

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2020

After a very quiet 2020, this year started well with an outdoor Sunday afternoon gig just before Christmas in the Rockpool gardens at Club Sapphire which was well attended. All looked quite hopeful for the coming year. January saw the return of Angela Lount and the Fedoras and they put on a great show after so many months without jazz!! This was followed in February by another Canberra band "Chasing Chet" - a tribute to Chet Baker. March saw a return to the club of Johnny Nicole whose last gig with us was at the Lakeview pub. Jan Preston returned in April giving her usual dynamic performance. In May we had "Banjo & The Boys" supported by locals Chris Ralfs, Ken Vatcher and a recent arrival to the area Nick Keeling, a multi instrumentalist from Candelo on keyboards.

And then Covid reared its ugly head again with massive restrictions including border closures and lockdowns. Since that time we have been unable to present club nights.

However, December sees a return of "The Dorian Mode Trio" and hopefully we shall be able to continue to present the music we love in 2022.

Our Musical Co-ordinator Colleen Spillane, who has done a fantastic job during these difficult circumstances, has decided to stand down due to increasing family demands as her children grow older. Many thanks Colleen. Her place will be taken by local well-known muso and multi instrumentalist Paul Dion. Many thanks Paul. I am certain you will continue to secure great bands and music for us.

Sadly, long time and much loved club member Ralph Hole suffered a fall on his way home one night and died soon after. Pam and I attended his wake, as did other club members. Ralph was a well known character and will be sorely missed. Our sincere condolences to his family.

It is becoming increasingly hopeful that the 40th Merimbula Jazz Festival will at last take place in June of 2022 after having been cancelled for the last two years. Members will once again be called upon to support this function.

Once again, a sincere thank you to Club Sapphire for their continuing support and also the committee for their hard work. Most committee members have given service for many years and it would be nice to have some new blood to lighten the load, bearing in mind that most of them are growing ancient and thoughts of their replacement will have to be addressed before too long.

It will be wonderful to be able to spend Christmas with family and friends this year. Pam and I send our best wishes for the Festive Season to all.

We sincerely hope 2022 brings a great year of jazz, and finally, a special thank-you to all members for supporting live jazz and the Down South Jazz Club.

Yours in jazz

George Pitt
President