Welcome to the October 2026 issue of the Brisbane Jazz Club Newsletter

President's Message

The last month is definitely the time for Festivals in Brisbane, with the Brisbane Festival and the Writers Festival. It's a wonderful statement about Brisbane's growing arts culture and makes for a busy time.

The BJC is part of this energy. The five-day **OzManouche Festival 2026** was one of the best Ronnie Woods and Cameron Jones have organised. The atmosphere was laid-back and casual while musicians from Sydney, Toowoomba and Canberra came to jam on the deck. They even retreated to the park to spread the vibe.

The **Brisbane Vocal Jazz Festival** is another 5-day feast of international (Sarah McKenzie), interstate (Darryl Aberhart) and local vocalists and musicians. *The King and Queens of Jazz* gig is always a showcase. I thank Ingrid James and her supporting team of Glen Kerridge, Di Clark and Naomi Doessel for organizing this festival. I'd also like to thank BCC Councillor Trina Massey for her grant which supported this festival. It was a great boost.

Our own unique **Brisbane Big Band Festival** is from 6th-8th November at the Old Museum building and should not be missed at this excellent venue. It's a unique opportunity to hear a number of big bands at one performance.

Finally, the building works included a new illuminated sign on the western wall. The huge white and red lights can't be missed, especially when travelling on a river ferry. The final task is to improve the sound within the building. This is now in progress.

Helen Abrahams – President

Merchandise Update

Click the link below to explore a new online collection that can be delivered to your door, or to family and friends anywhere in Australia, so they can experience Brisbane Jazz Club merchandise.

Brisbane Jazz Club merchandise

We have included a little bit of luxury for your trip to the Melbourne Cup, or to Pop-up Polo on the Sunshine Coast, or the Gold Coast 500.

Let us know what you would like us to add to our new online collection, or any comments you may have, and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Send your suggestions to edtheeditor@brisbanejazzclub.com.au

Around the Club

Helen Abrahams has told you about the success of our OzManouche festival, which was enjoyed by all who attended it and no more than by our very regular attendee of the club, Ian McLean, who walked away with the first raffle prize of an original painting by the wife of Ronnie Wood, who is the organiser of the festival.

Ian proudly showing off his prize painting.

Spotlight on our Patrons

This month we shine the spotlight on **Di Clark**.

Di moved to Brisbane from Wales in the U.K. many, many moons ago and joined BJC about 18 years ago.

For 10 of those years, she served on the committee, focusing on the entertainment sub-committee. Di's big achievement whilst on the BJC committee was securing the first major government grant in 2017 to purchase the brilliant sound system and mixing desk still in use today, a huge improvement on the old one.

Once the funds were secured, **Mark Smith**, our wonderful sound engineer, handled the purchase, and we're now all enjoying a much-improved sound from the artists.

Di stepped down from the committee in 2019 due to overseas commitments but continues to be an active member of the club, volunteering as a Duty Manager regularly.

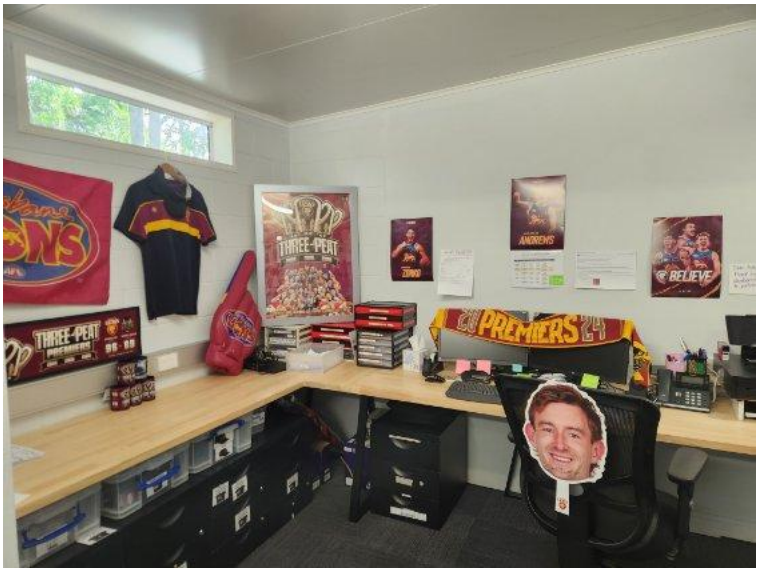
Over the years, she has gigged at BJC with a trio, 5-piece bands, and the Brisbane Big Band. She also occasionally sings at the Jazz Singers' Jam night (she does great credit to Ella Fitzgerald numbers) and is very involved with the Brisbane Vocal Jazz Festival. Di has been retired for so long she can't even remember what she did for a crust!

