



Patron: Bill Haesler OAM

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# Sydney Jazz Club Newsletter

## September 2025

### Midweek Jazz In September

[Details Page 3](#)

## Greg Poppleton and his Band

### August Mid-Week Jazz Review: Mulgoa Road Jazz band

Another band for which we have had so much great feedback and several requests to put them on again. Thankyou Mary Armstrong for arranging for visas to allow the Mulgoa Road Jazz Band to cross the North Shore Line into Artarmon and the Freeway Hotel.

One of the comments overheard was that this was the first time in living memory when [whoever] knew and loved every song on the list; and who'd have thought we would hear Swan Lake in that list.

We had been told by those members who had also attended the charity Jazz Cruise with Mulgoa Road Jazz Band (that we had advertised) on 10 August, that we were in for a good show, but the music selection and musicianship of the band enhanced the performance to memorable levels.

Nana Koizumi on trumpet was good but then she sang the reaction in the room was notable. What a treasure Nana is for Jazz In Sydney and this was her first time with the band. She certainly seemed to enjoy singing and the audience loved her style and the evident joy in performing.

Jack Wiard was his usual brilliant self on reeds. Janos Horvath playing the mandatory piano solo was outstanding. It was a great pity that I forgot to press record on my phone (again) at the beginning of the solo, but we got some of it on video. Dave Clayton on bass had it just right. Unfortunately I also missed recording his scatt while playing a bass solo. I thought it was great.

Adrian Sheen, band leader and trombonist, made a run on the band leaders' Dad Jokes competition, and brought that magical instrument to life too.

I also missed recording the drum solo by Baz Cliche, but fear not, there is enough [on this video clip](#) from the day to remind you of another excellent mid-week Jazz at Sydney Jazz Club.

THEN we had guest appearances by Billy Gale, singing the great jazz standards including Mack The Knife, and Mike Hallam with his harmonica.

A memorable day. Thankyou Mulgoa Road Jazz Band.



Left to right: Adran Sheen, Jack Wiard, Baz Cliché  
Dave Clayton, Janos Horvath, Nana Koizumi.:  
**Mulgoa Road Jazz Band.**





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

September 2025

Hi All,

Slowly getting my act together and hope to catch up with members and friends at our September mid-week gig.

### Monthly Gig

Come along and listen and dance to the great music from **Greg Poppleton's Jazz Band** on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September**. Bring your friends and help support live jazz in Sydney

### Changes

As you would have noticed we have recently made changes to the operations of the club in particular with regard to how we manage club membership. This has been instigated to make it fairer for members who join during the Financial Year and also to help distribute the work load of the Membership Secretary more evenly throughout the year. I hope that current members whose membership is normally due on 1<sup>st</sup> September remember to re-join shortly and continue to enjoy all the benefits that membership gives.

Also we have made changes to some of the roles undertaken by the committee in order to try and spread the work load. As

I am certain you appreciate, any assistance the directors can get in the running of your club will be appreciated.

Not much more from me this month. I hope that you come along on Wednesday September 10th and enjoy live jazz.

I encourage you to bring your friends along to our function and encourage them to join the SJC!

In the meantime,

**Enjoy Life "and All That Jazz"**

**Ian McAllister**

**SJC President**

p.s. We are still looking for assistance on committee to allow us to achieve an agenda of having further live jazz functions throughout the year.

### Sydney Jazz Club Annual General Meeting

**We are planning for our Annual General Meeting on 12 November 2025 immediately preceding the monthly Jazz gig.**

### Membership has changed.

The Committee has approved a change in Membership. To date, the membership year has been the same as our (constitutional) financial year, ending every year on 31 August.

**From 1 September 2025, your membership year will be current for 12 months from the date you pay your membership fee.**

Each month we will send emails or letters to the members who are due to renew in the following month. If you miss paying the renewal fee in the due month, you will be marked as unfinancial and lose membership rights. If you later pay the

fee, there will be no penalty and your renewed membership will be for 12 months from the date of receipt by Sydney Jazz Club of your fee payment.

### New Telephone Number

Sydney Jazz Club now has a mobile service: 0426 632 138.

### Mystery Members

On 12 June 2025, a deposit appeared in the Sydney Jazz Club bank account for \$40 with the note "New Member **Angela Richards Affiliate Member Michael Richards**" but we have never received an application. Does anyone know Angela and Michael?

