

VJAZZ 59 AUG 2013 Distribution 650



**Proactively Collecting, Archiving and Disseminating Australian Jazz** 



# EPs of the 1960s

Great Melbourne Jazz Performances from a Selection of Extended Play 45s

CAT. 526





QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF THE VICTORIAN JAZZ ARCHIVE INC. FOUNDING PATRON: The late WILLIAM H. MILLER M.A., B.C.L. (Oxon.) 15 Mountain Highway, Wantirna Melway Ref. 63 C8 (All correspondence to: PO Box 6007 Wantirna Mall, Vic. 3152) Registered No: A0033964L ABN 53 531 132 426 Ph (03) 9800 5535 email: info@vicjazzarchive.org.au. Web page: www.vicjazzarchive.org.au



- 02 Letters to the Editor
- 03 The Long and the Short
- **04 "Memphis" finds a Star** By John Tucker
- **06 Mr. Brown, What is an EP?** By Bill Brown
- 08 Fundraiser at the Burvale
- **09 Rudy Vallée and Jazz** By Ken Simpson-Bull
- **10 Geoffrey Brian Bland** By John Roberts
- 11 Digitisation Training Day at the Jazz Archive

#### Images:

Bill Brown Tom Lucas John Thrum Dr Pam Clements Ken Simpson-Bull



Front Cover Image: Available from the Archive retail shop VJAZZ 022

Chairman

#### Magazine Editorial Committee

John Thrum Dr Pam Clements Dr Mel Forbes Terry Norman Ken Simpson-Bull

#### **Board of Management**

Terry Norman	President
Jeff Blades	Vice President
Ray Sutton	General Manager
Mel Blachford	<b>Collections Manager</b>
Gretel James	Secretary
David Mc Dowell	Treasurer
Dr. Mel Forbes	
Margaret Harvey	
Dr.Ray Marginsor	ו A M
Barry Mitchell	
Marina Pollard	
Ralph Powell	

Location VJA Inc. "Koomba Park" 15 Mountain Hwy. Wantirna Mel Ref 63 C8 Open Tues & Fri, 10am-3pm

## Letters to the Editor

#### VJA Volunteers at Stonnington Jazz 2013

This year several volunteers from the Archive assisted in the running of the Stonnington Jazz Festival at the Malvern Town Hall. Terry, Faye, Mel and John performed door duties and sold CDs on behalf of the performers on their respective nights.

With the kind permission of Stonnington Jazz, the Victorian Jazz Archive had a small display of posters, a table of pamphlets and a screen showing live Australian jazz. We were not overwhelmed with inquisitive visitors but we did attract some very interested visitors including at least one from interstate who was unaware of our activities at Wantirna.

The success of the 10-day event is summed up by Peter Redding. (Extract only.)

#### Message from Peter Redding:

I just wanted to pass on my thanks and appreciation for collective contributions to the outstanding success of Stonnington Jazz 2013. This year's festival has set new attendance and box office records for shows at Malvern Town Hall and Chapel Off Chapel, gigs at other participating venues did very well also.

Finally, I want to thank our volunteers for their support and good humour. You play such an important role as the public face of Stonnington Jazz and you all do it so well.

Keep enjoying 100% Australian Jazz, see you in 2014.

Thanks Peter Redden Coordinator Arts, Culture and Events, Cultural Development and Events Unit,

As the VJA has actively supported Stonnington Jazz regularly in a volunteer capacity and by mailing out programs with VJAZZ magazines we are keen to continue in the spirit of cooperation in years to come. In return, Stonnington Jazz has supported us with mailing-out costs for which we thank them very much. A very big thank you.

