

Heidi Victoria MP

Member for Bayswater District

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All that Jazz – new role for Victorian Jazz Archive

Bayswater District MP excitedly joined a team of dedicated volunteers at the Victorian Jazz Archive in Wantirna last week to celebrate news that the museum has joined Public Record Office Victoria's Places of Deposit network.

The appointment to this role cements the Archive's role as keeper of important items that preserve, promote and celebrate the history of jazz in Australia.

Ms Victoria said the museum is a valuable resource for students, researchers, musicals and the general public with its collection one of the largest in Australia.

"Since 1996, the Victorian Jazz Archive has been working to collect, preserve and exhibit recordings and materials that trace the history of jazz in Australia from the 1920s to today.

"I congratulate everyone involved in the Archive on this appointment which recognises its important role as a gatekeeper of Victoria's history," Ms Victoria said.

Collections manager Mel Blachford is delighted with the appointment as a Place of Deposit and with the approval from Ms Victoria as Arts Minister.

"This official recognition will encourage jazz musicians and their families to deposit jazz items with the Archive, confident their material will be stored to archival standards," Mr Blachford said

The Victorian Jazz Archive holds more than 20,000 items in its Australian Collection. Some items include scrapbooks of the life of Graeme Bell, the Yarra Yarra Jazz band and the Red Onion band.

Mr Blachford said items are available for research via the website www.vicjazzarchive.org.au and secure for the use of future generations.

While at the Archive, Ms Victoria was also pleased to confirm a new continual lease for the archive ensuring that it stays at its location in Wantirna South for at least 21 years.

"On behalf of the people of Victoria I thank and congratulate the community groups, including the many passionate volunteers, managing our Places of Deposit," Ms Victoria said.

"It is wonderful to see the network growing, which creates wider access to, and awareness of, the fascinating stories of our state."

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