### Membership of Sydney Jazz Club

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



<https://sydneyjazzclub.org.au/membership/>



The "Little People" graphic is copyright to our Life Member, Terry Fowler (deceased) and The Sydney Jazz Club.

### Jazz Clubs Around Australia

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

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

Go to [Southern Jazz Club](#) When in Adelaide

Go to [WA Jazz Club](#) next time you are in Perth

Go to [Noosa Heads Jazz Club](#) and [The Gold Coast Jazz And Blues Club](#) if you go to Queensland

In Tasmania, visit [Hobart Jazz Club](#).

# SYDNEY JAZZ CLUB PRESENTS:

Wednesday, 10 September 2025, 12:30 to 3:30 pm, Freeway Hotel, Artarmon.

## Greg Poppleton and his Band

[Australia's only authentic 1920s - 1930s Singer & Jazz Band | Greg Poppleton](#)  
[1920s 1930s Singer and Band](#)

Greg Poppleton is Australia's only authentic 1920s–1930s jazz and swing singer. With a voice straight from the golden age of jazz, Greg brings Roaring 20s and 1930s hits to life with effortless charm and vintage flair. For over 30 years, Greg has performed at historical events, weddings, Great Gatsby parties, and corporate galas across Australia.

Known for his lively stage presence and deep love for the era, Greg's performances recreate the magic of legendary artists like Louis Armstrong, Fats Waller, and Bing Crosby.

Whether you need a vintage crooner with piano duo or a full jazz band, Greg Poppleton transforms your event into a memorable, fun and timeless celebration.



**Greg Poppleton - 1920s-30s vocals, Damon Poppleton - alto sax, Bradley Newman - piano,  
Dave Clayton - double bass, Adam Barnard – drums**

**Sydney Jazz Club Mid Week Jazz at the Freeway Hotel**

**\$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.

**Table bookings are not permitted**

### Jazz History in Septembers

2 September: Tenor saxophonist Sonny Rollins born 1930 in New York, NY.

8 September: Cornetist's Bix Beiderbecke's last session as leader 1930

10 September: Trumpeter Miles Davis records 'Round Midnight with tenor saxophonist John Coltrane, 1956.

11 September: Pianist/singer Harry Connick, Jr. born 1967 in New Orleans, LA.

12 September: George Russell records Manhattan with a band including John Coltrane, Art Farmer, Bob Brookmeyer and Bill Evans 1958

13 September: Billie Holiday records He's Funny That Way 1937

15 September: Saxophonist Cannonball Adderley born 1928 in Tampa, FL.

23 September: Saxophonist/composer John Coltrane born 1926 in Hamlet, NC.

Pianist/vocalist Ray Charles born 1930 in Albany, GA.

24 September: Sarah Vaughan records My Funny Valentine 1973

29 September: Trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie plays Carnegie Hall with his big band with guests Ella Fitzgerald and alto saxophonist Charlie Parker, 1947.



115 Reserve Rd, Artarmon

## The Centre of jazz On the North Shore

First Saturday Of The Month: Al Davey and the Groovers

Second Saturday of the Month: Geoff Power Jazz Band

Third Saturday of the Month: Bob Henderson and Friends

Fourth Saturday of the month: Jazz Workshop Australia

### You Might Be Interested to know:

#### Vale Judy Bailey

The great Judy Bailey died during August.

Eric Myers (Jazz Journalist) has written an obituary on her at this Facebook address Click [here](#).

A special reference to Judy Bailey came to me (Editor) from a friend Josh Willard. Josh is Music Director at the Cathedral of Broken, Bay (Waitara). Graduated from the Con as a jazz musician (Sax) a decade or so ago. This link is to a recording of his final performance at the Con at his graduation. He played the John Coltrane song "[Soul Eyes](#)" accompanied by none other than Judy Bailey. It is 9 minutes long but so worth listening to. I believe that this is the only recording of Judy Bailey playing this song.

On our Facebook Group there is an ad for a Judy Bailey tribute on 12 September at Lane Cove: [Click Here](#).

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Tom Baker's San Francisco Jazz Band—[see page 10](#).



