

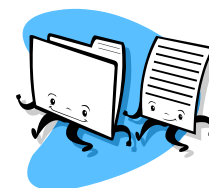
# LOW DOWN



**A 'Homestead'**  
**Country Music Club**  
**Publication**  
**Issue No #5: December 2014**

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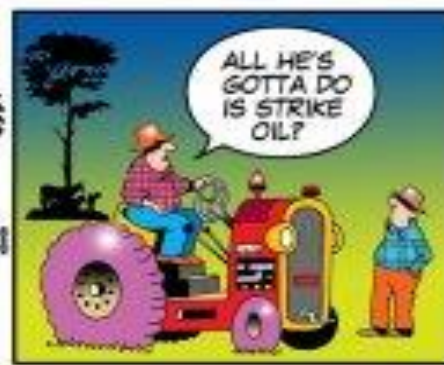
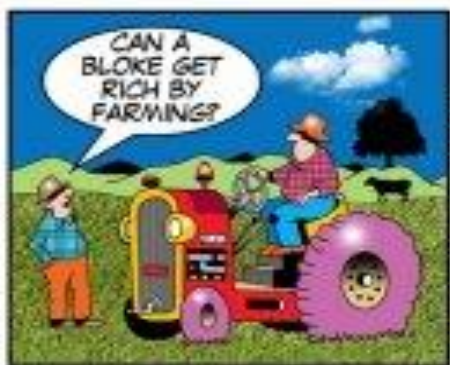


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## Quotes for Month

- [from a different music genre & century]

*'Music is a higher revelation than all wisdom and philosophy. Music is the electrical soil in which the spirit lives, thinks and invents.'* - Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 – 1827) German Composer

*'Whenever society gets too stifling and the rules get too complex, there's some sort of musical explosion.'* - Slash (born 1965) Guns 'n Roses, Lead Guitarist

...oooO.ooo...

## “My Say” Segment

It is hard to believe that a year has passed us by since I took on the reigns as editor and as long as it remains in a magazine format as opposed to a newsletter, I am prepared to attempt to produce a publication that is much more than in-house news;.... informative, stimulating and hopefully educational for members and our loyal patrons (the general public). This may not please everyone, but somewhere, someone did say that you can't please all of the people all of the time. Nevertheless, we have, this year, for purists and internet junkies, introduced a copy of “Low Down” in ‘Newsletter, A4’ format on the Homestead website. (Newsletters, according to the net, are tending, predominantly, now in this electronic, 21<sup>st</sup> century, to be ‘on line’.)

This highlights the fact that we live in an ever-changing world, one that continues to pick up pace and it is no wonder we have difficulty in coping and keeping up. ‘Coping’ is probably the more operative statement as some have been known to avoid keeping up by giving up. I do hope that Homesteaders never give up!

This year has indeed been one of change for Homestead as we entered the world of musical associations as an independent, ‘Incorporated’ body. For the average floor member, little, of what was required and what happened was evident. However, from a legal, administrative and financial viewpoint, much had to be attended to, altered, prepared and put in place. To those in the ‘thick of it’, i.e. the various members of the two management teams, who got the jobs done, we owe a well-earned vote of thanks.

2015 awaits us and with it comes the challenges as we begin preparations for our 20<sup>th</sup> year celebrations in 2016. I look forward to the opportunities these preparations will bring to each member of Homestead, not only the younger members, but also those who wish to become involved, (past members and new members), as we ramp up, increase our profile within the local community and let the people of Caboolture and surrounds know what constitutes, what inspires, what is imparted and what is, Homestead Country Music.

To the members of Homestead who have assisted, supported and provided constructive critique, I say thank you. I realize that, in creating change, I have produced a different ‘animal’ to what has been the norm at Homestead in the past. Future editors will undoubtedly alter, expand and/or modify and put their own personal stamp on our club’s communication mechanism.

There are those, also, who have had difficult times during the year, and I personally hope that 2015 brings better, brighter and more enjoyable days to each and everyone.

