



MUSIC TO OUR EARS

Edition 3, August 2009

From the President

Whatever we have done lately is totally overwhelmed by the great night that Don and Kerry and the team of Joy, Sue and Wendy organized for us to celebrate 25 years.

For me, as a relative new comer to the band, to get a chance to meet some of the "old and bolds" was great; I know Mayor Melva and her husband John enjoyed it, as did many other people – one criteria is the way people moved about and sat with other tables to have a chat and the fact that people lingered at the end, rather than rushing off. A great night. Marking milestones is important, and celebrating them such as we did shows the strength of our organization.

The other event that has been a great relief has been that our **Zoe** seems to be winning the fight back to health. For those of you who don't know, Zoe who has had a few health problems over the last couple of years, especially affecting her lungs – contracted a dose of swine flu which nearly saw her putting her flute in its case for good – but she fought it and won and slowly, slowly she is coming back to us. We look forward to the night she comes back for her next rehearsal!!

On a more mundane note: we have agreed to partially fund the installation of an extra set of lights above the percussion area. Surprisingly, (for some) our percussionists actually need to read a score, rather than making it up as they go. I discussed the matter with our contact at council and he asked whether we could save money by turning the band around and putting the conductor in the dark area - perhaps the thought was that conductors just stood and

waved a wand and didn't need to see a score. There were a few "off" comments when I told this to John, Allen and the other conductors.

Our committee meetings are settling into a pattern which focuses on the calendar – mainly because it is changing all the time. We really are an active group; apart from Inaccord who constantly amaze me with their bookings! All bands are committed, with the beginners band holding its own and now having the confidence to hold a park concert on their own (which went very well). The Wind and Concert bands are busy with the Redlands Eisteddfod and the Swing and Big bands are firing up for their next performance. Speaking of which, the Swing band had a major excursion several weeks ago when they went to Macleay Island for a concert.

See article later in this newsletter - Editor

We have also given approval for the formation of a Cotton Club Band. This is an interesting development led by Graham as they will play a particular style of music that will compliment the Swing and Big bands. It is early days and I look forward to their first performance.

Our **Bunnings sausage sizzle** is next – a very important fund raiser as our budget has a hole in it because we received less from the Council this year. Ouch! Speaking of Council, they have a great response team that really gets on to repairing the broken glass which seems to be a constant problem. With the glass that is scattered across the floor of the hall, it means **absolutely no bare feet**.

**Cheers till next time
George**

Out in front

We are continuing our spotlight on conductors. In this edition, we bring you Rod Bridges, the conductor of our Big Band.

Rod has been with us since the start of 2009. Rod has kindly provided a synopsis of his musical career to share with us.

My first paid gig was with my uncle's band at the Friends Lake Inn, Chestertown N.Y in the summer of 1948.

During the 1950's I had the opportunity to play for the George Graham band, the Ken Reeves Band and others. In January 1955, I enlisted in the U.S. Army and eventually came to play with the 399th Army Band at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and later the 2nd Armoured Division Band at Bad Kreuznach, Germany. My two years in the army came to a close in 1957 and I returned to civilian life.

Back in Boston, I immediately began a gig at the Bandbox nightclub where I had the opportunity to play with many fine musicians who would go on to become nationally known in the field of jazz; Pianists Jaki Byard and Mark Levine are two that come immediately to mind, as well as vibraphonists Gary MacFarlane and John Rae. ***Looking back, I am sure this experience has been the most influential one of my life.*** Playing with these players taught me to play and truly understand jazz and rock styles. At the same time as playing at the Bandbox, I was also performing commercial music, as it was known then, at various function rooms in the city. It was quite a learning curve.

Being a naturally curious person, I decided I wanted to experience the music business at a higher level of involvement and I elected to go to Las Vegas, Nevada in 1961. I worked at various clubs when I first got there on a sporadic basis and then I went on the road as a clarinet player with "Mr. Sugar Blues" Clyde McCoy (with whom I spent six months

in Sacramento California and all over Texas) playing Dixieland.

It was not exactly my style and the one-nighters started to get to me, so I soon wound up in Las Vegas again. The next trip out of town was with Renee Dell and the Delmars. We virtually travelled the entire United States from the west to the east to the south, playing extended engagements at various clubs. I stayed with that band for two years and eventually returned to Las Vegas where I headlined at a downtown club, the El Cortez Hotel. During this later period I also played the Sahara and Flamingo Hotels with various groups. I also played on two rehearsal bands around the town including Carl Saunders' and Al Shay's groups. At this point in my career I decided that I wanted to explore arranging/composition; where better than to accomplish this task than to return to University.

