

# Port Fairy Jazz Festival



**November 2024**



Western Victoria Jazz Productions Inc,  
Incorporation No. A0094541G, ABN 75471454678  
A 'not for profit' organisation run entirely by volunteers  
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[www.portfairyjazz.com.au](http://www.portfairyjazz.com.au)

## 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 opened 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

**Exciting News!!!** - 115 Bands have now registered for the 2025 Festival.

**Official Opening and “General Blow”** – all musicians, please come along to the Fiddlers Green at 10.00am on the Saturday of the Festival for the Official Opening and a Mass Playing!!!



Please ensure that all musicians are registered.

**Wristbands** – all musicians and patrons will be issued with wrist bands which will be fitted at the Festival Office on arrival. These wrist bands must be worn and presented in order to enter all concerts.  
**No Wristband - No Entry!!!**

## Timeline

### **2024**

**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.



## Thankyou

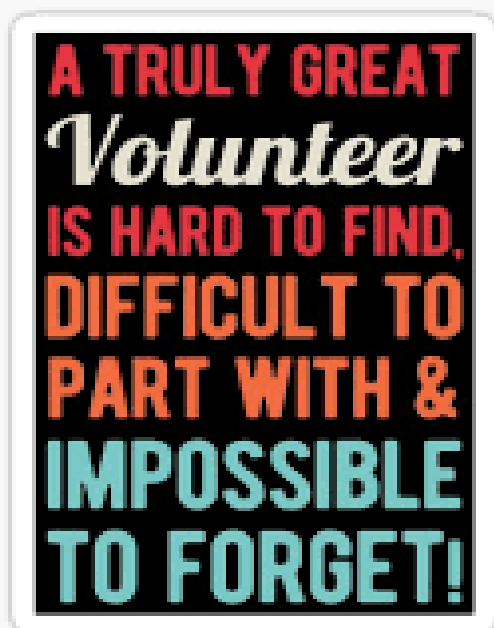
Many thanks to the **Bendigo Bank** for their donation of **\$1,400**. This money will be used to purchase 2 laptop computers which will greatly assist us in the running of the festival. Thankyou Bendigo Bank for this donation and for your ongoing support of, not just our festival, but many other programs that you locally support.

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## Volunteer News

### IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN – WE'RE SEEKING HELP TO RUN OUR FESTIVAL

*PLEASE*



As you well know, volunteers are integral to the success of our Festival.

We are looking for help in the following areas:

**Bumping In:** *Thursday, Friday*

**Bumping Out:** *Monday*  
**Office:** *Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday*

**Venues:** *Friday 4.45pm – 11.00pm*

*Saturday 10.45am – 11.00pm*

*Sunday 11.45am – 6.00pm*

If you think you may be able to assist please email ([jenpf@outlook.com](mailto:jenpf@outlook.com)) or call/text (0400065422) Jenni, with your name, email address and mobile.

Further information will be emailed in November.

Thank you very much – we are so appreciative; our festival only succeeds with the support of volunteers.

**Volunteer Hours:** The Jazz Festival Committee offers a free weekend ticket for the Festival to anyone who volunteers for more than 10 hours over the weekend.

We look forward to hearing from you.

**Jenni Hider-Smith, Olga Lemke & Imelda Dowdle**  
On behalf of the Port Fairy Jazz Festival Committee

## 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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## Bands who have already Registered for the 2025 Festival



**Ben Witham and The Betty Band**

Ben Witham and The Betty Band is a Warrnambool based septet playing all original jazz tunes and lyrics and a repertoire of folk rock original songs. Playing a mix of contemporary, 1940s style and pop jazz at the Port Fairy Jazz Festival, the band has several years of playing together in South West venues including concerts at Warrnambool's The Lighthouse, plus hotels and house concerts. The band serves up memorable songs of love, heartache and the simple joys of being alive. Expect beautiful melodic lines and fine lyrics delivered by Peter Arnold on keyboard, Michael Schack on electric bass, Brett Holbrook on mandolin and violin, Des Bunyon and Shari Nye on vocals, Ben Witham on guitar and vocals and Rob Lehman on drums.

**Heather Goddard** (vocals) is well known in the Southwest of Victoria for her unstinting efforts for the benefit of drama and music. Warrnambool Theatre Group owes its continuing existence to her persistent guidance over many years. In addition, Heather has collaborated with **Gavin Franklin** on piano to develop a repertoire of jazz standards composed by some of the best-known song writers of the 1930s, '40s and '50s. Swing, ballads and Latin songs by George Gershwin, Richard Rogers and Lorenz Hart, Jimmy Van Huesen and Duke Ellington are prominent in their repertoire.

For some time they were part of a quartet called The Swing of Things but have appeared at the last two Port Fairy jazz festivals in the quintet titled **Big Swing**. Gifted tenor saxophonist **Matthew Hewson** contributes outstanding horn solos to the offering. Matthew began his career in Warrnambool but has moved to Geelong. Warrnambool double bassist **Geoff Kilminster** provides strong harmonic foundation for the rhythm section, as he does for a variety of ensembles ranging from symphony orchestras to small jazz groups such as Big Swing and In Full Swing. Experienced drum master **Larry Kean** brings richly jazz-informed rhythmic foundation to the group's repertoire. The band can't wait to be able to perform again at the 2025 Port Fairy Jazz Festival.



