

Wellington



Patron:
Rt Hon Sir Anand Satyanand
GNZM QSO KStJ

FEBRUARY 2026

Meow Event Venue, 9 Edward St, Wellington

Members - \$25; Public - \$35; Students - \$10

Sunday 15 February 2026, 5pm-7pm



Welcome to the first gig for 2026!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The River City Jazzmen flew up from Christchurch to entertain club members for our last gig of 2025. And what a gig it was! This six-piece Dixieland band comprises Neill Pickard (banjo, vocals and MC), Michael Fairhurst (trumpet and vocals), Allan Hawes (clarinet and soprano saxophone), Glyn MacDonald (trombone and piano), Dave Pitt (double bass) and Louie Moverley (drums). All six are superb musicians. There was also some wonderfully dry humour and great introductions for both sets: on-stage drums for the first and trumpet from the rear of Meow for the second.

The band played 11 numbers from 1929 or before plus a smattering of numbers extending through to 2022. The earliest number, Panama, dated from 1912. It was originally released as “Panama, a Characteristic Novelty”. It’s a great example of early Dixieland at its best. Others from the same decade included 12th Street Rag (featuring beautiful muted trumpet), Chesapeake Bay (based on Lonnie Donegan’s version), Down in Honky Tonk Town and one of the most famous tunes from that decade, Tiger Rag.

The 1920s numbers featured Limehouse Blues, Way Down Yonder in New Orleans, Everybody Loves My Baby and Basin Street Blues. The last of these numbers featured muted trombone by Glyn plus a cornet solo from Glyn’s son, Ben, who was sitting in the audience after playing a concert of his own. Another 1920s number was China Boy in which I recognised Neill’s opening banjo riff as the same riff that starts David Bowie’s China Girl!

Other well-known jazz-era numbers included Just Because, Bourbon Street Parade, Bei Mir Bist Du Schön, and Si Tu Vois Ma Mère, a song that Sidney Bechet wrote for his mother. It featured a glorious soprano saxophone solo by Allan Hawes. More recent numbers included Sweet Gypsy Rose, Red Beans

and Rice, Nyboder's Pris and a 2022 Sierra Ferrell number, Hey Me Hey Mamma.

Your committee works hard to bring you acts of the calibre of The River City Jazzmen. We have also worked hard to enhance the setting at Meow for our gigs. It is a wonderful venue for jazz. The staff at Meow have worked closely with us to increase the number of seats available for members to book and we really appreciate their cooperation. **Costs have increased through the year for the venue, however, and we will also (deservedly) be increasing our payments to bands in 2026. Hence, 2026 will see a small increase in the club's membership fee (Single: \$30; Double: \$50; Students: \$10) and in ticket prices (\$25 for members, \$35 for non-members, \$10 for students).**

Over 2025, we have had a delightful selection of acts featuring a variety of jazz styles. Every one of our eleven acts has provided superb entertainment for jazz club members. We have already booked some exciting acts for 2026, starting with April's Fools (featuring April Phillips who was a popular guest singer in Greg Crayford's 'Best of the Realm' gig earlier this year). In addition, we have two New Orleans style bands, some jazz royalty (Paul Dyne and Norman Meehan) and a wonderful big band all lined up for the year. We look forward to seeing you at these exciting gigs through 2026.

Arthur Grimes
President

BACKGROUND ON OUR NEXT GIG - APRIL'S FOOLS

April's Fools are a chic, cool jazz, swing and blues band that will transport you back in time and forward in class. Evoking the smoky, laid-back vibes of dim-lit speakeasy clubs, April Phillips' smooth and sultry voice is perfectly complemented by some of the capital's hottest musicians. This band doesn't just play music; it creates an experience that transports the audience to another era, where the essence of jazz and blues reigns supreme.

We are pleased to advise that a 10% discount is still available at Music Works in Ghuznee Street, if you provide proof of Wellington Jazz Club Membership

UPCOMING GIGS FOR 2026	
15 March 2026	The Dads
19 April 2026	New Orleans Joymakers
17 May 2026	Norman Meehan and Paul Dyne

Further details about each of these gigs will appear in future Newsletters.

FINDING OUT ABOUT WELLINGTON'S UPCOMING JAZZ GIGS

We encourage members to join Nick Tipping's distribution list to be informed about upcoming jazz events in Wellington. His email address is wgtmjazzclub@gmail.com

ENCOURAGING NEW MEMBERS

The Jazz Club is an excellent venue for entertaining friends and celebrating special events while enjoying some great jazz. Members are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to come together and to support the excellent jazz musicians who are keen to perform for us. We would also like to see an increase in membership as it all helps to support live jazz in the Capital and keep the finest jazz musicians engaged. Members are encouraged to bring a guest to the gigs and invite them to join the Club to help keeping the live jazz ball bouncing along...

MEOW BOOKINGS - FLICKET

Wellington Jazz Club members will be notified by email prior to each gig, when preferential bookings will be open for a week, after which bookings will be open to everyone.

To maximise the seating available for Club Members in the limited space available, Meow will continue to trial reducing the number of tables but increasing the number of single seats in theatre style rows interspersed with small tables for drinks and food!

Bookings for tables will be 'first in first served', and it is important that when booking a table for multiple members, the number entered is '1' table, not the number of members.

The link for booking with Flicket is as follows:

<https://meow.flicket.co.nz/events/647e1f55-88b2-4d42-a070-30c58fa066fc/reservation?slug=611c4354>

Door sales (cash or EFTPOS) will normally be available; however, members will need to take a chance with seating.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

To join the Wellington Jazz Club (Inc.) complete this form, add payment, and return to:

Michael Bain
Treasurer, WJC (Inc.) 12 Albert Street, Island Bay, Wellington
6023.

Name(s)

Address:.....
.....

Ph:

Email: ¹

Student \$10 (include photocopy of ID), Single \$30, Double \$50

Payment may be made direct to the Wellington Jazz Club
Account No. 030531 0533738 00 (confirmation of payment to
mgbain@xtra.co.nz).

¹ Newsletters are distributed by email.

THE WELLINGTON JAZZ CLUB (INC)		
Patron	Sir Anand Satyanand, GNZM, QSO, KStJ	
Honorary Members: Terry Crayford Kevin Clark	John Joyce Paul Dyne Margaret Layton	Erna Ferry Colin Hemmingsen
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Vice President	Graham Kelly	027 277 0069
Gigs Manager	Arthur Grimes	027 248 9389
Newsletter Editor	Helen Thompson	021 137 0946
Committee Member	Brian Vincent	022 353 0563
Committee Member	Katie Wilson	021 166 3882
WJC Website	Neale Pitches wellingtonjazzclub.org.nz	027 445 4431
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THE NEW RIVER CITY JAZZMEN
snippets from their superb December 2025 gig

