

# Port Fairy Jazz Festival



July 2024

Western Victoria Jazz Productions Inc,  
Incorporation No. A0094541G, ABN 75471454678  
A 'not for profit' organisation run entirely by volunteers  
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## SAVE THE DATE

The 2025 Port Fairy Jazz Festival is being held on the weekend of  
7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> February 2025



Online tickets sales will open on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024 (early-bird prices will be available until the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024) – [www.portfairyjazz.com.au](http://www.portfairyjazz.com.au)

## 2025 TICKET PRICES:

Early Bird Weekend	\$100	Saturday	\$80
Weekend	\$120	Saturday after 6.00pm	\$60
Friday Night Only	\$60	Sunday	\$50

## Band Nominations for the 2025 Festival

Band leaders please note the following:

**Band registrations for the 2025 festival open on 1<sup>st</sup> August and close on 30<sup>th</sup> September.**

Registrations are once again to be completed via the online registration process. Please see [www.portfairyjazz.com.au](http://www.portfairyjazz.com.au)

**Registration of Bands, including the names of the musicians and band availability over the weekend, is required.**

For programming purposes, musicians are limited to nominating for **THREE** bands only. During the festival musicians may play in as many bands as they wish, but programming will not factor in clashes for these unscheduled performances.

Band leaders should remind their musicians that it is imperative that they complete the online registration which allows them to be included in the musician disbursement process.

All registrations, if completed successfully, will result in an automated email confirmation. If this is not received, you may need to repeat the registration process.

## Timeline

### **2024**

**1<sup>st</sup> August** - Musicians' Registrations Open on the Website. **All musicians are required to register.**

Partner Registrations open on the Website, Cost \$50  
John Huf Award Registrations open on the Website.

**1<sup>st</sup> August** - Early Bird Ticket sales open on the Website (Trybooking).

**30<sup>th</sup> September** - Band Registrations Close. Band leaders to ensure that all musicians are registered.

**15<sup>th</sup> December** – Early Bird Ticket sales close. Full price tickets still available on the Website (Trybooking).

**21<sup>st</sup> December** – Final program published on the Website.

### **2025**

**15<sup>th</sup> January** – John Huf Award Registrations close.

**6<sup>th</sup> February** – Online ticket sales close at midnight. Tickets still available for purchase from the Jazz Office. Partner Registrations close.

**7<sup>th</sup> February** – Jazz Office opens for musicians and patrons including ticket sales.

**7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> February – JAZZ FESTIVAL**

**14<sup>th</sup> February** – Registration of Musicians close.

## From the President

Greetings all.

With the year half gone the Committee is in full swing organising the 2025 Festival. There will be some changes in venues as businesses come and go. It would appear that the Victoria hotel will rejoin the Festival which will give us not only another larger venue but also a venue for casual play which we missed last year.

The Sentinel has been closed but the Stump has redeveloped and is showing interest. The Oak and Anchor will not be used during the day unless changes are made to the transparent marquee.

Band and musician registration will open soon. Remember musicians- if you are not registered you don't get paid. Band leaders please make sure your players have registered.

For the patrons, tickets will be available through Try-booking from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2024. As a bonus in a year of financial difficulties we decided to drop the price for early bird full weekend tickets by \$10.00. Please book early for the Festival and get your accommodation organised. Remember we have a refund policy so if you can't attend and you let us know before the festival starts, tickets purchased through Try-booking can be refunded.

Make sure you read the section from Gavin Franklin re the John Huf Award. Prize money has been increased for 2025 so please encourage young musicians to enter. Have you heard of Melbourne Jazz Jammers? This is a group who organise jam sessions for jazz musos around Melbourne but they also organise the Newport Jazz Festival which Wendy and I attended earlier this year. It is much smaller than PFJF- only four fairly small venues virtually on the one site. Among those performing, Shirazz, Ron Anderson and Anita Harris are PFJF regulars, but most of the others I hadn't heard before. It was a great weekend.

## **Rod Carter**

### Southern Jazz Club Adelaide

If you are in Adelaide on a Tuesday night you should head for the Southern Jazz Club. It is the home of traditional jazz in Adelaide and has been in operation since 1971.

Southern Jazz club presents live jazz on Tuesday nights from 7.30pm at "The Highway" corner of Anzac Highway and Marion Road, Plympton. On alternate Tuesday nights they present a youth band from 6.45pm.

Bookings are essential on 0419 030 595.