#### What's On at Sydney Jazz Club



10 September 2025: Greg Poppleton and his Band

8 October 2025: Greg Englert Jazz Band

12 November 2025: Leigh Baker and his band.

12 November (preceding gig) Annual General Meeting

10 December 2025: Chasing the Moon

14 January 2026: Jive Bombers

26 January 2026: Australia Day event in planning

#### Jazz on Radio

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

[Weekly Gig Guide](#) (updated Monday afternoon each week).



Four to seven piece traditional/dixieland style Jazz Band, playing music from the 1920's, 30's, 40's and 50's...

#### The Bridge City Jazz Band.

#### Friday Jazz at Club Ashfield

is on hold while the Club undertakes renovations.

The date of resumption of Jazz on Fridays is as yet uncertain.

[Jazz Band and Solo Performances](#)

**Sydney Jazz Club Committee needs some help: contributions to our newsletter.** Photos of our gigs and others attended, stories of our favourite jazz musicians, and memories. We would be very happy for someone to take a few photos of our members mid-week gigs, or send us a photo of your table enjoying the music. Any other Jazz news is also welcome.

## Some 2025 Jazz Festivals

19-21 September: [Manly Jazz Festival](#)

28 October—2 November [Perth International Jazz Festival](#)

8-12 October: [Brisbane Vocal Jazz Festival](#)

17-26 October: [Melbourne International Jazz Festival](#)

13-15 February 2026: [Port Fairy Jazz Festival](#)

# MANLY JAZZ 2025

Australia's longest-running jazz festival is back!

From 19 - 21 September, experience 70+ acts across 4 stages and 10+ official venues in and around Manly.

Council's hugely popular festival will feature a dynamic and diverse program celebrating the rich traditions and evolving future of jazz music. It's a weekend not to be missed.



## Australian Jazz Convention

The **Australian Jazz Convention** is an annual gathering for musicians and jazz lovers to celebrate their music. While the focus is on traditional or "Dixieland" jazz, the convention is also open to groups playing swing, mainstream, bebop, modern, funk, and other jazz genres. Since 1946 the convention has been hosted by different cities and towns across Australia; in 2025 the 79th AJC will be held in Mildura, Victoria, from December 26th to 31st. [australianjazzconvention.org.au](http://australianjazzconvention.org.au)

[The AJC has a great list of Australian Jazz Clubs](#)

## Two Pianos:

### Bradley Newman and Robbie Mann

When: Wednesday 1st October, 1-3 pm.  
\$10 pp.

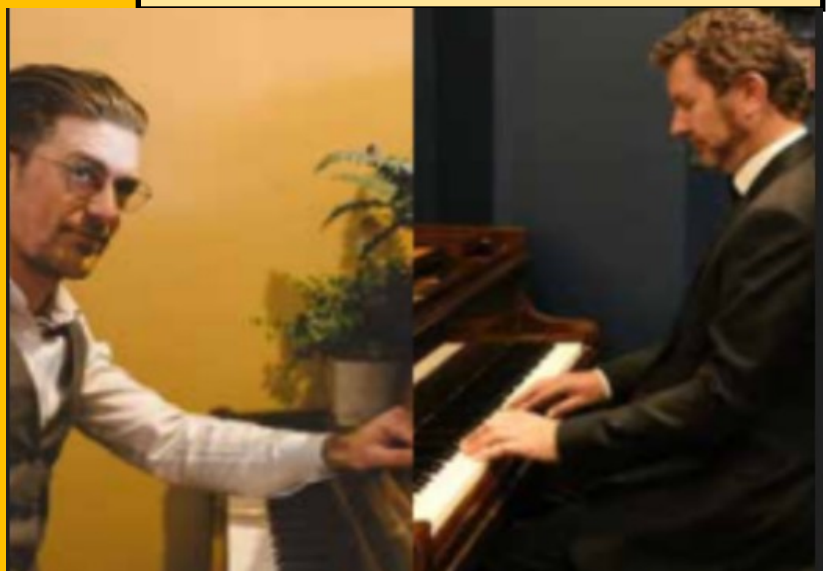
Where: Riverhigh Restaurant and Bar  
33 Bernard Rd Padstow Heights

Bus: Beauty Point bus will pick up from 'kiss and ride' at Padstow Station between 11am and 1115 am on the day. Return at 3pm.

Some on site parking, street parking short walk away.

Fully licensed Restaurant and Bar with good food and scenic view.

