

**Submission
No 57**

**INQUIRY INTO THE MUSIC AND ARTS ECONOMY IN
NEW SOUTH WALES**

Name: Mr Brian Potts

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My pennies worth if its of any value:-

I play with general bands from time to time with the usual make-up of vocalists, guitars, bass, drums. There can be from 3-5 players depending on requirements.

Some of the vocalists are very very good singers and it is bewildering to me why we aren't playing weekly. I have clips on my web site if needed for verification (HotRodMusic.com.au which covers three bands).

Its very difficult getting gigs these days as bands and I noticed that this downturn has coincided with the increased number of Poker Machines. Particularly when they were allowed in pubs. I have nothing against Pokies. I maybe way off mark.

The pay is also dismal compared to how it was 20-30 years ago. Some even voluntary to help out. Perhaps the Pubs & Clubs have too many over-heads, expenses and red-tape these days.

There are instances that steer me to the Pokie theory, one, where a young neighbour of mine was going to buy a pub but only talked about how many Poker Machines he could have and what income that meant to him. No mention of any entertainment came into the equation.

Another in Sydney where a soloist musician mate of mine, who had a following of dancers, was asked by the floor manager to tell his dancers to stop dancing and play the pokies. When that failed he was requested to play boring music. That didn't work either, the muso resigned from any gigs there.

There appears to be a practice where venues advertise 'live music' but is nothing more than one person with recorded backing. Thats OK for some places but can be deceptive. I'm sure the general population are aware of that now.

Clubs and Pubs are quite different now. Some are very sterile and mechanical, maybe my tastes have changed. While others are more pro-active and use a variety of acts to get people in the door. These venues are community minded rather than Pokie minded.

The hours are long. Generally for a 3 hour gig the time worked setting up etc is more like 7 hours for 3 hrs pay. Then add travelling. Equipment and legal requirements (insurance etc) also add to the cost.

Musicians are the very definition of Private Enterprise and the hurdles that go with it.

The industry is more business-like these days.

Thanks.