

## THE CLARENCE JAZZMEN

Steaming into Lismore for the Lismore Jazz Clubs next gig are the Clarence Jazzmen. The gig will be on Sunday, 27 September at the Lismore Bowling Club, from 2pm to 5pm. Admission is \$7 for members and students and \$10 for non members.

Leader Warren "Clarence" Byrnes is both drummer and much acclaimed lead vocalist. He's joined by Pietro Fine (not pictured) on reeds and piano and Ben Rogers on guitar, both of whom hail from the Tweed area. Bob Dooley from Nimbin is on bass and vocals, with Grant Rigby from Coffs Harbour on the trumpet, trombone and vocals.

The Clarence Jazzmen are popular and well known in their local Clarence Coast area and were the feature band at the first Warwick Jumpers and Jazz Festival. They have played festivals at Sawtell and Lismore and also at numerous wineries on the tablelands, having been highly active on the north coast for over 20 years. All the group members have their own bands but come together as the Clarence Jazzmen to have fun and to enjoy the immense talents of those about them.

Pietro tells the story that when Warren was a 10 year old he met and actually played with Louis Armstrong. The Byrnes family had invited Louis back to their place for dinner when they met him on tour in Australia. Of course the inevitable jam happened when Louis found out Warren had a drum kit. Since then Warren's always loved Satchmo's music and takes great pleasure in rendering a few songs in his best gravel voice style.

The band will be playing some steamy jazz covering several decades of musical greats, including Satchmo's, of course. It's going to be hot!



Pietro Fine is well known as a composer, teacher and performer. He began his musical life in the Great Synagogue junior choir with his mother as conductor and has worked extensively in jazz and other contemporary forms. In Lismore Pietro has been musical director of KaOZ Klezmer & various guises of The KaOZ Klezmer Orchestra, recording a much loved CD with them in 2001. Other bands have included blues band the Layabouts (Sydney), swing band Wholly Cats (Byron), trad band the Lismore Stompers, mainstream band the Clarence Jazzmen as well as world/minimalist inspired Anahata (Brisbane) who performed and recorded Pietro's compositions exclusively.

Having moved to Melbourne, Pietro is much in demand in the jazz, acoustic and world music scene including collaborations with Ernie Gruner (Klezmer guru) Bronwyn Calcutt's choir Shaking the Tree, Jen Hawley's band, Paris Café with bass player Rob Mahoney, The Wiki Men and with Back to Back Theatre. He is also playing piano in a project involving live improvised music for Barry Dicken's Whiteley's Incredible Blue directed by Dr Julian Meryck to be staged in 2010, which recently previewed at 45 Downstairs.