Book: 02 87084700 Restaurant and Bus.



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).

## Sound and Vision

Another article in this fascinating series by

**Margaret Margennis**

The development of jazz happened at the same time as the development of the film industry. It's no surprise then that jazz has featured as the soundtrack to many films and been the subject of many films. What is surprising are the number of famous jazz musicians who have tried their hand at acting and the number of famous actors who are also great jazz musicians.

### Woody Allen

Famous film director and actor, Woody Allen, is less well known for his clarinet playing. However, he began playing as a child and initially wanted to become a professional musician. Although that did not happen, he has continued to play music throughout his life. Allen plays regularly with his New Orleans Jazz Band in New York. They have produced several albums over the years from traditional jazz to swing to cool bop covers. YouTube has many recordings of him and his band if you are interested: <https://youtu.be/6b7XRdnsE5k?si=LGysvz2m2hFZ2Lj3>



**Woody Allen and his New Orleans Jazz Band.**

Image: [www.jazzmusicarchives.com](http://www.jazzmusicarchives.com)

### Cab Calloway

Jazz singer, songwriter and bandleader, Calloway also acted, starring in as many as 15 films from 1932 to 1980 including *Stormy Weather* (1943), *Porgy and Bess* (1953), *The Cincinnati Kid* (1965) and the Broadway production of *Hello Dolly!* (1967). However, it was his rendition of "Minnie the Moocher", which he originally recorded in 1931, that became an iconic part of the 1980's hit film 'The Blues Brothers' and introduced him to a whole new generation of audiences. In 1999 the song was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame. For a treat, watch the full 'Blues Brothers' performance: <https://youtu.be/250MMqOfTrU?si=jFviPK7DeFpmdH>

### Dizzy Gillespie

Dizzy made his only acting debut in an episode of the *Cosby* Show in 1984 in the episode titled "Play It Again, Vanessa". He played the role of a music teacher who helps Vanessa Huxtable to play her clarinet. He was one of several famous jazz musicians to feature on the *Cosby* Show, others included Lena Horne, Tito Puente and Miriam Makeba.

### Dexter Gordon

Dexter was an American jazz tenor saxophonist, composer, and bandleader and one of the most influential early bebop musicians. His long career saw him playing in the bands of Fletcher Henderson, Billy Eckstine and Louis Armstrong and feature in albums with Benny Carter, Dizzy Gillespie, Lionel Hampton and Herbie Hancock, to name a few.

He starred in the 1986 film 'Round Midnight' for which he was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actor in a Leading Role, the only jazz instrumentalist to have achieved this. The film's soundtrack was by Herbie Hancock with the title coming from Thelonious Monk's 1943 composition "Round Midnight", which is featured in this film in a Hancock arrangement. Hancock won an Academy Award for Best Original Score for the film with Gordon winning a Grammy for Best Instrumental Jazz Performance, Soloist.



**Theatrical release poster by Steven Chorney**

### Miles Davis

The legendary Miles Davis strayed into the acting business briefly, during the latter part of his career. He made two cameo appearances - as 'Ivory Jones', a pimp, in an episode of 'Miami Vice' titled 'Junk Love' (1985) and as a street musician in 'Scrooged' (1988). His last acting stint was a full speaking role in an Australian production, 'Dingo' (1991), filmed in Western Australia and Paris. He passed away that same year.



**Miles Davis with Phillip Michael Thomas and Don Johnson on the set of Miami Vice episode 'Junk Love.'**

Image: YouTube

## Clint Eastwood

Director, actor, and producer, Clint Eastwood is also a lifelong jazz pianist and composer. He is famous for his singing part in the western 'Paint Your Wagon' and has composed soundtracks to several films including 'The Bridges of Madison County', 'Mystic River', 'Million Dollar Baby' and 'Flags of our Fathers'. He has produced four albums between 1963 to 2014 and several singles including duets with Merle Haggard and Ray Charles. His son Kyle Eastwood is a successful jazz bassist and composer himself. You can catch some of his playing on YouTube [https://youtu.be/X\\_UzzH4Xa-0?si=ndeqXSLj5FJjH0os](https://youtu.be/X_UzzH4Xa-0?si=ndeqXSLj5FJjH0os)



