



L - R Jack Levi, Charles Kovess, Jeanette Leigh, Sheridan Morris, Andrew Brown, Andrew Goodone

From AIC Chairman, Charles Kovess

Hello Laugh Mates,

Happy new year to you all. We do hope that 2018 will be the funniest yet for the whole world.

We are so excited to report on our recent Unique Celebration of Comedy fundraiser event held at Riva in St Kilda. If you were there, you'll know what a stupendous and side-splitting success it was and we thank you for being a part of that success. If you were unable to make it and donated, we again thank you from the bottom of our deep begging cap because you have helped us in our journey to create a museum to house the Laughing Stock of Australia, a most important Australian icon. The Australian Institute of Comedy museum will preserve Australia's outstanding comedy heritage, past and future.



Looks like Jack Levi and Charles Kovess are having fun



Don't move a step closer or Brian Nankervis will tickle you



Effervescent Lehmo wows the audience

The evening began with mingling, delicious canapes and drinks, then hilarious Brian Nankervis rallied the crowd and stumped a few with his riveting Rokwizzing. It was on for young and old with board members Jack Levi (aka Elliot Goblet) and Charles Kovess, the Passion Provocateur, honouring AIC founder, Pete Crofts and dropping a few more very funny lines. Jack was of course, "internally berserk", as ever. Then the main event, Lehmo, the man who broke the Guinness Book of Records for telling 549 jokes in one hour. He had us in stitches - lucky we had an ambo on standby.

Another special treat was having AIC board member and Reclink Founder, Peter (Bomber) Cullen AM as our super-hot auctioneer. Pete might have to forgo footy and turn his hand to Town "Auction" Cryer, with his superlative hammer action and spellbinding rhythmic repetitive cries of, "Come on now, who wants to buy Jack Levi, the great Jack Levi?", and, "Alright now, it's Brian Nankervis, lunch with Brian Nankervis". And the air was heady and filled with the shouts of "Yes!"



Then we all giggled all the way home.





WHAT TO EXPECT FROM THE AIC MUSEUM

AIC will be a centre for edification and hilarity as well as a favoured tourist destination and performance centre. From this mother ship will launch a publishing house, which will be fathered by Wild Dingo Press, the imprint for the institute being “Laughing Dingo Press”.

For 50 years Pete Crofts has researched, developed and delivered more than 30 customised humour ‘edutainment’ training programs. The AIC is a world leader in humour, comedy and laughter training programs and courses, which will be delivered for corporates, small business, government, community, schools and individuals.



THE AIC COLLECTION

Pioneer of Australian stand up, **Rod Quantock** says, "The collection is definitive, unsparingly comprehensive and irreplaceable historic archive of a defining Australian cultural characteristic, our unique sense of humour. To lose it would be much, much, much worse than losing your keys."

The collection of 30,000 comedy and humour books, ephemera and memorabilia, was last valued at \$2million. It was donated to the AIC by comedy guru Pete Crofts and it is a remarkable collection. Here's a little sample;

Books

- The only book written in Australia on the Psychology of Laughter, published 1933, by Ralph Piddington, and signed by the author
- 'The Argument of Laughter', a legendary book published by D H Munro, 1943, signed by the author
- 'Joe Miller's Jest Book', A facsimile of the world's first joke book ever written, published 1739
- 'Comic Encyclopedia', the first book ever written on the history of humorology, 1st edition, signed by author, Evan Esar, published 1979
- 'Mo's Memoirs', authored by Roy Rene, 1945
- 'The History of Court Fools', by Dr Eoran, published 1858

Memorabilia and Ephemera

- Posters of all of Barry Humphries' and Paul Hogan's' early live shows
- Brochures from the first 3 Humour Festivals held in Melbourne in 1980-82, produced by Pete Crofts at Melbourne Uni
- Brochures from every Melbourne International Comedy Festival since 1987 and all of Judith Lucy's early public performances

Records

- More than 3000 comedy vinyl records, many of which are very rare. In fact, the definitive global book that compiles all the comedy records ever produced does not include at least 6 records that are included in our collection. It includes recordings of Roy Rene and Barry Humphries
- Famous live recording of Dr. Murray Banks, a US Professor of Psychology, at the Princes Theatre in Melbourne, discussing the psychology and relevance of humour in the late 1950's.

