



Welcome to the December 2025 issue of the:

Brisbane Jazz Club Newsletter

Helen Abrahams - President's Christmas Message

We are now in the final weeks of live performances at the Brisbane Jazz Club for this year, and what a feast of performers for you to enjoy. Local bands **Nicki Parrott**, **Mojo Webb**, **Slowhand Sultans** and **Brisbane Big Band with Melissa Western**.

It has been a big year for the club as the number of patrons at events has grown to an average of 112 patrons per gig for the last three months, from a norm of under 100 patrons in previous years. I am sure the music and shows have improved as a result of this support.

One of the goals for 2026 is to encourage our members to embrace overseas performers. While they may play unusual instruments or a little-known genre, their musicianship never lets us down. I have glowing reports on **Ariel Bart** and her harmonica show on 11 December.

Wishing you all a relaxing holiday break and looking forward to seeing you at the club in 2026.

Helen

Merchandise Update

We have been experiencing ongoing rain in Brisbane over the past few weeks, so it is a good idea to purchase one of our fabulous Brisbane Jazz Club umbrellas to keep you dry. - See our merchandise selection below and on the reverse of our bar list.

BJC Merchandise 2025

 <p>T Shirts - Band Image Members \$40 Non-Members \$45</p>	 <p>T Shirts - BJC Logo Members \$35 Non-Members \$40</p>	 <p>Cap Members \$25 Non-Members \$30</p>	 <p>Umbrella Members \$40 Non-Members \$45</p>
		 <p>Lanyard Members \$10 Non-Members \$12</p>	 <p>Whisky Glass Members \$16 Non-Members \$20</p>
			 <p>Stubby Holder Members \$12 Non-Members \$15</p>

Take a part of Brisbane Jazz Club home with you!

Look out for an interesting development in our merchandise sales offer in 2026.

Monthly Gig Review

The **Caxton Street Jazz Band** have been hawking their trade for a few decades but showed no signs of taking it easy. Covering a broad sweep of jazz history, the band kept everyone in tune and humming along. **Bernice Haydock**, on piano, so smoothly sang the classic 'How come you do me like you do?' with all of its 1924 risqué lyrics.



Without a beat, the following night brought **Galapagos Duck** to the stage. **John Conley, Dave Spicer, Adam Thomas, Mal Wood, & Rodney Ford** decided to start the night with the classic 'Perdido'. The full house was then given a few surprising variations of Christmas carols, standards like 'Smoke gets in your eyes' and a rollicking version of the Pink Panther Theme where Mal, Adam, and David stretched out and really explored the theme with extended solos. 'Caravan' was the encore, where Rodney brought the drums to full attention, John twisted the double bass into most unusual sounds, and all joined in the extended playing of this famous track's melody to finish the night.



Sunday brought another full house with the **Brass Roots Big Band**. Not for the shy, the ensemble pushed the horn section with tight phrasing, sharp crescendos and spot-on timing, bringing a blast of sound to the audience. Celebrating 21 years of Big Band music and fun, **Scott Lewin** and **Rachael Pearse** provided the vocals as the band happily lifted material from the '50s,'60s & '70s as well as classic swing from Count Basie and Duke Ellington.



Ariel Bart Trio brought to the BJC one of the rarest jazz instruments – chromatic harmonica. Together with **Lauren Tsamouras** on piano and **Freya Schack-Arnott** on cello, the trio created an intimate atmosphere. The audience sat in almost perfect silence as Ariel's compositions weaved their way in and around piano, cello, & harmonica before returning to the theme as a combined trio. Often, the harmonica and cello were almost indistinguishable, so closely was their phrasing. Ariel would at other times sit tightly with the piano, before seamlessly moving to a solo that radiated emotional resonance at every turn. Nikolas Fotakis, in writing for Australian Jazz, interviewed Ariel and described her music as *“a blend of the soulful expressiveness of the harmonica, the warmth of the cello, and the sensitivity and depth of the piano. The music moves through open improvisation, layered sonic textures, and a deep dive into melodic creation”*. A very apt description.



Ariel Bart brought entwining sounds, but **James Morrison** again graced the BJC with three performances on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, changing the tempo. This legend of Australian music, a virtuoso in the true sense of the word, on the night playing trumpet, trombone, piano, & saxophone. Joined on stage with **William Morrison** on guitar, **Harry Morrison** on double bass and **Patrick Danao** on drums; the twelve songs delivered over the evening allowed all to shine. James flitted between the brass and piano on many songs. He showed his skill on the keys with a dynamic Cole Porter medley, while on other songs the piano provided rhythmic accompaniment to the solos like William's on 'Blue Bossa' or Harry's on 'Exactly like you'. There was so much more

over the night as this quartet moved from the rambunctious to the gentle, the audience appreciative of every song. Not allowed to leave the stage at 10, the band played 'Georgia on My Mind' as their encore. A brilliant finish to the night, with a standing ovation to the band.



