



Newsletter No 402, March 2023

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The Editor, Doug Saxon newsletterhjc@gmail.com or to the club post box.

Opinions in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor or club committee.

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Newcastle and Hunter Jazz Club Presents;

'SWING COMPANY'

RECREATING THE BIG BAND ERA

SUNDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY, 2023

CENTRAL LEAGUES CLUB

2.00PM - 4.30PM

\$15 ENTRY MEMBERS - \$20 GUESTS



ADAM FERRIER - TRUMPET JASON NELSON - TROMBONE

CHRIS GILL - ALTO SAX NEVILLE JAMES - TENOR SAX

WARREN SHAW - BARITONE SAX JOSEPH CADMAN - PIANO

DAVE JONES - DRUMS CHRIS DAWSON - BASS

SHERIDEN NELSON - VOCALS

Newcastle and Hunter Jazz Club presents:

THE LICORICE ALLSORTS



Sunday, 26 March, 2023

Central Leagues Club Charlestown

(Bula Street, Charlestown)

2.00pm - 4.30pm

Entry \$15 jazz club members, \$20 Guests

Peter Buckland: Reeds

Paul Furniss: Reeds

Jack Wiard: Reeds

Rachel Hamilton: Keyboard

Peter Boys: Bass

Lawrie Thompson: Drums



ADJOURNED AGM - NEWCASTLE AND HUNTER JAZZ CLUB CENTRAL LEAGUES CLUB

SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2023 - 12 Noon

'At the AGM of our Jazz Club held on Nov 30 we did not receive any nominations for President, Secretary or Treasurer. It was decided to defer the AGM until 26 February. This will be prior to The Swing Company concert, beginning at 12 noon. The current committee is meeting prior to the AGM to define the committee roles so that everyone will know what is involved. One suggestion has been made that two of the committee would become Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer respectively to assist the Secretary and Treasurer. The results of the committee's discussions will be presented at the deferred AGM. In the end the Jazz Club cannot continue without a President, Treasurer or Secretary so please consider standing for office. We also need someone to be the club's Public Officer.

**34th Newcastle Jazz Festival –
Friday 25, Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 August, 2023**

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi everyone,

Any of you who missed our January Concert have missed a great day. It was wonderful seeing Bill Dudley again after many years. I always love the energy that exudes from Carolyn Packer's playing and vocals, with talented musicians backing. Fiona Lugg is one of the most energetic bass players who enjoys every minute. Eric Gibbons was great on the trombone and sax as was Paul Furniss on clarinet and sax. Drummer Jimmy Fletcher's story as the lead up to Carolyn Packer singing *I Still Call Australia Home* is outlined on the next page. There was a great variety of tunes including *Sentimental Journey*, *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*, and *That's My Desire*.



Please be tolerant and understanding on our concert days as Central Leagues and many other venues are having staff shortages. Our required set up is not always possible due to prior set up. We ask for the bar and dance floor where possible.

February 26th band "Swing Company" will be playing at 2pm after the adjourned AGM at 12 noon at Central Leagues. Our concert on 26th March will be the popular and talented "Licorice Allsorts."

We are still looking for nominations for a President, Secretary and Treasurer to stand on the 2023 committee as detailed on the cover for the Newcastle and Hunter Jazz Club to continue functioning. Would you please consider standing to keep our club functioning. We also need a Public Officer.

It was sad that on the 19th of January long time musician and friend Tony Pigott passed away aged 94. He had a wonderful and interesting life (see pages 6 & 7). It was great to see so many of our loyal members and friends at his funeral, followed by a wake at Kahibah Bowling Club. David Saxon produced a lovely video that was shown on the screen with Tony's vocals and photos from a lot of his gigs that we had attended over the years. Our thoughts are with the family.

(Judy is pictured right with the late Maggie Dunne and Tony Pigot)



Welcome to new members Ray and Rosemary Potter.

Again, thanks for all your support and friendship over my time with the club and keeping live Jazz in our area. Also, to the hard-working committee who work so hard during the year at the Festival and Concerts.

Regards to all,
Judy.