T.T. Editor

PS: I have been amazed this year at the number of times I have seen and heard columnists and journalists write and TV & Radio personalities refer to or cross to other reporters for a “Low Down” on what is happening or what has happened. I had thought the phrase had a country flavour but maybe it’s just an ‘inword’ for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

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### ***Something to Munch Over!***

*Only when the last tree has died, the last river has been poisoned and the last fish has been caught, will we realize that we cannot eat money.*





## HI-NOTES - FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hi Folks,

Welcome to our final concert and magazine for 2015.

From my perspective as President, this year has been one hell of a roller coaster ride on one of the bumpiest tracks in Qld! With many highs and lows, I must thank my committee and everyone at Homestead for supporting me and sharing the ride.

Since I last wrote, I have followed my dream to China, climbed the Great wall and visited the Terracotta Warriors. The final two weeks at Eagles Wings (C.O.A.T) was an enriching and humbling experience

China's Henan Province has the largest population (94 m) and the most poverty. The pollution and poverty was evident on a daily basis. I stayed at Eagles Wings in Jiaozuo (3.5m) which is on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor of one of many orphanages. These little Eaglets have to be the luckiest orphans in China, as they have good food, hygiene, apartments, carers and now education. I sang, sewed, educated, tutored and played my way through two weeks of volunteering and spent a lot of quality time with Long Zi Guang (2yrs) who is my families sponsor child. Thanks to Fiona Cole, we are going to set up a 'sister school' programme in 2015 so that the children who spend most of their time on the top floor in that huge building, can correspond with Australian children and both schools will learn so much through the interaction.

Champs – those who competed (and especially our juniors), shone on and off the stage. Their politeness and friendliness throughout the weekend was commendable. Some of the results may not have been what was expected but it's all about what the judges see on the day. I certainly don't envy their (judges) task as the standard was very high with Homestead dominating the awards.

Great Gatsby/Roaring twenty – Our theme night was a huge success and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. With some great costumes to match the music, everyone had a ball. As with any theme night, it is totally voluntary whether one sings with the theme or sings a song from another genre and over half the night was still great country music. Although we are first and foremost a country music club, we can all learn so much more by stretching our imagination and ability by delving briefly into other styles of music. It was agreed at the last meeting that Homestead will aim for two theme nights per year so something to look forward to in 2015.

Last month we experienced something that we haven't had to deal with in 20 years in this venue. The young lads who ran rampant in our car park certainly put a damper on the night. I must say how sorry all at Homestead are, that cars were damaged and all in the hall were oblivious to the damage being done. We have a temporary solution for tonight (thanks Brett) and the security will be addressed again in the New Year with the council.

I must thank our patrons who support us every month as without you people coming along, we would be singing to ourselves. We have a large band of 'regulars' and it is comforting to look out on those familiar face but every month, we see new faces come and go. On behalf of Homestead I would like to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and New Year. No concert in January, so well will see you all on 20<sup>th</sup> February.

Cheers Barbara



# DRUM ROLL

*(The Role of the Drummer)*



*Back in the early sixties, when I was starting my drumming career, people used to describe the drummer's role as "keeping the beat". Indeed today – many people may use the same description.*

*Let's look a little closer ... what happens in a song that has no rhythm, or a slow ballad which has very little rhythm? How about a tune where the rhythm is implied rather than stated? How about free-form jazz, where everyone plays a different rhythm, at the same time.*

*People, who see the drummer's role as being on stage to hold the music together rhythmically, may have a narrow view. Drummers play 'time', but doesn't everyone? A lot of what the drummer is doing is rhythm based – but isn't that also the case with the guitarist and the bass player, the pianist and the singer?*

*The rhythm guitar in Country Music is in a similar groove to the snare drum, the bass player and bass drum often lock together to form a groove; but none relies upon the other for their existence: if players are listening to each other, the music will gel. In other words, all the musicians and indeed all the vocalists should have a strong rhythmic concept. If everyone knows, at all times, where ...\*1 is,.. the music will happen, naturally.*