Wendy and I attended recently and heard Bill Polain's All Stars with special guest Peter Hooper who is probably Australia's top banjoist. It was a great night with good food, good company and great jazz. What more can you ask for?

Thank you to Jenny Maslen for your hospitality.

**Rod Carter**



## John Huf Award

The John Huf Award for young jazz performers will again be part of the 2025 festival. This is open to players of any instrument and vocalists. Entrants should be under 26 on the Saturday of the festival. To enter, a performer should record or video him/herself playing the head and an improvised solo on two tunes and send them to the secretary of the Port Fairy Jazz committee. Details of the award are available under the Musicians tab on the website and prospective entrants are encouraged to read the conditions explained there.

In 2024 the \$1,000.00 award was won by young tenor saxophonist James Eller who lives on the Gold Coast. We are interested in hearing from young instrumentalists and vocalists who want to take part in the 2025 festival.

In 2025 there will be a second and third prize: \$500 for second place and \$250 for third. Previous winners of the award will be ineligible to enter i.e. a player can only win the award once.

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## **A New Home for Nick Polites Clarinet**

Con Pagonis OAM

The Australian Jazz Museum recently took custodianship of the iconic and easily recognisable blue and yellow clarinet played by the late jazz musician Nick Polites OAM (1927-2022). It was kindly donated to the museum by Nick's niece Angela Lillis.

As an 11-year-old growing-up in Melbourne – in 1938 – Nick first listened to recordings of Louis Armstrong and was immediately besotted with the sound of jazz - which became his life-long passion. Ten years later Nick was making his mark as a talented clarinetist on the Melbourne jazz scene. Although academically accomplished, in music he was self-taught learning to play by ear.

In 1951 Nick joined Melbourne's preeminent traditional jazz band – *Frank Johnson's Fabulous Dixielanders* and commenced a long career as a performing musician and recording artist. A decade later he was performing in what many regard as the holy grail of traditional jazz – alongside local greats like George Lewis - at Preservation Hall in the New Orleans French Quarter.

Nick Polites went on to regularly tour in the United Kingdom and Europe with various jazz bands. He also played a leadership role in developing the jazz community in Melbourne and around Australia with the *Victorian Jazz Club* and the long-running annual *Australian Jazz Convention* (AJC). Nick performed at the very first AJC in 1946, and everyone since up to 2018 (except when he was away overseas on tour). This year, the 78th AJC will be held in Mildura from December 26<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> – it is the longest running event of its type in the world!

Many readers will remember Nick regularly performing *with The Louisiana Shakers* of a Sunday afternoon at Carlton's Clyde Hotel in the years up to his retirement at the age of 90 in 2018. We lost Nick at the age of 94 in January 2022. *The Louisiana Shakers* continue to perform live at *The Clyde* every Sunday afternoon from 1-4pm.

The Australian Jazz Museum (AJM) has an extensive collection of Nick Polites' audio recordings, videos, interviews, and his related music career memorabilia. I had the privilege of digitizing 30 volumes of jazz career mementos collected by Nick and donated to the AJM. On completion, we rehoused all the contents into archival quality folders for future researchers and enthusiasts. All of this

type of work at the AJM takes place under the watchful eye and patient guidance of the Collections Manager – Mel Blachford OAM.

AJM is run entirely by volunteers. It is located in Wantirna in Melbourne's outer east and open to the public on Tuesdays from 10am to 3pm. Group tours can be booked. You can also visit us on-line; find our website at [www.ajm.org.au](http://www.ajm.org.au).

**Con Pagonis is a volunteer at the Australian Jazz Museum.**



Nick at home in Melbourne with his blue and yellow clarinet in 2017



Nick performing on the blue and yellow clarinet with 'The Shakers' at the Clyde Hotel in Carlton in 2017



AJM volunteers Con Pagonis and Mel Blachford with the museum's latest acquisition – Nick Polites' iconic blue and yellow clarinet (11 June 2024)

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## **ROUND THE JAZZ SCENE**

- **Victorian Jazz Club**
    - 13th July - Ruby Page Jasstet
  - **Geelong Jazz Club**
    - 4th August - Tamsin Wes
  - **Ballarat Jazz Club**
    - 21st July - Royal Garden Jazz Band
  - **Sth Gippy Jazz Club**
    - 1st September - John Wade Five Piece Band
    - 6th October - David Dower and Friends
  - **Moe-Latrobe Jazz Club**
    - 28th July - New Night Owls
  - **Inverloch Jazz Festival**
    - 2nd - 4th August
  - **Newcastle Jazz Festival**
    - 23rd – 25th August
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