

# Brisbane Jazz Club

Newsletter  
October  
2009

[www.brisbanejazzclub.com.au](http://www.brisbanejazzclub.com.au)



Huge river deck | Fully Licensed bar | Meals | Fully air-conditioned | Onsite car-parking | Friendly atmosphere

On the river at 1 Annie St Kangaroo Point (next to the Holman Street ferry stop) | Bookings - 07 3391 2006 | fax - 07 3891 9931 | [bookings@brisbanejazzclub.com.au](mailto:bookings@brisbanejazzclub.com.au)

## Vice President's Report

SEPTEMBER has so far been a big month for the Brisbane Jazz Club, with our AGM on the 20th and a new committee. I am writing this report about 10 days before the AGM so cannot comment on the outcomes and decisions of the day.

This month has been another beauty with great music, good crowds and loads of fun. We have had to put up Sunday admission prices, the first time in at least 10 years. The big bands play for door takings only and the amount of money coming in was almost an insult to their talents. The move by the big bands down to the River Stage has been a great success. Crowds on Sundays have been mixed, but we are trying to 'hit the spot' to bring you in.

This month we had the Natural Gas Jazz band from San Francisco - what a great band. Sorry you could not make it. Only 35 patrons attended. We receive many requests for Trad and Dixie bands, then we brought out a world-class Trad band and very few supported it. Figure that one out...

On the other hand, Lulo Reinhardt filled the club on a Thursday night at prices up to \$40. How does that work? Etype Jazz went well as did the Doug DeVeries Trio not to mention the Brewster Brothers, another great night. All I can take from these examples is that the popularity of Trad/Dixie and Mainstream Jazz is restricted to a few bands. Caxton Street Jazz Band for instance. They are great but so are the Sun City Stompers and the Natural Gas Jazz Band but only Caxton Street brings a crowd. I am not complaining, just keeping you informed of our performance and how we decide on structuring the best programme for you.

I am looking forward to Sunday with Smokin' Joe Robinson. Breakfast and Lunch. What a day that will be!

Keep our Melbourne Cup Luncheon in mind. It's a great day for the girls and Melissa Western as the feature act bodes well for a great day.

Rita has organised a working bee for October 3 from 8 am onwards, so if you are free and can contribute, you will be most welcome.

I am trying to improve our storage capacity, and to this end, if there is anybody with skills in shelf building could you please get in touch with me at the Jazz Club.

I would like to welcome Michelle Secis to our front of house team. She brings expertise and a lovely personality to the club and is settling in well with our bevy of beauties.

See you at the AGM!

Yours in Jazz

Neil Walsh, Vice President BJC.

FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER

## Clare Hansson Presents the Magic Memories of Radio Days

**Magic happens  
when friends who  
are musicians take  
to the stage with  
entertainment in mind  
and bewitch you with  
a blast from the past.  
Come join them in  
memory lane.**

[Vocal Jazz / Standards]

**Open 6.30pm  
Band 7.30pm - 11pm**

**Members \$15  
Non - Members \$20**



## Muso Musings ...the view from Big Al's armchair!

### The BJC Experience

We all have our own view of the BJC experience - strange how one place can provide so many different experiences for so many different people. The quaint old building in the midst of the romantic, glittering setting of the city by night seems totally at odds with everything around it - even during the day it looks out of place, but therein perhaps lies the secret of its success. Just as we hang on to the old building so do we hang on to the old music - music born over 100 years ago but still loved and evolving.

Those of us who have had a close association with the BJC throughout its almost 40 year history (mine only goes back 20 years), have seen so many faces come and go and often wonder where and why they went. We've acted out our own dramas

- birthdays, weddings, anniversaries and enjoyed some memorable jazz events in this unique place, that some of us think of as our second home.

The level of comfort, food and drink we now enjoy would have been unthinkable back in our plastic stacking-chair days, and yet one thing has remained constant - the quality of the jazz and the enthusiasm of those who play and listen to it.

What could be more enjoyable than watching a great performance on a warm evening, with the backdrop of the city lights shining on the beautiful Brisbane River, and the lights of the various boats gliding past - the BJC experience that would probably cost you two or three times as much anywhere else in the world.

Alan Western  
2/9/09

## November will be swinging hard with the great talents of:

The Tiffany Rae and Davis Fennel Quartet ~ The Ryan Livings Quartet with Nick Hollanby ~ The Young Con End of Year Concert ~ The Swing Central Big Band with Brad Leaver ~ Louise Denson's Latin Project ~ The Brisbane Big Band ~ The James Wengrove Quintet ~ The Andy Jenner Band ~ The Wizard and Oz ~ Cam Fords Gypsy Swingers ~ The Original David Bentley Trio with Loch Easton and Geoff Proud ~ Scat! Another great month to look forward to at the Brisbane Jazz Club!