### We Welcome these New Members:

Ian Aikenhead, Ron Anderson, Claude Arnould, Ilda Balaban, Christina Balog, Lachlan Biasuzzo, Robert Boxshall, Robert & Annette Bryson, Ian & Fay Chisholm, Roger J. Clark, Kasani Clarke, John Crichton, John Curwood, Scott Davis, Janet Dix, Matthew Fenwick, Marcus Finne-Larsen, Fred Gaudion, Leon Heale, David Hincksman, John & Angela, Hodder, Robert Horman, R. Smith & K. Howard, Walter Kane, Greg King, Barry Law, Anvi Malik, Judith & Mervyn Martin, Ken & Patricia Maxfield, Geoffrey W. Miller, Layton Moss, Antony Nikolic-Paterson, R. Mark Norton, Frank Nowlan, Aiden Parker, Agnes Rac, John Robertson, Tony Roddam, Janet Roffey, Michael Roffey, Ron Sandilands, Susan Sayer, Eric P. Shugg, Alan Swann, John Turner, Graeme Warden, John Arthur Weller, Catherine Williams, Pippa Wilson, Carey Wolhuter, Kerry & Bill Wood, Mark Zerafa.

# We would like to thank the following for their generous donations:

Ian Anderton, Maggie Beare, BlueTone Jazz Band, Wreford Cleeve, Pauline Collins-Jennings, Peter Dann, Kate Dunbar OAM, Claudette Elias, Doreen Fabrikant, Peter J. Fullarton, Bryan Clothier, Geelong Jazz Club, Angela Glover, David Goldsworthy, W. Grossman & A. Forrester, Prof. William Hare, Graeme Huntington & Jane LaScala, John Kennedy OAM, John & Dorothy Kessner, Jan Kuplis, Maureen Lawson, Jean MacKenzie, Betty Marginson AM, Dr. Ray Marginson AM, John May, Eileen Mc Intyre, Deslys Milliken, Malcolm Mitchell, Wal & Jill Mobilia, William Muddyman, Michael O'Brien, Mario Proto, Max Rendell, Ringwood Secondary College, Ann Scriven, Warwick & June Shields, Ralph B. Stride, Grahame & Judith Taylor, Lee & Bev Treanor, Frank Van Straten OAM, Cecil Warner, Tom Woods.

#### DISCLAIMER

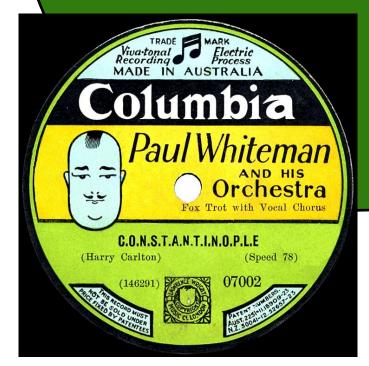
Opinions and views expressed in editorial and contributed articles are those of the authors and are not necessarily those of the Archive. The editor reserves the right to publish abridged articles/special features due to space restraints. The Archive, editor and the authors expressly disclaim all and any liability to any person, whether an Archive member or not, who acts or fails to act as a consequence of reliance upon the whole or part of this publication. The editor reserves the right to not publish any articles, correspondence or illustrations that may be offensive or contrary to VJA practices and policies. Publication of an advertisement does not necessarily constitute endorsement by the Archive of any product nor warrant its suitability. Advertisements are published as submitted by the advertiser. E&OE.

VJA BOARD OF MANAGEMENT





# The Long and the Short



E came across the following items in our international collection of Jazz 78s which amosed us. First, what must be the shortest song title of all time, namely "O". Then we discovered a title with the longest list of single letters, this time "C.O.N.S.T.A.N.T.I.N.O.P.L.E."

Just for fun we looked for a two-letter title and sure enough we found "OW!".

# "Memphis" finds a Star

### By John Tucker

the St. George's Church Hall. Back in the 1960s the hall committee's president was Kemble Miller who decided to run a casual weekly dance to be called "The Memphis Club". The University Jazz Band, with which I was playing at the time, got the gig. I was on clarinet with Derek Phillips on that I arranged for a friend of mine to trumpet. Dr. Vin Thomas on trombone, record a few numbers on a reel-to-reel Nick Ribush (leader) on piano, Ron Williamson on double bass and sousa, Bud the tape and I thought no more about it fort-quote: "The chord book proved Baker on guitar and banjo, and Kuzz until a couple of years ago. The only instrumental in changing my musical Currie on drums. We opened first week of February 1962 and ran the full year.