(Pictured above: Judy Preston and Val Jones, 4th Newcastle Jazz Festival 1991.
The photograph appeared in the Newcastle Herald, 4 September 1991)

News from Central Coast Jazz League- Jazz First Sunday of the Month - 2pm-5pm Central Coast Leagues Club

The Scenic Lounge at the Central Coast Leagues Club will be closed in late March for rebuilding and the monthly jazz from April will move to the Parkview Room which is on the first floor of the Central Coast Leagues Club.

In March the band is Eric Gibbons New Orleans Ramblers. In April the first band in the Parkview Room will be Fiona Lugg's "Stompin' at the Parkview" followed in May by a revamped New Empire Ballroom Dance Orchestra. The sounds of the 20s will be complemented by the swing of the Artie Shaw, Benny Goodman and Glenn Miller eras.

Bill Dudley's New Orleanians - Sunday 29 January 2023



Paul Furniss, Eric Gibbons, Fiona Lugg, Bill Dudley, Carolyn Packer, Jimmy Fletcher

What a brilliant afternoon of music was enjoyed by those fortunate enough to be part of the capacity audience for Bill Dudley's New Orleanians on January 29. The vocals of Carolyn and Bill enhanced the music.

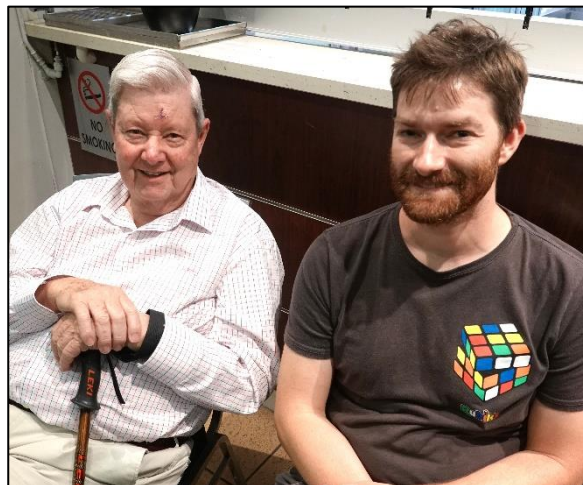
The program had a lot of variety and the first half included *On the Sunnyside of the Street*, *Pennies from Heaven*, a jazz version of *Frankie and Johnny* and a red-hot version of *Indiana*. As it was the Australia Day weekend the band played a few Aussie songs which began with Eric Gibbons leading the band in a rousing version of *The Wild Colonial Boy*.

The last song in the first half brought a tear to the eye of a few audience members. Before the song began Carolyn related a story of how a group of 4 teenagers in Armidale started a skiffle band after hearing Lonnie Donegan. They practised hard and played their first gig at Armidale Golf Club on New Years Eve 1958. They drifted away from music except the piano player, Peter Woolnough who later changed his name to Peter Allen. Jimmy Fletcher, drums, turned to jazz and is still playing over 60 years later and is the sole survivor of the skiffle group. So why did some of the audience shed a tear? Because the song was *'I still call Australia Home'* and it was sung superbly by Carolyn, with great backup from the rest of the band.

The second half began with a tribute to David Lole and other jazz musicians who have passed when the band played *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*. Other songs included *St Louis Blues*, Carolyn singing, *Everybody Loves My baby*, a great version of *Hindustan*, the Cash/Carter song, *Will the Circle be Unbroken* featuring a duet from Bill and Carolyn. The afternoon concluded with the Roger Janes' tune *T Model Boogie* and the Kenny Ball favourite *Bring me Sunshine*. A great afternoon and everyone left with a smile on their face.



Casey Sherry, Terry and Jeane Gravolin.



Richard Marocco and visitor Ben Brawn

Bill Dudley's New Orleanians

It was a pleasure to meet Leonie Gaulton, Vice-President of the Sydney Jazz Club at the Bill Dudley gig. Leonie coordinated Bill's trip to NSW from Queensland. Thanks Leonie for all your work and making the gig in Newcastle possible.!

Pictured far right, two of our keenest jazz fans, Kylie Fischer and Don Quested who are pictured with Carolyn Packer.