*Duke Ellington, the celebrated orchestra leader and composer, would often send the drummer out to lunch while the band was rehearsing – simply so that the other musicians would all develop their own sense of time and not become too reliant on the drummer for this function. He made everyone "keep the beat" and it showed in his music.*

*If you want a good beat – get a metronome! – or a drum machine! For my money, a percussionist who can colour, use light and shade, play melodically and dynamically, whether the music has rhythm or not; is a very different animal. Everyone is responsible for good "time", not just the drummer.*

*Next time you are choosing a song to perform, see if you can count it. In most country, rock/pop music, the snare drum part falls on \*2 and \*4 of the count. If you can't count your song, ask someone who can and they will help you.*

*Elvis Presley's early material had no drummer and it rocks like crazy. As such, a recording/arrangement without drums is not necessarily improved by including drums, when a club member performs it.*

*The drummer, like all the musicians, reacts to what's going on around him, musically, and it's everyone's responsibility to help "keep the beat".*

*... Now...but for a final drum roll!*

Bil Turgeon

Note: "\*1" refers to the first beat of a bar of music

e.g. 1. 2. 3.. 1. 2. 3.. or 1. 2. 3.. 4.. 1. 2. 3.. 4.. etc.



*Use the talents you possess .... The woods would be very silent if no birds sang there..  
except those that sang best.*



## November Concert

On a hot Friday evening we gathered in our flappers and gangsters finery for our Great Gatsby concert. As previously, on the theme concert nights, it was the choice of the performers as to whether they sing songs suited to the advised theme or to our normal concert format. The night ended up being of two halves with the Gatsby theme music in the second half. Regardless of the type of music the performers put on a great show to the delight of our audience. A performance of particular note was from Tori Somers - a first performance at one of our concerts. She sang beautifully and her choice of songs was perfect for the audience. I look forward to seeing her performing more often at Homestead in the new year. From all reports, the sound in the hall is believed to have been the best since the purchase of the new equipment. I fully concur. A lot of the audience members expressed their appreciation of the musical foray into the 1920s and advised that they would like to see another such concert sometime next year.

A dark note on the night was the criminal actions of a number of vandals who damaged some 7 - 8 cars of our members and audience in the parking area. The police are investigating and we can but hope for the arrest, trial and conviction of and reparation from those responsible. We intend to have someone with security oversight of the car park for all our future concerts.

So it now remains only for me to say, "Very well done all".

NS

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## Yandina 49th Country Music Festival "Winners"

October 13, 2014

Subjunior Vocal. 1st Cassi Hilbrs. 2nd Lauren Taylor.

Junior Vocal. 1st Janet Cuffe. 2nd Olivia Dowse. 3rd Ruby Gilbert.

Authentic Open Junior. 1st Janet Cuffe. 2nd Cassi Hilbers. 3rd Ruby Gilbert.

Authentic Senior Male. 1st Rob Hopkins. 2nd Vern Duncan. 3rd Jack Carlos.

Authentic Senior Female. 1st Mikara Grant-Freeman. 2nd Rebekah Thornton. 3rd Jeannie Kleynhans.

Modern Country Open Junior. 1st Stephanie Ward-Wrigley. 2nd Janet Cuffe. 3rd Cassie Hilbers.

Senior Modern Country. 1st Karen Maimon. 2nd Mikara Grant-Freeman. 3rd Rob Hopkins.

Australian Bush Verse. 1st Leisa Bye. 2nd Margaret Bye. 3rd Ray Mackey.

Senior Yodeller. 1st Leisa Bye. 2nd Clive Bell. 3rd Ken Paulger.

Group Vocal 1st Nexus. 2nd Home Girls. 3rd Mystery Lights.

Senior Female Vocal. 1st Karen Maimon. 2nd Mikara Grant-Freeman. 3rd Leisa Bye.

Duet, Open Junior. 1st Ruby-Gilbert and Cassi Hilbers. 2nd Janet Cuffe and Olivia Dowse. 3rd Hannah Austen and Sarah Crowther.

Senior Duet. 1st Steve Fraser and Mikara Grant-Freeman. 2nd Tom Doyle and Sandy Lewis. 3rd

Karen Maimon and Angus Hiern.

