

# LOW DOWN



A **'Homestead'**

Country Music Club  
Publication

*Issue No #17: December 2017*

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**HOMESTEAD - WISHES YOU ALL**

**‘MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR FOR 2018’**

### **Quote of the Month**

**‘The Best Way To Spread Christmas Cheer  
Is Singing Loud For All To Hear.’**

**\*\*\* Buddy The Elf \*\*\***





## ‘My Say’ Segment



Hi Everyone

What a Wonderful Year we have had here at Homestead!

Our concerts at ‘Homestead Country Music Club’ are all about sharing the ‘Joy of Music’. We couldn’t do what we love without the support of our audience. Thank you all so much for coming along and we would love to see you again in 2018!

A big shout out to our wonderful team which includes the Stage Manager and Crew, Sound Technicians, Catering and Bar Volunteers, Front of House Welcoming Team, Our Wonderful Dedicated Band, Committee Members and all the Members and Friends of ‘Homestead’ that give of their time to support us in so many ways. You all do such a great job. Thank You!

This year we have enjoyed some themed concerts and held our annual Junior Festival. We have had visitors come from far and wide. Some of our valued members have moved away and others have joined and as always change is the only thing any of us can really count on.

As you enter the Christmas/New Year Season I encourage you all to love those around you, enjoy the company of family and friends and spare a thought for others who may be experiencing difficulties at this time of the year.

I will be spending time with my family and once again celebrating my daughter’s birthday as she was born on Christmas Day!

I wish you all a very warm and genuine ‘Merry Christmas’

May your New Year be bright and prosperous and I will be looking for your faces at our first concert on Friday 16 February 2018.

Keep Smiling!

*Beverley Sweeper – Editor*

# PRESIDENT'S PRATTLE



Hello everyone,

Welcome to the final concert of 2017 – I hope you all have a wonderful night and go home looking forward to 2018! Which brings me to remind everyone; – no concert in January – first concert date will be 16<sup>th</sup> February. Our Halloween theme night was a great night and I thank those who did dress up and entertain ‘in theme’. March concert coincides with St Patrick’s Day with an Irish/Green theme on the night. Put it in your diary and feel free to come in costume if you would like to.

At the December 2016 concert a hat will be passed around on behalf of Bek Thornton, who has been accepted at the Australian Academy of Country Music at Tamworth for a course in January. Bek has been with Homestead for many years and we have all seen her grow into the fine young lady she is today. We have seen her music growing and developing with her and know she has a lot to offer the country music scene in the future. We offer everyone the opportunity to support Bek by throwing donations into the hat to help pay for this course. Many thanks to those who do contribute.

Congratulations also go out to Peta-Maree, who has finished a degree in education. We have seen this young lady grow up at Homestead and we are very proud of her achievements to date. Peta will be with us for a few months in the New Year and then will be off to explore outback Australia. Good luck with your travels. Don’t go meeting any outback cowboys that you can’t bring home.

Many thanks to Jonathan (our lovely young sound man) who has done such a great job on the sound desk and kept us entertained on the stage for the last few years. Jonathan will be exploring new avenues in employment and stage in 2018 so will no longer be with us on a regular basis. Many thanks Jonathan and good luck with your future endeavours.

EXPO 2018 – committee has been elected as follows; Barbara/Bek - coordinators, Frank - Treasurer, Beverley - Secretary, Committee Members - Pam, Carmel, Jill, Michelle and Peta-Maree. This is your committee to

organise your EXPO so feel free to offer support to the committee in any way you can.

Many thanks to Homestead members for their hard work and support, and patrons for their support and attendance during 2017. Without you guys being so loyal and coming along every Month, we wouldn't have a club or concert. Your attendance is very much appreciated. Hope you have enjoyed 2017 which was a great year and we look forward to seeing everyone back here in February – BRING ON 2018.

