

The Lachy Doley Group Live in Studio 301

Written by P.G Fitzgerald

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My mate, Pit AKA Michael Pittorino, is well known to many Society members as he comes along to the occasional Society Concert. I've known him for about 55 years as we attended the same primary and high schools. Anyway, Pit put me onto the blues when we were in Year 11 and is quite fanatical about pure blues. I love the blues, but edge more towards alternate blues rock.

Pit had sent me a Facebook notice that **The Lachy Doley Group** were having a special gig for fans at 301 Studios (3B Ellis Ave, Alexandria) and the numbers were limited so we quickly grabbed a couple of tickets. Those members who regularly read The Songsmith will know both Pit and I are ardent fans of The Lachy Doley Group as Lachy is the absolute Jimi Hendrix of the keyboard as well as being a superb songwriter with great songs.

From his website (<https://www.lachydoley.com/>) you get the spiel: *"Dubbed the Jimi Hendrix of the Hammond Organ, Lachy Doley is Australia's most celebrated Blues Soul Rock Organ Player in the world today. A player who can pump, pamper and occasionally pound the most unbelievable sounds from a keyboard: sounds that are intense, ferocious and sometimes transcendent."* And I totally agree with that statement as Lachy is Mr Energy Supreme on stage. *"The Lachy Doley Group are a unique sound in the classic and sometimes very traditional genre of the Blues. A power trio of Bass, Drums and of course Doley firing on the Hammond, his vocal screaming from the heart and the incredibly rare Hohner D6 Whammy Clavinet."* Once again, I totally agree!

"If music storms existed on this planet, it might as well be Lachy Doley's vocals and fiery instrumental performances you hear pulsating from cloud to cloud amidst flashes of lighting and claps of thunder" Heidi Leigh Axton – Rhythms Magazine

Some quotes about him include "Makes u feel good the way he plays that clavinet" – Bootsy Collins; "The greatest living keyboard player in the world today" – Glenn Hughes (Deep Purple). Lachy has been a backing musician for many big Australian and international bands.

Pit and I discovered him from a recommendation when he played at The Basement a few years back and we've caught his live at places like The Camel Lounge, Paddington RSL, etc. So, being fans and having brought some great CDs – did I mention he's had international and local hit albums on the blues charts? – we jumped at the chance to see the band and a great Oz songwriter in action in the studio.



As for Studio 301 it has *"90 years at the forefront of the Australian music industry. Australia's leading mixing, mastering, recording & digitisation facilities and team."*

The people who have recorded there, or used the facilities, are amazing! Jimmy Barnes, Guy Sebastian, Amy Shark, Coldplay, Julia Stone, Prince, Jessica Mauboy, Bruce Springsteen, Muse, Maroon 5, Lady Gaga, etc, etc. Go through <https://studios301.com/releases/> and you'll see what I mean. This studio is definitely legendary!!!

Pit and I met at The Newmarket Hotel, Mascot, which is just down the road from 301. The food was really good and the beers good so if you are down that way, I'd recommend it for a feed. The only unusual thing is you have to enter via the back lane carpark! Of course, due to Corona virus quarantines.

After our tasty sustenance and a cold one we headed to Studio 301 not sure of the situation.

Studio 301 is in an industrial estate, so we drive and parked. There seemed to be very few people around as we entered 301's foyer.

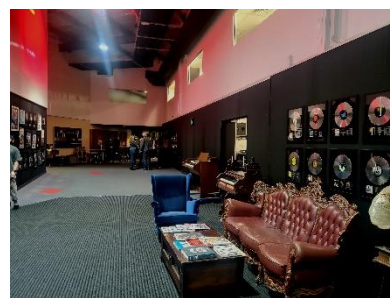
We were both wearing our Blues Bender T-shirts (An initiative of Lachy's to help musicians during the CoVid lockdown) and Lachy came over to say hello as he'd not actually seen the printed t-shirts. We've met Lachy a number of times at the different gigs, so he knew us to be friendly faces.

We were offered a couple of Corona beers and there were chips etc as others turned up for the gig. It turned out only twenty people were going to be in the audience for a live recording of a CD! Then we see the people who are going to be recording, apart from Lachy's band, and it was amazing! If you consider that Mahalia Barnes was one of the backing singers, then you'd get an idea of the quality of the players.

When the call came to enter the main studio, we were led to chairs which had headphones. This was so that we could hear the mix going through the main console. The drums and percussion were in their own room as was the brass in this amazing studio which I think is Studio One at 301?

They say about Studio one: *"Studio 1 is our largest recording space and the centrepiece of our brand-new facility. It is comprised of a beautiful custom built 201 square metre recording space including two isolation booths and a Yamaha C7 grand piano. Combining our studio heritage with modern technology, the spacious 75 square metre control room is equipped with Australia's only Neve 88R console and a significant outboard selection including the famed Fairchild 670, the latest iMac Pro and Apogee converters. With PMC QB1A monitors, this the first facility in the Southern hemisphere to install PMC's flagship monitoring system."* (<https://studios301.com/studios/studio-1/>)

So, we sat in two lines of chairs facing where Lachy would be playing, and Lachy came in with the rest of the band ready to let loose the musical energy. In the introduction Lachy said it was his actual birthday – what a birthday present to give one's self! Recording time at Studio 301 – then the proceedings started.



The band was being both recorded and filmed at the same time so that a CD and a DVD may be coming up in the near future. All of the assembled crowd were either friends, or fans, of the band so there was much enthusiastic appreciation after each song. I was



worried that Lachy may be subdued due to the studio environment, but I need not to have worried as the band really cooked!! These guys are the ultimate musical chefs as the song dishes they served up were aurally delicious and tasty.

About halfway through there was a small break then the music took off once again with various musicians guesting on a mix of original songs and some covers. Lachy even had his very talented brother Clayton Doley (Another famous Australian songwriter!) play on a few songs – well, you’d want your family there for your birthday!!

Then the night was over too quickly, and we were ushered out of Studio One. Some of us stayed back to talk to Lachy and say what a great gig it was. One lady noticed that Pit and I were wearing our Bluesbender’s t-shirts and asked to be photographed with us as she was also wearing hers. We got talking to the other Lachy Doley Band fans who were there and compared gigs and what we’d seen before we all headed off to our cars.

I’m looking forward to the CD and DVD releases as they’ll be great. You’ll definitely hear my yahoos at the end of each song!!

Ed: Since this article was published “The Lachy Doley Group Live At Studio 301” C/DVD has come out and its brilliant. Yes, I can clearly hear my loud yahoos on it! I last saw The Lachy Doley Group play on a Harbour Cruise late last year. Lachy of late has been very busy touring international as Joe Bonamassa’s keyboardist.

