

# ART

weekender.



**IS THAT JAZZ?:** Janelle Stowe will be the vocalist for the first Reef Jazz Club at Tonic night on November 24. **Picture: Supplied**

## LAUNCHING JAZZ

The best Tasmanian jazz musicians will be rousing up a rhythm for the launch of The Reef Jazz Club at Tonic later this month.

BY TESS BRUNTON

FOR decades the who's who of the Melbourne and international jazz scene sauntered in and out of the legendary Reef Jazz Club.

Located in Melbourne's City Square, sweet, soulful sounds of jazz crept through the doors of the club until it closed down in the 1990s.

Now Country Club Tasmania is trying to revitalise the jazz scene, launching its own Reef Jazz Club at Tonic.

The event will showcase Tasmanian jazz talent for free on the last Friday of each month.

Country Club Tasmania local entertainment manager Matt Gower said musicians from across the state would be invited to perform at the jazz nights.

"We've got a real plethora of talented jazz musicians in Tasmania who often get gigs playing in vineyards and specific events, but not really somewhere they can congregate," Mr Gower said.

"We want to show the broad spectrum of talent."

The idea took off about three months ago with Gower enlisting local artist and jazz musician Evan Carydakos to help co-produce the monthly events.

"Evan has studied with some of the greats of jazz, and was regular patron of the original Reef Jazz Club when it was at its peak in Melbourne," Mr Gower said.

"His insight and understanding will ensure we deliver a monthly event that the Launceston community will grow to love."

The first show will feature Hobart musician Janelle Stowe, acoustic bassist Oliver Plapp and drummer Andrew Dennis.

The band will be under the guidance of musical director Brendon Siemsen, who has graduated from prestigious international jazz institution Berklee College of Music in Boston.

He hoped the evenings would encourage members of the public to get involved and start tapping their toes to "the jazz of a bygone era".

"By presenting jazz, we're hopefully going to attract new fans to the style of music and hopefully that will give a flow on to the artists themselves and give them more of a profile," Mr Gower said.

Each event would feature new musicians and could have a theme such as the women of jazz, he said.

As for how long the series will run for, he said it would depend on the level of community support.

"If we get a great response from the public ... we'd look at doing it ongoing," Mr Gower said.

"We're reaching out to the jazz community and people who are interested and encouraging them to come along, because we're putting this on to support those patrons out there who do like this sort of thing.

"We're pretty excited about it, hopefully we'll get that response."

■ The Reef Jazz Club at Tonic will be held at Tonic Bar at Country Club Tasmania on the last Friday of each month from 8pm.

## ARTS DIARY

ON THE WALLS:

**BIRTHDAY:** Gallery Pejean in celebrating its 5th anniversary with a group exhibition featuring talent from across the state.

**SHAPES IN SPACES:** Blenheim Gallery and Garden in Longford is displaying its second sculptural exhibition.

**GORGEOUS SCENES:** The Basin Cottage at Cataract Gorge will host an exhibition of work by multi-award winning Tasmanian artist Rachel Howell. Running from November until January, the works can be viewed between 10am and 2pm seven days a week.

**TRIPLE A:** Launceston Art Society will hold its annual exhibition at Eskleigh Gallery in Perth from November 11. More than 80 artworks of varying medium, styles and skill, will be on display in the historic building for the Acquisitive Art Award until February 28 next year.

**HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU:** Launceston-based artist Tony Martin is exhibiting his latest range of acrylic on canvas works and a new Desert series at the Stillwater Gallery until December 1.

OFF THE WALLS:

**BAD BEHAVIOUR:** Get ready to rock and mosh with The Badlands at St Johns Brewing Co on Sunday, November 26 as part of their national tour.

**NO PLACE LIKE HOME:** The Melbourne City Ballet will present The Wonderful Wizard of Oz at Princess Theatre on Saturday, November 18 at 7.30pm.

**UP AND COMING:** Young Tasmanian comedian Ned Townsend will perform his first full length show in Launceston on November 18 at the Launceston Workers Club. He will be performing alongside local guests including Stewart Bell, Emesha Rudolph and Bill Armstrong.

**JAZZAMATAZ:** Launceston Jazz Club will host a gala event at the Italian Club on November 24 at 7.30pm. Booking can be made with the club on 63447332 and admission costs \$10.

**SECONDHAND FASHION:** My Closet Market will finish the year with a bang (and a bargain) on November 25 at St Ailbe's Hall.

**SUMMER TOUR:** Tom Vincent Trio will take on Albert Hall with their brand of witty and swinging jazz on December 2.

**END OF YEAR CONCERT:** Tasdance Studio Classes student will showcase their talent at the Earl Arts Centre on December 16 at 2pm.

**WRITE HERE:** The final community writing session will be held on December 2 between 10.30am and 12.30pm at the QVMAG Inveresk site.



**BRUSH STROKE:** Friday Sketch Club co-organisers Clare Holder and Diana Lord touch up a painting before the 'About Faces' exhibition opens at Leoni Duff Studio and Gallery. **Picture: Tess Brunton**

## Capturing features

A COMMUNITY has formed around a sketch class which discovers its live models while walking the streets of Launceston.

Friday Sketch Club was formed a year ago and has invited people members meet off the street to sit for a portrait.

Those portraits now make up the *About Faces* exhibition, which features the work of 14 artists who attend Leoni Duff's art class.

Friday Sketch Club co-organiser Diana Lord said the live models added a different level of interaction with the work.

Discussing live modeling with people around town opened up the club to different talent and new experiences, she said.

Club co-organiser Clare Holder said a dynamic community had formed between the artists and live models.

The exhibition was the first time some of the budding artists would show their work to the public, she said.

The group was made up of scientists, engineers, artists and people from all walks of life who joined together to discover a love of drawing.

Life drawing was a challenge but it inspired people to try hard to capture a person's personality, she said.

■ *About Faces* will be on display between November 18 and December 1 during 11am to 4pm on Monday to Saturday at Leoni Duff's Studio and Gallery on the first floor of the Old Brisbane Arcade.

■ Interested in become a live model for the club? Call into the studio for more information.