**Clint Eastwood at the piano in Monterey, California**

Image: Chris Felver/Getty Image

## Don Cheadle

American multi-award winning actor Don Cheadle spent 10 years writing, producing and finally directing and starring as Miles Davis in his 2015 biopic film 'Miles Ahead'. His film appearances are broad – he has starred in 'Hotel Rwanda', the 'Ironman' franchise, 'Oceans 11', 'Boogie Nights', and TV productions including 'ER' and 'House of Lies'. He has played music from a young age – in high school he played saxophone in the jazz band and sang. He also played piano and studied music at Harvard University before focusing on acting. He collaborated with various musicians on the film soundtracks for 'Out of Sight' and 'Boogie Nights'. His other instruments include bass guitar and drums. But it is his work in 'Miles Ahead' for which he earned a grammy award for best compilation soundtrack that revealed his musical abilities. Cheadle specifically started learning the trumpet in order to take on the role. However, most of the trumpet playing in the film is overdubbed by contemporary jazz trumpeter Keyon Harrold or is from Miles Davis' own recordings. As Cheadle put it "The trumpet is one of the meanest and hardest instruments that there is. The learning curve is very steep." Cheadle's playing did not make the final cut of the film.



**Don Cheadle as Miles Davis in 'Miles Ahead'.**

Image Bustle Magazine

There are many more jazz musicians who have appeared in films – Fats Waller; Louis Armstrong, Harry Connick Jr, even Duke Ellington to name a few. This article is about the not so obvious ones.

*Article sources: Wikipedia and various websites*

## Jazz musician and double bassist Leigh Barker is bringing his band to Sydney for Sydney jazz Club in 12 November.

### Leigh Barker Band featuring Heather Stewart

[A YouTube video of the band—click here.](#)

Virtuoso string bassist, bandleader, composer and arranger, Leigh Barker moved to Paris from Australia in 2016 to bring a new international perspective to his many musical projects. In the years before his departure, Barker was already sustaining a busy international schedule including such highlights as the Sydney Opera House, Jazz at Lincoln Center, The Bix Beiderbecke Memorial Festival in Iowa and The New York Lindy Exchange as well as global tours with the “Tom Vincent Trio” and the “Hot Jazz Alliance”. As a sideman he has accompanied artists as diverse as Branford Marsalis, Gordon Webster, Sarah McKenzie, Andy Schumm and Dan Levinson, and in France and Europe since 2016 with many of the greats of traditional and mainstream jazz, including Christophe Davot, Chris Hopkins, Olivier Franc and Duved Dunayevsky.

Ambitiously as a bandleader Leigh has maintained a regular line up in both France AND Australia, which allowed him to spend two days in the studio with the Melbourne based musicians in late 2022. This produced the new full length al-

bum “CROSS STREET” available in all mediums from May 2025, (including for the very first time vinyl!) These sessions reunited Leigh with all his regular bandmates, allowing the group to develop even further Leigh's vision of an inclusive and diverse music, where one finds the all the critical elements of blues, swing, hot jazz and classic themes, at the heart of an exuberant, spontaneous and virtuosic orchestra. On the new album and now in 2025 live on tour in Australia, vocalist and violinist Heather Stewart anchors these musical comrades with her moving and swinging voice, while the orchestra traverses a rich palette of rhythm melody and improvisation.

**Leigh Barker - bass,**  
**Heather Stewart - vocals and violin,**  
**Eamon McNelise - trumpet,**  
**Max Teakle - piano,**  
**Abby Constable - drums,**  
**Special Guest - trombone.**



## Sydney Jazz Club Quarterly Rag

By Dennis Harris

The Committee has two copies of the Sydney Jazz Club Quarterly Rag with editions published between April 1976 and the end of 2003. And we are not the only ones. There are two current ads on EBay for volumes within this same period for sale.

One set in our possession was thoughtfully bound into sets of 20 volumes so that there are 5 hard cover shelf books of the Rag.

Co-incidentally, I received the letter enclosing an October 1966 copy of Quarterly Rag—the last one edited by Kate Dunbar.

What are we to do with these old, good condition, historical documents?

I contacted the NSW State Library. Sydney Jazz Club is legally obliged to submit a copy of our publication—The Quarterly Rag and the current version—our Newsletter, both in its earlier paper form and in the current electronic form. We were gratified to learn that the Library has in its catalogues ever edition of the Newsletter and its predecessor since volume 1 in 1955!

