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80th Australian Jazz Convention
26th—31st December 2026
Dubbo, NSW
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Hello to all AJC attendees and newcomers!

My name is Greg Barker, President of the Australian Jazz Convention Executive Task Force 2026.

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For the people who don't know, the Jazz Convention this year will be held in the central west town of Dubbo NSW, situated 393km from Sydney, 842km from Brisbane, 826km from Melbourne, & 3,465km from Perth.

Where will it be held?

It will be held in the Dubbo RSL Club Resort. Cnr Brisbane & Wingewarra Street. The Dubbo RSL consists of a large outdoor car park & a three story under cover car park, which is locked up at close of business at night & opened early the next morning, for those who want a safe place to leave their car.

It has two floors. The ground floor has Sports bar, Poker machine rooms, cafe, & large bistro. Upstairs has four function rooms, an Auditorium, Jacaranda room, Starlite Room, Round Room.

It also has a Terrace (semi outdoors, a 250 seat Theatrette, a la carte Restaurant & Cocktail bar.

Outside, next to the parking station, there is a gymnasium, and a 25 metre 5-lane undercover pool.

The Convention will be held up stairs level 1, in 3 of the function rooms, Auditorium, Jacaranda & Starlite rooms, with the Terrace as a place to get away for a chat or a drink in the open if you want. This Club was built to hold functions such as the Australian Convention.

The Dubbo RSL is all disable friendly with a lift to get between floors. It is also open to all assistant dogs. We will have instrument lockup rooms, & all function rooms being used, are very close together, with very little sound leakage, if at all. We proved this by holding 25 jazz festivals here using the same rooms.

You can get to Dubbo by plane, bus, drive, or train. For the visitors & interstaters, it is a good idea to become a member of the club. All you do is scan, your licence or ID at reception & you are a member, cost is \$5.50 for the year, & you show it & get a % of your purchase & use of all club facilities at members prices.

The Parade & Picnic.

The Parade & picnic will be held on the same day at Victoria Park. The reason being, Victoria Park is quite close to the RSL. It is a large park, well maintained & shaded. It has a band Rotunda which we can use, throughout the picnic. **The PARADE:** Owing to the cost of road closures, which makes it impracticable to hold parades, this park also lends itself for a parade as it has a very well-maintained crushed gravel lane

way, called Memorial Lane. It is approx 300m long, as wide as a normal street, and leads to the War Memorial, but also goes past our picnic area and the band rotunda, with no road closure fees, so we might as well use it.

Public Concert.

As Dubbo doesn't have a Mall as such, this is a tricky one. I am talking to our council who are very supportive of the AJC. Still in progress. Watch out for more info in Newsletter 2.

Accommodation

There is lots of accommodation at and around the Dubbo RSL. If you go to **Dubbo Visitors Information centre** www.dubbo.com.au or phone 02 6801 4450, you can get all the information you need. There are quite a few motels around the RSL, in easy walking distance. It is flat out here, so don't worry about hills. It is well foot-paved, with pedestrian crossings/lights over most roads in the CBD area. We also have Caravan parks & B&B's of good quality.

Registrations

The Registrations will be open in early June 2026 and close at the end of October 2026, for early bird regos. So, all band leaders who want to come to the AJC, please start thinking about your bands line up. **This is very important to assist with programming**, as late comers get the dregs. Registrations will be available after October & throughout the convention, with day passes, and evening passes as well. So be advised to get in early.

Merchandise

We will have some merchandise for sale, however in an order to save over stock at the end of the Convention week, and cost, all merchandise will have to be **paid up in full beforehand**, as the convention cannot carry the burden of unpaid items. There will be T Shirts, Polo Shirts, Caps, Stubby Holders & the like. All will have the Convention Logo on them. An order sheet will be available when Registration starts, with prices, colours, sizes, etc, and the items can be picked up at the Admin desk on the day. Registration fees DO NOT cover merchandise cost.

Why come to Dubbo

Dubbo is the hub of the Central West NSW. It is known as the Hub, as Dubbo has highways out of it, north, south, east and west. The population is approximately 58,000, and it services about 108,000 people in surrounding areas including services to surrounding townships and properties, in agriculture.

It has numerous shopping facilities, for those who are so inclined. Dubbo has lots of attractions, including our famous Western Plains Zoo, Flying Doctors Experience at the airport (not to be missed), and Old Dubbo Jail, just to name a few.

The weather in Dubbo in December can be rather warm, so you come prepared.

We hope to see you all out here, in December 2026 from the 26th to the 31st. What a great way to see the year out! Come & join us for the **80th Australian Jazz Convention**. The longest continually run jazz event in the world & be part of history. Meet new people, make new friends, play & hear some great jazz of all types. Everything is here to make your stay an enjoyable one.

(I know of one gentleman who keeps asking me if we have Tooheys Old Beer. Yes, sir we have that too!)

Yours in jazz

Greg Barker