an excellent quarter for the Archive. Through the generous initiative of Diana Allen and the tremendous response of the musicians who played on two nights, at no cost, we had a phenomenally successful Frank Traynor Memorial at **45 downstairs**, Flinders Lane. The contributions also of Judith Durham and Helen Violaris on the Wednesday and Thursday nights respectively were quite outstanding. We owe all these a very great debt, and to them goes the credit for the substantial addition to this year's operating funds. It was a life saver. Despite our increased membership (now 276) and the great success of our shop, costs are also rising. We now have to find \$12,000 a year to operate and are still about \$4,000 short annually.

Our heartfelt thanks to all those who contributed so much and willingly on the nights, not the least being our own volunteers on the door, in the setting up of John's fine exhibition and in the other hundreds of tasks. David Ward's contribution to the audio was once again a key one. To Mary Lou Jelbart, the Director of **45 downstairs**, and her staff also go our thanks and finally, again, to Diana Allen, Judith Durham and Helen Violaris.

Most Jazz lovers will know that one of our 3 Honorary Life Members, Roger Bell, whose sensitive lyrical cornet, characteristic composing, singing and driving ensemble trumpet were the corner stone of the 1940's and 1950's Jazz Revival in Melbourne has had to give up playing, due to ill-health. This is a sad milestone in the history of Australian Jazz. A similar decision has been made for health reasons by another of our Honorary Life Members, "Father" Ade Monsborough, another major and significant figure in the post-war period, as a multi-instrumentalist, composer and singer.

Many of us had the pleasure of hearing Michael McQuaid, the outstanding 21-year-old brass and reed player, at a recent tribute to Ade organised by Diana Allen. Ade would have been proud to hear so many of his compositions played with such understanding by his protégé. It is great that we can still hear both these great Australian Jazzmen on excellent recordings. Archive members will be pleased to know they feature on projected CD releases under the "Jazz From The Archive" label. More about that later.

Ray Marginson

Judy Durham and John Kennedy at the Frank Traynor Tribute



VICTORIAN JAZZ ARCHIVE OVER 25'S WORKSHOP BANDS OPEN DAY SUNDAY 13TH APRIL 2003

**Gather together your friends and relatives and join us for a day of
Music, Conviviality and a Picnic Lunch.**

**Each band will play a bracket of 3 numbers taking
approximately 5 minutes per number,
with an approximate 5-minute changeover between bands,
All of which is of course subject to change.**

**The bands will start at 12 noon and will play
until approximately 3.00 p.m.**

**Bring along a picnic lunch to enjoy on the lawn,
also tables and chairs, cold drinks and glasses.**

The Archive will supply tea, coffee, milk and sugar.

**Your guests will be able to view the Archive
at some time during the afternoon.**

If the weather is inclement all can be moved inside.

If you have any questions please phone Marina Pollard 9781 4972 or Rick Church 9889 3125

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, 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 unissued material where possible.

The first release VJAZZ 001 from the Contemporary Series

FRED PARKES NEW RHYTHM KINGS - 1987

Including Bill Howard, Graham Coyle, Leon Heale and Ian Smith

2 tracks of Fred playing with Art Hodes, John Scurry, John Bartlett & Allan Browne

This CD is available NOW!

All "Members Only" CDs will sell for \$20.00 plus \$5.00 postage

VJAZZ 002 Historical Series "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
Marvelous stomping music. Due out early May.**

SENIORS DAY A HUGE SUCCESS

Whilst we officially opened at 10.00 a.m., visitors arrived as early as 9.00 a.m. and the last visitor left at 4.30 p.m. Talk about from far and wide; people came from Broadmeadows, Footscray, Port Melbourne as well as the eastern and south eastern suburbs. Publicity from all the media helped bring new faces to our door. Fortunately we were able to cope with the continual stream of visitors thanks to a large roll up of regular volunteers and Friends of the Archive. What impressed most people was the depth and variety of Australian and overseas material they were able to see. Visitors were able to watch a video and listen to David Ward playing piano, ably accompanied by Rick Church on drums and of course were welcomed with refreshments. We signed up some new members and made several sales from our shop. We hope to do the same next year and perhaps do even better.