EHIND the Malvern Town Hall is The crowd felt that they were hearing and got knocked back again." something special, stopped dancing and crowded around the bandstand. They finished. Kemble Miller appeared and offered her the gig on the spot. Nick, as leader, wasn't even consulted.

> I thought this girl sounded so good gadget a week or two later. He gave me thing written on the box was "Memphis". direction more than a decade later". Ken Simpson-Bull from the Victorian

I talked to Judith about her limited jazz repertoire, and offered to help her gave a great roar of applause when she build a more substantial one. Over many nights in the ensuing weeks, she joined me after work and together we put together a chord book starting with the songs of Bessie Smith, Ma Rainey and Mahalia Jackson from their many jazz standards. In Judith's biography "Colours of My Life" she pays tribute to our ef-

At the end of 1962 we were rested



Ron Edgeworth, Patsy Tucker, Beverley Sheehan, John Tucker, Kate Tucker, Judith Durham, Susan Tucker, John Tucker.

beautiful young girls approached the bandstand and chatted to Vin between have given a copy to Judith. Regrettably, the last two brackets. The smaller of the the original sound is not up to profes- Durham went with the job. It seems that two introduced herself as Judith, the sional standard, but it has great histori- Frank wasn't too happy to have a singer taller one as her sister Beverley. Judith asked if she could sing with the band and Vin told them to return next week and he'd arrange it for her. We thought no more about it. Such a request was a that she went out one Saturday night to fairly common occurrence.

However, the next week they turned up. Judith asked again if she could sing mainstream material. Although this waswith us, so Vin and I each took hold and hoisted her up onto the stage. She had a theless she asked the band leader if she maiden name was Durham, that's what list of four tunes—Alexander's Ragtime could sing. Band, Cake Walkin' Babies, See See down," said Judith, "then he turned me Rider, and Somebody Loves Me. She down. I suppose I looked an unlikely band Ron Edgeworth put together a sang, and by the end of her first number singer, and he didn't think I'd be any stage show entitled "An Evening with something wonderful had happened. good. I went somewhere else after that Judith" which they took on tour around

On the first Friday in November, two Jazz Archive transferred it to a CD and from the Memphis gig. by the time you are reading this I hope to Judith" became Judith Durham!

> Prior to **Memphis**, Judith remembers the 431 Club. The band wasn't really a (of Downbeat fame) about Judith and he jazz band, but instead played more suggested that she change her surname n't how she pictured her debut, never-"He looked me up and she adopted.

> Kemble then employed the Frank Traynor Jazz Preachers on the proviso that Judith cal interest to lovers of one of the truly whom he hadn't heard included in the great voices in the world because deal, but the quality of the Preachers matched the singer; it was a superb combination

> > Around this time I told Bob Clemens (which was "Cock") as that wouldn't work in Show Business. Because her mother's

Ten years later, Judith and her hus-

Australia. In the first half of the show Ron accompanied Judith at the piano. After interval she was joined by a sixpiece Dixieland band which included me on clarinet, and Dick Tattam on trumpet. Ron played the trombone in this segment—very musical but rather rorty. I forget the other names in the band. The venue was the *Comedy* Theatre, where we did six evening shows and two matinees—eight 2-hour shows.

The audience reaction was amazing. The Melbourne Herald critic wrote

"Durham parted the dark clouds on Saturday night ... she had all ages standing on their seats, roaring their approval".

I was asked to do the whole tour but other commitments got in the way and I could only manage Adelaide, a week at *Her Majesty's*.

For this we took our three children out of school and had a glorious family holiday. The weather was perfect, beach every day, the show with Judith every night, how lucky can you get? I don't remember who the Adelaide musos were.

The accompanying photo was taken at the Copper Grill restaurant in the Park Royal Motor Inn where we were all staying. From the left are Ron Edgeworth, my wife Patsy, Beverley Sheehan (Judith's sister), I'm in the centre, my children Kate, Susan, and John and of course Judith Durham. When the show moved west to Perth, we wended our way home.