Below: New members at the Bill Dudley gig, Rosemary & Ray Potter.
Far right: Jan Bennett & Judy Saxon.



Lucky Door: Yvonne Louis, Ben Brawn

Raffle: Fay Jones, Shirley Peters, Pat Wise, Thelma Gallagher, Carlein Eckersley, Bev Dean, Nancy Minton, Fay Jones, Catherine Morgan, Paul Ward, Wendy Thomas.
Congratulations everyone. (Sylvia)

Jazz on the Lawn- Macquarie Club Dubbo -Sunday 19 March 11am-4pm. Featured Bands- Chalkies, The Cicada Club, Tin Roof Big Band. Enquiries – Greg Barker – 0416 989 946

Merimbula Jazz Festival – 9-12 June 2023
www.merimbulajazz.org.au

The Hip Gringos Guide to Rio

The Hip Gringos Guide to Rio is an hilarious musical cabaret disguised as a live to air radio broadcast, guaranteed to produce involuntary foot tapping and skin stretching smiles. Follow the tangled amorous and other misadventures as travel writer, *Romeo Edwards* researches his travel guide, *The Hip Gringos Guide to Rio*, led by two disarmingly attractive, but possibly disturbed, tabletop dancers. His goal ...to attempt to discover the remnants of the Bossa Nova era, 1956-63, in the dangerous Rio of 1979, and include it in his *Hip Gringos* travel guide.

The cast of 4 all sing (in English rather than Portuguese), act the various characters as well as play the required instruments. *The Hip Gringos* are, special guest, the vivacious Helena Kitley on bass, and the two time *City of Newcastle Drama Award* winning team of writer, David Baker on guitar, Crackers Carruthers on drums and Angel Manuel Serrano (our certified non Gringo) on trumpet, flute and sax. Strap yourself in and enjoy the journey of *The Hip Gringos Guide To Rio*.

Presented in the fully licensed Speakeasy ambience of the Well Bar, 48-Watt Street, Newcastle,
Fri 24th, Sat 25th, Sun (matinee) 26th Feb, 2023
Tickets: Evenings, Show Only: \$35 Dinner and Show: \$65 Matinee: Show Only: \$25 Dinner and Show: \$55
Bookings: www.thewellbar
email: hello@48wattstreet.com.au



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How Time Flies! From 1991 until the 76th Australian Jazz Convention - Newcastle 2022.



Sousaphone player John Corney, of Avoca, with nine-year-old Paul Van Kerkooph, of Adelaide, at the Jazz Convention at Newcastle University yesterday.

I recently came across an article in the *Newcastle Herald* from 27 December 1991 re the 46th Australian Jazz Convention held in Newcastle. The photo that accompanied the article showed a Sousa player from Avoca, John Corney, with a nine-year old from Adelaide, Paul van der Koogh (name spelled incorrectly in *The Herald*) reacting to the sound of John's Sousa.

Fortunately, the sound of the Sousa in 1991 did not deter Paul from playing jazz. Some Thirty-one years later Paul returned to Newcastle for 76th AJC and he was pictured playing with the late David Lole's Syncopaths. Paul, far left with Greg Englert (trumpet), Bill Beasley (trombone), Reg Packer, (banjo), David Lole (piano), David Taylor (double bass) and Alan Richards (drums). Paul is now a committee member of the Southern Cross Jazz Club in Adelaide.



Frenchman Street Jazz Band at Earp's Distillery

In December Jack McLaughlin leader of the Frenchman Street Jazz Band had a fall and then broke his hip. He has undergone a hip replacement operation and is currently undertaking rehab at Newcastle Private Hospital. Because of this the regular Thursday night jazz gig at Earp's Distillery, Carrington, from the Frenchman Street Jazz Band has been suspended indefinitely pending Jack's recovery. We wish Jack all the best and hope that it won't be too long before he is able to resume playing his Eb metal clarinet.



Jack MacLaughlin's Frenchman Street Jazz Band with guests- 22 July 2022, Earp's Distillery.
Left to Right: David Saxon, Craig Goeldner, Will Goeldner, Max Goeldner, Steve Watt, Ben McIvor, Jack McLaughlin, Rachel Hamilton.

