

Canberra Jazz Club in association with Red Cross presents

"Keep your spirits up"

A tribute to Red Cross, the Bomber Command and Jazz

Top of the Cross, Canberra Southern Cross Club, Woden

Friday 30 May, 8.30pm

Featuring

Michael McQuaid's Red Hot Rhythmakers



Join us as we give thanks for the enormous contribution by John Ansell to Australian jazz, the courage and contribution during the war years of John and the airmen of Bomber Command, and the support given by Red Cross to POWs during World War 11.



We pay tribute to the airmen of Bomber Command and the late John Ansell – airman, prisoner of war (POW) and jazz musician – while also celebrating 100 years of Australian Red Cross.

John Ansell's passion for music started with the gift of a drum kit at age 12 while attending the Canberra Boys Grammar School. In 1942, John enlisted with the RAAF and he was posted to England as a wireless operator with the RAF's Bomber Command. It was on his 17th bombing raid over Germany that his plane was shot down and he was captured and became a POW.

What made life as a POW bearable for John were the Red Cross food parcels and also, too, the musical instruments provided by Red Cross – these enabled John to form various bands while in captivity. John's music provided much needed solace and helped prisoners to *keep their spirits up* and their hopes alive.

After the war, John formed the highly successful *Cootamundra Jazz Band* and later the *Riverina Jazz Band*. His 50-year career as musician and band leader ended with his passing in 1998.

Dinner and show: \$59 Show only: \$24

**Bookings to the Canberra Southern Cross Club
on 6283 7288.**



the
power of
humanity



100 YEARS
PEOPLE
HELPING PEOPLE

For the information of members and guests of the Canberra Southern Cross Club.