

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Down South Jazz Club was founded in 1984 and is entering its 40th year since its inception. Now, after the advent of Covid, in common with most other organisations, things seem to be picking up again. The club has had a few new members joining during the past year, but sadly a number of older members have not returned. Many of you will recall that one of our members, Tankred Mueller, died as a result of an accident at his farm during the year. His smiling face will be sadly missed on club nights, and also at the many markets he attended locally with his produce.

Financially the club is in a healthy position, the most notable change being that Kingfisher Motel which is where our visiting musicians had been accommodated for some years at very reasonable rates, could no longer put them up, resulting in our having to use a different establishment. This resulted in greatly increased prices which was eating into our cash reserves as the allowance we were receiving from Club Sapphire no longer covered our expenses. We have recently negotiated a more favourable situation with another motel, which should keep us solvent for a further few years.

It is interesting to note that some of the present committee have been in office for around twenty years or more and would appreciate a well earned rest. Some new committee members would be welcomed with open arms, bringing fresh ideas; maybe the AGM which is coming up shortly, will produce some new faces.

It is now over twelve months since Kevin & Aileen Walsh passed away and the remarkable night that the club, in conjunction with the Merimbula Jazz Festival Committee, held for them was a great success. A fitting memorial for the two of them.

A sincere thank you to the committee for their unstinting support during the past twelve months, especially my wife Pam who spends countless hours on publicity and producing posters, Paul Dion for securing bands and musicians and also setting up the sound with the aid of Ian Battersby, Adrian, and I suppose I should (or rather Pam insists I should!!), add myself, Adrian for looking after our finances so well and also managing the website, Peter Cochrane for his secretarial duties, Yvonne Mak for sitting on the desk every month and our two hostesses, Anne Stewart and Gloria Campbell for showing people to their seats. Last, but no means least, our volunteer raffle ticket sellers. A special thanks to all of you for supporting your club and live jazz.

Once again, a sincere thank you to Club Sapphire for their financial support and for making their premises available for the jazz club.

We look forward to 2024 and another great year of jazz.

Yours in jazz

George Pitt
President