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Friday 25th January – Sweet Thunder



For the first time we welcome to Condong one of the Gold Coast's newest bands. Sweet Thunder led by Rick Best. This unusual name is a quote from Shakespeare's, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, where he refers to the sounds of the forest as "so musical a discord, such sweet thunder". But Rick wasn't the first to borrow it, Duke Ellington did. He was playing in Stratford, Ontario at the same time as the Shakespeare Festival and decided, as a tribute to Shakespeare, to name his next album "Such Sweet Thunder" which was recorded in 1957.

So join us and hear some beautiful, swinging arrangements from Rick Best and some well known bandleaders of the past, played by these talented musicians. Take the opportunity to use the club's dance floor if you wish, otherwise tap your toes, clap your hands and enjoy.

The evening beginnings at 6:30pm DST with The Early Birds

PATRON	Max Boyd
President	David Field 0432 914 539
Vice President	Peter Hurcombe 02 6677 9371
Secretary	Marlene Downing 0428 323 736
Treasurer	Virginia Field 0432 914 539
Committee	Doreen Parsons Annie Simonds David Lintern Ben Law Leo Kelly

Members Draw:

November: #658
Graham Ashcroft & Bonnie Shore
Not claimed

Happy birthday to

In January

Sue Axford

In February

William Crossley
Serena Dolinska
David Lintern
Glen Shepherd
Wendy Watson
Patricia Boogaerd
Tamsin Ainslie

Jazz Musicians Birthdays

January	February
1 st Milt Jackson	2 nd Stan Getz
9 th Kenny Clarke	2 nd Sonny Stitt
10 th Max Roach	9 th Bill Evans
13 th Joe Pass	17 th Buddy DeFranco
15 th Gene Krupa	20 th Nancy Wilson
23 rd Django Reinhardt	27 th Dexter Gordon
26 th Stephane Grappelli	

This is just a few birthdays of jazz greats. As usual, they are no longer with us. Nancy Wilson died in December just short of her 82nd birthday.

Not a member yet? Did you know that you can join for the rest of the financial year for half price?

President's Report

A highly enjoyable and successful November gig saw the 2018 Club year draw to a close, and we now take a short break until the January 2019 gig rings in another year of top live entertainment. But it doesn't happen by accident, or some random series of actions by the Gods of Music, and among those who'll be glad of a festive break are those members who serve on our Committee, dedicating much of their time to ensuring that you can rely on a great night out among friends on the last Friday of every month.

As we digest the remaining mince pies and dream up yet more ways of serving leftover turkey, let's give some thought to all the hard work and dedication that goes into running our Club. There are of course the more obvious tasks, such as maintaining membership records, collecting subscriptions, producing the bi-monthly Newsletter, organising the advertising, and selecting the raffle prizes. Not forgetting the all-important matter of hiring the bands, and ensuring that we don't go bankrupt in the process. In allocating these many and varied duties, care is taken to ensure that everyone is playing to their strengths, and that each task is allocated to someone who knows what they're about. This perhaps helps to explain why I do virtually nothing, except on 'gig days', when all hands are on deck to convert the Function Room at Condong Bowling Club into the venue for 'Jazz Night', and a splendid evening of top class music that makes all the effort worthwhile.

We kick off in January 2019 with Rick Best's band 'Sweet Thunder', and an evening of big band music at its best. Then in February Cameron Smith brings his band 'The Magnificence' a few kilometres north to give us what he describes as 'Gumbo, Jazz and Good Times.' In March it's the welcome return of Andrew Baxter's 'Short History of the Blues' – book early for this one unless you prefer to stand for the whole evening, stamping your feet along with the beat.

I'll reveal more in later Newsletters – right now I'm about to e-mail my wish list to Santa, and it's all about seeing you all at every gig.

Trust you had a good Christmas and are having a happy and safe New Year, people, and be nice to each other.



David Field, President.

David Field, President

CLUB DETAILS

Gigs last Friday of each month or as announced
Condong Bowling Club McLeod St, Condong Bookings 6672 2238
Entry: Members \$15, Visitors \$20, U/18s \$5, or as otherwise announced for individual gigs.



TWEED VALLEY JAZZ AND BLUES

The Early Birds



As we look ahead into a busy 2019 Jazz year it would be remiss in the extreme to not give a very big round of applause to the Early Birds.

Month after month, with few exceptions, our house band, our members' band, fronts up to get the gigs on a roll.

Cart the gear, get set up on stage, the mysteries of sound, decisions about the playlist, all the background noise of an active club – kitchen sounds, furniture scrapes and bumps – but then the 'Birds' strike up the band, and little else matters.

This is Tweed Valley Jazz & Blues DNA.

This is how it all started more than twenty years ago – informally with friends, enthusiasts, lovers of jazz in any of its amazing and sometimes complex forms.

The tradition continues simply because a thoughtful membership wants it to, because the same breed of talented, creative musicians hands on the baton.

FROM THE COMMITTEE, MEMBERS AND VISITORS ALIKE, THANK YOU VERY MUCH EARLY BIRDS



Jean and Jed Sone have been stalwarts of the rhythm section for a while. Here joined by Ian McKay on drums and Col Hobson (an original Early Bird) on guitar.

The line up of the Early Birds changes from time to time. Here are images of the band at Condong with some members who only play occasionally. Bob Young (below) on tenor is our newest regular.



When Jean is not available. David Robinson (above) joins the group on electric bass.

Regular frontliners, Bob Fawaz and Peter McHutchison with Harley Axford on Trombone



What a terrific night in November with the ever popular Caxton Street Jazz Band, all the way from Brisbane. As usual, they were very entertaining and played jazz to suit all tastes from the 1920s to 1950s. There were also many enjoyable and lively vocals from members of the band. They'll be back. So those who weren't at Condong Bowling Club for this make sure you turn up next time. They're too good to be missed.



Bernice Haydock plays and sings, backed by Dave MacCullum on drums and Andrew Shaw on bass.

Paul Williams plays a clarinet solo while John Braben hugs his trumpet to his chest waiting his turn, and Tom Nicolson readies himself to blow that trombone again.

CAXTON
STREET

JAZZ
BAND





February 2019 Gig



The Magnificence

Another new to us band will perform for us at Condong on Friday 22nd February

Trumpet player and singer Cam McCracken Smith has been honing his set of almost-traditional jazz and New Orleans inspired originals for over a decade, playing at Edinburgh Fringe, Woodford Folk Festival and every pub and street corner from Canberra to Cairns.

On moving to the Northern Rivers in 2017, Cam with brother Lachi on drums formed 'The Magnificence'.

Joining the brothers at Tweed Valley Jazz & Blues Club will be Julian Smith double bass, Joe O'Keeffe banjo and Paul Edwards on Tenor Sax.

The Magnificence growl, they mewl, they cook – and they make audiences feel better about otherwise questionable life choices.

Welcome to new members

Kevin & Christine Collins
Rosslyn Warman
Stuart King & Tim Hunt
Guy Morgan & Gary Rovern
Stephanie Boldeman & Steve Maguire
Norm & Liz Waters
Kevin & Jill McMahon

VALE

It is with great sadness we acknowledge the passing of one of our long standing members Stan Hitchins. Our deepest sympathy go to his family at this sad time.

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