We say a big thank you to Di, and we want her to continue to be the active and positive force she is at the BJC for many years to come.

Di entertaining our patrons on one of her many shows at the BJC.

Celebrating at the Club

We couldn't let the recent triumph of the Brisbane Lions (Three-Peat) go unmentioned, and our great Front of House/Admin colleague, Sue Allsop-Jones, went a stage further and decorated the Front of House office to commemorate the victory.



Great job, Sue, but what do you do when they win again next year?

Jazz Singers' Jam Night

Unwrapping 26 Christmas Jams on 3rd December 2026!

This December, Jazz Singers' Jam Night celebrates a wonderful milestone — 26 Christmases of bringing singers, musicians and music lovers together as a community in South-East Queensland.

On 3 December 2026, we'll celebrate our 26th Christmas with **John Reeves** on piano, **Samuel Vincent** on bass and **Paul Hudson** on drums, joined by a fabulous gathering of special guests, including **Leah Cotterell**, **Pearly Black**, **Daniel Allen**, **Wavelength Vocal Group**, **Jackie Khan**, **Peter Vance**, **Sara Hales**, **Di Clark** and **Stu Fisher**.

Hosted by **Ingrid James**, the evening promises everything we've come to love about our Christmas Jam Night — wonderful music, spontaneity, last-minute surprises, warmth, laughter and joy.

We also celebrate our incredible Brisbane Jazz Club staff, front of house, bar staff, singers, the house bands and volunteers, including our fabulous photographers, whose work goes far beyond the fun of shooting pictures at the Club!

Most of all, it's a celebration of the beautiful community that has grown around Jazz Singers' Jam Night over the past 26 years. We'd love to share it with you

Ingrid with just a few of the JSJN participants.

First Timers

One of our regular volunteers, **Linda Brookbank**, brought along some of her neighbours for the first time, to give them a taste of real entertainment. Helen, Michael and Susan, pictured below.

Helen, Michael and Susan enjoying the view

Helen has been living in Brisbane for 18 years and also enjoys most genres, so she is very happy with the selection of music we offer at the BJC, although she said if we had Elton John or Adele at the club, she would be first in the queue. I guess it would be a long queue. Helen thought the Club's atmosphere was intimate and connected to the music. Also, the backdrop of the river and buildings is magic.

Helen's parting comment was "A very relaxed Sunday afternoon enjoying The Trombone Kellie Gang. Thank you to the Brisbane Jazz Club." Helen also arranges corporate events, so we hope to see her and her colleagues back at the club soon.

Michael moved to Brisbane in 1984 and played guitar in and around Brisbane in the 90s. He likes big band and techno dance music. His first choice of performer would be Vince Jones. Michael liked the friendliness of the club and was awed by its view.

Susan moved to Brisbane in 2018. She likes most kinds of music except for heavy metal, so I guess she will not be booking in for the Valtozash gig in November.

Susan prefers a variety of music, so doesn't really have a first choice. She liked the decor, the feel and vibe of the club; she says it's great to have a small venue to listen to live music in. Overall, Susan thinks a great job done by all staff and volunteers.

Another first-time visit to the BJC was a family affair when the Chen family came to the club. Although they have lived in Brisbane since 1995, they had never been to the jazz club but were so happy they eventually made it.

The family have a keen interest in music, with both of the daughters, pictured below, being students of classical piano, but their musical tastes cross over to many other genres.

We suggested to the girls that they come back to our New Generation of Jazz gigs to experience how other young people express themselves musically.

Hoping to see them again soon.

New Generation of Jazz

On Wednesday, October 14th, **The Malachi Quintet** performed a mix of swing and bebop hits using Malachi's own arrangements of many timeless standards and tunes.

He and his quintet are inspired by saxophone legends Art Pepper and Lou Donaldson.

It was another great night, showcasing the amazing young talent we have in Brisbane.

On stage with Malachi were **Lurissa Masters** (trumpet), **Lachlan Robinson** (drums), **Isaac Worland** (bass) and **Patrick Baldwin** (piano).

The Malachi MacLean Quintet

ED-The Editor signing off for this month, but looking forward to receiving your comments and stories to:
edtheeditor@brisbanejazzclub.com.au
We want to know what you have to say.

brisbanejazzclub