

# JAZZ AUSTRALIA

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## SUMMER NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2020

***JON HUNT SWING QUARTET featuring Dr. Jonathan Hunt, PhD Mus., clarinet & saxs; Ian Smith, cornet, vocals, drums & washboard; Michelle Scully, bass and Kym Dillon, piano; 5pm at ‘Merne’ 650 Anderson’s Rd Drysdale, Sunday January 17, 2021***



Kym Dillon



Jon Hunt



Michelle Scully



Ian Smith

After a year’s break from presenting jazz events, the longest I’ve had since 1975, I am very happy to again be writing my newsletter, announcing another exciting Jazz Australia gig in six weeks time, and the first for 2021. I’m sure by now you will all be feeling as jazz deprived as the musicians and I do. We are all looking forward so much to another night and another year of great Australian jazz, and I hope you are also.

The first event will feature a very special Quartet consisting of four of Australia’s leading jazz musicians, two from Melbourne and two from Geelong, performing together as a group for the first time, and they are as excited about this as I am.

The superb clarinetist Jon Hunt has performed twice previously on the Bellarine Peninsula for Jazz Australia, once at the Vue Grand and once at the Point Lonsdale Hall with a *Tribute to Benny Goodman*, prior to leaving for the USA three years ago. Since then Jon’s been performing regularly in New York with bands led by jazz celebrities such as *Vince Giordano* and *The Nighthawks*, and the *Gordon Webster* band with whom he travelled extensively throughout the USA and Europe.

During this period he also recorded an album in New York with an all-star line-up and he will have this recording with him for sale on January 17<sup>th</sup>. He and his wife thankfully arrived home safely in time for last Christmas, just managing to escape the pandemic in the USA. Perfect timing as usual Jon!

Jon is thrilled to have this opportunity to perform with three of Australia's jazz superstars including Ian Smith, who as you know is a key member of *Stevenson's Rockets* and a multi-instrumentalist. You never know what instrument Ian is going to produce at any given event! He is a superb exponent of the cornet and a great jazz drummer, a fabulous vocalist and a star washboard player, arguably Australia's best!

Kym Dillon, apart from being a well-known and sought after music teacher in several of Geelong's colleges, is also a gifted pianist, composer and choir-master of three community choirs in both Geelong and Melbourne. Throughout this year he has not only kept himself busy with new compositions, but he has also begun his Masters of Composition at Melbourne University, specializing in the world of Art Music. His three choirs have not been neglected either, as he's kept them all rehearsing on-line in the comfort of their own homes to videos of their favourite songs!

To complete this exciting Quartet is the highly sought after acoustic bassist Michelle Scully, also from Geelong, who is a favourite both with audiences and fellow musicians alike and has taught music at Monash University for many years. She hasn't wasted the last 12 months either, keeping her three children home-schooled with more time to practice their own musical instruments. Michelle teaches acoustic and electric bass, piano, guitar and ukele! She composes music for childrens' books and is involved with the Geelong Youth Choir and several schools in remote areas of the N.T. She also enjoys collaborating with schools who help children compose their own music.

As many of you know, 'Merne' is a most delightful venue and it will become twice the size on Jan 17 as it has been for our previous jazz events there, as the wall between the restaurant and the large verandah, folds and will be opened right up. This will allow enough social spacing for 60 attendees which is all I am allowed to have in attendance on the 17<sup>th</sup>, so it will be first in best dressed as they say re ticket sales.

This will be a very exciting evening of hot swinging jazz to look forward to, following a dearth of jazz for the duration of 2020 and musical entertainment in general for that matter. I'm anticipating that, as I can only take 60 bookings, this event will sell out very quickly, I therefore suggest you don't waste time if you would like to attend this one-off event as I'm aware of a great deal of interest in it already.

As you know 'Merne' is noted for its excellent cuisine which will be served *all evening* by Caleb Fleet, the owner of 'Merne' and his staff.

*Therefore in brief:*

*The ticket price for this all-inclusive event is \$90 per person plus drinks, and bookings are with me either via this email address or by phone on 5258 3936. Payment is either by cheque to Jazz Australia posted to the address on page 1, or by bank transfer [with your name] to Jazz Australia, CBA Hawthorn BSB 063 138 Account No. 1001 3193.*

All being well there will be three more Jazz Australia events during the coming year. These will be fund raisers for the Queenscliffe Historical Museum and will be presented at the Point Lonsdale Hall with the QHM Catering Corps handling the 'fare'. We will be able to have a larger audience on these occasions and they will be priced accordingly.

In the meantime do try not to miss this one-off special event next month.

I send this to you with the Season's Greetings and every good wish for 2021!

*Diana Allen*  
*Jazz Australia*