



Patron: Bill Haesler OAM

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# Sydney Jazz Club Newsletter

## February 2025

### Midweek Jazz In February

# Licorice Allsorts

Wednesday, 12 February 2025, 12:30 pm at the  
Freeway Hotel, Artarmon.

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### [Australian Jazz Convention, 2024](#) (click for video)

I (Editor) dropped into Mildura on my way to Adelaide between Christmas and New Year and attended a day and a half of the Australian Jazz Convention. Being new to this community of jazz, I did not know what to expect. I knew it was not a festival in the Newcastle or Merimbula sense, but I also knew there had to be some music. I knew some of our favourite people from Sydney would be there—Paul Furniss, Robbie Mann, Chris Gildersleeve and others, and I knew there was a guest musician from the US—a trumpet Player, Jon-Erik Kelso ([Wikipedia](#)). I knew of some of the better known Melbourne artists, in particular, Pippa Wilson.

I had booked accommodation months in advance expecting hoards of trad-tragics to be there despite the trek to get there, but when checking in to our motel, I was surprised that the manager was only vaguely aware of the event.

The venue was great. The old Powerhouse building was ideal for the big events, and the Rowing Club was also very comfortable for musicians and audiences. The sound management at the Powerhouse was very good. All these venues were in walking distance on the grassed and spacious bank of the Murray River. We did not get to see live performances at the City Mall or Arts Centre because there was so much on.

Coffee, drink and catering services were limited and closed just when you needed them; and we found registering as a day visitor was a bit “hit and miss” although that meant we got a good deal. Apparently no-one expected anyone to visit Mildura for a day only.

The number of attendees must have been disappointing to organisers. There were filled venues, but my guess is that the crowd at each event was the same two hundred people. As true believers, they were all tragics, they went to everything.

The standard of music and performance was outstanding. The Chair of the organising Committee, Donald Mayne is a fabulous musician and, we learned, can really let go when singing Gospel songs. He was obviously working extremely hard at all venues, performing frequently, and welcoming everyone there personally. Performers and bands from Adelaide and Melbourne made up much of the music and they were really good.

It’s on again in Mildura in 2025. I happily and strongly recommend going to 2025 Australian Jazz Convention. It is a most enjoyable jazz event.

I took this picture of the band “**Soprano Summit Revisited**”. Paul Furniss, Paul Hendon (Clarinet), Shane Ryall (Guitar), James Clark (Bass), Luca Fraillon (Drums); and Chris Gildersleeve sitting in front of me.





## The President's Report SJC President, Ian McAllister

### Mid-Week Jazz Concerts.

We had The Finer Cuts play for us at The Freeway Hotel. It was another great afternoon of jazz. Also great to have Geoff Bull and the youngish line up of musicians back at the Freeway.

Next month on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February we will have Licorice Allsorts play for us. A band very popular with members. Encourage your friends to join and come along with you.

Full details are elsewhere in this newsletter.

### Australia Day 2025

We held our celebration of all things Australian and of great jazz on Sunday January 26<sup>th</sup>. What a tremendous opportunity to come together and enjoy great jazz. The very lively band, Bathtub Gin Orchestra, provided us with a mix of fantastic jazz and Australiana.

We are grateful to the Freeway Hotel for providing such a great venue for this special day.

Great to see that our tireless Treasurer and Bands Coordinator, Mary Armstrong, was the lucky recipient of our main raffle prize being a lunch jazz cruise on Sydney Harbour. Well

deserved. Congratulations to the other prize recipients as well.

I hope that whatever you were doing on Australia Day, you had a great time.

### Jazz Workshop Australia

Following our sponsorship of a deserving young musician to attend the annual live-in workshop at the Blue Mountains in January, Dennis was able to attend and we have received very positive feedback and appreciative comments from both the recipient and the organisers. The workshop was attended by approximately 70 young musicians with a vast array of instruments. The concentration was on Trad Jazz and this was extremely well received by the young group. Great to see!!

### Enjoy Life "and All That Jazz"

Ian McAllister  
SJC President

## Geoff Bull and the Finer Cuts—one of the best yet.

Sydney Jazz Club received two emails claiming that January's gig, featuring Geoff Bull and the Finer Cuts was the best gig ever.

No one has sent in a review or pictures, unfortunately. *(The Editor was in Adelaide).*

### In 1927, Jazz was the Music of the Devil!

Caroline McAlister sent an excerpt from Bill Bryson's book One Summer America 1927 p102 which she thought could be a fill for the newsletter. The chapter is talking about music of the time *(and perhaps wishing it were true?)*.

