

Big band pride

JAZZ

LEW SMITH

JAZWEST is a big band of which all Sandgroppers can be proud.

Pat Crichton has moulded an 18-piece of former WAYJO members, Conservatorium tutors and students into a formidable combination.

In its debut at the Perth Jazz Society last Monday, the ensemble was put through its paces by the prestigious American pianist Jim McNeely.

Using material by Herbie Hancock, some Nestico and originals that McNeely has written for the Mel Lewis big band, the locals came through with flying colors.

All the soloists played well but mention must be made of a young trombonist, Jordan Murray who showed considerable promise in thrashing and tones.

Gary France on drums was exemplary as a big band propellant, and showed taste and rapport when he combined with Paul Pooley to accompany McNeely in a trio set.

The pianist displayed his melodic invention and superlative technique on *I'm Old Fashioned* and some other superior standards.

Tomorrow night at the Hyde Park Hotel I will be presenting a tribute to the greatest of all big band leaders Duke Ellington. For radio listeners the engaging Graham Fisk has a special show on 6UVS on September 9 from 5 till 7pm.

Called *Satchmo and Bird - The Big Band*, it be intriguing listening.