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WINTER NEWSLETTER – 2019

***‘FIRESIDE JAZZ AT MERNE’ featuring
NICHAUD FITZGIBBON & the JOE RUBERTO JAZZ TRIO
at ‘Merne’ restaurant, 650 Anderson’s Road, Drysdale
Sunday July 28th 4.30pm for 5pm***



Nichaud Fitzgibbon

I am very excited to be able to present something so special for our Winter Jazz Australia event this year. Melbourne jazz vocalist Nichaud Fitzgibbon was the first vocalist that I presented, at the first concert I ever presented *in Melbourne* in 1981. It was at her famous father’s restaurant *Smacka’s Place* with Len Barnard’s Famous Jazz Band! Nichaud was 15 at the time and helping her mother run the restaurant, not long after her father’s untimely death at the age of 49. She actually asked me what the chances were of her singing a few songs with this great band, and the rest as they say is history! Nichaud went on to become not only one of Australia’s leading jazz vocalists, but yet another member of the popular and entertaining Fitzgibbon family to take to the stage. Since those days Nichaud has spent several years in the UK singing at famous venues such as Ronnie Scotts, plus jazz festivals throughout the United Kingdom. She has worked extensively on TV and in the corporate world, and was commissioned by Barry Humphries to perform several rare Gershwin songs for his celebrated recording ‘So Rare’. Nichaud closed the Melbourne International Jazz Festival a few years ago with a Tribute to Peggy Lee, and sings with swinging ease and an innate feel for the heart and soul of a tune. Her favourite vocalists are who she’s grown up listening to, such as Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holliday, Anita O’Day and Peggy Lee.

So this is what we can expect to hear on July 28th along with popular jazz standards from the Great American Songbook. Nichaud, always a hit at Morning Melodies at Hamer Hall with The Syncopators, has recorded with them several times.

On the 28th July she will be accompanied by three of Melbourne's leading jazz musicians. Vocalists love the piano accompaniment of Joe Ruberto and his sensitive treatment of good songs and good singers. He also performs with Stevenson's Rockets when their regular pianist Steve Grant is overseas or interstate. Joe and his great rhythm section, which includes Dean Addison on bass and Hugh Harvey on drums is in demand at Melbourne jazz venues and festivals including Nagoya in Japan, Norfolk Island and New Caledonia.

Due to so many volunteers at the Queenscliffe Historical Museum being away for the winter months, I cannot do our usual thing at the Point Lonsdale hall with the QHM catering and running the bar. However this situation provides me with an excellent opportunity of having a seachange of venue, and an annual treat at 'Merne'. The food is always superb and the atmosphere a delight with a big log fire and a beautiful outlook over the olive groves to Queenscliff. If you haven't been to Merne, it is only a 15 minute drive from Point Lonsdale and is easy to locate at 4.30 in the afternoon. Andersons Road is off the Portarlington Road [from Point Lonsdale] and on the left before you reach the turn off to Drysdale. A visit to Merne is always a special treat in itself with its celebrated cuisine.

Bookings are with me either by email or phone. Tickets are \$85 each which of course includes Merne's beautiful finger food all evening, with drinks at bar prices.

Payment is either by cheque to Jazz Australia and posted to the address on page 1 or by bank transfer to Jazz Australia CBA Hawthorn BSB 063 138 Account: 1001 3193

JAZZ AUSTRALIA JAZZ CRUISE 2020.....

The third *Jazz Australia* cruise will take place over two weeks from March 21st next year with its destination the Fiji Islands. The exceptional band that I'm taking with us this time is *Stevenson's Rockets*, plus the great American jazz cornetist *Jim Cullum*. This will be a fantastic experience for everyone joining the *Jazz Australia* contingent on board the Ruby Princess with our own exclusive daily concerts. I'm only taking 100 delegates and the cruise is already 3/4 booked, most bookings are repeat business! The previous two *Jazz Australia* cruises have been a huge success and I only wish I'd started organizing these years ago. If you would like a Jazz Cruise newsletter with all the details, please let me know and I'll email you one. No-one requesting this information is under any obligation!

Diana Allen