Judith's biography is written by Graham Simpson, and a beautiful tribute to a wee dot from Balwyn. The book is available for loan to members from the Archive's library.

## **BRING A FRIEND**

It's so nice to share things with friends, isn't it? Then, how about convincing one or more of your friends to join the Victorian Jazz Archive, and enjoy the benefits of membership?

Our own membership recruiting efforts can only go so far, but with your help we can grow much faster, and we're asking you to try and sign up one or more friends as VJA Members. Not only will this help us to achieve our goal of self-sufficiency, but there's a treat in it for you as well. For every friend who joins us as a full \$40 Member and mentions your name you will receive, **free-of-charge**, a CD from our VJazz Series of rare Australian recordings.

**<u>By Mail</u>**: Please fill in the enclosed Membership Application Form, ensuring that the name of the referring Member is included, along with their preferred VJazz CD

**<u>By Phone</u>**: Call us on (03)9800 5535, Tuesday or Friday, between 10AM and 3PM EST

**Online**: <u>www.vicjazzarchive.org.au</u> and click on Membership. At lower right you will find two options for registration and payment. If your friend joins online, they can mention your name and your VJazz CD preference by means of a brief email to <u>memberships@vja.org.au</u>

### Want to Talk?

As the Jazz Archive continues to upgrade our capability to document and share our ever-growing collection, we also look for ways in which to enhance our offering of benefits to Members, as well as increasing our appeal to our younger Members.

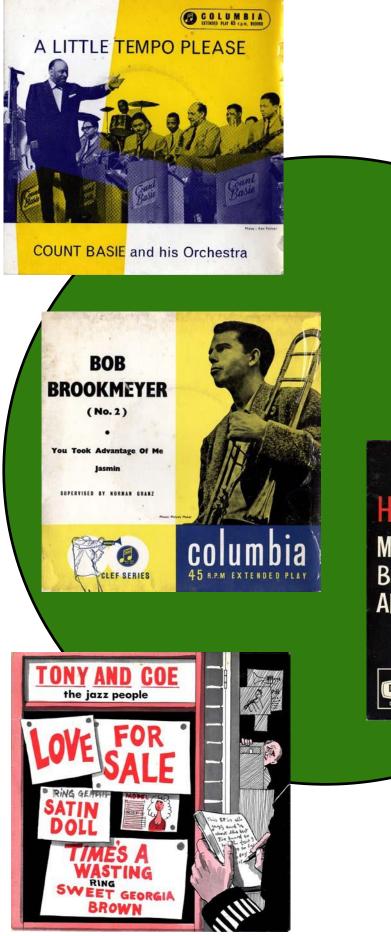
We plan to hold a consultation session with interested Members, in the form of a facilitated focus group, accompanied by lunch, sometime in September. We envisage that this group will come up with a detailed membership benefits proposal, which can then be further tested and refined before being implemented.

If you would like to participate in this activity, please contact our Membership Manager, Mel Forbes, at <u>memberships@vja.org.au</u> or leave a message on 0417 104 197. Mel will be on leave at the time of publication of this Magazine, but will respond to offers in early September.

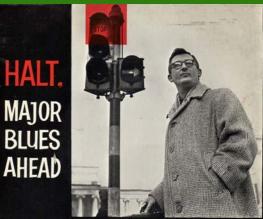


Under 25's Jazz Improvisation Workshop recently completed.

Here is 90 year old Wes Brown giving Aidan Parker some drumming tips









KEITH CHRISTIE JAZZ QUARTET

## MR. BROWN, WHAT IS AN E.P? By Bill Brown

tapes, magazines and of course the vinyl items, don, Bunny Berigan and the modern men of LPs and EPs. The thirtyish solicitor reading this list that fifties/sixties era Gerry Mulligan, Charlie Parlooked up and with a puzzled expression on his ker, Miles Davis and Bob Brookmeyer. The face asked that immortal question. "Mr. Brown, more purist school is not ignored however. George What Is An E.P.?"

