

South East Radio Group

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Generations in Jazz 2026 Report

S.E.R.G. once again had the opportunity to assist in one of the largest community events in the Limestone Coast over 3 days from Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd May 2026. This year we saw the biggest numbers of competitors with over 5000+ students from schools all over Australia and New Zealand competing.

Our assistance to the event started with Maxwell VK5AC programming a mass amount radios for all the various groups required to run over the weekend and leading up to the event. This year we saw the introduction of the tones to each radio channel to reduce the interference in the comms trailer which proved to reduce the annoyance to the comms controller. We also trialed a radio rack to store and display our multiple handhelds for easy access and organisation as kindly constructed by Greg after consultation. This proving to be successful design and modifications for further permanent fixtures are be discussed and developed. This year featured a successful use of the DMR radios for the admin team of GIJ as provided by Nick VK5NJS overcoming last years issues with the repeater in place working flawlessly.

Our main contribution to the weekend starting on the Friday, with schools beginning to roll in. S.E.R.G members were on standby for any communication needs that may arise as the final preparations took place. Members were also fortunate to be present when the Honourable Frances Adamson AC, arrived Friday evening for their opening concert. S.E.R.G representatives took this opportunity to ensure the club was proudly on display.

Saturday quickly rolled around with an early start to the day as S.E.R.G. members were allocated in each of the 15 pavilions as a radio comms. Their role included passing messages to comms control to then pass on to the relevant parties. This as well as a handful of other duties dependent on their pavilions. With myself at the head of the comms control, juggled 10+ channels, sometimes multiple at once and ensuring all messages and requests were met. Our team also featured our technical guru Maxwell VK5AC, our Uber driver Tom VK5NFT and his assistant Steve VK5GL were all on deck for a big day of competitions on the Saturday. Some of our members even took up the chance to take a seat in the big top and enjoy Saturday night's performance by Tower of Power, a Jazz band from America.

Sunday was a shorter day for members as schools participated in workshops before the final performances and presentations. Wrapping up the weekend with S.E.R.G. members enjoying a meal with all the volunteers Sunday afternoon.

S.E.R.G. was recognised for their outstanding working by GIJ volunteers coordinator Fiona and other volunteer groups mentioning how efficient and professional of a job S.E.R.G. does each year. We could not have achieved such a successful weekend without those who worked hard in the background who dedicated themselves to ensure we were prepared for the event. I personally would like to thank all the members who put their hand up and came along to assist with such a big weekend, and hope many return for next year's event celebrating 40 years of GIJ.

Kate VK5FKLY
COMMS CONTROL GIJ 2026