**Big Swing**

Veteran of several Port Fairy Jazz Festivals and numerous other performances, Ashley has teamed up with talented pianist/vocalist Philip Riss to take his pursuit of the classic late night, smokey cocktail bar jazz standards to a new level. Leaving no stone unturned together Philip and Ashley have trawled through the back catalogues of all the classic male and female vocalists in pursuit of these musical gems. Some songs are known, but others somehow have been overlooked in the passing of time. Both having vocal skills at a high-level Ashley and Phillip will be able to delight the audience with their own individual take on these beautiful tunes supported by each other's rich harmonies.

**After Midnight**

Chantelle is the kind of performer that can make a loud room go suddenly quiet, eager to hear what comes next. Her rich vocals draw the audience in and get their attention while she further delights them with her beautiful ukulele technique. She specialises in American Songbook jazz standards, which she plays with technical skill and a deep love of the genre. She is a popular and well-respected entertainer, performing at the Inverloch Jazz Festival and Port Fairy Jazz Festival, as well as most of the major ukulele festivals and events throughout Australia and many other local community events. She will be accompanied by seasoned and respected musicians, including Alistair Neil on trumpet, Ricardo Vaveliuk on bass and Cameron Davis on drums. The combination of these talented musicians is fun, interesting and very polished.

**Chantelle**



The Dandenong Ranges Hot Jazz Orchestra plays popular music the way it really was played during the crazy decade of the 1920s; the "Jazz Age" when people sought to have fun, build a new world, be "thoroughly modern", forget the hardships of the Great War and the 'Spanish Flu' global pandemic. Our music is fun, fast, edgy, full of energy, romantic and carefree, played with the original instruments – nine or ten of us, playing saxophones, clarinets, violins, trumpets, trombone, banjo, bass and drums – with loads of spontaneity and improvisation laid over beautifully rich harmonies and backings.

**Dandenong Ranges Hot Jazz Orchestra**



**Forestville Quartet**



**Gulliver**



**Kind of Blue Trio**



**Miau**



**The Mike Hirsch Trio**



**The Ramblers**



**The Silverback Trio**



**Visionary-Steel**



**Triple Standards**

In 2013 Rosie Collins teamed up with Nicole Evans to share and explore their love of jazz music. With more than 60 songs rehearsed, the duo has performed in South West Victoria and also invited friends to collaborate for events. In December 2017 they added another layer to their sound when Triple Standards was formed, with the addition of a double bass player Paul Arkell. Triple Standards perform for a variety of private functions, corporate events and community engagements with Jazz Standards from 1920's through to 1950's with influences from artists such as Ella Fitzgerald, Doris Day, Janet Seidel and Chet Baker. With Nicole's expressive clarity, warmth and appealing vocal interpretations, Paul's innate pulse on the Double Bass setting a sound foundation for the trio and Rosie's colourful jazz chords and vocal harmonies, the trio give any audience a musical experience to remember.

Classic Jazz Standards in the style of Chet Baker and Vince Jones 2025 will be Ashley's 5<sup>th</sup> year performing at the Port Fairy Jazz. Festival. Ashley is a multi-instrumentalist/vocalist and has had a long career in music. His main instrument has always been his voice – everything from blues, jazz to folk and he is especially talented at harmonies. Of the three genres jazz has been his most prevalent interest. He has been involved in a wide range of jazz combinations over the years and has performed at numerous events and festivals. Ashley has always had a fascination for the dulcet tones of the voices of Vince Jones and Chet Baker. This year he has again brought together a talented group of jazz musicians to provide the platform for him to launch his own rendition of the classic originals and covers of these maestros of the jazz world.

**Ash Thompson Jazz Combo**

### **Schmoe and Co Meet Whatever We Wish**

Silvan 'Schmoe' Elhay is one of Australia's most experienced tenor saxophone players. His presence in Port Fairy will be a first for him and promises to be a highlight of the event. His nephew, Andre Elhay will feature with him in the front line of this band. Other members of the group include David Meade, a visiting American drummer who has played with jazz luminaries such as Wayne Shorter. The double bassist is Bruce Millar and the pianist is Gavin Franklin.

### **Maryborough Traditional Jazz Ensemble**

The Maryborough Traditional Jazz Ensemble has been around the Jazz scene for many years playing at various festivals and Jazz Clubs throughout Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales. They are well known for their foot tapping/dancing music. Their range consists of 1920s/1930s music as well as a lot of Australian composed tunes and old standards with a Jazz flavour. They have a huge range of tunes with a varied style including some Latin American and Glenn Miller tunes.

The personnel has changed over the years and the current line-up is as follows:-

Ken Collins - Trumpet/Vocals  
Barry Currie - Reeds/Vocals  
Bill Beasley - Trombone/Vocals  
Bob Franklin - Keyboard/Vocals  
Peter Hooper - Bass  
Bryan Hodges - Drums.



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## ROUND THE JAZZ SCENE

- **Victorian Jazz Club –**
    - 23rd November - Suragfoot Ramblers
    - 14th December - Des Camm
  - **Geelong Jazz Club –**
    - 1st December - Maryborough Traditional Jazz Ensemble
  - **Ballarat Jazz Club –**
    - 8th December – Shirazz
  - **Peninsula Jazz Club –**
    - 21st November - Jens 'Jesse' Lindgren
  - **Moe-Latrobe Jazz Club –**
    - 24th November - Hot B Hines Jazz Band
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