

NEXT MEETING

MON. 23RD MAY, 2011
AT THE BENTLEIGH CLUB

The Bentleigh Club is located at **YAWLA ST. BENTLEIGH**
Melways 68 B11 – parking off Yawla St. in the Club Car park.

ENTRY

Members Free - Guests - \$5.00.

Dinner and Drinks from 6:30pm to 8pm (Kitchen closes at 8). Fantastic meals available at good prices – Senior Card holder discount available.

Formalities start at 8 p.m. Party until you drop.
BYO instruments and Showbiz friends!

MAY BIRTHDAYS:

Rick	Litchfield	12-May
Ivan	Videky	13-May

Should your Birthday be here? Let me know.



A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT, JUDEE HORIN:

Hello Dear Friends,

Well – I've missed you all very much, since we were obliged to cancel the April Meeting. I have spoken to Catering Management at the Bentleigh Club, and after some small facelift, and a new Chef – the Bistro is reopening from 18th May. So it will be ready for our meeting on Monday 23rd May.

Thank you to Don Crawford and Caryl and John Bowen for graciously opening their homes for our members to gather in lieu of the Showbiz Night.

Please remember to invite potential members, and close family and friends as guests, as this will enhance the club atmosphere.

Also – as we are inviting these people, we must bear in mind to make a good impression when we perform – so they will want to come back! (Hahaha – no pressure.)

I'm so looking forward to seeing you all and getting back into the "swing" of it again.

Big hugs from your Pres – Judee

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SNIPPETS

BLUE TANGO — HOLIDAY IN FRANCE!

Bonjour ShowBiz friends,

Hope this finds you well. We are getting a bit homesick now after five weeks but we've had some great times.

Many of our highlights are connected with performing e.g . we were busking in the market in Uzes and finished up having a delightful lunch overlooking mountains and vineyards at the property of a French couple who were enjoying our music!

Beware of extended travellers tales at the next Showbiz Club night!!

A bientot!

Dave and Lynne (Blue Tango)

ALAN RICHARDS HOLIDAYING IN USA

As you know I'm away at the moment in sunny USA.

I'll be back on the 6/6 and then to Merimbula.

I hope the next meeting goes well.

Photo which Alan sent – hahaha



NEWS

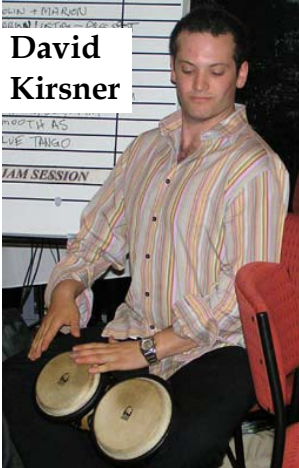
MARCH CLUB NIGHT (NO APRIL MEETING NIGHT)

We had a fun night, as always!

Neville Turner invited **Marion Lustig** – Jazz recorder player who was very entertaining – there was an appreciative murmur in the room when she started to play an **Ade Monsborough** written jazz piece.



Marion Lustig



David Kirsner

Marion's son David Kirsner provided percussion backing and also played bongo drum accompaniment with **Pam Rowe** – thanks **David!**

We heard news of **Sheila Whitson** who was due to have a hip replacement, but had to have a heart pacemaker fitted first! Thankfully she is well on the way to recovery – amazing recuperative powers, has our **Sheila**. **Judee Horin**, our President, sent flowers to **Sheila** on behalf of the club.

GUESTS:

Judee Horin invited **Don Jones** – a stand up comedian and **Graham Davey** as her guests - they came to enjoy the

night, and did not perform.

Looking forward to our May night to see what surprises are in store for us ☺

APOLOGIES: **Jeff Wiener** (still overseas), **Sheila Whitson**, **Don Crawford** – still in Thailand, **Anne Smith** and.



Don Jones, Judee Horin & Graham Davey



Jack Morris and Bob Casley



Ray Haynes and Bill Leithhead treated us to a brilliant duet – Unrehearsed - spur of the moment!