too much like a figure from a bygone era, how the ous Brits are there. Humph, the swinging Chicago disc revolved at 45 revs. There was usually four style of Alex Welsh and the rumbustious band of tracks of music on the disc, two on each side etc. I Mick Mulligan (George Melly's alter-ego) sit also mentioned that an E. P. often contained tracks cheek by jowl with the modernists, Kenny Graham from a previously issued 10 inch or twelve inch LP.

was re-arranging my vinyl record collection on my from a 1960 film called The Criminal. The UK Provshelves. I sat looking at the EPs' covers and read- inces are represented by The Saints from Maning the sleeves. Waves of that old devil 'Nostalgia' chester and the Clyde Valley Stompers from Glasswept over me as I recalled their purchase in the gow. dim distant corridors of my youth.

left school it was some years before my financial circumstances were adequate enough to allow me to indulge in the lifelong obsession of acquiring the seductive contents of those round black objects flood of the small discs put out here at that time. that took over my life, bringing the joys of Mahoga- Some have made it to CD, hopefully, others will ny Hall, the Apex Club or the sinister dives of Har- follow. However, I still have my collection on hand lem into my under-heated suburban Scottish bed- and I can while away the time absorbing those colroom. "Turn down that racket." My dear father was ourful sleeves. I wonder what that young solicitor no Jazzer.

all the rage, I had no 78 records in my growing collection. However, as well as LPs, I had a stack of 45s. Some of them accompanied me on my early By the way, what is an iPod? trips to sea before I acquired a reel-to-reel tape deck which made life easier. Even the slightest movement on a ship could play havoc with a turn- Technical Note: A normal 45rpm seven-inch vinyl table.

My perusal of the collection (about sixty EPs) in recent times recalled the circumstances whereby I purchased them. They have now been transferred to CD. They provide a varied fare, a real crosssectional view of my tastes over a sixty-odd year play". span. About six of Count Basie, running from the forties through to the then fifties. Atomic Basie session with the cover depicting an atomic explosion

HAT INDEED? Some years ago I had rea- which caused some consternation in critical circles son to update my will. Among the effects I of the time. Similarly Duke Ellington is present as mentioned my jazz collection, CDs, books, are other mainstays like Fats Waller, Eddie Con-Lewis and his British counterpart Ken Colyer I explained, as best I could, trying not to sound represent the post-war New Orleans revival. Variand his Afro Cubists, trombonist Keith Christie This conversation sprung back to my mind as I and the Johnny Dankworth Big Band with the music

By the time I arrived in Melbourne I had stopped Although I was smitten by the jazz bug the year I buying the EP. The only Australian one I have is a Graeme Bell on the Spotlight label made in 1952 in Melbourne just before the band folded.

My loss obviously, as I now know, there was a looks at in his leisure time. His iPod I guess. Maybe As by the late fifties, the microgroove scene was someone, in the future years, will ask him earnestly "What is an iPod"?

disc played for around 4 minutes per side. By spacing the grooves closer together and extending them nearer to the centre of the record, the playing time could be extended to around 8 minutes per side, hence "extended

## FUNDRAISER AT THE BURVALE

ROUND 130 happy people attended the recent Victorian Jazz Archive fundraiser held in May at the Burvale Hotel, featuring the **Hot 'B' Hines** Jazz Band. The band played a variety of traditional favourites to a very enthusiastic audience.

For those who have not heard this band before they have a great Dixieland sound with the bass player equally adept at both string and bass instruments. The members consist of Ken Collins trumpet, Barry Currie reeds, Herb Jennings trombone, David Hines banjo, John Huf bass, and Wally Joosen drums.

Whilst only a few got up to dance, the Archive's indefatigable Maria was up for every one. Pictured here are some of the scenes on the day.

Following our successful sessions at the Burvale Hotel, the VJA fundraisers will now be moving to the Clayton RSL, which also plays host to the Victorian Jazz Club and other jazz-related events. Please refer to the enclosed flyer or to the VJA website for further details.