Bush Balad Open Junior. 1st Janet Cuffe. 2nd Stephanie Ward-Wrigley. 3rd Hannah Austen.

Bush Ballad Senior Female. 1st Mikara Grant-Freeman. 2nd Leisa Bye.

3rd Jeannie Kleynhans.

Bush Ballad Senior Male. 1st Steve Fraser. 2nd Rob Hopkins. 3rd Greg Baldock.

Vintage Male Vocal. 1st Greg Baldock. 2nd Rob Hopkins. 3rd Steve Fraser.

Vintage Female Vocal. 1st Jeannie Kleynhans. 2nd Bessie Peters. 3rd Margaret Bye.

Sub Junior Gospel. 1st Cassi Hilbers. 2nd Lauren Taylor.

Junior Gospel. 1st Janet Cuffe. 2nd Stephanie Ward-Wrigley. 3rd Ruby Gilbert.

Senior Gospel. 1st Mikara Grant-Freeman. 2nd Karen Maimoin. 3rd Rob Hopkins.

Gospel Duo or Group. 1st Ruby Gilbert and Cassi Hilbers. 2nd Rob and Cheryl Hopkins and Jeannie Kleynhans. 3rd. Marrie and Clive Bell.

Open Junior Instrumental. 1st Ruby Gilbert. 2nd Gabrielle Kerr. 3rd Hannah Austen.

Senior Instrumental. 1st Steve Fraser. 2nd Barry Williams. 3rd Clive Bell.

Anything Goes. 1st Janet Cuffe. 2nd Leisa Bye. 3rd Matthew Munro.

Best dressed female. Lauren Taylor. Best dressed male. Rob Hopkins.

Junior Encouragement – Lauren Taylor.

Senior Encouragement – Maggie Bell.

Spirit of the Festival – Dennis Steley.

Fundraiser of the Year – Heather Jepperson.

Traditional Songwriter. 1st Jim Van Fleet.

Contemporary Songwriter. 1st Tracey Allsop.

Gospel Songwriter 1st Michael Craig.

Comedy Songwriter. 1st Norm Smith.

Sentimental Songwriter 1st Jack Bade.

Junior Songwriter 1st Becci Nethery.

Overall songwriter 1st Jim Vanfleet. 2nd Tracey Allsop. 3rd Becci Nethery.

Overall Juvenile – Cassie Hilbers

Overall Junior – Janet Cuff

Overall senior – Mikara Grant-Freeman

Overall vintage – Steve Fraser

The Final Overall of the Festival – “Mikara Grant-Freeman”.

Well done everyone!!

**Homestead...** *“Strut their Stuff”*









# STRANGE?



Musicians (and in this view, because a voice is an instrument, I include vocalists), are strange people. I can say that with a straight face because I am one and have observed them for over 45 years during my playing life. There are a number of facets to their strangeness.

Music makes many demands upon people who desire to develop a natural musical endowment (i.e. talent). It demands among other things their time, their dedication, their resoluteness, their patience, their self-belief and sometimes their pain and suffering. Often these things are at the exclusion of other personal aspects of their lives that are sacrificed to these demands. In fact without these demands on them some burgeoning talents, no matter how prodigious, will often fail because they find it too easy. I have seen that happen on a number of occasions.

What do musicians get out of all this travail? from the audiences? A sense of fulfilment? A combination of all this and more? My guess is that time to time in their lives. But, I can tell you, once



Money? Self-satisfaction? Adulation “glow” of a perfect performance? Or is it it varies from person to person and from experienced, that “glow” stays with you.

Personally, I have experienced all these things at different times during my life. Not that my musical life has reached any great heights. Fame and I are not associates and I have never expected that to be the case. My main aim in music was to do the job to the best of my ability and to try and please my audiences. Positive feedback was nice but adulation was never my wish. Neither did I wish to make squillions of dollars although I did seek fair remuneration for my work.

