

# JAZZ AUSTRALIA

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## ***FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION***

### ***and DIANA's 'LAST HURRAH'***

*Sunday November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Midday for 12.30pm*

*@ the Point Lonsdale Hall*

*featuring:*

### ***STEVENSON'S ROCKETS***

***and special guest from Stockholm, Sweden, trombonist Jens Lindgren***



**Jo Stevenson, reeds and leader; Steve Grant, piano; Chris Ludowyk, double bass, Ian Smith, drums and special effects, and from Sweden, Jens Lindgren, trombone!**

How could I possibly have guessed 50 years ago, when I took it upon myself to organize a series of jazz concerts in Terang, [close to where I lived at Noorat], in order to raise the funds to *save* the Terang Civic Theatre Complex from demolition, that I would still be organizing jazz concerts on a regular basis 50 years later? The Vic.Government had been prepared to fund a new modern Civic complex in Terang, but not supply funds to restore the 100+ year old Victorian building that was still as solid as the day it was built, but *very* rundown. I had been looking at this building for years and imagining how well it would respond to restoration. To cut a long story short, I did get the chance to put this idea forward, and eventually received a lot of support. What's more The Shire of Hampden who owned the complex, were so impressed that the Terang Civic Hall Committee, with my encouragement and offer to raise the funds to carry out this work, agreed to match every dollar we raised! The wonderful outcome of this project, which took ten years to complete, was so splendid that everyone wanted to hire the Terang Civic Theatre complex for a multitude of occasions including live performances, weddings and gatherings of all types, *and still do* 50 years later; *and I* have continued to present jazz concerts, first in Terang, then for 25 years in Melbourne, and eventually for 15 years on the Bellarine. The full story

is in my book *The History of Jazz Australia* @ \$25, postage no charge.

Not long after this project was completed, I moved back to Melbourne to live and established *Jazz Australia*, and I also became the Melbourne manager of Graeme Bell AO MBE [who lived in Sydney]. Graeme and I spent the next 25 years presenting fabulous concerts in Melbourne, plus the launch of his autobiography and many more memorable events in great venues. [Further details in my book] During the last 50 years I have in fact presented over 400 concerts, all as fund raisers either for others, including Cottage by the Sea, the Jean Wood Music Scholarship, the Queenscliffe Historical Museum, the Motor Neurone Disease Assoc., the Queenscliff Fort, *or myself!*

Next month on Sunday Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> I will be presenting my last Jazz Australia concert at the Point Lonsdale Hall with a Jazz Luncheon featuring one of our favourite bands *Stevenson's Rockets*, and *they* will be featuring trombonist *Jens Lindgren* from Stockholm, Sweden, where he leads a popular big band *Kustbandet*, and is also in charge of the Stockholm Jazz Museum. Jens has been to Australia several times performing with various bands around Australia but says he couldn't possibly miss my *Last Hurrah* with *The Rockets* on November 24<sup>th</sup>, so aren't we lucky? He's a great musician and *The Rockets* love performing with him also.

A real plus re the venue that I've chosen for this *Last Hurrah* is that my own Yamaha grand piano is on stage. A good acoustic piano is really important when you have a brilliant pianist in the band such as Steve Grant. However following this concert I plan to gift the piano to the hall for the community, including the Point Lonsdale school. Several of its students have already been taught to play on this piano and may that continue for many years to come.

The other plus regarding this last Jazz Australia event, is that The Queenscliff Historical Museum will do very well financially from the catering and the bar.

I already have 60 bookings and I haven't advertised or sent out a newsletter till now, so I'm expecting a full house for this occasion. The Luncheon will consist of beautiful finger food throughout the afternoon, with something sweet to finish.

Tickets are \$80 and the QHM should do very well financially from this event.

The other really good news is that Barry Iddles, the owner of Queenscliff restaurant 360q, has offered to take over my Quarterly Jazz Luncheons if I agree to select the music for him, which I'll be delighted to do! These Jazz Luncheons at 360q will begin on Sunday Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup>. So I'm sure you'll all be pleased to hear this news. If you are already on the Jazz Australia mailing list you will be kept in the loop re this new

development in 2025.

Thank you to all those who have been so supportive over the last 15 years of Jazz Australia, which I have very much appreciated, and I *do* hope to see you for the 'Last Hurrah' on Sunday November 24<sup>th</sup> which I know will be a very exciting 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.

Bookings: Tickets are \$80 per head and can be paid for by cheque to the address at the top of page 1, or by bank transfer as follows:

Jazz Australia, CBA Hawthorn: BSB 063 138 Account: 1001 3193

*Please do not forget to add your name to bank transfers!*

With every good wish to you all,

*Diana*