RECENT DONATIONS

Because of space limitations this report was absent from the last issue of VJAZZ, but the volume of donations continues unabated. To fit everything in to this issue, most donation acknowledgements will be rather brief.

Allan Browne forwarded two of his band's CDs "Some Sweet Day" & "Out of Nowhere". Ian Williams did the same with "Ian Williams & Friends" Part 1 and Part 2. Graeme Bell donated the George McWhinney Piano Course, used by Graeme when he attended George's Music School. Graeme also included 2 rare admission cards from 1942. Denese Dwyer, of the York Festival in WA, gave a copy of an Andrew Firth CD recorded at the Festival. Verdon Morcom has produced a recording of his group from June 1944 entitled "The Abbotsford Sessions". Neil Mowat of Norton Stourbridge UK kindly forwarded colour photos he took of Bob Barnard with Roy Williams, Humphrey Lyttelton and John Barnes. Marina Pollard donated a water colour of Nick Polites. David Campbell donated a large photo of a band from the 1947 Australian Jazz Convention.

The Eric Child Permanent Exhibition has attracted a deal of positive comments, and we have to thank Bill Haesler for most of the material. Mike Sutcliffe has also forwarded five photos of Eric from the early days. These will be used in the exhibition as we will rotate the photographs each three months. Sid Bromley of Queensland sent "Tich" Bray's clarinet complete with case. Geoffrey Orr has been busy producing CDs of unusual performers, and we have received three recently. Regular donor, Diana Allen brought in a variety of material, including correspondence with Eric Child and an oil painting of a black band from New Orleans. Another regular donor, Neil Murray, donated some 35 mm slides and photos of Ken Evans. David Meale posted two photos of the Cootamundra Jazz Band 1974. Our Librarian, Ric Church, gave two wax discs from his late father's collection, and although not jazz material, these are being kept as an example of this rare type of recording. In the same vein, Bill Gouty donated an Edison Cylinder Talking machine with cylinders, needless to say not jazz material.

Trombonist Harry Price loaned a tape of Des Edwards to be transferred to archival CDR, and some interesting photos. Martin Jackson donated a Gerard Masters CD. Helen Violaris gave some interesting photos and posters some of which were used in the Frank Traynor exhibition at the **45 downstairs** concert. Ron Jobe forwarded 10 photos he took at the Helen Violaris concert. Jason George also took photos at both concerts which he donated. Ray Marginson gave 2 CDs, besides a list of material from brother Max's collection. Harold Phillis from South Australia forwarded via Don Anderson a very interesting photo of the Maison De Luxe, Elwood showing the Frank Johnson Band and some dancers. John Dewhurst donated 35 posters and 12 jazz club membership cards. Raymond Raeburn arrived at the door with a bundle of Australian jazz cuttings and a copy of a Graeme Bell concert on tape.

Sid Bridle, a close friend of John Sangster from the very early days, donated 13 photos of himself and John, mainly from early Jazz Conventions, together with 4 magazines/programmes one signed by Benny Carter. Elvie Simmons sent via Liz Currie three photos taken in the late 1950's. Liz herself brought in 8 photos from the VJC Footy Match, and two colour photos of Papa Cass' Dixielanders. (Madam) Pat Thompson donated a copy of her recently published autobiography "She's A Fat Tart Ain't She", Tony Standish sent two newspaper articles on Dick & Shirl House, and on Noel Savage, who was drummer in Len Barnard's South City Stompers. Nevill Sherburn sent a colour photo of Frank Traynor's funeral and a copy of his research into the "SWAGGIE" label. John Trudinger of Nif Nuf Records left two copies of the Ralph Sutton and Kenny Davern "Revelations" CD. Allan Martin of Glen Iris added to our magazine collection with two copies of "Melody Maker" (1930 and 1937) and 22 copies of the UK "Rhythm" magazine dated from 1934 to 1937. Volunteers Tony Lambides and Leon Trimmings keep a steady flow of various types of material coming to the Archive, and I know they will forgive me for not listing it all. Their efforts, like all of the donors, is the life blood of the Archive's Collection. Ian Horbury, of Mildura left 22 reel to reel tapes of the 1986, 1992, 1993 and 1994 Mildura Jazz Jamborees.

