



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN JAZZ ARCHIVE INC.

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EDITOR : Gretel James

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

This newsletter opens on a very sad note, recording the death whilst working at the Archive of our friend and colleague Leon Trimmings. Gretel James writes in a separate memorial in this issue of his tragic early death. Leon was someone who had, from the outset of his participation, made a very substantial and creative contribution to the work at Wantirna, particularly in his role as Media Officer and, one of his initiatives, the installation of changing displays in city libraries.

Another piece of sad news is that Roger Bell is in Epworth Hospital with heart trouble. This comes just weeks after Bill Miller, our Patron's second session in that same hospital. More cheerful is the news of the long planned visit to us by two senior people from the Victorian Ministry for the Arts, Michael Nation and Martin Hallett. They were impressed with what has been achieved, as was Bob Barnard who has also been out, on the Friday of his Jazz Party starting.

The ceremony at the Victorian College of the Arts went well and Tony Gould is having a bronze plaque installed. The afternoon was made pleasant not only by the excellent refreshments but by the playing of Tony Gould himself and also of Monique Dimatina, a talented recent graduate who livened things up with Fats Waller's 'Numb Fumblin' and Jay McShann's 'Hooties Blues'. We also were delighted to hear Ashley Cross, Nick Heywood and the indestructible Allan Browne.

On a more mundane (but very important) note, the Archive Shop now has credit card facilities; so no bar to your acquiring that lusted-after CD.

The Archive, among its many overseas correspondents is in regular touch with Mrs Meriel Wilmot-Wright, the widow of the famous Australian professor, Sir Douglas Wright (known as "Pansy"). Meriel, although a late-comer to jazz, having been introduced to Ruby Braff's playing at the "Pizza Express" in London some 8 years ago, is also an inveterate fund raiser. She was Executive Officer of the Myer Foundation that has been a generous supporter of the Archive in the past (total to date \$32,000), and is in London as a fund raiser for the Royal Free Hospital. She organised Humphrey Lyttelton concerts and we have from her 3 recent Humph CDs in the collection. Now living in Chichester, Sussex, Meriel is still involved in jazz concerts and sends us many bits and pieces about U.K. jazz.

Finally, some dates for your diaries –

Sunday 25th April Anzac Day

Sunday 15th August Jazz Bash for the Musicians Benefit Fund will be at the Sandbelt Hotel, Moorabbin East.

Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th September at the Assembly Hall Graeme Bell's 90th Birthday Concert,

Sunday 19th September for a **Special General Meeting** (and barbecue) to make some needed changes to our Constitution.

Sunday 14th November for the **Annual General Meeting** and elections and of course a barbecue, plus Marina's dreaded raffle.

Ray Marginson

THE VICTORIAN JAZZ ARCHIVE IS OPEN EACH TUES & FRI 10.00 A.M.– 3.00 P.M. OR BY APPOINTMENT
The actual address of the Archive is "Koomba Park", Mountain Highway, Wantirna 3152.(Melways 63C8)
We are just around the corner from Burwood Highway and directly opposite "Nutrimetics" building.



VALE - LEON THOMAS WILLIAM TRIMMINGS

2.1.1938 – 12.3.2004

Friday 12th March 2004 will stay in the minds of those at the Victorian Jazz Archive as one of the saddest days they have had to endure. On that day we lost our friend and colleague Leon. He had been out visiting a library in his role as publicity officer and had returned in good spirits and, as far as we knew, in good health. He had talked to many of us and was his usual ebullient self until somebody came in and said he had collapsed outside. We were shocked when, in spite of almost immediate measures by us and paramedics, he passed away.

Leon had been with us for a couple of years and in that time he had an enormous input into the work at the Archive. He loved what he was doing and felt this was the perfect answer for his retirement. He brought with him his knowledge of the print media and quickly established a huge network of media and library contacts. He was even interviewed on radio and was looking forward to furthering this new venture, along with giving talks at libraries. He read articles in papers and magazines and came up with several suggestions for me for the newsletter. Whenever Leon conducted a tour of the Archive with visitors they got the works as he left no stone unturned. His enthusiasm in everything he did was an inspiration to us all. He was generous to a fault and always seemed to know where to get things cheaply: many of us will treasure the satchels he gave us to carry our bits and pieces in each day. His knowledge of jazz was immense, especially overseas musicians and singers. It was therefore most appropriate that his family chose music by Billie Holiday and Tommy Dorsey to be played at his funeral, where our Librarian, Tom Wanliss, followed other speakers to say just how much he meant to all of us out at Wantirna. Not only will we feel his loss personally but his shoes will be mighty hard to fill.

