

17 April 2019

Dear Jazz Members and Friends

It was with regret that the Committee accepted the resignation of our President Alex Berry for health and personal reasons. Alex has been a calm, reasoned and inclusive President and the Committee will miss his leadership. He stepped up to allow long serving past President Pat Murphy to retire and I know I speak on behalf of all members when I thank him for his service and wish him all the best for the future.

Given that the AGM is due in August or September it was decided that the position of President remain vacant and I take over the role in an acting capacity with all other positions to remain unchanged. Members are encouraged to give thought to putting their hand up to join the Jazz Club Committee as new blood is always a good thing for any Committee.

The Club continues to do well so I thought it timely to give you a quick run-down on how we are traveling. Our treasurer Frank Appleton keeps an excellent eye on the finances and we continue to hold our own in that regard. Membership is up which is very encouraging. A number of new members have come from the dancing community and we all enjoy watching their moves on the dance floor. It certainly adds variety to the night's entertainment.

Bill White with Paula Mercer's assistance does a great job finding talented local and visiting bands to fill the two monthly spots. Some issues with the sound equipment earlier in the year has seen us trial at Bill's suggestion a sound engineer for four weeks. We will make a decision on this matter at the May meeting but if you feel the sound improved for the April gigs and the first gig in May please let us know.

Maree Penney's work on social media particularly Facebook and the regular emails we now receive prior to events have continued to spread the word about the Club's Jazz nights. Her videos of the night's performance are very entertaining and I am sure encourage members and non-members alike to join us at the Club. Carol Wilson's assistance with photos is also appreciated.

John Bestmann our very efficient secretary ensures correspondence is well managed, minutes and agendas prepared and many small jobs such as the mending of our backing curtain undertaken.

Bill Ensor is our happy and persuasive "raffle man". The profits from the raffle pay for our monthly ad in the Chronicle so your support in this regard is much appreciated. Bill also puts his hand up for jobs such as the taking down and putting up of the curtain which was a big job.

The room set up does not happen without some considerable effort and here we have to thank the boys, Frank, John and the two Bills for regularly helping out in this area.

Bev English does a great job looking after supper supplies keeping stocks of those delicious biscuits and makes sure the tea and coffee are topped up for the night. The jam drops are a real favourite and Bev has difficulty keeping up the supply.

We have been most fortunate to have our history in the safe hands of Peter Fearon who is collating information to ensure our rich history is not lost. If you have any articles or items that you think should be included in the Club's history please contact Peter or myself.

A new idea to help boost the Club's finances is our "Gift Vouchers". For sale at \$15.00 each it is hoped members will buy the vouchers as gifts for friend/s. A great extra to add to a gift for any occasion. The voucher is also available to non-members as a one off purchase should they wish to come again with a new friend.

We very much appreciate the support of the Toowoomba North Bowls Club and give them a donation each year to assist with the upkeep of the premises. We would ask that as many members as possible support the Bowls Club on Friday nights by coming a little earlier and having dinner at the Club. The new smorgasbord board menu has been a great hit and at \$15.00 for mains and a sweet it is very good value indeed.

Many more things occur at a Committee level but hopefully this gives you an insight into the running of the Club. Spread the word and wherever you can encourage others to join us on the second and last Friday of the month.

Whether this letter reaches you before or after Easter I do hope it is/was an enjoyable break and the Committee look forward to catching up with everyone one at the Club Friday 26 April 2019. Damien and I are heading north to visit family but the night will be in very safe hands with Maree Penny taking over the role of MC.

Best wishes and if anyone has any suggestions on how we could make our jazz nights an even better night please do not hesitate to approach a Committee Member with your suggestion.

Regards

Michele Alroe