ShowBiz Social Club Inc.		
DATE: 28th March, 2011		
ITEM No.	NAME OF GROUP	EXT MUSIC
1	VINCENT	
2	JAN'S SONGS	
3	NEVILLE TURNER	
4	COLIN + MARION	
5	MARION LUSTIG - PRG SPOT	
6	INTERVAL	
7	Birthdays & Lucky Door Prize	
8	JACK + FRIENDS	
9	RAYMOND + HOWARD + PAM	
10	HOWARD, BILL + RAY	
11	SMOOTH AS	
12	BLUE TANGO	
13		
14	JAM SESSION	



Vincent O'Connor

GIGS

We love to promote the gigs, performances, boast and brags etc. of all the members. So SEND IT IN before the 2nd Monday of the month.

Email: secretary@showbizclub.com or call/fax Gigi on (03) 9808 2372.

TUESDAY:

24th May - 8pm till 10:30pm - **Annie Smith and Nicole Thorne @ Dizzy's Jazz Club** - with **Eiji Takemoto** on bass and **Mark Voogd** on drums. Many of you know **Nicole** from her previous **Showbiz** involvement and fabulous playing around the traps, at festivals, etc. She is springing back after dealing with big health issues and we hope this is one of her many gigs to come in town.... just a hop, skip and long jump from Shepparton where she now lives! Entry Fee: \$14.00/\$10.00.
www.dizzys.com.au

WEDNESDAYS:

Dizzy's Jazz Club. 8 -11 pm: Roger Clark Dizzy's 20 Piece Big Band with Rory Clark (Piano) and featured guest singers. **Dizzy's Jazz Club** 381 Burnley Street, Richmond – two doors from Swan Street (near Farmer Street) – Melway 2H E10. Cover charge: \$12. www.dizzys.com.au

THURSDAYS:

Thursday afternoons - 1.30pm to 4.00pm - The Groovin' Easy Orchestra (with Michelle and Ken Forbes) rehearses in the Fountain Room, **Bentleigh Club**, Yawla Street, Bentleigh. All are welcome.

26th May - 8.00pm at **The Malvern Town Hall - NEW TRACKS. Bob Sedergreen's Stonnington Gardens Jazz Showband (Myles White/guitar, Jon Chidgey/bass, Sonja Horbelt/drums, Dave Palmer/trombone, David Gardner/clarinet/tenor and Mal Sedergreen/soprano/alto.)** plus the **Stonnington Youth Jazz Initiative** with **Allan Browne** Malvern Town Hall, Cnr Glenferrie Rd and High St, Malvern 3144. Prices: \$25 Full Price \$ 15 Concession. Bookings: Chapel Off Chapel, 12 Little Chapel St, Prahran 3181. Ph: 03 8290 7000 10am-5pm 7 Days Online 24/7: ww.chapeloffchapel.com.au

FRIDAYS:

Fridays 6.30 pm till late – Friday Jam Session @The Leinster Arms Hotel. 66 Gold St, Collingwood. Phone: (03) 9417 5720. Including Colin Garrett and from time to time Annie Smith and Jack Morris.

Friday June10--Monday June 13 - Merimbula Jazz Festival

SATURDAYS:

21st May – 11.00-2.00pm - **Blue Tango** with **Leon Heale @ Eltham Town Square, Eltham.**

28th May – **Fem Belling** with the **Morris-Ward Combo @ Dizzy's Jazz Club**, Richmond. Cover Charge: \$20/\$16 ---->

The poster features a woman, Fem Belling, in a red and white striped top, looking upwards. The text on the poster reads: "The Fabulous Fem Belling" in a stylized font, with "International renowned vocalist, jazz violinist and dancer" written below it. At the bottom, it says "with The Morris-Ward Combo", "Sat 28 MAY 9pm", "Dizzy's Jazz Club 381 Burnley St, Richmond", and "\$20 - \$16 cover charge. Table bookings are essential. ph. 9428 1233".

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

BILL LEITHHEAD

Music and Me, by Bill Leithhead



Being the only child of a dance-band pianist mother meant that for me there was no escape: I was destined for it whether I liked it or not. And I did. My Kalgoorlie childhood was punctuated by lessons from mum on playing chords. I did one year of music lessons, got 98%; Mum reckoned that was enough. I made it up from then on.