## **Snail Eradication**

Four times a year a group of volunteers at the Jazz Archive meet in the Reference Library for a brief burst of frenetic activity, of the sort seen in small organizations the world over – the magazine mailing. Boxes of papery components explode all over tables, to ultimately find their way into about 650 plastic mailing sheaths which are stacked neatly into Australia Post tubs.

It's actually fun participating in the mailouts, but it's also a costly business, with printing and mailing costs running into the thousands of dollars annually. You could help us to reduce our costs by opting for email delivery of your magazine. You'll be rewarded with a full-color version (the snail-mailed version is in black and white) sent to you on publication day. All you have to do is fill out the form which came with this mailing, and send it to us by mail, by scan file attached to an email, or simply send us an email (info@vicjazzarchive.org.au) stating your preference.





#### **ONLINE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

We're pleased to announce that membership renewals can now be done online, by credit card, Paypal, or by direct deposit to the Victorian Jazz Archive. Your renewal notice will give you full details. Alternatively, for credit-card or Paypal payments, go into the Membership page on our website at <u>http://www.vicjazzarchive.org.au</u> and find the payment option at the lower right-hand corner of the page.



## **Rudy Vallée and Jazz** By Ken Simpson-Bull

UDY VALLÉE and Jazz? Indeed! Firstly I have to confess to having a soft spot for the "sweet" dance bands of the 1920s and 30s. "Rudy Vallée and his Connecticut Yankees" was one such band, so when I noticed Mr Vallée's autobiography on the shelves of the Archive's reference library I decided to have a read. It was an early effort, written in 1930 when Rudy was just 25 years of age, just a couple of years after his phenomenal skyrocket rise to fame. He called his "Vagabond Dreams Come book True".

Starting in his early teen-age years Rudy studied clarinet, but particularly the saxophone. His idol was the famous saxophonist of the time, Rudy Wiedoeft. Although Wiedoeft was not known as a jazz musician he is, nevertheless, listed in Brian Rust's reference book "Jazz Records" as an occasional performer in several jazz bands of the early twenties.

Vallée was so enamoured that he had dozens of pictures of Rudy Wiedoeft pasted all over his dormitory room at university. So much was his devotion that his class mates started calling him *Rudy*, instead of his real name, *Hubert*. The name stuck!

So what prompted me to raise the subject of Rudy Vallée? In his autobiography is this short chapter entitled "Jazz". It gives a quaint, period snapshot of how a non-jazz musician of the time regarded jazz, and as such, I believe, makes an interesting read. Rudy writes:

I have found that those who use the word [jazz] frequently, in reality know nothing at all specific to its meaning.

To some it is "peppy" music, to others a lot of noise, and to still others it is the waving of instruments in the air. I have found no two people who give the same definition of the word.

The real propagators of the word were a group of men in New York, who, back in 1918 and 1919, banded together and called themselves the Dixieland Jazz Band. The outstanding characteristic of their records, as I recall "The Ostrich Walk" was that there was no distinguishable melody; every man seemed to be striking out for himself, playing a part of his own and only taking care that it did not conflict with the general harmony. These men were the first to use the term, and through their success the word came into wide-spread popularity.

But today [1930] "jazz" is applied to

almost any form of orchestra or band music which is not strictly classical, and this is a grave error, inasmuch as dance music may be just as sweet and beautiful as true classical music. Therefore I believe it is absolutely incorrect to use the word so indiscriminately.

The unusual feature of my own orchestra is a clearly defined melody at all times, therefore I do not see how we could rightly be characterized as a "jazz" band; and I would not term our music "jazz," even though I occasionally "laugh" on the saxophone and others in the band play what we term "blue" notes and unusual rhythms.

Whenever possible I correct any publicity that would style our little group of eight a "jazz" band, or me a "jazz" band leader.

"Blue" notes are simply an exaggerated sliding up and down of the pitch of the note [sic] and this is studied in legitimate music, just as arpeggios, rhythms, chromatic runs and accents are all studied and used in legitimate music and in the highest of classical music.