*Worst of all was jazz, which was widely held to be a springboard for drug taking and promiscuity. "Does jazz put the Sin in Syncopation?" asked an article in the Ladies Home Journal. "You bet it does!" was to answer. An editorial in the New York American called jazz 'a pathological, nerve-irritating, sex-exciting music'.*

### Welcome, Margaret Magennis

Margaret is a new member but has been around SJC functions for a while, playing trumpet at our jam sessions both at the Freeway and at Club Ashfield together with partner Bernt Damm on trombone. They went to New Orleans last year and then we saw them playing at AJC in Mildura in December.

Margaret has come forward and volunteered to take over the administration of the Sydney Jazz Club Web site and Facebook Group over coming weeks.

Thankyou Margaret.

## Membership of Sydney Jazz Club

No new members in the last month, but we have had a couple of past members return:

**Michael and Helen Williams,  
Patricia Buckingham**

Welcome back!

# SYDNEY JAZZ CLUB PRESENTS:

Wednesday, 12 February 2025, 12:30 to 3:30 pm, Freeway Hotel, Artarmon.

## Licorice Allsorts



Lawrie Thompson



Peter Boys



Peter Buckland

Paul Furniss

Jack Wiard

**\$20 non-members, \$15 for SJC members, pay as you enter.**

The Freeway Hotel has great facilities including a large dance floor / extensive food menu, and free under-cover parking.

For the convenience of our members and guests travelling by train, the hotel will provide a free small coach pick up service from the shops side of Artarmon Station every 10 / 15 minutes from 11.30 - 12.30 and return from 3.30 - 4.00.

Come along and listen to the wonderful jazz played by **Licorice Allsorts**

**Table bookings are not permitted**

### What's On at SJC

12 February 2025: Licorice Allsorts  
12 March 2025: Celtic Fire  
9 April 2025: Geoff Power Quartet

Please send us reviews and recommendations for jazz performances. Let's publicise good jazz and the musicians who play jazz. Send your contributions to [admin@sydneyjazzclub.org.au](mailto:admin@sydneyjazzclub.org.au).

### Sydney Jazz Club on Facebook

You will find much information about gigs in Sydney and beyond on our Facebook Group Site.. [Use the menu item on our Web site](#). You will also find posts by other Jazz organisations in Australia

### Jazz Trivia

January 27 1961: Pianist Bill Evans and alto saxophonist Cannonball Adderley record Know What I Mean?, 1961.

30 January 1917: The Original Dixieland Jazz Band makes the first jazz recordings,

23 January 1910: Guitarist Django Reinhardt born 1910 in Liverchies, Belgium.

## Australia Day 2025

We had a wonderful celebration. About 70 members and guests were entertained by the Bathtub Gin Orchestra. This is the first time that band has played for Sydney Jazz Club and it will not be the last. What a wonderful group of musicians.

[See some video of the music here.](#)

We asked for some Australian music and were treated to some originals. The undoubted favourite on the day was the song written by Dorian Mode, the band leader and pianist / vocalist, called **“Woy Woy Waltz Waltz”**. The refrain got the whole crowd singing along and it went like this: (in three four time of course)

*Woy, Woy. Why? Why?*

*Why did I go to Hawaii?*

*Woy, Woy. Why? Why?*

*Why did I go at all?*

Bathtub Gin Orchestra played wonderful laid-back jazz with

piano and vocals by Dorian Mode, violin and vocals by Phoebe Haselton, and the rest of the band joined in the singing from time to time. Jazz fiddle by Phoebe, a wonderful guitar rhythm by Mark Johns, Bass by Fiona Lugg, classic numbers like “Golden Wedding” by Luke Gallen on clarinet and tenor sax, and a memorable drum solo by Tony Hall, all bound in tight arrangements of classic jazz standards, original works, French Gypsy Jazz and some Midnight Oil (!). A most memorable afternoon of music.

Dorian is releasing a new album soon with *“Woy, Woy. Waltz, Waltz.”* and other originals (*“Budgie Samba”* for example).

I cannot help but think of Galapagos Duck because of the connection between Woy Woy, Spike Milligan and tightly arranged performances enhanced by wonderful, but balanced solos. Legend has it that Spike Milligan of “Woy” and “Wagga” fame christened the “Duck” in its early days.

**Mary Armstrong** won the Jazz On The Harbour lunch cruise donated by Vagabond Cruises. We will keep that company in our ads in the Newsletter.



Bathtub Gin Orchestra

The Australia Day crowd at the Freeway Hotel ready to celebrate to the music of the Bathtub Gin Orchestra.

