

**WINTER NEWSLETTER – 2016**

***A TRIBUTE TO THE GREAT JAZZ CROONERS & VOCALISTS OF THE 40s & 50s featuring Rod Gilbert vocals, Paul Williamson, sax; Dannie Bourne, piano; Eamon McNellis, trumpet; Tom Lee, bass & Hugh Harvey, drums, at Point Lonsdale Community Hall in Bowen Road on Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup> 4.30 for 5pm start!***



***Rod Gilbert***



***Bobby Darrin***

Ever since hearing Rod Gilbert present a *Tribute to Bobby Darrin* at Ormond Hall some years ago, I have wanted to present this outstanding show as a Jazz Australia event. When I was eventually in a position to put the proposition to Rod he was delighted but recommended adding a few more of the great jazz crooners of the era to the program, to give us a taste of several of these legendary vocalists from the '40s and '50s. Therefore in addition to the wonderful Bobby Darrin, we will be hearing a selection of the great songs of Sinatra, Mel Tormè, Bing Crosby and Dean Martin and maybe more!

Rod is a fantastic vocalist as well as a great drummer, and those of you who came to hear *The [Society] Syncopators* at the Flying Brick last December, when I presented the band for a Christmas treat, will remember him coming forward from the drums to sing *Now You Has Jazz* with Peter Gaudion, that wonderful duet from *High Society* with Bing Crosby and Louis Armstrong.

Rod has been a favourite vocalist of mine ever since I heard that tribute to Bobby Darrin

and I'm very excited to be able to bring this show to the Bellarine Peninsula. He is one of Australia's most talented jazz vocalists and has long had an obsession with the great crooners of the 40s, 50s & 60s. He will be singing the tunes that made them famous, from an era when men sung with *class*, and delivered lyrics from the heart, and that you could understand! Rod's backing band consists of five of the cream of Melbourne's jazz musicians! He recently did this show at the Melbourne Arts Centre and is also just back from a cruise where he frequently entertains the lucky passengers.

I'm trying a different venue this time and using the Point Lonsdale Community Hall opposite the Primary School. My grand piano lives there these days and I've been waiting for an opportunity of putting it to use again and this is the perfect opportunity!

Beautiful finger food will be prepared by the QTs or The Queenscliff Tarts! There are some great cooks amongst this group of women, so not only will the catering be in good hands but the catering proceeds will go to a Burns Clinic in Manila operated by Australian nurse Val Smith-Orr, a remarkable woman. Val discovered that the treatment that burns victims received in Manila was primitive, and established her own Clinic to help reduce infections and disfigurement. Val's Queenscliff connection is Helena Murray, who along with her husband Bruce Murray, the former Australian Military Attache to Manila, decided to help raise funds to assist her, and that is where the proceeds of the QT's efforts will go on June 5<sup>th</sup>. I've invited Helena to show us a short film of the work carried out by Val.

***Tickets are \$68 per head and bookings are with me on 5258 3936. You can pay either by cheque to Jazz Australia and post to the address on page 1, or by bank transfer to CBA Hawthorn: BSB 063 138 Account: 1001 3193 or by cash to the address on page 1. Please remember to include your name if you are transferring funds and remember that the sooner you book, the closer you will be to the front. Tables seat 10 and you can either have a whole table or share one.***

This will be a *fabulous* show, so *do* try not to miss it, and remember you will also be contributing to a very worthwhile cause by a courageous Australian nurse in Manila.

***The following Jazz Australia event will take place on Sunday September 18th at the Vue Grand Hotel in Queenscliff at 5pm and will be 'A Tribute to Sidney Bechet' with the Jonathan Hunt Swing Quartet. You may wish to note this date in your diaries. Thank you,***

*Diana Allen*