I contacted the Australian Jazz Museum in Melbourne and they have two copies of the same priceless collection.

Merriel Hume  
19 May 2025

Dennis Harris  
Sydney Jazz Club  
PO Box 186  
BROADWAY NSW 2007

Hi Dennis

Please find enclosed a copy of the last issue of Quarterly Rag edited by Kate Dunbar in October 1966.

My husband, Lloyd Adamson (trumpet & flugel), was a leading performer and studio musician in Brisbane and Sydney across three decades. He died in 1975.

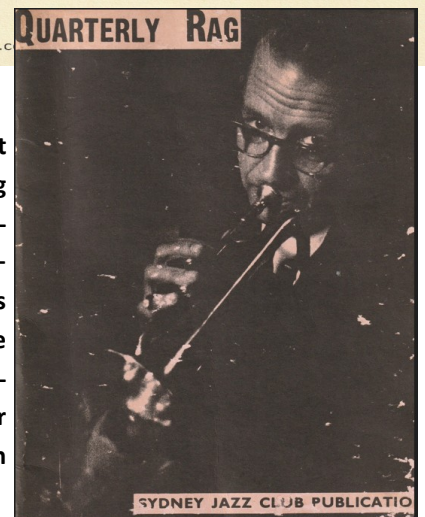
I too was an established vocalist in both those cities. I am 85 years old now and in the process of downsizing. I found this little treasure among Lloyd's memorabilia.

I hope that it can find a home in the Jazz Club's history records—or perhaps in the NSW State Library.

Wishing you and all your members every success in maintaining the fine work you are doing.

*Merriel*  
Merriel Hume  
merriel.hume2014@gmail.com

**So it seems this subset we have is something like the orb and sceptre of the monarchy—symbols of power. This collection will be passed on to subsequent committees for safe-keeping in someone's wardrobe.**



SUNDAYS

# LIVE JAZZ

FROM 4PM 597 KING



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

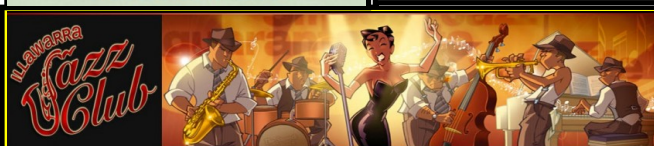
**DAN BARNETT**

3-6PM \$15



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

Unity Hall Hotel, Balmain, 3 pm to 6:30 pm



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

**MAGPIES**  
WAITARA

11 – 37 Alexandria Parade, Waitara NSW 2077

[Entertainment - Magpies Waitara](#)

Jazz on the last Sunday of the month, 2–5 pm

# JAZZ LEAGUE

CENTRAL COAST

[The Juglug String Band](#)  
[— Central Coast Jazz League](#)

Sunday 7 September, 2 pm to 5 pm.



[NEWCASTLE & HUNTER JAZZ CLUB INC](#)

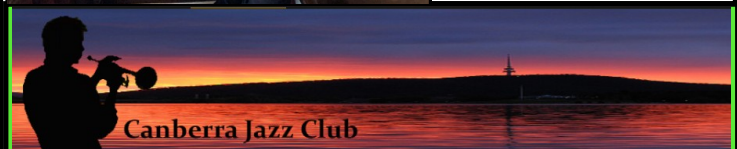
## HALF NELSON

28 Sept 2025, 2:00 pm – 4:30 pm  
Wallsend Diggers Club, 5 Tyrrell St, Wallsend NSW 2287, Australia

Traditional to Mainstream  
Jazz with a dash of small band swing



**Stephen Washington**  
**Lord Dudley Hotel**  
**Sundays, 4-7pm**  
**First floor in The Guinness Room.**



**Stationhouse Seven, Sunday 14 September 1 pm.**

[Canberra Southern Cross Club Lounge.](#)

## Sydney Jazz Club Committee

**President:** Ian McAllister  
**Vice-President & Special Functions:**  
**Treasurer & Bands Coordinator:** Mary Armstrong  
**Membership Secretary:** Greg Ghavalas

**Secretary:** Caroline McAllister  
**Publicity and Marketing:** Dennis Harris  
**Newsletter Editor:** Dennis Harris  
**Web site and FaceBook Admin:** Dennis Harris and Margaret Margennis  
**The Gig Guide is prepared by** Hugo Pfandler

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P.O. Box 186, Broadway, NSW 2007

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

**Telephone:** 0426 632 138.

**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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## A Special Event is coming to Commemorate Tom Baker's San Francisco Jazz Band.