Caroline McAllister, SJC Secretary, presents the Vagabond Cruise prize to Mary Armstrong.

## Not Trad

### Sergio Mendes

**Sérgio Santos Mendes**; 11 February 1941 – 5 September 2024) was a Brazilian musician who became very popular in the 1960s especially for his work with Antonio Carlos Jobim and his band Brazil 66.

His career took off with worldwide hits by his band **Brasil '66**. He released 35 albums and was known for playing bossa nova, often mixed with funk. He was nominated for an Oscar for Best Original Song in 2012 as a co-writer of "Real in Rio" from the animated film *Rio*.

Mendes was born in Niterói, east across Guanabara Bay from Rio de Janeiro, on 11 February 1941. As he related in *In the Key of Joy*, a biopic about his career, he had to wear a cast for three years because he had osteomyelitis. His father was a doctor, and Sergio was one of the first people in Brazil to be given penicillin.

Sergio studied classical music at the local conservatory with hopes of becoming a classical pianist. As his interest in jazz grew, he started playing in nightclubs in the late 1950s at the time that bossa nova, a jazz-infused derivative of samba, was emerging.

Mendes' jazz albums for Atlantic Records, had low sales. Mendes formed a partnership with Richard Adler, a Brooklyn-born American and they formed a band—Brazil 65. Adler suggested that Mendes and the group sing in English as well as Portuguese, and Adler provided new English-based material such as "Goin' Out of My Head" by Teddy Randazzo and Bobby Weinstein. In order to sing these songs properly in English, Adler suggested that the group find two American female singers to sing in both English and Portuguese. Adler contacted his friend Jerry Dennon and A&M Records founders Herb Alpert and Jerry Moss, and arranged for an audition for Mendes' new group, which was named "Brasil '66." Alpert and Moss signed Mendes and his group to A&M Records. Alpert took over as producer for the A&M albums and the group became a huge success with their first single, "Mas que nada", by

writer Jorge Ben.

The first album on A&M was *Herb Alpert Presents Sergio Mendes & Brasil '66*, an album that went platinum as a result of the success of the single "Mas que nada" and the personal support of Alpert, with whom Mendes toured.

Although his early singles with Brasil '66, met with some success, Mendes burst into mainstream prominence when he performed the Oscar-nominated "The Look of Love" on the Academy Awards telecast in April 1968. Brasil '66's version of the song quickly shot into the top 10,<sup>1</sup> peaking at No. 4 and eclipsing Dusty Springfield's version from the soundtrack of the movie *Casino Royale*. Mendes spent the rest of 1968 enjoying consecutive top 10 and top 20 hits with his follow-up singles "The Fool on the Hill" and "Scarborough Fair". From 1968 on, Mendes was a major Brazilian star and enjoyed immense popularity worldwide, performing in venues as varied as stadium arenas and the White House, where he gave concerts for presidents Lyndon B. Johnson and Richard Nixon. The Brasil '66 group appeared at the World Expo in Osaka, Japan in June 1970.

Mendes was a victim of long COVID in 2024.

*Editor: The "Abba" similarity is notable. I know which group I preferred.*



(Article adapted from Wikipedia)



## Sydney Harbour Jazz Lunch Cruise

Experience breathtaking Sydney Harbour by day, a delicious buffet lunch and the sounds of live jazz

**Vagabond Cruises**

From

**\$80**

per person

- 3-hour cruise on Sydney Harbour
- Live jazz
- Seafood & carvery buffet
- Dessert, coffee & tea
- Fully licensed bar - bar packages available
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- Discounts for large group bookings

For bookings and enquiries, please contact us on (02) 9660 0388

or email us at

[info@vagabond.com.au](mailto:info@vagabond.com.au)

## Jazz Workshop Australia (By Dennis Harris)

Last month I wrote about the Jazz Workshop Australia (JWA) - a school for jazz musicians based in St Leonards.

Sydney Jazz Club committed \$1,000 to the cost of sending one student for JWA to their annual summer camp at Katoomba. The full cost of attendance was \$1,350 per student.

During the discussion with Dr Saul Richardson, school Principal, he told us that each night of the 4 day camp, a jazz band is brought in to play for the students but they had never had a trad band playing early jazz—could we help?

I asked Robbie Mann (because he lives in the mountains) if he was interested and he said yes, but heard no more. I saw Robbie in Mildura and asked what had happened and he said it was all arranged. Paul Furniss and others were joining him for the gig. So I thought I would attend too, given our investment.

What a night it was!