Darren from Operation Revegetation, our cotenants at Koomba Park has planted a beautiful Western Australian flowering gum where he fell and we will be installing a plaque on a rock in his memory.

The Chairman, committee, volunteers and members extend their deepest sympathy to his wife Wendy and family.

Gretel James

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Firstly, a reminder that annual subscriptions are due on the 1st May 2004 and a renewal notice is enclosed. As mentioned in the Chairman's Column, we now have Credit Card facilities which might make it easier for you to pay. Although our membership is up around the 350 mark we still need more members and we are one organisation that has NOT increased the annual subscription rate. Many of our new members are students who join at a reduced rate so that they can attend the Victorian Jazz Club's workshops, ably run by Marina Pollard every Saturday afternoon. It is most rewarding to see about 28 enthusiastic young musos under 25 attend for classes every Saturday afternoon.

Due to the sad loss of Leon, we are looking for someone, preferably with publicity/advertising experience, to take his place. Peter Edwards is going to look after the library displays but we need someone, preferably with computer skills, who can keep us in the media's eye. We have found it pays to advertise as many of our visitors have heard about us on radio or read an article in the papers. Can you help? You'll enjoy the company and friendly atmosphere out here. Even once a fortnight would be a great help.

Since our article "The Cogs in the Wheel" we have added a few more. Barry Markby, well-known drummer around town is helping "the boys in the back room". Jack Cooke, a regular at the VJC is also out there, sorting, labelling, filing etc. Bill Brown, who adds a soft Scottish accent to our workplace, works in P2 container with the overseas material. He has a wealth of knowledge about jazz from his side of the world. Margot Chalk and Kim Harris have joined the "Friends Of The Archive".

As we've already told you, Barry Mitchell is doing a fantastic job with our Archive Shop. We are now stocking the excellent B & W CD's put out by John Buchanan. This is a range of mainly Australian bands who perform at John's first class Festivals. Bob Barnard is also selling through us, and of course we have all the Bob Barnard Jazz Party recordings from Nif Nuf. We are also selling recordings from the South Australian Jazz Archive. If you come here you will notice the male volunteers are looking smart in their navy polo shirts with the Archive logo on them – you too can be like them and purchase one for \$30 from our Shop.

Thank you to all those people who sent in for raffle tickets for our "Jazz Cats" painting. I am delighted to say that we made over \$1,000.00. Once again we must thank Nola Clark for her generous donation of such a beautiful painting and her husband Alan for framing it. The lucky winner was Jack Evans, a friend and student of Nola's who said he had never won anything in a raffle before and was absolutely delighted with his prize. Such was the interest shown in the painting that Nola has produced cards featuring this painting – just adds that touch for a gift or occasion. In the Archive Shop update you will see that Nola has other paintings and prints for sale through us. Thank you too to Diana Allen who allowed us to sell tickets at two functions at the Bentleigh Club.

On 14th March we had the opening of the Limerick Arms Jazz Club Exhibition now showing in the R.D. Marginson Library. We were disappointed with the lack of interest shown by former musicians from that pub who had been

invited but did not attend. However, those who did attend had a most enjoyable afternoon, with excellent refreshments. Personally I would like to thank, in particular, Jenny Edwards and Helen Church for doing so much of the catering, and of course Tony Lambides in his usual position as bar man – a job at which he excels. The exhibition will be open till the end of August and is particularly interesting for those who frequented the Limerick Arms during the eighties.

Another sad note is the passing in Brisbane of well-known jazz identity and musician Sidney J Bromley on 11th March at the age of 83. Sid (SJ) was also a pioneer of jazz radio in Brisbane, was instrumental in establishing the Brisbane Swing Club in 1942 and when recruited into the Army formed the Bougainville Jazz Club, also in 1942. After his discharge in 1946 he re-established the Brisbane Swing Club renamed The Brisbane Hot Jazz Society and really devoted his life to jazz. A prolific writer of letters – although a headache for anyone trying to decipher his writing, Graeme Bell in his autobiography "Australian Jazzman" called him "The Mr Jazz of Brisbane".