On 29 November (Saturday) 2025, there will be a special jazz event at the **Freeway Hotel**. Arrangements are still being made. This is not a Sydney Jazz Club event but we recommend you to the music of the day. The time proposed is 1 to 4:30 pm but watch this space for updates.

A band is being put together by some of our favourite musicians to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Tom Baker's San Francisco Jazz Band. The band was formed by Tom Baker in December, 1975 for the specific purpose of playing at the 30th Australian Jazz Convention in Balmain. Bill Armstrong decided to record the band as soon as he heard it. The Album back cover is below and the front cover appears [on Page 4](#).

This event will also commemorate the 80th anniversary of the formation in 1945 of the Dutch Swing College Band, which is still going strong today, and which coincidentally is also referred to in the sleeve notes for the San Francisco Jazz Band Album in the section about its Dutch pianist, Hans Karssemeyer. Also, this event represents the centenary of Louis Armstrong's first recordings under his own name, as his famous Hot Five first recorded in November 1925, i.e. 100 years almost to the day before this planned concert on 29/11/2025. (Editor: Unfortunately the scans available of the original album cover are not clear enough to be easily legible no matter how I tried to blow them up. [This Link](#) has legible text supporting the album picture. )

Tom Baker's San Francisco Jazz Band Volume One

**Side A**

1. Cushion Foot Stomp (3.06) (Williams)
2. My Sweetie Went Away (3.24) (Handman-Turk)
3. Melancholy Blues (4.37) (Bloom-Melrose-Schoebel)
4. Annie Street Rock (2.25) (Lu Matters)
5. Dusky Stevedore (3.15) (Ranaf-Johnson) (Vocal Tom Baker)
6. Stomp Time Blues (2.56) (Jasper Taylor)

**Side B**

1. The Ragtime Dance (3.18) (Joplin)
2. What-Cha-Call-En-Blues (3.28) (Roberts)
3. Emperor Norton's Hunch (3.16) (Lu Matters)
4. I've Got What It Takes (4.46) (Williams-Jenkins) (Vocal Tom Baker)
5. New Orleans Stomp (3.10) (Oliver-Picou)
6. Chimes Blues (2.42) (J. Oliver)



**Personnel:** Tom Baker, Eric Holroyd (tp), Paul Furniss (clt, alto sax, soprano sax), John Bates (trb), Hans Karssemeyer (pno), Dave Robison (bjo), Chris Qua (elec. bass), Mal McGillivray (dr), all sides except "New Orleans Stomp" and "Melancholy Blues" on which Eric Holroyd is omitted, John Bates plays tuba and Mal McGillivray doubles on washboard.

Produced by **Bill Armstrong**.

Recorded at EMI Studios Sydney 31st October, 1976.

Recording Engineer: Martin Bengt.

The 30th Australian Jazz Convention in Balmain (Sydney) gave Tom the opportunity to express his own ideas and in December, 1975, when he formed the San Francisco Jazz Band for the specific purpose of playing there. In little less than a month the San Francisco Band had come of age and during 1976 the band built up a strong following.

The secret of the band's success lay in the ability and co-operation of its personnel, all of them well known and respected within the Australian jazz movement.



**Tom Baker's San Francisco Jazz Band**

The impact of the Lu Matters San Francisco jazz band on Australian jazz in the 1940's gave it a boost as no other before it. Graeme Bell's Jazz Band, Frank Johnson's Fabulous Dixielanders and Len Barnard's Jazz Band all absorbed the Waters sound.

Now it has been revived by a 24 year old Sydney based trumpet player from the West Coast of the U.S. - Tom Baker. The music of this new band evokes memories of the San Francisco style but includes the influence of the Australian sound now so well established since those tentative days of the 1940's. Tom Baker came to Australia from the U.S. as a teenager but did not play jazz until 1972 in Sydney. He had studied music at High School and the University but became interested in jazz for its "improvisational abilities" and his "lack of interest in most other types of music".

Sydney jazz people will be aware of the sudden emergence of this tall young American who still plays with Nick Boston's Colonial Jazz Band and was a regular member of the Ray Price Quintet and The Abbey Jazz Band for some time.