Robbie excelled by producing the band:

- Robbie on piano and Clarinet
- Paul on Clarinet
- Geoff Power on Trumpet and piano
- Jacob Parks on trombone (from the Finer Cuts)
- Stan Valacos on bass
- Lachlan Robinson—a first year Conservatorium drummer with a 100 years old drum kit

The band was dubbed on the spot :

### “The Robbie Mann All Stars”

Right from the first notes played, this band lifted the roof and the 75(!) students present were blown away. They loved it. Robbie and the others engaged the audience with Q&A sessions and anecdotes e.g.

*Student (addressing Paul): How long have you been playing Clarinet?*

*Paul: “I was given my first clarinet 70 years ago”*

*Someone in the band: “When he was 30.”*

The joy and enthusiasm demonstrated by the students was deafening and the band responded with fabulous renditions of jazz of the 1920s. The kids were all between 13 and 19,

and they are guided by staff, some of whom are well known to SJC (e.g. Tony Barnard). There is no doubt that these people have been introduced to the joy of traditional jazz thanks mainly to Robbie and our other musician friends.

Dr Richardson was overjoyed with the outcome. I hope we can do it all again next year. The Committee will be working to bring some of the students to SJC to perform for our members.



The audience.

[The Opening Number](#) Watch the crowd warm to the music, and it kept on getting better.

*I met the young guitarist / vocalist, Oskar Nichols, whom we supported financially so he could attend the camp and he was emotional with gratitude.*



Oskar is the younger fellow in the picture.

## Become A Sydney Jazz Club committee member or helper at our AGM

Sydney Jazz Club Coop Ltd needs a new Director, and people to step forward to help with our activities. Thanks to the volunteers who are helping with door management and raffle ticket selling.

## Membership of Sydney Jazz Club as a Gift to a Friend

Give a gift to a friend—membership of Sydney Jazz Club—discounts on entry fees, monthly newsletter, voting rights and Great Jazz every month. Use this QR Code or go to [www.sydneyjazzclub.org.au/membership](http://www.sydneyjazzclub.org.au/membership)



**Sydney Jazz Club – February 2025 Gig Guide.**

<b>Day of Week / Event</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Contact</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>				
Jazz Blues Open Mic Sessions	Potts Point Hotel, L1 / 33 Darlinghurst St, KINGS CROSS		7:00 - 10.30 pm	Every
Monday Night Confessions (different Acts)	Church Street Studios, 62-68 Church St, CAMPERDOWN		8:00 PM	Every
<b>TUESDAY</b>				
Jazz Jam Sessions (different Hosts)	Miss Celie's Bar, 17 Hercules St, ASHFIELD		7:00 - 10:00 pm	Every
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>				
<b>Sydney Jazz Club presents: Licorice Allsorts</b>	<b>The Freeway Hotel, 115 Reserve Road, ARTARMON</b>		<b>12:30-3:30 pm</b>	<b>12</b>
Gypsy Jazz Jam	Miss Celie's Bar, 17 Hercules St, ASHFIELD		7:00 - 10:00 pm	12, 26
Arthur Washington Quartet	Cricketers Arms Hotel, 106 Fitzroy St, SURRY HILLS		7:00 - 10:00 pm	Every
Bill Burton & Friends with Special	Avalon Bowling Club, 4 Bowling Green Ln, AVA-		7:00 - 9.30 pm	Every
<b>THURSDAY</b>				
Aaron Blakey Quartet with Guests	Botany View Hotel, 597 King Street, NEW-TOWN		8.30 pm	Every
Don Hopkins Piano Trio	Restaurant Hubert, 15 Bligh St, SYDNEY CBD	02-92320881	12:30-2:30 pm	Every
Tilly Street Quartet	Yulli's Brews, 75A Burrows Rd, ALEXANDRIA		6:30 - 9:30 pm	Every
<b>FRIDAY</b>				
Bridge City Jazz Band with Special Guests	Club Ashfield, Level 1, 5 Charlotte St, ASHFIELD		7.30 pm	Every
Different Jazz Trios (check website)	Polish Club, 162 Liverpool Rd, ASHFIELD		7:00-10:00 pm	Every
<b>SATURDAY</b>				
Al Davey & The Groovers	The Freeway Hotel, 118 Reserve Road, ARTAR-MON		2:00 - 5:00 pm	1
Andrew Dickeson's Blue Rhythm Band	Pratten Park Bowling Club, 42 Arthur St, ASH-FIELD		7:00-10:00 pm	8
Bob Henderson Band	The Freeway Hotel, 118 Reserve Road, ARTAR-MON		2:00 - 5:00 pm	15
Old Time Jazz Band	Hero of Waterloo Hotel, Lower Fort St, THE ROCKS		2.30 - 6.30 pm	Every
<b>SUNDAY</b>				
Dan Barnett Big Band	Unity Hall Hotel, 292 Darling St. BALMAIN		3.00 - 6.30 pm	2
Mulgoa Road Jazz Band	Club Paceway Penrith, 141 Station St, PENRITH		12:00 - 3:00 pm	2
Mulgoa Road Jazz Band	Jazz At The Pines, Roughly House, 656 Old Northern Rd, DURAL		12:30-4:00 pm	16
Dave Smith Band	Brickworks Brewing, 15 May St, ST PETERS		4:00 - 7:00 pm	Every
Geoff Bull & The Finer Cuts	Botany View Hotel, 597 King St, NEWTOWN		5:00 - 8:00 pm	Every
George Washingmachine Trio	Lord Dudley Hotel, 236 Jersey Rd, PADDINGTON		4:00 - 7:00 pm	Every
Old Time Jazz Band	Hero of Waterloo Hotel, Lower Fort St, THE ROCKS		3:00 - 7:00 pm	Every
Weekly Jazz Sessions (different Acts)	Lord Wolseley Hotel, 265 Bulwara Rd, ULTIMO		2:00 - 5:00 pm	Every