On a happier note we pass on our congratulations to our Collections Manager, John Kennedy O.A.M. who has been invited to join the judging panel for the Museum Industry Recognition Awards for 2004. Quite a feather in his cap as this is a most prestigious award.

A QUICK TOUR OF THE ARCHIVE

Have you been to see the Archive? Perhaps you live too far away, are just too busy or just haven't got "a round tuit". Park your car in our spacious car park and come on in. If you will just sign the book for us we will put a visitor's label on you. One of our "Friends Of The Archive", Marina, Margaret, Frank, Kim, Margot or Sam will guide you. Welcome!

First of all, here is the R.D. Marginson Library, named after our beloved Chairman in recognition of the wonderful job he does for us. Without him we wouldn't have half the equipment or received half the donations we have received so far. He knows the right people. On the left is one of our lit-up showcases. This is a permanent exhibition dedicated to the late ABC personality Eric Child. In it we have an excellent bust of Eric together with photos of him with Louis Armstrong, his ABC 20 year service Medal, his Order of Australia Medal and other memorabilia. In the next cabinet we have "Louis" items, including a signed, specially-framed white handkerchief given to Eric and his wife Angela by the great man himself. This includes all the signatures of his All Stars during his visit in 1956. Over in the far corner there is a large cabinet housing more of the Limerick Arms exhibition, along with the late Bill Howard's trombone and Bob Barnard's cornet, other photos and mementoes. All around the walls are framed photos in our exhibition. These have been specially framed in groups of say 9 or more large photos to a frame by Alan Clark, a professional framer who, together with his wife Nola are Archive members. In the centre of the room we have a large conference table which came to us via the University of Melbourne. This is used as a desk by our Chairman and others and of course for meetings. There is another showcase housing Willie McIntyre's pedal (cont'd p.4)

QUICK TOUR OF THE ARCHIVE (Cont'd from p. 3)

organ, Brian Carter's tuba, a New Orleans decorated umbrella which belonged to Audrey Wignell and photos of Willie and Brian. There is a TV for viewing videos in one corner of the room and then there is our extensive library – with probably 400 books on jazz. This is ideal for research purposes. We also have a lending library for members' use. Then there are another two "booths" where we can play records, CDs and cassettes for your listening pleasure.

Now come into the Don Boardman Sound Room. This is mainly Sound Engineer David Ward's domain where he transfers more or less anything from acetates, shellac, 78s, cassettes, all to CDR. Every item is identified and catalogued. Then there is the Errormonitor system which we have just been able to purchase. This is an error-checking system to expose any flaws in our preservation discs. Peter Robb, our computer manager can sometimes be seen working in here. At present we need another computer as there are not enough to go round. Oh yes, through that door is the "Sunset Café", together with our "kitchen" and "beer garden", named very much tongue in cheek, all areas where we eat our lunch. At least now we have a refrigerator to keep our drinks cool. And back through the foyer into our "Shop". This keeps Barry busy two days a week and he is aiming to do JB HI-Fi out of business. Now through the glass door to the "Catalogue Room". This is where yours truly has her "station" with phone, computer and a very "busy" desk. Next to me is Liz Currie who is our Database Manager. Liz is putting every item we have on record, disc and cassette onto the database. At this time she has processed some 4666 records on which are 21,951 items, 110 videos, 441 posters and 561 donors. These include all recordings made in Australia, including overseas musicians, or Australian musicians who have recorded overseas. She can look up bands, musicians, song titles, composers etc. at the press of a button, although it has taken her many hundreds of hours to get the information in there and the job is never ending. The next desk is occupied by our bean counter, Lee Treanor – and an excellent job he does too. Then next to him is Pat Hadley – she is doing a similar job to Liz except that hers is all photos, slides, negatives etc. Of course much of what we receive is unidentified and this takes much patience and knowledge to rectify.

And "what are those big box things?" you ask. Well those we "acquired" from the Museum. They were originally made for the Tiwi nation for their funerary poles but someone got the measurements wrong and they were not suitable for their original use – so they found their way to us. They are somewhat reminiscent of the above-ground coffins in the New Orleans cemetery, but for \$100 each, members, especially those working at the Archive, can "purchase" them, have their name put on a plaque, and use them as lockers. Some have even enquired whether their ashes can go there too! Then there is John Kennedy's office – not that he can be found in there very often – he is here, there and everywhere answering questions, writing reports, manuals, helping with sorting, painting, building, you name it, he does it.