I decided to attend Florida St. University in Tallahassee, Florida. I resided in the Tallahassee area from 1968 to 1971. During my time there, I played at the Confederate Inn, a popular dancing spot in the area.

Upon graduation from FSU with both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Music Education, having fulfilled my promise to pursue arranging and composing, I got a position in New Jersey: I continued to play in the N. J. / NY area where I played with many differing bands.

My next stop was at the University of the Virgin Islands where I became the University's first Director of Music, with the specific purpose of initiating music degree programs. I enjoyed writing arrangements for the University's Afro-American Idiom Studio Ensemble in the calypso, reggae and latin / jazz styles.

I married an Australian national and we moved to Sydney in 1978.

I played a lot of shows including Danny Larue, Frankie Laine and Bobby Ridell.

Additionally I played and arranged for the group, Dark Tan as well as playing Dixieland once again and other jazz styles. I also played tenor saxophone on the Contemporary Saxophone Quartet of Sydney which took us to an appearance at the World Saxophone Congress.

In 1980, I began teaching at the Anglican Church Grammar School in Brisbane. I continued to play with various bands through

1990.

I have played with, directed and written for the Brisbane Big Band which I left in September 2008. I have also written the book and directed the dance/showband, "Swing Chronicles".

Swing band tours overseas



Swing Band on Macleay



Swing Band and Macleay Is friends

On Saturday 11th July the members of the swing band with luggage and instruments in hand boarded the Bay Island ferry bound for distant shores, also known as Macleay Island. The Swing Band had been invited to provide entertainment at the Macleay Island School fete.

The day began with a short ferry journey to the island, fortunately the bay was calm and everyone arrived safely without requiring brown paper bags. We were met on the island by our chauffeur, in the bowls club bus, who promptly loaded our gear and drove us to the school.

We were given prime position in the school overlooking the stalls and other entertainers with the band sitting on an oversized chess board in the playground. This definitely added to the fun atmosphere of the day.

Throughout the day we performed a number of sets, with repertoire ranging from swing to popular. We had some great solos by Chris (Tenor Sax), Merv (Alto Sax), and Scott (Trumpet), as well as vocals from our talented vocalist Dana.

A highlight of the day was performing with the Macleay Island State School Concert Band, conducted by Jan Hewerdine. It was great to see everyone take on a mentoring role and assist the younger children with their instruments and the music.

Unfortunately the day had to end, and we packed away our gear and boarded the ferry for our return journey. A great day was had by all, and we left the island with face paint, hula hoops, and belly-dancing images.

The Swing Band rehearses Monday nights from 6.30 to 8.00, feel free to pop in anytime and have a play, or just enjoy the music. We are also available to play at functions you may be organising. I can be contacted on tracejames@bigpond.com.
Until next time, Tracey James

Louis Armstrong
"What we play is life."

A band member reflects...

Twenty-five years! What a milestone.

Those of us who enjoyed the celebration dinner would have heard Merv Genrich reflect on his efforts twenty-five years ago to have the band established, and his pleasure in finding that his "baby" was still very much alive, and continuing to grow.

From one band of thirty or so members to our current seven, if you count the Anzac Day marching band, and about one hundred and thirty members, is a fine achievement, and one of which we should be jealously proud.

Is it possible that our organization is unique with the range of skill levels in our bands enabling aspiring members, whatever their musical knowledge or skill, to find a position befitting their ability, and to progress, after a period of time, to become a member of our higher level bands.

If we all have the best interests of the bands in mind and do not ask ourselves selfishly, "What can the band do for me?" but rather, willingly, "What can I do for the band?", there is no reason why many of us will not be able to celebrate our Golden Jubilee twenty-five years from now as members of an even larger and more successful Redland City Bands Inc.

Concert Band Performance

The Concert Band on Sunday, June 28th, performed at the Ormiston House Camellia Day afternoon. The Band was one of a number of groups who presented entertainment to an appreciative audience in the attractive gardens of the House, and provided a lively contrast in styles and music to the Scottish dancing, the mixed choir and the pipes and drums of other groups. The event was fortunately favoured with delightful weather.