Vale Tony Pigott

Much loved musician James Anthony Pigott 'Tony' passed away in January 2023 aged 94 and his funeral, which was attended by many jazz club members, was held on 19th January. Tony's son Stephen delivered the eulogy.

Tony was born on 20 October 1928 in Caulfield, Victoria. His father was a publican and as a child Tony only lived in pubs. His father moved north and managed pubs in Newcastle & Sydney. In Newcastle, the pubs where Tony lived included The Cross Keys Hotel, The Commonwealth Hotel, Delaney Hotel, and the Wickham Park Hotel. He started school at Tighes Hill in 1934.

As a child Tony suffered from a number of illnesses- at one, Scarlet Fever, at three Diphtheria, at six, Bright's Disease and at twelve years he caught TB. He was sent to the Blue Mountains to try and recover and was there for two years. He recovered and went to work at Myers in Melbourne before he returned to Newcastle and worked as a waiter at the Great Northern Hotel. When he was 27, he went to England via ship but returned to Australia via plane. The story of his return to Australia by that plane is amazing and it was reported in the *Newcastle Herald*. The story is reprinted on the next page.

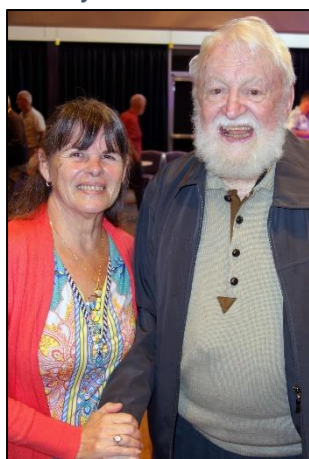
After his return to Newcastle, he married Colleen in September 1957. Tony worked at Waltons and John Peschar's as well as for Newcastle City Council. Tony was well known as a member of the Wobbly Boot Jazz and Blues Band led by Gary Sullivan and Tony's wonderful vocals helped draw capacity crowds to the Ocean View pub at Dudley. The band made a recording at the pub in 1993 organised by Russell Thornton. Band members were: Garry Sullivan, trumpet, Ben Jones clarinet/tenor sax/vocal, Tony Pigott, piano/vocal, Peter Cairns, bass, Rob Coxon, drums/vocal.

A video tribute to Tony Pigott was made by David Saxon and played at Tony's wake. It features tracks from the *Wobbly Boot* CD and photographs. You can view the video by going to the *Newcastle Jazz Club and Festival* Facebook page.



Tony became a member of our Jazz Club and came to many of our concerts with transport provided by Vicki Raciti. Above : Dirk & Kay Boden with Tony and drummer David Jones

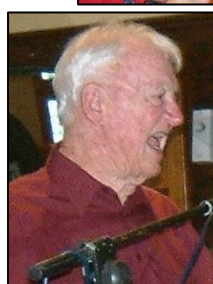
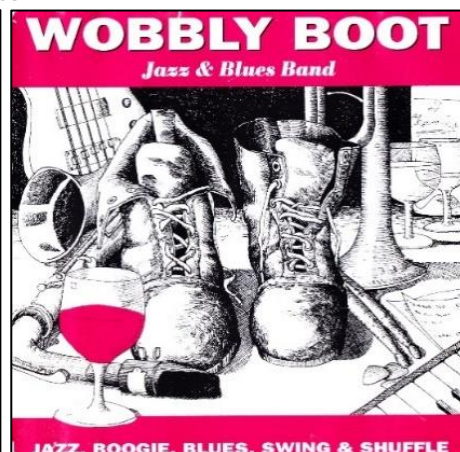
Vicki Raciti with Judy Preston & Tony



Tony with Robyn Shaw



Ean Sutton with Tony



Pictured above is the cover of the CD made by the **Wobbly Boot Jazz and Blues Band** in 1995. Tony's vocals can be heard on Track 1- *Jump Jive and Wail*, track 3 – *There'll Be Some changes Made*, track 6- *You Were Meant For Me*, track 8- *Alberta*, and track 10 – *Right Key But The Wrong Keyhole*. It is extracts from each of these tracks that are played in the video tribute mentioned above that you can view and hear on the *Newcastle Jazz Club and Festival* Facebook page.