Back into the Catalogue Room; here is another conference-size table. Eric Brown, with the beautiful legible writing is our registrar. All donations must be written in a large book and given a VJAZ donor number. Jack Ricketts and John Ritchie are sorting and identifying photos and putting them into special archival sleeves and albums. Another never-ending job. Then in P1 (shipping container, heat controlled, lit, carpeted, and shelved), we keep all the transferred material, Australian CDs, reel-to-reel tapes, videos, photographs and Australian records. These are also in special archival boxes, all numbered, named and databased. In here you will also find many drawers full of cassettes, many of them irreplaceable but important amateur recordings.

Then to P2 container – overseas material. This is Tony Lambides' and Bill Brown's domain. Also in here is a large tin trunk holding well-wrapped and protected instruments "resting" between displays. Included are clarinets from Keith "Honk" Atkins, Fred Parkes and the late Tich Bray; trumpets from (the late) Frank Turville, Frank Johnson, Des Edwards and Benny Featherstone; Ade Monsborough's valve trombone, and (the late) Roger Jane's trombone. A very rare and interesting instrument is Ade Monsborough's white plastic Grafton alto saxophone. Back in the 60's Bill Linton collected about 100 musicians' signatures on his tambourine and we are lucky to have this. We also have drum kits from (the late) Allan Leake and Frank Mobilia, Len Barnard's cymbals and sticks and Frank Traynor's piano. Quite a collection of which we are justly proud. Being an accredited museum there are very strict rules of preservation and we must adhere to them at all times.

Now through the door to the last area. The container on the left houses all the Australian Jazz Convention Archive. Don Anderson is in charge of that and now their committee is getting stuck into sorting out the contents. And lastly we come to the Ron Halstead Room, named in recognition of our first computer manager who also helped Don Boardman with sound recording. Ron was invaluable in the set-up of the Archive and was another great loss to us. He died just a few years back, leaving us equipment and a generous financial bequest which enabled us to build this extension. This room is also known as the Print Room as it houses all the filed journals, both Australian and O/S, newsletters, posters, newspaper cuttings, each one labelled, filed and catalogued. Frank Webster, Peter Edwards, Reg Jennings, Barry Markby et al. are kept busy all the time but can be found exchanging stories in here.

Well, I hope you have gained enough to whet your appetite and if you haven't been before, will come and see for yourself the place many of us call our second home for two days a week. We'll be pleased to see you – oh, as you leave please leave your visitor's tag at the door, sign out, write in our comments book and maybe put something in "Tubby Tuba" as a donation. We are open any Tuesday or Friday from 10.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m. You might even consider becoming a volunteer; you'd be very welcome.

Gretel James

The Victorian Jazz Archive wishes to acknowledge the 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 Trust, The Estate of the late Don Boardman. The Archive gratefully acknowledges the financial support given to the VJA Capital Fund by Dame Elisabeth Murdoch, A.C., D.B.E. and the Estate of the late Ron Halstead.

RECENT DONATIONS by John Kennedy

One of the most significant donations of this quarter has been the collection of Allan Batiste. His widow has forwarded to the Archive a wonderful collection of recordings in excellent condition. The main component is the 60 Australian recordings on Ampersand, Memphis, Zenith, JazzArt, along with two issues on Czech Supraphon of the Bell band, all in absolute mint condition. There are also three acetate recordings plus 384 overseas recordings, eight reel to reel tapes and a National Reel To Reel Tape Recorder again in excellent condition. Thanks to the family for donating such a significant collection.

Australian recordings also came from Eric Macarow, six in total, which we did not have, plus three local programmes. Deryck Bentley and Gail Kingston donated two CD's of their Hot Foot Seven. Col Hutcheon of the Hot 'B Hines Band sent the latest CD of the Band's work. Martin Jackson forwarded a copy of the Martin Breeze CD, whilst the South Australian Jazz Archive donated two each of the first three CDs issued by the Archive, namely "The Bill Munro Retrospective Volumes 1 & 2" and "Bob Barnard in Adelaide". These are top quality offerings from the SAJ Archive, and are available from our Archive Shop. David Ward came in with two copies of the latest Waterfront Café Band CD "See See Rider". Another David, David Seidel, of La Brava Music, sent in his latest release Col Loughnan & Steve Murphy. Sandro Donati and Judy Jacques lodged their latest CDs. Judy's "Making Wings" which was voted the vocal CD of the year at the 2003 Australian Jazz Awards, and is a wonderful production, and Sandro's Jazz and Blues Quartet CD. Both CD's are also available in the Shop.