You never know when your music strikes a chord with someone in your audience. At the end of our presentation at Ormiston House an older lady approached me and inquired whether one of our items had been the march 'Invercargill'. When I answered that it had been, she said that she thought so and that she was familiar with the march from when she was growing up. Her father had had an old 78rpm record of it, was very fond of it himself and had played it many, many times on his gramophone. The lady was very grateful that we had played it, as she loved the tune and it brought back many lovely memories. How good it is to get positive feedback on the selection and playing of our music. This march, probably one of the world's most popular marches, both to audiences and bands alike, celebrated its 100th birthday in August last year. I have heard it played by bands in Canada and the US, in parades and concerts, and it must belong to nearly every band library in this country and New Zealand.

John Allen

Musical Genius visits the Redlands



On Wednesday 8th July, John Foreman came to the Redlands to conduct the John Foreman Master class for students. He taught both students and their teachers some new techniques that would improve their already talented skills.

Some members of the Redlands City Bands were fortunate enough to

attend this awe-inspiring experience. They were Maddie Reilly, Sharon Van der Hurk, Sam and Peter Hewerdine, Rebekah McKaskill, Kirralee Parsons, Austin Read, Sarah Fraser, Shimona Clark and Tracey James.

Everyone enjoyed the friendly atmosphere during the rehearsals and was especially happy after a feed of pizza, sandwiches, fruit and soft drink. While there may have been a few mishaps along the way, such as our lead singer, Jal Joshua arriving late for rehearsals, everything else seemed to fall into place to make a note perfect concert.

It was a great opportunity and I would encourage anyone to join in future events like this Master class.
Rebekah McKaskill

Friends of the Bands

Hello again! The last couple of months have been very busy for the Redland City Bands. At present, we are getting ready for our annual Band Spectacular. Mark your diaries – **Sun 23 August** – Thornlands State School hall. It is not necessary to book a seat unless you have a group that you would like seated together. Please contact Glen on 3829 0234 for bookings.

Your annual subscription of only \$5.00 gives you:

1. Band newsletters during the year
2. Preferential booking to any of our concerts
3. An invitation to attend any of the rehearsal sessions
4. The opportunity to meet our conductors and mix with the musicians of the bands

Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Place	Time	Band
4 Aug	Redlands Eisteddfod	Sheldon College	6:15 pm	Concert Band & Wind Ensemble
8 Aug	Sausage Sizzle	Bunnings Capalaba	All day	Volunteers please
23 Aug	Seniors Week	Thornlands	1:30 pm	Concert Band
5 or 6 Sep	Redfest	Cleveland Showgrounds	TBA	Swing & Big Bands
13 Sept	Buderim Concert	Buderim	TBA	Concert Band
20 Sep	Park concert	Capalaba	Noon	TBA
17 or 18 Oct	Lakeside Festival	Vic Point	TBA	Wind Ensemble & Big Band
18 Oct	St Gabriel's Fete	Carindale	TBA	Swing Band
22 Nov	Concert	Thornlands	1:00pm	All Bands
5 Dec	Xmas carols	Capalaba Presbyterian Church	TBA	All Xmas tunesters
20 Dec	Xmas carols	Wello Pt reserve	6:30 pm	All Xmas tunesters

Inaccord diary dates:

Just to give you a better feel for the busy lives that Inaccord members have, here are their dates for Aug / part Sept. I have kept them separate this edition because they deserve their own space! **Editor**

Tues 4 Aug	Prinz Willem	10.30
Mon 10 Aug	Carindale Court	10.30
Thur 13 Aug	Amelia House	10.30

Seniors Week

Mon 17 Aug	Mandalay	10.30
Tues 18 Aug	Rosevale	10.30
Wed 19 Aug	V. Pt Lakeside	12.00
Thur 20 Aug	V. Point near KMART	10.00
Thurs 20 Aug	Stockland	about 2.00
Fri 21 Aug	Tranquil Waters	1.15
(Lunch Sausage sizzle 12.00)		
Mon 24 Aug	Carina Sen Cits	10.00-11.30
Tues 25 Aug	Silver Threads	10.45-12.00
Wed 2 Sept	Pleasantville	10.30
Mon 7 Sept	oorparoo F'ship Club	10.00-11.15
Fri 11 Sept	Lake Sherrin	10.30

Any news?

Is there a special birthday, special event (weddings perhaps???) or information you would like passed along? Please tell us and we will include it in our next issue! Happy snaps always welcomed.

You can email

news@redlandcitybands.org.au or you can email your information straight to Wendy:

wen_mor@hotmail.com

or you can call Wendy on 3207 4965