Truly I have no definite conception of what "jazz" is, but I believe that the term should be applied, in view of the fact

that such music came up from the South, to the weird orchestral efforts of various colored bands up in Harlem, the Negro section of New York City. These bands have a style all their own, and at times it seems as though pandemonium had broken loose. Most of the time there is no distinquishable melody; in fact even though they are playing a popular tune with a definite melody, it is absolutely impossible for even a musical ear to tell the name of the piece

It is the similar style of coloured musicians in the South (New Orleans to be exact), that first prompted this group of white men, to adopt that type of music and style themselves the Dixieland Jazz Band.

But the public uses many words the meanings of which are very vague and doubtful and a crusade on my part to attempt to show that the word is incorrectly used in the majority of cases, where the instrumentalist is simply employing legitimate and basic rudiments of music would be absurd. A little reflection on the part of most anyone who thinks at all will show that the word "jazz" nine times out of ten is misapplied.

Although [Paul] Whiteman's music is really symphonized syncopation, occasionally he permits his brass team to play in this Negro style and since he is unquestionably the king of all dance orchestra leaders, he is rightly termed "The Jazz King."

A near mint original 1930 edition of Vallée's book "Vagabond Dreams Come True" is available in the Archive's Reference Library for anyone so inclined to study or read in-house. Incidentally, Rudy Vallée, despite his apparent aversion to jazz, does rate an entry in "Jazz Records". Discographer Brian Rust states: "Neither Rudy Vallée nor his band is usually associated with anything like jazz, but the following are rather exceptional: 'She Loves Me Just the Same' recorded October 1930, and 'This is the Missus' recorded August 1931." It appears Rudy broke out on just two occasions!



Rudy Vallee

## Geoffrey Brian BLAND [Blandy]: 17 November 1928 — 25 May 2013

I was very saddened to hear, by chance on Roger Beilby's 3CR radio programme, of the passing of pianist Geoff Bland in Hobart on Saturday May 25. His funeral was on Friday May 31. As you may know, Geoff was a stalwart of the Frank Johnson band; in fact, Geoff, in letters to me said that he actually started the band. He also played with Roger Bell in his Pagan Pipers.

I first met Geoff I think at the Prospect Hill Hotel in Kew, in the 1960s. Over the years we have had discussions about piano, and had long correspondence about life, old Melbourne days, and music, and I visited him at his various home(s) in Port Stephens, Port Macquarie, Beerwah (behind Noosa); where else? He then moved to his wife Margaret's origins in Hobart, where he had a regular hotel gig until quite recently

I do recall a long discussion with Geoff at a Sydney University convention years ago, during the Original Tunes Competition, over about 5 hours (!), but probably last played with him at Noosa or perhaps at a Newcastle convention, where he and Joe Stevenson gave an inspirational, masterly duet performance in a side room.

Geoff had produced an extensive set of piano charts for sale; I bought quite a few of them; someone (was it Fred Parkes?) bought the lot! I wish that I had the whole range; perhaps I can acquire more from his estate, if I knew whom to contact

But I do have a copy of his studies for jazz piano, which I have attempted a few times, but gave up after a page or two, because of my lack of pianistic skills

I was always bemused when Geoff played with me or in one of my bands; he was always concerned to have the dots or the chords before him. Then when thus reassured, he would plunge into the tune with gusto, without even giving the charts a glance! They were a mere security prop I think.

Some years ago, Geoff Bland once told me about the occasion when the (then) young Stephen Grant came to him (Geoff) for a jazz piano lesson. As I recall it, and according to Geoff:

Geoff said to the redoubtable Steve, " OK, let's see what you can do. Play me "The Pearls"" (This difficult piece is in the keys of G and C, which would otherwise be less difficult keys). Steve rattled off "The Pearls" in masterly fashion, given his young years.

Geoff, trying not to be too impressed, then said to Stephen, "Hmm, not too bad. Now play it in B!" (B natural is an unusual and difficult key for anyone, on any instrument, with its multiplicity of 5 sharps - or 7 flats if treated as C flat). Steve then proceeded to rattle off "The Pearls" in B, without a flaw, Geoff then responded: "Look, I've got only three things to teach you:

Don't turn up late for the job (gig);

Don't turn up drunk;

and make sure you get the right money.