FLIGHT OF FANCY: This plane flew from England to Australia over six weeks. A Cooper race car was somehow smuggled aboard.

A 'lift home' from England with a car

THIS crop-dusting plane flew from England to Australia in 1957.

Charlestown's Tony Pigott, who is now 91, was aboard the incredible flight.

Hunter historian Doug Saxon recounted the story.

"On his 90th birthday, I spoke with Tony about his musical life. He's a well-known jazz and blues pianist and vocalist," Doug said.

"I never expected to hear how he flew from England to Australia in a crop-duster aircraft which contained a smuggled racing car."

Doug was reminded of the story after reading *Newcastle Herald* history writer Mike Scanlon's column on February 23, titled *Plane Amazing*. It featured the late Ken Wikner's journey from England to Australia in a World War II Halifax bomber, named *Waltzing Matilda*.

"Tony spent most of his working life in retail - particularly at Waltons in the west end of Newcastle," Doug said.

He mainly sold furniture and floor coverings.

"In about 1955, he left for Europe and worked his passage on a boat by scrubbing floors. He worked mainly in pubs as a

cellarman and played at pubs and clubs around London. He also travelled through Europe and played piano - mainly in France and Spain - usually for free drinks."

Tony was working at the Down Under Club in London when he met two Australian pilots - Austin "Aussie" Miller and Ernie Tadgell, who had a fleet of crop-dusting planes in Australia. They were also racing car drivers.

"Miller and Tadgell had come to England to buy two Percival planes, which were especially designed for crop dusting. They were going to fly the planes back to Australia and had a few weeks to wait until the planes were completed," Doug said.

"Tony signed them up as members of the Down Under Club and got to know them quite well. When the planes were completed Miller and Tadgell asked Tony if he wanted a lift home. In his words, he 'jumped at the chance.'"

SMUGGLED RACE CARS

As well as flying Tony back to Australia, Miller and Tadgell had other "baggage" on board.

"They'd contacted car manufacturer John Cooper and each bought a Cooper

Climax racing car. They took the cars apart and smuggled them into Australia without paying any duty," Doug said.

They stowed the cars in the "hopper area" of each crop-duster plane.

The planes could only be flown about 600 miles each day. It took six weeks to get to Australia and it was quite an adventure.

They hit monsoons in Burma, which forced them to stay awhile. Then they had visa problems in Singapore, Indonesia and Bali.

Tony arrived home towards the end of 1957 and met his future wife, Colleen.

"When he returned to Newcastle, Tony began to play in pubs. He joined a band at Waratah Mayfield BSL," Doug said.

After a decade with the band, he moved on to different clubs and bands - mainly popular and dance music.

"He really liked jazz and improvising. He met other musos and played in various jazz bands until he started playing with the well known Wobbly Boot Jazz and Blues Band.

"Tony's gravelly voice was ideally suited to the blues and the band became very popular playing at Dudley every Saturday for many years."

✉ topics@theherald.com.au

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Auditor: Ian Shepherd. 2020/21,
Patron: Bob Henderson

Half Nelson Jazz Band

Goldfish Bar and Restaurant

Pokolbin 6.30- 9.30pm

**Sat 18 February, Saturday 18 March,
Saturday 8 April**

**Sunday 5 March Bartholomew's
4pm-7pm (Jason's Birthday!)**

Central Coast Leagues Club

Jazz League - Gosford

Jazz - 1st Sunday of month.

2pm-5pm \$10 Entry

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Admission is \$12 for financial members of the SJC and \$15 for others.

Lunch (where applicable) and refreshments are at guests own costs.

**2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH
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**NEW ORLEANS QUARTET- CARRINGTON BOWLING CLUB
1ST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH 2PM - 5PM
BOOKING RECOMMENDED**

**NIMA- Tuesday Evening Gigs - The Underground
Grand Hotel, Newcastle 8pm
Entry \$20/\$15**

**Al Davey and the Groover - Freeway Hotel Artarmon
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Free Underground Parking. Great Bistro - Dance Floor
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Principal**

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