



Three local groups hail 30 years by JIM FAGAN

In 1994 Tourism Noosa welcomed its 500,000 visitor since it started telling the world about Noosa's attractions six years earlier. There must have been something in the Noosa ether at the time because, while most of the tourists came and saw, some of them decided to return and live here.

Among them were singers, musicians and artists who formed groups to enjoy and explore their creativity and this year today's members are celebrating the 30th anniversary of their founding.

And they are doing it in style.

In August the three groups, Noosa Chorale, Noosa Jazz Club and the Tinbeerwah Art Group (TAG), will present a celebratory month starting on Thursday, August 1 at The J with the admission free TAG art exhibition, "The Joy of Music". The exhibition will be officially opened at 5 o'clock that afternoon and run throughout August.

Later in August, two concerts of "All That Jazz", featuring Chorale singers and national and local jazz musos will introduce the 11-day Noosa Festival, the first on Thursday 22 August at 7pm and the second on Saturday 24 at 4pm.

Music theme for paintings

TAG artists are working on Thursday and Friday mornings painting art works with a music theme for the exhibition.

"While there are more youthful members joining us, many of our members are seniors," TAG committee member Jan Cooke said.

"It's amazing how those who join our group had either never painted since childhood or had forgotten how much they enjoyed it. Others have uncovered talent they never realised they had.

"Our classes, with award winning artists as guest tutors, offer the opportunity to develop new skills and to make new friends.



Artists Rachel Arias (left) from Tewantin, working on her painting *Dance With Me* and Narelle Hore (right) from Cooroy, working on *All that Jazz*.

"The Tinbeerwah Art Group has been meeting at Tinbeerwah Hall on the corner of Cooroy-Tewantin Rd and Sunrise Rd ever since it began.

The group was founded by retired art teacher Gwen Blair. She wanted to join an art group but she couldn't find one so she started her own. The rest is history!

"Gwen passed away in 2013 but her legacy lives on. The group has grown from a few friends meeting on a Thursday morning to a membership of over fifty local artists. Each year TAG holds its annual art show in memory of

Gwen. This year's show is at Tinbeerwah Hall on August 16-18 in conjunction with the one at The J."

Jan said: "TAG is thrilled to be co-celebrating its 30th anniversary with the Jazz Club and the Chorale."

Chorale in rehearsal

Right now, Noosa Chorale is rehearsing jazz classics like "Ain't Misbehaving", "All That Jazz" and "Rhythm of Life" with guest conductor and accomplished musician Paul Coppens who founded the Melbourne Philharmonic Orchestra and has worked with many choirs and orchestras in productions of ballet, opera, operetta and musical comedy.

Said Chorale secretary, Margaret Haffenden: "In 1994 Melbourne barrister Joe McMahon moved to Noosa and had the urge to form a choir to sing Handel's Messiah which he had sung with other choirs, loved and wanted to do again. He advertised for singers and that year Noosa Chorale was born when it performed Messiah at Christmas.

"It was a grand occasion that marked the beginning of a fabulous musical journey over the last three decades.

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Noosa Chorale in concert with the Australian Jazz Ensemble at the 2019 Noosa Jazz Festival

Since then, the choir has presented close on 80 plus large-scale productions with symphony orchestras and Queensland Opera soloists. These have included classical works by great western composers like Guiseppe Verdi and featuring popular composers like George Gershwin.

“In addition, the Chorale has taken part in Anzac Day observances, Christmas Carols in Hastings Street and other community events which has made the Chorale such an important part of the entertainment fabric in Noosa.”

Margaret said: “It’s important to note that during the last 30 years the Chorale has retained a strong, keen membership. Well over 700 choristers have been part of the choir during those years and, judging by the enthusiasm of today’s singers, the future has a bright note.”

On stage with the choir will be the Australian Jazz Ensemble featuring star musos like Brett Iggulden (trumpet), Paul Williams (clarinet) and Ian Date (guitar).

How the Jazz Club started

The 11-day Jazz Party also features four concerts at The J Theatre, a Sunday afternoon concert at The Majestic Theatre at Pomona, and an end-of-festival Sunday, September 1, free afternoon concert at Lion’s Park Riverstage, Noosaville.

Although the jazz club was formed in 1994, president Richard Stevens recalled how he and trumpet player, Frank Johnston, who had moved from Melbourne to Noosa, initiated the Jazz Party in 1992.

“Frank wanted Noosa to have a festival and I remember walking with him up and down Hastings Street all those years ago asking the accommodation houses when the worst time of the year for business was.

“We were told the two weeks before Xmas and the weeks before the

Victoria and New South Wales September school holidays. Accommodation starts to get expensive after that so we picked late August/early September for the first Jazz Party to keep the costs down for the fans and it’s been held then ever since.