Cheers Barbara



## ON THE NOTICEBOARD - 2018

- ~ Concert - February, 16th
- ~ Concert - March, 16th
- ~ Concert - April, 20th

## Photos from the Halloween Concert



Spooky







# ~ RAFFLE RESULTS ~



## September 2017

Prize	Sponsor	Winner
Bowl of Fruit	Kevin Brand	Janelle Groves
Lamp	Barbara Bishop	Glyn Bleakley
Stihl Pack	Stihl	Jill Cuffe
Pine Cone Flowers	Linda & Alan Steer	Rod Lougheed

## October 2017

Prize	Sponsor	Winner
Bike	Homestead	Allan Handsley
Stihl Pack	Stihl	Peter Bigg
Scales	Jill Cuffe	Bernie Austen
Beach Towel	Barbara Hall	Lillian Hill
Pine Cone Flowers	Linda & Alan Steer	Susan Gunning

## November 2017

Prize	Sponsor	Winner
Fire Extinguisher	Homestead	Carol Harmer
Paint By Numbers	Homestead	Mark Dowse
Wreath	Linda & Alan Steer	Bernie Austen
Lazer Zone Voucher	Lazer Zone	Fay Lake
Stihl Pack	Stihl	Kaitlyn Elton



~Spotlight on Our Concerts~







~Member Biography~  
~Beverley Sweeper~



Hi Everyone

I was born in Brisbane and have lived my entire life in Queensland. When I was a young girl of eight we moved to the seaside suburb of Shorncliffe with my parents and three brothers. My mother was pregnant and when the time came (you guessed it) brother number four arrived. My childhood was spent playing games, fishing off the jetties and frolicking on Shorncliffe and Sandgate's beaches and cliffs, riding my bike everywhere and swimming at the local pool.

I was introduced to singing at a young age as my mother played all the old songs on her piano and my family and I loved singing along with them. I was very close to my mother but she suffered with ill health and when I was 21 and my mother was 49 she passed away at home. My beloved father also deceased suddenly when I was 31 some 10 years later. He was only 67. Gone too soon.

In my early teens I learned to dance and started going to old time dances at Burpengary and occasionally at Mt Mee. In 1975 I met a lovely young man Douglas at a dance at Sandgate Town Hall and after 5 years we were married. We have a son Jonathan and a daughter Rebekah and Douglas and I have just celebrated our 37<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. We live on 5 acres as we love nature and have enjoyed being able to have a menagerie of dogs, cats, guinea pigs, chickens, birds and Daisy the jersey cow who is 21 by the way. We hand raised Daisy from a 6 week old calf and brought her home in the passenger side of a VW Beetle! We are nothing if not creative.

I started taking music lessons with Jill Cuffe almost 15 years ago focusing on classical music and songs from musicals and made a close friend of Jill in the process. A few years ago I decided to come along to the Homestead concerts and shortly after, the club graciously accepted my application for membership.

Country music was not a familiar genre but I have come to enjoy this style of music and I love singing with the band. I very much enjoy being a member of the club and getting to know the 'Homestead' Family. My hobbies include writing poetry and short stories. I also enjoy reading, gardening and camping when I can. Oh yes and Singing... did I mention Singing 😊. Now you know me a little better. I really appreciate kindness and honesty in others and my love of music is an addiction I hope to never recover from.

Beverley 🙋



## ~Homesteaders attend Festivals in 2017~



2017 has been a successful year for a number of Homesteaders competing in Country Music Festivals in the South East. We wish them all congratulations!

### **Broxburn Festival in Pittsworth:**

Bek Thornton	2 Firsts, 1 Second, 1 Third and Overall Senior Winner!
Bob Cole	2 Firsts, 1 Second
Peter Bigg	1 Second
Trevor Tinworth	1 Third

Liam Kennedy-Clark also took time out from his busy schedule as a guest judge on both days.

### **Redcliffe C. M. Festival in late September:**

Bek Thornton	4 Firsts, 1 Second, 2 Thirds, Overall Senior and Overall Senior and Finals Winner!
Trevor Tinworth	Senior Encouragement Award
Hayley Anderson	Junior Encouragement Award

### **Yandina Festival in October:**

Bek Thornton	3 Firsts, 1 Second and Best Overall Senior Act!
Bek & Peta- Maree Thornton (Duets)	1 First, 1 Second
Peta-Maree Thornton	2 Seconds, 2 Thirds
Sandy Lewis (Velvet CMC)	1 First, 2 Thirds, and Most Outstanding Act (Judges Choice)!
Hayley Anderson	3 Firsts, Best Overall Junior Act! Best/Appropriate Country Dress Female!
Shirley Kropp	1 Second, 2 Thirds



Feature Article by John Boetje

**BASS in the place!!** The importance of bass in a piece of music is often underestimated ... here's an overview of how it happens!