Expert on pots and pans, I was thrilled when mum bought me an old drum kit. The tom-tom had Chinese dragons on it - you don't see that nowadays! Then I got a better kit when we moved to Melbourne and so for 30 years I played the drums for small dance bands, usually with mum at the helm; especially around the bayside and Mornington Peninsula. In my teens she put me on the mike and told me to get the reluctant dancers onto the floor. So we did Jolly Millers to get 'em up and mix 'em up. We played everything from rock'n'roll, barn dances, Zorba, the Mexican Hat Dance, and the Alberts. A speciality was a two-piece rendition of Golden Wedding (we did a lot of 2-piece jobs). The listener just wanted to hear the drum solo.

Next, I got religion, and often played the piano accordion at open-air evangelism, and the organ in church. I even did some preaching! By the time I was 27 I dropped religion and enjoyed myself. When fatherhood and scientific career intervened I vaguely kept up the piano, playing music for my own pleasure. At the chemistry department in later years I often wrote parody songs about chemistry for the Xmas socials. Over these years I never really got to listen to the live jazz scene in Melbourne, so I was a bit wet behind the ears.

Some years ago I started to suffer severe depression and in 1988 had to leave my lecturing career early, which was a bitter blow, but beneficial in the long run: I'm still alive and still married. So I thought to brush up the piano and play in pubs or something, which I did do, but I realised that I wasn't playing with a good "jazz sound", which remained a bit of a mystery. In 1994 I did some workshops with Stephen Sedergreen, who pointed me in the right direction for the proper chord "voicings". I'm still working on that!

About 1995 I met Janet Arndt, with whom I performed in the 1995 Australian Jazz Convention at Melbourne Uni as "Side by Side". That was a huge buzz, and I heard lots of good bands. It was then that I realised that playing with singers was not easy but very character-forming. I've played in two other such conventions. Janet and I again played as "Side by Side" at Latrobe in 2009.

In 1997 I played the piano in a small band for a 10-performance season of The Good Old Days music hall show with Encore Theatre, Clayton. Boy, was that a learning experience! I had to re-write so much music to different keys!! Later on I played with them for a season of a pantomime, Cinderella - also hard work. In that one I distinguished myself by playing slightly stoned from a bit of cannabis cookie that I was using to try to cope with severe back pain. I played fantastically - better than ever - until the reprise, for which I played the wrong tune! The clown, Buttons, then came forward and set me straight, to great applause! No-one ever knew.

Also in 1997 I got into a small trad band and learned how to play with other musicians in a jazz band. The main lesson was to play less notes, using a simple "comping" technique. I am still liable to play too many notes, and to my shame I tread on the bass lines! We got a regular pub gig in Fitzroy and became the Clare Castle Jazz Band, to whom I introduced Janet Arndt. I still play with them sometimes. In 1998 I started to get involved with various trad bands in country jazz festivals - the kind where they let anyone in! I'm still doing that.

In the noughties I wanted to play more "mainstream" jazz and dreamed up the name Jazz Travellers to reflect journies involved in playing jazz. I've had various musicians in it over time, and we're still going strong. Courtesy of Pippa Wilson, from 2000 I also got involved with the Showbiz Club for several years. I did some playing with Janet Arndt and others during this time, too.

Then I dropped out for 19 months to try to re-invent my piano playing, and just played at home, most of the time without music; that was quite beneficial. And so I popped back into the scene, came back to the Showbiz Club, and re-formed the Jazz Travellers with tenor sax Colin Garrett, who was at a loose end in the hiatus between marriages. I also involved mates I'd met through trad and the Sedergreens.

Several years ago I met Annie Smith at the time where she was wanting to get with a jazz band for the first time, and we coalesced into the new improved Jazz Travellers. Now I'm enjoying the Showbiz Club, the country jazz festivals, a few paid and charity gigs with various people, and loving it more and more. I also enjoy playing with my Bill Leithhead Trio, too.

At home, I'll play anything for my own pleasure in any style that I can manage, despite the "jazz police". Music is bigger than any individual, and I enjoy listening to and trying to play the widest range of styles and tunes possible. I've played in churches and even a synagogue, in cramped places and in the open air. I don't have perfect pitch, find it a bit of a struggle to transpose on the fly, and play best with a few chords and a lead line in front of me. But I seem to do alright, and it's a very satisfying activity, punctuated by periods of frustration, neurosis and sheer terror. And I'll even play the drums, given half a chance. So Let the Good Times Roll!!!