But here's the thing I have observed. Even the most materialistic of musicians, would play without payment just for the sake of experiencing the feeling of a perfect performance. There is an inner glow, a joy, an ecstasy if you like, that one feels if and when it happens. And of course once having experienced it, one will keep trying to have it happen again.

Of course some never experience that feeling. Sometimes it is because of their inflated self-expectation to be immaculate and setting a standard they may be incapable of reaching. They often come close and believe it's there just out of reach but then frequently that's what keeps them pushing onwards to keep trying to achieve it.

There are obviously other interests that preoccupy people to the same degree. Other areas of the arts come immediately to mind as do amateur athletes and I imagine some areas of science have similar dedication. But, I wonder, do they have that same desire for perfect performance or is their dedication merely a way of pushing to be the best in a competition, of measuring themselves against competing others?

I'm sure there are musicians who play mainly for that competitive purpose, to be best. In fact I have met a few. But, even they would subordinate themselves for the purposes of playing that perfect performance.

As I said, musicians are strange!

Norm Smith



=====



## Waxing Lyrical

*A gypsy settles onto a passion with equal notes  
And is accepted as one  
Beautiful music ensues and friendships bloom  
With the rhythmic tempo of the whole  
Melting in sync with the splendid, simple thing that is music  
Like a flock of well-imbibed cockatoos  
Encouraging all to see the beauty of the whole  
To laugh, to sing, to roast to life, to spread the word to all  
The magic that is within us, the music of the soul.*

## **River Deep & Mountain High**

They say music is in your soul. However, in my case, it is in my veins and as it oozes out, is absorbed by my bones to the point, when, 'on-stage', I am totally engrossed and moved to an elevated plateau of sheer delight. Performance is like that!

And so, in April this year (2014), I walked through the doors of Stanmore Hall to investigate the happenings at Homestead. To my sheer delight, I found everyone welcoming and friendly. It didn't take long to realise that there were some very talented people in the club and some who might be labelled somewhat eccentric. (There's nothing wrong with eccentric!... I claim that title also!)

Over the weeks and months I have come to very much appreciate the various personalities of the club and what each offers to create something special on the third Friday each month.

My observations and accolades, as a 'Newby', are supported by the 'adrenalin rush' I feel, when I take to the stage to perform with like-minded, talented people, who dig **river deep** and scale **mountain high** on every act; and who are prepared to put up with an adolescent "rock mouse" like me.

Rock-on .. Homestead Country!

Vicki





**Christmas** is a time when the music of poetry takes on an entirely new significance – it brings families and friends closer to each other. Over the centuries many famous poets have lent their pen and their minds to writing about Christmas. Voltaire once said, “Poetry is the music of the soul, and, above all, of great and feeling souls.”

Christmas poetry poems are actually about a variety of different human emotions, ranging from love, loss, humour, politics, beauty, art and of course, charity and forgiveness. But the common thread that runs through all these wonderful pieces of writing, (including carols), is the underlying and over-riding spirit of Christmas.

I also find interesting the number of lyrics that have been altered in order to use a particular melody and together, provide a Christmas theme. Yuletide, (24<sup>th</sup> December), was, in the past, as important as Christmas Day, and during that era, many melodies supported lyrics such as “on Christmas Day in the morning”; or very similar.

“Que reste-t-il de nos amours”, a French Song by Leo Chauliac & Charles Trenet was written around Christmas, 1942 and recorded by Trenet the following year. Its translation and edit into English became a hit song for Nat King Cole and many others and as “I Wish You Love”, I close by hoping...

“to give your heart a song to sing  
And then a kiss, but more than this, I wish you love....  
And in July, a lemonade to cool you in some leafy glade....  
A cosy fire to keep you warm...  
I wish you shelter from the storm....  
But most of all, I wish you love.



Have a Merry Christmas and we will all make music again in 2015.

T.T.





# Homestead



**Country Music Club**

*Est. 9/7/96*

**Monthly Date Claimers** (for other Country Music Clubs)

Refer **Homestead** website

<http://www.homesteadmusic.org>

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More **Low Down** on happenings at **Homestead..**

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