All donations are not recordings, photos and books, some being equipment, furniture and the like which makes the Archive a more efficient place for the volunteers to work. Peter Grey donated a large plan drawer with 10 drawers suitable for the storing of posters. This will be shared between the Archive and the Australian Jazz Convention Archive. A very good working computer was given by Ray Marginson from Max's estate, and has been put to good use in the Ron Halstead Catalogue Room. Jeff Blades is a very handy craftsman, and has made a wooden stand for our "Tubby Tuba" donations receptacle; a stand for the Eric Child bronze bust, and brought two scrappy looking desks back to life again. He was also responsible for the large and visible numbers used on the doors of the emergency exits.

Joan Kennedy

GENERAL ARCHIVE NEWS

JOHN SANGSTER CALENDAR

Urban Print & Design in Brisbane have kindly donated to us a large quantity of 2003 Calendars featuring John Sangster together with Graeme Bell, Lou Silbereisen, Ade Monsebourg, Roger Bell & Bud Baker, Jack Banston, Stewie Speer, Graham Spedding, Graham Lyall, Lin Christie, Pat Rose, Col Nolan, Ray Price. Each month's photo is 30 cms x 40 cms and is ideal for framing. These were provided by Petra Sangster and are available from the Archive for just \$5 as the year is marching on. Posted they would be \$10.00. Our thanks to Urban Printing, Brisbane.

NEXT EXHIBITION

Following the success of the Frank Traynor and Bob Davidson exhibitions we will have something totally different starting April 1st. The Archive is staging an exhibition to celebrate the Melbourne Jazz Co-op's 20th Anniversary comprising photos, posters, art work and memorabilia. We are hoping to attract a number of new people to the Archive so that those who have felt that we only deal in more traditional jazz will see that we are here to preserve all styles of Australian Jazz. It is important to remember that the Jazz of today, whatever the style, is the history of tomorrow.

BIG CAR RAFFLE PRIZE

Win a Car or Four-Wheel Drive and at the same time help the Archive's finances. The Archive has decided to participate in the Monash Community Raffle in 2003 organized by 8 Rotary Clubs. Tickets are \$20.00 for a book of 10 or \$2.00 each, and apart from winning either a Toyota Camry Sedan or Toyota Four Wheel Drive there are also prizes of stereo TV and DVD to be won. For each book we sell we receive \$14.00 back. Tickets available from the Archive—and hopefully one of our members will win, at the same time adding to our finances for further extensions.

NEW EDITORS OF VJAZZ

As you are probably well aware, our Collections Manager, John Kennedy, works like a Trojan at the Archive—taking a lot of his work home. He has at last relinquished one of his many tasks—that of co-editor of VJAZZ. His job will be taken by Leon Trimmings and we hope to keep up the good job done firstly by Michelle Boardman then by John Rippin and then for the past two years by John Kennedy and Gretel James. Thanks John. We would welcome *Letters to the Editor*, comments or short articles. We also apologise for mistakes made in the last edition. We stand corrected.

NEW MEMBERS SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER

LIFE MEMBERS

Pamela, Lady Vestey.

ANNUAL MEMBERS

David & Wendy Myers, Donald Gibb, Peggy Morris, Daryl Atkins, Lorna & Trevor Atkins, Brian & Suzanne Collings, Pat & Ted Schleiger, John Dewhurst, Margaret Champion, Sidney Bridle, Alan Clark, Frank Carroll, Helen Violaris Butcher, Jason George, Les Chapman, Ted Boyle, Nicholas Bamford, Shane Anderson, Kieran Blyth, Roy Garnier, Joel Cox, Jeanette De Foe, Mitchell Freeman, Ben Pratt, Julian Shapendonk and Mark Woodward, Naomi Callender, Nick Ellul, Antonio Ricchetti, Justin Sorbello, Jonathon Spagnolo, Dominic Guinane, Geoff Kirkman, Nicki Walsh. Welcome to you all.