### **The music**

Technically, bass notes span the low frequency range from 16.35 Hz (C0) to 261.6 Hz (C4). The lowest of these tones present a challenge to modern amplified sound technology, and would typically be produced by a pipe organ, which produces very pure tonic sounds. The characteristic sounds produced by bass stringed instruments are defined by a range of higher 'overtones'. The lowest note on a double bass, or on it's counterpart the four-string electric bass guitar is 41.20 Hz (E1). This is not as low as the lowest note on a piano, which is 27.50 Hz (A0)

The idea of a musical 'bass line' first came into prominence during the baroque period of music, from 1600 to 1750. These composers wrote scores for the harpsichord, and for the pipe organ, where the bass notes were played with foot pedals. This practice evolved into the concept of bass being the root of multi-part harmonies for choirs and orchestras.

In modern music, the bass line is most often carried by the electric bass guitar, in conjunction with the bass drum ... the upright bass (double bass) may feature in jazz, folk or rockabilly combos.

Listeners may easily understand how the bassist works with the drummer to provide a **rhythmic foundation** ... a good-feeling, steady pulse that drives the music along. Less apparent is the bassist's **harmonic function** ... the way the bass melds with other instruments to emphasize the melodic 'feel' of the composition.

Much of the time, the bass will start on the 'root' note of the chord, which assists to define the chord in the overall sound of the combo. Although it is possible to play chords on the bass, the result often sounds 'muddy', and it is more usual to play other notes of the chord as single notes ... as arpeggios, or 'bass riffs'. The composition and performance of these bass riffs and runs are what defines the style of a bass player.

Traditionally, certain basslines or bass riffs are associated with certain musical genres. In bluegrass and traditional country music, basslines often emphasize the root and fifth of each chord, and are played on beats 1 & 3, as a mimic and emphasis of the 'pick-strum' guitar style. In swing, jazz, and jump blues, basslines are often created from a continuous sequence of quarter notes called a "walking bass line". These styles have descended directly from the classical baroque music, and elements of walking bass are appropriate to most other musical styles.

In rock and metal, and especially in latin, salsa music, jazz fusion, and reggae, basslines may be very rhythmically complex and syncopated.

## The instruments

In classical orchestral music, the bassline is carried by a number of instruments

- Brass ... Tuba, Bass Trombone, Bass Saxophone
- Woodwinds ... Bassoon, Contrabassoon
- Strings ... Double Bass, Cello

Some of these instruments played from 'transposition scores', written for clarity an octave higher than normal. Some combinations are played an octave apart.

For marching bands the tuba was too unwieldy to be carried, and in 1893 band leader and composer John Phillip Sousa commissioned J.W. Pepper to design the Sousaphone, which is bent in a circle to fit around the musician's body. *I wonder if **he** was the inspiration for 'Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band'?*

The advent of 'popular music' combos saw the almost universal use of the double bass, plucked (pizzicato) rather than bowed. But this is a cumbersome unit, and the need for a more portable instrument, plus the need to create greater volumes from small combos, was addressed by the invention of the prototype electric bass guitar in 1950.

The following year, Leo Fender marketed his 'Precision Bass' guitar, an instrument that revolutionised the sound of popular music. Its name derived from the use of a fretted fingerboard as opposed to the fretless fingerboard of the double bass, thus giving a more exact intonation for each note.

*This in itself is a paradox ... the concept was preceded centuries earlier by the bass viol, a baroque stringed instrument with frets made from gut tied around the instrument's neck, and played upright, like a cello, with a bow. Conversely, a number of 'fretless' electric basses have been developed for those bassists who seek the traditional sound.*

Since the 50s, and in direct conjunction with the development of the 'music industry' as we know it today, the electric bass has become the de-facto standard for carrying the bassline in popular music.