So, you can see how important it is to preserve this incredible and rare collection. **Please support this important project and donate now.**



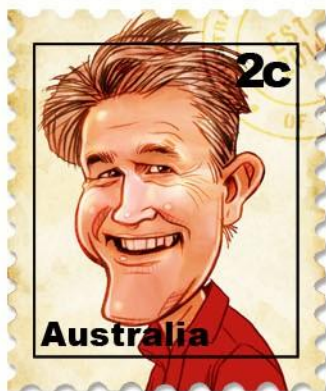
ABOUT OUR INSTITUTE'S BOARD

We guess you're all wondering why a group of crazy funny dudes got together in 2012 to form the institute. The answer is simple, comedians, creatives and comedy lovers wanted to preserve Australia's comedy heritage, past and future. It all began with the incredible collection belonging to comedy doyen, Mr. Pete 'Pie-on-ear' Crofts.



Pete Crofts – Founder

Pete 'you've gotta laugh' Crofts says life's too mysterious to take too serious. "After all, we live on a funny spinning planet in an ever expanding humourverse - so you've gotta laugh for the sake of world peace." Pete toured Australia for 15 years as a professional standup comedian, and is an internationally renowned humour power speaker, author, futurist and coach. In 1974 he opened the world's first bookshop specialising in humour, comedy and laughter in Melbourne. It soon became the world's first Humouriversity, housing the largest book library, record collection, memorabilia and ephemera collection. Pete Pie-On-Eared Australia's first Laughter Club (1975), humour conference (Sydney Uni 1996), Humour Festivals (Melbourne Uni 1981,82), which began the momentum for what has now become the Melbourne International Comedy Festival.



Chairman: Charles Kovess

After 20 years of high level legal and business experience, Charles Kovess turned his back on the law in 1993 to share success strategies as a professional speaker, educator, facilitator and coach. Charles is known as Australasia's Passion Provocateur. Amongst a broad range of interests, Charles has promoted sustainability practices and philosophies since 1976, and challenges his audiences to passionately promote the need for sustainable behaviours. He's authored two inspirational books, 'Passionate People Produce', and 'Passionate Performance', and is the co-author of 'The 7 Heavenly Virtues of Leadership'. He's also just a little bit passionate about comedy. Pete Crofts played an important role in mentoring Charles throughout his speaking career, and taught him the value of comedy and humour in his serious presentations.



Jack Levi (aka Elliot Goblet)

After completing a university degree and corporate work in the IT Industry, Jack decided to follow his passion and do standup comedy as a career. With guidance from comedy coach Pete Crofts, he launched into Melbourne's comedy clubs and evolved the very original and successful character, Elliot Goblet. Over the last 30 years he's done over 60 stand up spots on national television including the Daryl Somers Show, then Hey Hey It's Saturday, and the Midday Show, and performed across Australia and the world. Among his proud achievements is the best-selling book, "Business According To Goblet", an Aria nominated CD called "Internally Berserk", a cameo role in the movie, "Fat Pizza" and being the support act for the band "America" during an Australian tour. He likes to break from public shows to bring funny business to serious business by performing at corporate events and weddings as an MC.



Jeanette Leigh

As a journalist, author, blogger and humorist, Jeanette Leigh, writes about ways to be fabulous, at peace with the world, and balanced physically, mentally and spiritually, just like in a dream she once had. She's had 5 books published, four on health and one biography; a very naughty book about a prominent figure in the sex industry. A gig's a gig, right? Otherwise, she was a columnist and feature writer for The Age and many other publications, and in a previous life she was an actress and singer. Recently she's written a feature film and two comedy series and is in the process of birthing two more books.

NB. The board members are supported by eight other members of our Advisory Board.



“Help us secure Australia’s comedy past and future, because the world needs more laughter.” Founder, Pete Crofts

Please donate. It’s easy – just contact Chairman, Charles Kovess on **0412 317 404** or Jack Levi on **0408 397 122**, and they will happily take details of your credit card over the phone.

Or you can contact them to discuss other ways to support the AIC, or ideas you have for strategies that the AIC should pursue to achieve its purpose and vision.



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