CASH DONATIONS SINCE THE LAST ISSUE OF VJAZZ

Pamela, Lady Vestey, Liz Currie, John Ritchie, Leon Trimmings, Peggy Morris.

FREE VIDEO LENDING LIBRARY

All financial paid up members of the Victorian Jazz Archive can now borrow from a fine selection of Jazz Videos. Amongst the titles we have on hand are Big Bands such as Charlie Barnet, Benny Goodman, Les Brown, Artie Shaw and other Jazz Greats such as George Shearing, Clark Terry, Lil Armstrong, Cab Calloway plus Jazz orientated movies like the Dorsey Brothers Story, Lush Life and Stompin' at the Savoy. All videos are Pal VHS suitable to play on the majority of video recorders sold in Australia. A maximum of 2 videos at a time with a borrowing period of no more than 30 days apply. We hope to increase our range available for loan by acquisition and hopefully donations from our members.

FRIENDS OF THE ARCHIVE

Two of our regular "Friends" Mollie Clark and Marg Burke, have resigned but we welcome two new faces to help with this important job. Margaret Cleaver and Frank Carroll have joined our team. These "Friends" welcome visitors and show them around and explain what we do out here at Wantirna. When there are no visitors they do any little tasks, however menial, to assist. They are the equivalent to the "Pink Ladies" in hospitals! We still have a couple of spaces left and would welcome two people who could each spare say one day a month. Please ring Gretel on 9800 5535 if you are interested. We are still looking for a gardener to give us a hand.

COMMITTEE NEWS

We are pleased to report that Ray Bradley is still making a good recovery following his bout of ill health and car accident. However, not so good is that Jack Ricketts has had to resign from the Committee as Assistant Collection Manager but fortunately for us he will still be putting in a few hours at the Archive.

SUNSET CAFÉ

We recently had an enquiry about our Sunset Café—had to point out that it is not exactly a café where one can buy anything to eat but it is an area complete with table and chairs where we will be happy to give you tea/coffee and biscuits but anything else is strictly BYO.

VALE—JOHN RIPPIN

John Rippin, who died unexpectedly on the 24th February, was our initial Vice-President, Chairman of the Finance Committee and later Auditor. To assume the latter role he voluntarily resigned all his offices and, in so doing, saved us \$400 a year in audit fees.

His depth of experience as an accountant and financial manager was important to our early operations and he worked closely with our treasurer Don Anderson.

His professional career was an outstanding one. In the first year of self-government, he went to Papua New Guinea as Secretary and Finance Manager of The Harbours Board, assuming responsibility for 16 ports and administering a \$6 million World Bank loan. He became expert in this area and gave advice internationally, for instance as a financial consultant to the World Bank.

From 1979 to 1992 he had an Australian practice as a Financial Consultant for the Northern Territory Government on ports, airlines and general transport problems. He also returned to New Guinea to review the Harbours Board. In recent years he has had his own accounting practice. John's background was not something he talked much about; like many at the Archive, his community achievements were notable.

He saw his contribution to the work of the Archive as a logical follow-on from his great interest in jazz and friendship with many seminal jazz musicians. It had been part of his life from the 1940's when he edited "Blue Rhythm" for the Adelaide Jazz Lover's Society. He was of course the third Editor of the key magazine "Jazz Notes" founded by Bill Miller, and contributed to the Australian Jazz Quarterly. He was meticulously accurate in all these roles, as many will know who read his polite note in our newsletter correcting an error I had made in a piece on Ade Monsborough's manufacture of recorders.

Many will remember his presidency of the 7th Australian Jazz Convention in Melbourne.

I personally greatly appreciated his dry and ironic sense of humour, the quiet comment often deflating pomposity or correcting ambiguity.

