

**Wellington**



**Newsletter**  
**August 2011**

## Next Club Meeting

Rod Andrew's  
*Dixie Street*

At  
Chicago Sports Bar  
5 pm Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> August

Members \$12   Public \$15   Students \$5



# Wellington



[www.wellingtonjazzclub.org.nz](http://www.wellingtonjazzclub.org.nz)

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# President's Message

Hello everyone,

On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> July, we enjoyed night of excellent café jazz from Frances Prowse and the Harbour City Strollers, alias Frances on vocals, Claude Hooper on soprano cornet, Daryl Prowse on keyboard and guitar, Grant Willis on bass and tuba, and Greg Crayford on drums. The group played an attractive selection of standards and latin with some excellent improvising and then launched into audience choices and trad. Frances' vocals were very popular with the audience and the group received an enthusiastic reception. Later in the evening, the group was joined by Simon Cross (Rongotai College Jazz Group and also a member of the Jazz Club) on tenor sax. It was a most pleasant and entertaining evening.

The warm-up to the main event was provided by the Rongotai College Jazz Group under HOD Greg Crayford, with Simon Cross on tenor and soprano saxes, Josh Rippon on guitar, and Instructors Daryl Prowse on keyboard, Mike Jensen on drums and Greg on bass. The group played a nice selection of excellent jazz and it was great to see a good audience turn out early to encourage them and enjoy their excellent playing.

This month we will host a visit by an Australian Dixie Band 'Dixie Street', led by drummer Rod Andrew as part of a NZ tour. He last led a tour to NZ with another group called 'Hot Peppers' a few years ago, and they proved to be a most entertaining and top class Dixie band. We are guaranteed another great night.

This month again we will be back at the Chicago, which has been renovated. It will be interesting to see how the new configuration suits the jazz scene.

Pop in to Music Works cnr Ghuznee and Marion Sts with your Membership Card and take advantage of the 10% discount to Club Members on their wide range of instruments and accessories while the discount lasts.

It's great to see members bringing friends and family to the jazz-meets. The standard of jazz is always entertaining and of a high standard, and the meetings are ideal for entertaining guests. If you are not yet a member, then please join us in helping to keeping jazz alive and well in the Capital.

A big welcome to new members Jenny Stevens, Brian and Dorothy Carmody and John and Margaret Riordan.

See you all on 21<sup>st</sup> August at the Chicago.

*Mike Bain*

President



## This month's gig

Rod Andrew's  
**Dixie Street**

... driving, hot, Classic Jazz  
from the Golden Years 1900-1930

### The Band:

“Dixie Street” is a seven-piece ensemble featuring some of the best Traditional Jazz musicians in Australia. These well-ripened musicians are a thoroughly decent bunch of larrikins exhibiting ample quantities of good humour which overflows into their music.

 **Gordon Coulson**  
(Trombone)

 **Derek Dalton**  
(Trumpet)

 **Geoff Speed**  
(Reeds)

 **Peter Milburn**  
(Banjo)

 **Bruce Gourlay**  
(Piano)

 **Maurie Fabrik**  
(MC)

 **Kevin Findlay**  
(Sousaphone)

 **Rod Andrew**  
(Percussion)

## The Repertoire:

The repertoire highlights the 1900-1930 Golden Years of early Jazz featuring the classic compositions of Clarence Williams, Jelly Roll Morton, King Oliver and Louis Armstrong. The result is the nerves in your feet twitch whilst some rare gems simply grab your whole body and shake it.

This jazz is gloriously inclusive filling halls with colourful sounds of the past.



For all your musical needs  
come and see Steve at  
MusicWorks Wellington  
31 Ghuznee Street  
Ph : (04) 389 7012  
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**Wellington Music**  
WORKS  
*musicians helping musicians*

### Wellington Jazz Club Diary

21 August	Dixie Street a seven-piece ensemble featuring some of the best Traditional Jazz musicians in Australia
18 September	Ken Avery Combo Competition

Book Review

**SERIOUS FUN –  
The Life and Music of Mike Nock**

by Norman Meehan \_ 2010

Publisher : Victoria University Press  
Wellington, New Zealand Price \$NZ50.00

Writer Norman Meehan has done a superlative job in revealing the music and the man who made that music, Mike Nock who could be described as the most adventurous jazz pianist New Zealand has ever had. Where as many musicians reaching middle age get set in their style and presentation, knowing what works and what doesn't, what pleases and what doesn't, Nock ploughs on into the unknown, experimenting, pushing the envelope, forever seeking the new, the different whether its jazz, classical or elements of both.

Mike Nock, pianist, composer, arranger deserved to succeed – he has had an obsession with music , particularly jazz music, that still persists into his septarian years. As a little kid in short pants, his dad taught him to play piano using the Art Shefte piano books. It was stride piano, promising to turn printed sheet music into a professional style. Such was his desire to learn, he would be into the next lessons as soon as his dad left the room.

Mike's uncle Jack was a pianist also. When Mike was touring NZ in the 80s he was in Palmerston North and he went to the family home for a reunion. Inevitably he had to play. . Mike remembers, “ because they were so madly keen on music. I played a really straight version of my mother's

favourite, It's the Talk of the Town. At the end Uncle Jack jumps up and says, "That's the greatest version of Tea For Two I've ever heard in my life." A musical family, says Mike, well I don't know.

The beauty of this book is that you can trace Mike's career over the years in his own words – he tells you also about the musos he played with, their reactions and feelings; they come alive in a way that you can not always get from magazine articles. All this accompanied by the author's careful research and comment.

Norman Meehan worked very hard over a number of years to collect information about Knock. There are 33 interviews, a bibliography of some 130 or so sources -292 references, plus an excellent 52 minute dvd documentary film produced in 1993.

There's also a discography of Mike as a leader, co-leader, composer and sideman.

Congratulations Norman, through your devotion you have provided NZ jazz history with a very valuable insight in one of its greatest jazz sons. Serious Fun, Life and Music of Mike Nock is a book every keen jazz fan would greatly enjoy.

JOHN E JOYCE