The Syncopators band at Noosa Springs resort as part of the 2023 Jazz Festival

“That first Jazz Party was a free concert down in Noosa Woods. We built a stage with some milk crates and some plywood and it was all pretty laid back and casual. The event was rebadged as the Noosa Jazz Festival in 1994.

“The Jazz Party name was revived in 2011 and concerts are our centrepiece event. They feature individual musicians who form into bands and ensembles that guarantee exciting improvisations of traditional jazz.”

Richard said: “We decided that Noosa needed more than an annual festival of jazz, so in 1994 we started the Jazz Club with a committee, including included myself and Patsy Stevens, Frank Johnson, Austin Stringer and Janet Uphill to organise and stage regular concert events throughout the year.

“Today, the Jazz Party attracts visitors from all over eastern Australia and New Zealand and its focus is on classic or traditional jazz. We feel someone has to be there to keep genuine jazz in place so you can truly say that this is a jazz festival.

“In fact, I would say the concept is unique. It’s the only one of its kind in the country, if not the world.”

Richard said the musicians would also entertain over lunches and dinners at

Lucio’s Marina, Miss Moneypenny’s in Hastings Street, and Noosa Boathouse at Noosaville. There would also be a special sunset experience at Noosa Springs Resort and a luncheon event at Trattoria Benati at Noosa Junction plus river cruises followed by lunch or dinner at the Noosa Yacht and Rowing Club.

Tickets for the joint concerts at The J Theatre are now on sale.

Thursday 22 August 7pm

[CLICK HERE FOR THURSDAY TICKETS](#)

Saturday 24 August 4pm

[CLICK HERE FOR SATURDAY TICKETS](#)

Noosa Jazz Festival

22 August to 1 September

[CLICK HERE FOR FESTIVAL TICKETS](#)

Noosa Council awards grant

Noosa Chorale has been successful in being awarded a Noosa Council Community Grant recognising the important 30-year milestone of three local arts institutions. The grant will specifically support the Chorale’s joint concert with the Noosa Heads Jazz Club.

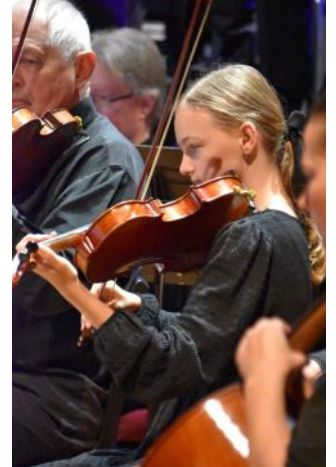


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Elijah was a stupendous musical feast

Noosa Chorale's May concert of Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, conducted by Kim Kirkman, brought together 59 Chorale singers with four impressive soloists and an orchestra for two stunning performances which had audience members enthralled and exhilarated. (Photos: Ann Milland)



(l to r) Leon Warnock (baritone), Gabrielle Deschamps (alto), Kim Kirkman (Conductor), Judit Molnar (soprano), and Sebastian Maclaine (tenor).



Elijah concert-goers Photos: Ann Milland



Sectional rehearsal leader Pam Sage (3rd from right), with tenors (l to r) Babette Urban, Mark Taylor, Trish Eames, Donald Grant, Olena Kruta, Derwin Williams, (Pam Sage), Rita Malik, and Ian Jobling (Ian Lowe and Brenton Lovett not in photo)



Mary Thompson, Lee Thompson and Helen Peel



Phil and Sandy Connors



Noala Mockeridge, Ann Bishop, Meg McCauley



Kim Cahill, and Billie Shekhoven



James and Helen Leckie



Frances Johnson and Sigi Schneider



Sharon Wright



Agnieszka Swiatlowska and Tibo Rowe



Ann Blythe and Megan Irwin



Leanne Warnock



Robyn Chapman and Holly Batten

Jazzy welcome to guest music director Paul Coppens

Chorale singers got together on the first night of their new concert term at the end of May to enjoy a convivial return to rehearsing, and to welcome new guest music director Paul Coppens.



Past president Fran Wilson welcomes Paul Coppens to the choir.



Born in the Netherlands, Paul came to Australia with his family in the 1950s when he was 12 years old.

After schooling in Ballarat, he went to Europe and studied conducting, piano, cello and composition in Austria at The University of Music and Performing Arts Graz (also known as Kunstuniversität Graz).

On his return to Australia in 1973, he established the Melbourne Chamber Orchestra and, two years later, the Melbourne Philharmonic Orchestra.

His incredibly versatile musical career has encompassed work with choirs and orchestras, and in productions of ballet, opera, operetta, and musical comedy.








(Photos: Ian Jobling)



Chorale singers were thrilled to catch up with Marita Finch who came to see the recent performance of Elijah. Marita fell from her motor bike on the way home from work in October last year, sustaining spinal cord injury, a broken back and multiple other broken bones.

Through extraordinary determination in her rehabilitation programme, Marita is hoping to regain her mobility and return to singing with the choir's altos in the future.



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