December is not over just yet at the BJC. On Thursday 18th, **Nicki Parrott Trio** graced the stage, on 19th was **Mojo Webb Band**'s time, on 20th, **Slowhand Sultans** and on 21st, **Melissa Western** fronted the Brisbane Big Band.

The year will finish off with a 1920's themed New Year's Eve event with the **Mark Pradella Band** and **Peter Vance**.

Bernard Lakey - committee

Around the Club

We highlighted earlier in the year how local businesses and the community were helping our good friend and patron of the club, **Miles Foggon**, recover from a bout of ill health. We are happy to report that his recovery continues with the help of his family and friends, along with sustenance from another local business, **Harvey's Bar and Bistro** on James Street, which was the favourite eating place of Miles late wife, Noleen. We will continue to support Miles in his recovery.



In January this year, we told the story of another good friend and patron of the club, **Ian McLean**, with his “Return me if I am lost” T-Shirt (Pictured below).



Ian has been a bit poorly over the past few weeks, so it was good to see him back at the club this week to enjoy one of the James Morrison gigs.

We wish Ian the very best of health for the coming year and look forward to seeing him often at the club in 2026.

Remember, if you have a story you would like us to tell, get in touch with us edtheeditor@brisbanejazzclub.com.au

A special mention for our **Tuesday Crew** (pictured below), who are the Volunteers who maintain the very fabric of the BJC. Without them, we would not have the well-maintained, pristine club that we enjoy. A great big thank you to you all, and have a fabulous Christmas and New Year.



Volunteers Christmas Party

It was great to see our regular volunteers enjoying their annual Christmas Party. The food was great, and the music was just right for dancing, and we were also serenaded by some of our longtime Chanteuses. A great time was had by all, and we want to say, once again, a great big thank you for the great work our volunteers do. We could not do it without you.

I want to say also, a big thank you to our editorial manager for putting together the photo collage of the party below.



Jazz Singers Jam Night

YES OR NO? A stage marriage proposal @ the December Jazz Singers' Jam Night.

It was a resounding YES! It was also baritone sax player **Camilla Scott**'s first time singing at the JSJN. A lot was riding on this one song performance...

She prepared Dr Ronnell Bright's 'Sweet Pumpkin' well. At the end of the song, Camilla called up Daniel, a cellist and baritone opera singer, to the stage. **Lachlan Hawkins** gave his best drum roll as Camilla dropped to one knee and proposed to Daniel in front of a full house. It all happened so quickly, but the flow of it caught on, and Daniel's confirmation brought on an effortless ovation! Truly, anything can happen at these jam nights.

Don't miss out on 8th January 2026 JSJN with **Prof. Pete Churchill Trio** (UK) and twelve excited singers to kick off the new year. The JSJN will also be celebrating its 25th anniversary later in the

year. There are so many things to be grateful for. Merry Christmas from **Ingrid James** and the JSJN team!



For all you Jammers and the patrons who love our Thursday night Jam sessions, we have a special treat in our raffle offer.

A regular patron of the club and owner of **New Farm Seafood, Michael Hatzifotis**, is very kindly donating a \$50.00 voucher each month for the raffle at JSJN. So remember, whether you are singing or in the audience, get your raffle tickets for a chance to win this very generous gift.

Coasting Around the World

Keep those coasters coming in so we can build our “Story Cabinet” with your travel memories.

New Generation of Jazz

NEW GENERATION OF JAZZ REVIEW: JACK KENNEY QUARTET 10 DECEMBER 2025

The **Jack Kenney Quartet** (Jack - alto sax, **Lucius Reynolds** – piano, **Isaac Worland** – Bass and **Lochlan Robinson** – drums) is one cool band. Close your eyes, and you could imagine being in a Manhattan nightclub in the 1960s. Opening with Nat Adderley’s ‘One for Daddy-O’, the band cruised through some wonderful covers – ‘I Remember You’, ‘Stella by Starlight’ before ramping

things up with the Bossa tune 'Beautiful Love' and closing the first set with Horace Silver's 'Nica's Dream'.

The second set started with the band's interpretation of the song 'There Will Never Be Another You' (Made famous by many jazz legends, including Chet Baker and Stan Getz). There was plenty of room for solos, and the musicians impressed the audience with their individuality. Jobim's 'Triste' was a crowd favourite. While "triste" is the Spanish word for sad, the song's up-tempo swing reinforced Jack's assertion that the song actually makes you feel happy! After a very cool interpretation of the 1940's number 'It Could Happen to You', the band closed the set with 'Cherokee', a standard from the 1930s but sounding very contemporary in the hands of Jack and his bandmates. **Steve Jackson** from SAE on sound did a great job, and the performance was a fine way to send off The New Generation of Jazz for 2025.



Jack Kenney Quartet

Cameron Jeffs – Committee member

ED-The Editor - is signing off for our Christmas and New Year break, but will be back with you in early 2026. Our editorial team would like to wish all our patrons a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous 2026.

Please send your comments to

edtheeditor@brisbanejazzclub.com.au.

We want to know what you have to say.

