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WINTER NEWSLETTER 2018

A TRIBUTE TO THE [Famous] RED ONIONS plus a CD launch! Saturday July 14th @ 4.30 for 5pm featuring Brett Iggulden OAM, trumpet; John Scurry, banjo; Richard Miller, reeds; James McCauley, trombone; Matt Boden, piano; Lyn Wallis, drums and Howard Cairns, bass at The Bentleigh Club, 33 Yawla Street, Bentleigh



First, it is great to be back presenting jazz again at the Bentleigh Club after a three year gap, and also for such a special event, not only to pay tribute to one of the most popular and significant Melbourne jazz bands from the early '60s, The Red Onions, but also to launch a new recording of their recently discovered early work, 50 years later! The recent discovery of these recordings by the Australian Jazz Museum, has prompted this well deserved tribute to the Red Onions.

There will be three original Onions on stage on July 14th and these are trumpet player Brett Iggulden OAM; clarinetist Richard Miller and banjoist John Scurry. These three musicians have selected the other band members for this tribute who they consider will help them recreate a particular sound they would like, in memory of their 'old mates and friends' including leader and celebrated drummer, the late Allan Browne. This will be a moving tribute and one that will not only bring back great memories to many people, but also benefit the Australian Jazz Museum. So the Onions are still contributing to the history of Australian jazz, after all these years and all proceeds will go to the Australian Jazz Museum which will include the proceeds of the new recording.

I asked Brett how he felt about this occasion and he had this to say,

'The CD launch at the Bentleigh Club is a lovely surprise. When Allan Browne, Bill Howard and I got a band together 57 years ago that became The Red Onions, none of us imagined where it would lead.

When Mel Blachford and Ken Simpson-Bull from the Australian Jazz Museum suggested producing a 2 CD compilation of the early recordings of the Onions, I was initially apprehensive; however on hearing the results, I am amazed at how enjoyable it is to hear the energy and growing strength of the music. The musical adventures we started in the yellow days of our youth have endured, and as a result of these CDs, may gain new life by providing ready access to music long out of print.

When Diana Allen OAM of Jazz Australia contacted me to suggest I might put a band together again for a CD launch at the Bentleigh Club on July 14, this was another lovely surprise. The band is still comprised of old mates and friends aimed at a memorable evening of hot music and fun. Richard Miller, John Scurry and I will be joined by James McCauley on trombone, Matt Boden on piano and the amazing Lynn Wallis on drums, along with a number of surprise sit-in guests! All we need to add is a great audience and the magic will happen once again'

Bookings are already well under way, so do not dally if you wish to attend what will be a memorable Australian jazz event or you are likely to miss out.

Tickets \$65/head includes delicious finger food all evening. Tables seat 12. You can either book a whole table or you can share one. All bookings and enquiries to me, on 5258 3936

Payment can be made either by cheque to Jazz Australia and sent to the address at the top of page 1, or via a bank transfer to Jazz Australia BSB 063 138 Acc. 1001 3193 <u>Please add your name plus 'Red Onions'.</u>

I do hope to see you then,

Diana Allen ОАМ