Goodbye."

(Musicians especially would relate to these sentiments - probably being guilty of all three. Marvellous Geoff Bland. Marvellous. Stephen Grant.

Geoff always played with masterful, exquisite taste, and always supremely pianistic. Could one ask for more? He joins the great few of jazz piano, both departed and still living, in my view. I shall sadly miss him

#### Sincerely, John Roberts



Geoff Bland 2nd AJC 1947 Melbourne

## Digitisation Training Day at the Jazz Archive

HE collection of the Victorian Jazz Archive continues to grow steadily, and along with it the need to document the collection and make it accessible to the public via the internet. Moreover, our print collections are merely catalogues of items, with no indexing of their content to facilitate research. In addition, there are numerous items such as musical instruments awaiting photographing and cataloguing. We, at the Jazz Archive, recognize the continuing need for ways in which our collection can be documented and shared, as well as a more integrated database approach than we have at present.



To help us make the best decisions to equip ourselves with appropriate equipment and software, we recently held an all-day Digitisation Training workshop for about 10 selected Volunteers. The workshop, which was made possible by a grant under the Community Heritage program of the National Library of Australia, was conducted by Andrew Stawowczyk Long, of DOHM (Digitisation of Heritage Material). Andrew was responsible for digitisation and development of the Trove database at the National Library in Canberra. He is currently a consultant to libraries and museums, and to the National Archive, and is based in Canberra.

Our trainer covered a range of topics pertaining to digital imaging, including image capture; color management; file sizing; storage media; and file formatting.

Left :Andrew Stawowczyk Long, of DOHM (Digitisation of Heritage Material).

The key principles that we took away from this workshop were the need for systems management of digital images and the desirability of a fully-integrated data management system, as opposed to our current system which spreads cataloguing information over a number of platforms. We're really glad that we had postponed our eagerly-anticipated system upgrade until we could undergo this training, as we now feel that we are in a better position to make a well-informed decision.

We will be continuing to make software and equipment upgrades to enable us to the enhance documentation and sharing of our extensive collection. Your continuing donations are essential in making this possible. If you wish to make a donation to the Victorian Jazz Archive, please call us on 9800 5535, or visit our website <u>www.vicjazzarchive.org.au</u>.



Left: Ilda Balaban, Tom Lucas, Ray Sutton, Mel Blachford, Terry Norman, Jan Roffey, Don Anderson Margaret Anderson, David Mc Dowell, Andrew Stawowczyk Long.



## **KEYBOARD CORNER**

We carry a huge range of all instruments, and offer special pricing to Victorian Jazz Archive members Contact Craig Johnston KEYBOARD CORNER 137 Boronia Road, Boronia 3155 9761 0003

PLEASE NOTE THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT MAGAZINE IS END OF SEPT 2013



## The best in instruments The best after sales service

Everything to do with brass and woodwind instruments 578 North Road,Ormond, Victoria. 3204 T. 03 9578 3677 www.ozwinds.com.au





**New Melbourne Jazz Band** and **Anita Harris and Friends** will perform in October, Tuesday 8th and Friday 11th at the Archive.

In partnership with the Victorian Seniors Festival the **New Melbourne Jazz Band** will also be at the Melbourne Festival Hub at the Melbourne Town Hall on Thursday October 10th.

Admission is Free to all these events.

Below: Anita with her father, pianist, Kim Harris.





The Victorian Jazz Archive acknowledges the past support of the following organisations: The State of Victoria through the Department of Premier and Cabinet and Arts Victoria, Parks Victoria, The Ian Potter Foundation, The Myer Foundation, The Pratt Foundation, The Trust Company of Australia, The Helen McPherson Smith Trust, Diana Allen of Jazz Australia, The Australian Jazz Convention Trustees, The Estates of the late Don Boardman, Ron Halstead, David Ward and Ward McKenzie Pty Ltd. and Sam Meerkin. The Archive gratefully acknowledges the financial support given to the VJA Capital Fund by Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, A.C., D.B.E.