He delighted in notices in buildings that said "This Door is Alarmed", commenting they terrified him! In his last letter to me he observed that he had used the toilet marked "Disabled" at the Archive, but found it worked perfectly!

He was a one-off personality, widely read and knowledgeable on classical and jazz music — his friends will greatly miss him.

Ray Marginson

VALE—DAVE DALLWITZ AO

Just as we were going to print we heard of the sudden but peaceful death on 24th March of Dave Dallwitz aged 88, sitting at home in Adelaide watching television with his wife Joan. He was a legend in Australian jazz circles, not only for his playing but his prolific composing abilities. He was a regular at Australian Jazz Conventions, having attended the first in Melbourne and many more. Dave was an accomplished artist, having taught for many years and many of his paintings have been hung in the South Australian Gallery. Our condolences to Joan and the rest of his family. A more comprehensive obituary will be included in our next newsletter.

IT WOULD BE FUNNY IF IT WASN'T SO SERIOUS

You've heard about explosive drummers like Buddy Rich and the local muso's exploding about poor pianos or acoustics, but have you heard about exploding discs?

It seems that old or damaged computer discs can't keep up with some of the new super duper CD computer disc drives.

Hard to believe? Well we thought so until the high profile Australian Consumers Association started issuing warnings. Apparently their back-room boffins found that about 2 in every 10,000 discs can cause a risk of injury and consumers ought to be aware of the danger.

CD drives with speeds of 48+ and higher have had discs that could not cope, spraying shards in all directions. Flawed or imbalanced discs, those say with imperfections, e.g. small crack in the centre or an off-centre label, can cause many of the problems due to the sheer force of high speed spinning.

Well, now we have told you about the problem, how can you minimise the chances of this happening to you?

- Rule 1: Check CDs for cracks whenever you put them in the computer drive.
- Rule 2: Always take out the CDs from your computer drive when not in use.
- Rule 3: Make sure any home-made CD labels are properly centered before sticking them on.

The Australian Consumers Association also points out that professional and home-made CDs are equally at risk.

From our technical officer

Happy Birthday Greetings to two of our Australian ladies of song—jazz singer Kate Dunbar and jazz/cabaret singer Madam Pat Thompson, both having reached the golden age of eighty.

DONATIONS OF \$2.00 AND OVER Made to the VICTORIAN JAZZ ARCHIVE Inc are TAX DEDUCTIBLE. (EXCLUDES MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS)

ARCHIVE SHOP

Members 10% Discount

NEW CD RELEASES - All \$25.00 unless otherwise marked

Len Barnard's Jazz Band "The Early Years—1952-54"

Ade Monsborough "Recorder in Ragtime"

Mary Louise Hatch "Little Girl Blue" \$20

Nichaud Fitzgibbon "After Hours"

SELECTION OF CD'S FROM BOB BARNARD'S JAZZ PARTIES

1999, 2000, 2001

\$25 single CD

\$35 double CD

JAZZ FROM THE ARCHIVE - VOLUME ONE

FRED PARKES NEW RHYTHM KINGS—1987

FEATURING ART HODES \$20

VIDEOS

JAZZ SCRAPBOOK— BENNY FEATHERSTONE—

GERRY HUMPHRYS "THE LOVED ONE" \$29 ea

"THE TWENTIETH AJC SYDNEY, 1965"

"TALKING WITH ADE" \$20 ea

BOOKS

"EVEN MORE AUSTRALIAN JAZZ ON RECORD"

(EMAJOR) by Jack Mitchell \$25

**WIDE SELECTION OF AUSTRALIAN JAZZ CD'S,
CASSETTES & BOOKS AVAILABLE**

THE VICTORIAN JAZZ ARCHIVE IS OPEN EACH TUESDAY & FRIDAY FROM 10.00AM TO 3.00PM. OR BY APPOINTMENT. AS DAYLIGHT SAVING HAS FINISHED WE WILL NO LONGER BE OPEN ON SUNDAYS.

The Victorian Jazz Archive Inc 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. the Estate of the late Ron Halstead, and the Estate of the late Don Boardman.