And although they lack the pizzazz of prominent lead guitarists, good bassists are an essential component of any musical combo. **JB**



## EYE ON STAGE



Concert 16/11/2017

What another great concert from our Homestead musicians and singers. There were songs to suit all the tastes of our audience members. The backing music was skillful, restrained and tasteful and the singers were all in great voice.

Unfortunately a number of our members were unable to attend through illness and work commitments. Though, of course, this meant that nearly all those who performed were able to sing two songs each, making for a full night of top entertainment.

We were able to welcome back three of our members who have been on the sick list and it was good to see Pam, Murray and Peta-Maree back again. Congratulations must go to our younger members who again performed brilliantly and to our new members Olivia, (N.B. Olivia was previously a member as a junior but has now rejoined just in time to become a senior member), and Kaitey brand new to the club. They were both there with family support as were a number of other junior and senior members, all helping to swell our audience numbers and all of whom were proud to see how well their performing family members sang.

We had a rare treat also of seeing a wonderful duet performance by Bev and Jill, (She of the retiring persuasion who stays far from the limelight normally). Great song ladies. The once in a blue moon songs from Bill our drummer were greeted by thunderous applause and the final number by Peter Bigg, (See Ya Later Alligator), was a great finish to a top night of entertainment.

The food from the canteen was delicious as usual and of course cold drinks were available as per normal. The sound in the hall was again of a particularly high standard thanks to our sound system operator Jonathan.

All this superb entertainment for the price of the \$4.00 entrance fee. What fantastic value and all available again next month for our Christmas Spectacular Concert. Who wouldn't want to see such a great show? Come along and join us again won't you!. You surely won't regret it.

This Month's Eye on stage - Norm Smith

Note from Editor: The Halloween Concert in October was also a great night with several members dressing up in spooky attire. Good Job Everyone!

# Country Music Clubs – Monthly Date Claimers...

<b>First Friday</b> Pine Rivers	Kallangur Community Centre	7:00 pm
<b>First Saturday</b> Brigalow Redlands Mod.	Wagner St., Eagleby Sports Reserve, Thornlands	6:45 pm 5:30 pm
<b>First Sunday</b> Coal City Gold Coast Sundowners Velvet CMC	Booval Bowls Club Southport Bowls Club Geebung Bowls Club Queen/ Ulm Sts Caloundra	1:00 pm 1:00 pm 12.00 Noon 12.00 Noon
<b>Second Saturday</b> Blue Denim Northern Suburbs  Country Roundup	Progress Hall, Clontarf Memorial Hall Gympie Rd. Bald Hills Caboolture Senior Citizs Hall	7:00 pm 12 Noon  12 Noon
<b>Second Sunday</b> Maroochy River Golden Wattle Twin Rivers	Bli Bli Hall Cedar Street Wynnum Wagner St., Eagleby	1:00 pm 12:30 pm 11.00am
<b>Third Friday</b> <b>Homestead</b> West Moreton	<b>Stanmore Hall, Caboolture</b> Ipswich Showgrounds	<b>7:00 pm</b> 7:30 pm
<b>Third Saturday</b> Boonah	Boonah Golf Club	7.00 pm (even months)
<b>Third Sunday</b> Guanaba Redcliffe	Heritage Park, Pimpama Redcliffe Showgrounds	12 Noon 11:00 am
<b>Fourth Friday</b> Redcliffe	Redcliffe Showgrounds	7:00 pm
<b>Fourth Saturday</b> Country Flavour Min Min	54 Rinto Road, Eagleby Kruger Hall Ann St, Kallangur	12 Noon 1.00 pm
<b>Fourth Sunday</b> Blue Denim Roadhouse Bribie Island	Progress Hall, Clontarf Wagner St., Eagleby Bribie Island Recreation Hall 158 First Ave Bribie Island	1:30 pm 12:30 pm 11.00 am
<b>Last Sunday</b> Cane Country Laidley	Jacaranda Avenue, Kingston Exchange Hotel, Laidley	1:00 pm 1:00 pm



## **Want to read more!!**

For those interested in copies of previous editions, go to the Homestead website <http://www.homesteadmusic.org> and then

check out the Magazine page by clicking in the top left. You will find copies of

**LOW DOWN** in Newsletter format. also... Locate us on Facebook - **'Homestead Country Music'**



Est. 9/7/96



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