Ross Anderson, who attended the Limerick Arms Opening, came with five audio cassettes of his band's appearances at the Limerick, back in the early days. Isabelle Wilkie forwarded a cassette entitled "Warrantye Jazz - 1985". Jackie Das Gupta, who came down from Darwin for the Limerick Arms exhibition opening, donated a Limerick Arms Jazz Club T-shirt. Mary Bould contributed 11 overseas 78's and one LP plus an acetate recorded at the Frankston RSL many years back.

One of the most interesting donations for a while was the drum kit belonging to Frank Mobilia, and donated by his daughter, Tess. Frank, who died earlier this year, played with Graeme and Roger Bell and George Tack prior to WW2, later turning his attention to big band drumming during the war up until the late 1950's. The drum set is really historical in many ways and we will get around to displaying the set in the near future. Sid Bromley, a regular correspondent, until his

recent death, sent a photo of John Sangster playing at the Limerick Arms. Bill Farrell called in and left six videos, one of which is Australian content, and another which is Australian Jazz Convention material and has been passed on to the AJC Archive. Tom Wanliss, our Oral Historian, has lodged a total of eight interview tapes, five of which are from the Australian Jazz Interviews Program and three, which are interviews outside the AJIP.

At the Limerick Arms exhibition, John Tucker presented me with a package containing Tom Pickering's Churchill Fellowship Report to the Churchill Trust. Tom went overseas in 1979, to "study jazz music history in USA, UK and France".

Also pertaining to the Limerick Arms, Ernst Grossman donated, via Eric Brown, a photo of Wild Bill Davison and his wife with Ernst and Jim Beadman at the Limerick. This has been added to the exhibition.

Thank you to Tony James for donating and delivering another unit of plan drawers.

Finally Bob Barnard visited the Archive on the Friday before the Jazz Party, and spent 2 ½ hours looking through the wonders of the Archive, and donated five of his latest CDs for preservation.

We thank the following people for recent cash donations:

Mike and Carol Hancock, Tess Mobilia, Bill Armstrong, John Ritchie, Jenny Edwards, Rae & Bob Sedergreen.

Welcome to the following new members: Elizabeth Cox,

Carmel Picone, Geoff Tobin, Nick Ribush, Stan Paul, Sean Quagliani, Hamish Brooke, Cameron Stark, Bethany Mason, Amy Edwards, James Edwards, Dean Mollica, Katherine Jarvie, Mike Hancock, Ray & Irene Sutton, Dawn Wooltorton, Graham Coyle, Neil Holliday, Aidan Barrett, Callum Bryant, Amy Mai, Xavier Hogan, Tammy Devitsakis, Chris Guinana, Linda Scott, Ben Christensen, Robert Puglisi, Nicholas Marturano, Adam De Wilde, Rae & Bob Sedergreen, Augustine Patti, Ian Walter. Welcome to you all.

THE VICTORIAN JAZZ CLUB INC.

In conjunction with the Melbourne International Jazz Festival will present 4 special nights in May featuring Len Barnard who will not only be playing on Saturday night (May 8) but is also presenting his jazz lecture *No Sticks at Ten* at 5.00 p.m. prior to his performance. Other nights will include John McCarthy, Geoff Bull, Gary Walford and Michael McQuaid.

Michael McQuaid will be presenting his 9-piece Orchestra at a Tea Dance at Collingwood Football Club on Sunday May 16th

See VJC Newsletter or Fri Age Gig Guide

All enquiries: Roger Beilby 9534 1173

or Margaret Anderson 9459 1008

EXHIBITION**"LIMERICK ARMS JAZZ CLUB"**

**WHERE? AT THE VICTORIAN JAZZ ARCHIVE, MOUNTAIN HIGHWAY
WANTIRNA**

**WHEN? EACH TUEASDAY AND FRIDAY FROM 10 AM TO 3.00PM.
UNTIL THE END OF AUGUST, 2004.**

DON'T MISS IT !!