[For weekly updates, check the Sydney Jazz Club website](#)

Go to [Victorian Jazz Club](#) next time you visit Melbourne.

Go to [Canberra Jazz Club](#) next time you are in the ACT

Galapagos Duck is playing at **Noosa Heads Jazz Club** on 27 February 2025. [For information click here.](#)

SUNDAYS

# LIVE JAZZ

FROM 4PM 597 KING



FEATURING  
**GEOFF BULL & FINER CUTS**  
THE BOTANY VIEW HOTEL

**DAN BARNETT**

3-6PM \$15



**BIG BAND**  
1ST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH

Unity Hall Hotel, Balmain, 3 pm to 6 pm




Reserve Rd, Artarmon

**Saturday Jazz,**  
1st and 3rd weeks of the month, 2-5 pm.

Al Davey & The Groovers  
Bob Henderson & Friends

**The Bridge City Jazz Band**  
is at  
**Club Ashfield**  
every Friday Night  
[Jazz Band and Solo Performances](#)



[NEWCASTLE & HUNTER JAZZ CLUB INC. | jazz \(newcastlejazz.com.au\)](#)

## Bonnie Kay and the Sweet Patooties

23 Feb 2025, 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm  
Wallsend Diggers Club

5 Tyrell St, Wallsend, NSW 2287

[www.illawarrajazzclub.com](http://www.illawarrajazzclub.com)

### Weekly Jazz Sessions held every Saturday at:

Collegians Illawarra Leagues Club Church Street, Wollongong  
Music from 2pm – 5pm (doors open 1pm) Admission to each band is \$10\* – pay at the door!

1st February John Smith Little Big Band  
8th February Koko Does Jazz  
15th February Liza Ohlback & the Mercy Train  
22nd February Nice 'n Tight

[Illawarra Jazz Club | Facebook](#) for details.



11 – 37 Alexandria Parade, Waitara NSW 2077

[Entertainment - Magpies Waitara](#)  
Last Sunday of the month, 2–5 pm



2-5PM FIRST SUNDAY EVERY MONTH  
**Eric Gibbons New Orleans Ramblers**  
2-5 PM, PARKVIEW ROOM, CENTRAL COAST LEAGUES CLUB

For more details visit: [Home - Jazz League](#)  
phone: Jill 0481 334 971

## Sydney Jazz Club Committee

<b>President:</b>	Ian McAllister	<b>Secretary:</b>	Caroline McAllister
<b>Vice-President &amp; Special Functions:</b>		<b>Publicity and Marketing:</b>	Chris Gildersleeve
<b>Treasurer &amp; Bands Coordinator:</b>	Mary Armstrong	<b>Committee Member:</b>	
<b>Membership Secretary:</b>	Dennis Harris	<b>Newsletter Editor:</b>	Dennis Harris
		<b>Web site and FaceBook Admin:</b>	Dennis Harris
		<b>The Gig Guide is prepared by</b>	Hugo Pfandler

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**Website:** [www.sydneyjazzclub.org.au](http://www.sydneyjazzclub.org.au)

**Banking details:** forward payments to:  
Sydney Jazz Club Co-op Ltd., St. George Bank  
**BSB: 112879 Acct No: 039622683**

Please clearly note your name (and member number if possible) and ask for advice of payment to be forwarded to:  
[admin@sydneyjazzclub.org.au](mailto:admin@sydneyjazzclub.org.au)

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