Wow, that's an awesome month of one of the finest selections in live jazz anywhere in the country!

## Reviewing Rita & Friends

**THURSDAY 10 SEPTEMBER**

### Lulo Reinhardt' Latin Swing Project

This was gypsy jazz at its best, exciting and innovating music into which new sounds were introduced....we were taken from the sounds of the rainforest where one is immersed in the silence, to the throb of Brazilian tango and bossa nova. Lulo and his musicians indeed took us on a wonderful colourful journey.

Lulo had a smile on his face always portraying his enjoyment of producing the sort of music that captivates an audience, and captivated they were – not a soul left the building until after the final encore..

Thank you to Clemency, Spencer, Kristi, Peter and Judy for making this night so magical.

**SATURDAY 22 AUGUST**

### Sarah Collyer and Band

This was one of those Jazz Club nights when everything was perfect. A more captivated and appreciative audience, a more captivating singer, stimulating and exciting backing musicians – would be hard to find. And it was the launch of Sarah's CD.

The mood was romantic [ couples holding hands and smooching from time to time was testament to the emotion in the music ] and Sarah presented a varied repertoire of her own compositions and some favourites delivered in her own easy listening style. I particularly enjoyed her piano solo and vocals with her composition " Troubles ".

All in all, an excellent night at the BJC.

**FRIDAY 14 AUGUST**

### Jack Thorncraft, Steve Russell and Dave Sanders

What a brilliant trio! They wove their way through a repertoire of music that struck the very core of the visual and sound sensations of jazz lovers. To have two vocalists, both with mellow, perfectly pitched voices was a bonus.

These guys brought each piece of music alive with feeling, subtlety and joy. Thankyou Jack, Steve and Dave for a wonderful night's entertainment of the best of jazz.....

# GETTING JAZZY WITH... ALAN WESTERN

**As I child I was...**plagued with asthma for many years. I'm sure singing and breathing exercises finally helped me to kick it

**The question I'm most often asked is...** 'how is Melissa?'

**Three things people might not know about me...** I won a silver medal as a boy soprano, I have met Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, Peter Sellers and I used to get our suits made at the same tailors

**My worst habit is...** I have more than one (mostly unmentionable in polite company) but how about snoring for a start?

**My guiltiest pleasure is...** secret Tim Tam scoffing – one is never enough

**It's a big daggy, but I love...**

some of my old clothes – too good to throw away, but they might come back in fashion ( if I can still get into them!)

**The strangest place I've been recognized is...** transit lounge Singapore airport

**My first job was...** assistant to a pharmacist – counting out pills, mixing medicines, cleaning medicine bottles with hydrochloric acid !! The good old days before proprietary drugs were the only thing you could buy at the chemists

**If I were a superhero, my superpower would be...**to fly through outer space – I'd love to see what other planets are really like

**The first concert I went to was...**Bill Hayley & the Comets in Kilburn, London – oh boy didn't the joint get rocked!

**My first album/cd was...**a 78rpm of Earl Bostic playing 'Flamingo' – still love the sound

**A song that resonates with me is...** 'Lush Life' – such sophistication, such a mood and such a story, written by Billy Strayhorn at the age of sixteen! Where did he get such incredible maturity at that age?

**The musician I'd most like to work with is...** my hero - Sergio Mendes. I've been a fan since Brasil '66 and finally got to meet him in Brisbane a couple of years ago.

**My first gig was...**singing at a factory social club in London for a fee of 3 pounds – they had no stage so I had to stand on a table.....

**The best advice I was given was...** 'sing well and make people happy' – still trying to do both.



## working bee

**Saturday 3 October 2009** from 8 am

### Cleaning and Gardening

General maintenance of the club, inside and out.

All Welcome!

Check out our new website!

[www.brisbanejazzclub.com.au](http://www.brisbanejazzclub.com.au)

Photo by Gary Daniell Photography  
(from 'Stages of My Life' - Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2008)

#### Enquiries

Please phone the office on 3391 2006. All enquires will be answered within 48hrs.

#### President

tbc

#### Vice-President

Neil Walsh

#### Treasurer

Tony Freedland

#### Secretary

Rita Laurie

#### Committee

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Alan Webster

David Herbert

Alan Western

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