The 30th Australian Jazz Convention in Balmain (Sydney) gave Tom the opportunity to express his own ideas and in December, 1975, when he formed the San Francisco Jazz Band for the specific purpose of playing there. In little less than a month the San Francisco Band had come of age and during 1976 the band built up a strong following.

The secret of the band's success lay in the ability and co-operation of its personnel, all of them well known and respected within the Australian jazz movement.



Paul Furniss (clarinet) is perhaps one of the best known members of the San Francisco Band, having been a force in Sydney jazz since 1961. Paul first played jazz with Bob Learmonth's Jazz Bandists at the Iron Workers Hall. He joined Geoff Bull's Olympia Jazz Band in 1965 and played with them for four years until about 1969 when he joined Graeme Bell's All Stars.



Dave Robison (banjo) is another Melbourne born musician, taught by Smokey Fitzgerald, but did not play with any group until he went to Sydney in 1965. For 2 years he played with Nat Oliver's Jazzmen, was with Sid Smith's Trio Los Conchos until he formed his own Society Jazz Band in 1967 which played casual jobs until late 1970 after which Dave joined Mick Fowler's Fowl House Five, Doc Willis and Noel Crow bands and still plays with the Charlatoms Strutters.



Chris Qua (bass) is better known as a founder member of the Galapagos Duck, one of Sydney's famous modern jazz groups and appears on this record by courtesy of the Duck and '44 Records'. Born in Orange, N.S.W., Chris grew up in a musical atmosphere. His mother, Pat, is a well known Sydney jazz pianist. Chris is an original member of the San Francisco Band and uses an electric bass instead of the traditional tuba.



Hans Karssemeyer (piano) was born in Leidschendam, Holland. The inevitable jazz influence on Hans was the Dutch Swing College Band, during the 1930's when jazz was "hot parade" material in Holland. Hans played with the Leyden University Band in Holland. For many years he was a resident of Melbourne playing piano with Max Collier's Jazz Kings and The Melbourne Dixieland Jazz Band. Hans moved to Sydney and became the regular pianist with Nick Boston's Colonial Jazz Band and also played with the Ray Price Quintet.



Mal McGillivray (drums) is another Melbourne musician now resident in Sydney. He has never formally studied music but since his first interest in jazz in 1961 he has played with some of Australia's foremost New Orleans style bands and musicians. He joined the San Francisco Band in September 1976.

**Bill Armstrong's decision to record the San Francisco Band** was made at the 30th Australian Jazz Convention in Balmain (Sydney) December 1975 about two minutes after he first heard them. The session started rather informally without much fuss, a few guests including Eric Child crashed into the Control Room and by lunch time we had 15 takes and 10 good tunes. After lunch the band seemed more relaxed. Another 12 takes, 7 more good tunes and the session was over.

The 12 tunes on the album represent a cross section of the San Francisco Band's extensive repertoire.



1. Cushion Foot Stomp A tribute to Clarence Williams' famous 1927 washboard recordings.
2. My Sweetie Went Away Originally recorded by Benjie Smith in 1923 but this version arranged by Graham Grant of the Abbey Jazz Band.
3. Melancholy Blues Made famous by Louis Armstrong's Hot 7 and Johnny Dodd's Black Bottom Stompers recordings in 1927.
4. Annie Street Rock Named after the street housing the Dawn Club, Lu Matters Y.S.J.B. first regular engagement.
5. Dusky Stevedore One of the "social comment" songs of the 1920's.
6. Stomp Time Blues Taken from a 1927 washboard band recording by Jasper Taylor.
7. The Ragtime Dance Another Joplin tune featured by both Lu Matters and Turk Murphy.
8. What-Cha-Call-En Blues A popular tune recorded by Fletcher Henderson's Orchestra in 1925 and originally arranged by Don Redman.
9. Emperor Norton's Hunch Another Lu Matters tune immortalizing a famous San Francisco eccentric who proclaimed himself Emperor of the U.S. in 1859.
10. I've Got What It Takes A Clarence Williams recording from 1920.
11. New Orleans Stomp One of the well known King Oliver Creole Jazz Band originals of 1923, as is Chimes Blues.
12. Chimes Blues.

Notes by Bill Haeeler

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