

LOW DOWN



A **'Homestead'**


Country Music Club
Publication

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FRONT COVER:

Gabrielle Kerr... *long-standing Homestead Member!*

Quote for Month

"I heard the bells on Christmas Day... Their old familiar carols play... And wild and sweet, the words repeat... Of peace on earth, good-will to men."
-Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



My Say Segment



Ahhhh it's Christmas time again and I have put up decorations in my home and workplace and already enjoyed the company of some friends and family around nice meals and refreshments.

Prioritising is always at the fore of successful outcomes and I must admit that my music has taken a bit of a back seat for me this year. Having missed three concerts due to the cold and flu season I felt somewhat disconnected so hope that the coming year will be a healthier, more productive one.

In this editorial I would like to focus on the importance of practice. As we all know the more we do something the better we get at it. At Homestead we practice each Tuesday night in preparation for the monthly concerts but over and above that the band members practice in their own time and it is just as important for the other performers to practice their vocal and instrumental skills so that we can all give our best possible performance on the night.

So how is it best to practice your songs? If you can manage to sing every day that will go a long way to strengthening your vocal chords but its important not to force your voice too much before you warm up. Try starting slow with a song that's not too challenging or do some vocal scales or warm up exercises. If you're not sure how to do this ask around as many of our Homestead members are familiar with these techniques. Once you're warmed up you will be ready to try more challenging songs without risking your vocal chords.

Secondly, try to spend as much time as possible learning the lyrics of your song. It is always lovely to see singers looking up at the audience and it is easier to put more emotion and gestures in when you are familiar with the words. Thirdly, think about what the song is saying and how best you can relate that to the audience. Put yourself in the picture so to speak and sing as though the song is really about your own experiences, even if it isn't. Finally and most importantly, enjoy yourself! It's not an exam, just do your best and if things don't go quite to plan you can always take the learnings and take actions to improve any deficiencies next time.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Beverley Sweeper – Editor





PRESIDENT'S PRATTLE



Dear Members and Friends of Homestead,
Here we are at the final concert of 2019 and what a great night it will be with a visit from Santa to keep the kids happy and a lovely supper to keep the adults happy. Many thanks to the ladies who have been doing a great job in Marion's absence. Supper at Christmas time was originally

to thank our members and patrons but also to give the canteen workers a much-needed break – but like most things Homestead, it has evolved into a supper fit for a king.

Our lovely young guest artist tonight is Miss Sarah Hamze who was last year's winner of EXPO. Because of illness, she couldn't perform at EXPO this year, so she was happy to come along and entertain tonight. I know you will recognise and enjoy the immense talent that Sarah has to offer, and we wish her well as she



matures and grows whilst on her country music journey to stardom.

Many thanks to April, Bek, Kaitey, Luke and Liam for their fantastic spot at the Caboolture Christmas Carols. Their rendition of Winter Wonderland won the crowd over and will be performed tonight with the help of 'Homestead Youth'. Many thanks to Troy Thorpe and Peter Bigg who



helped in the back line. Many thanks also to the Homesteaders who attended to support our young folk. The money paid to Homestead goes toward 2020 EXPO. Great job. The fireworks were cancelled as Moreton Bay Regional Council were (instead)

donating some of the money to the fire services – kudos to them for donating to such a worthwhile cause.

I personally know a farmer who has had to shoot stock as there was no feed or water left and the cattle were too poor to go anywhere.

A new committee has been formed to organise the EXPO in 2020. Congratulations to Bek Thornton for taking on the coordinators position with Luke Marriott and Liam Kennedy-Clark her assistants. Michelle Anderson has put up her hand again as the canteen coordinator and Frank holds treasury. Jenny Jones, Carmel Kerr, Bob Cole and myself are in there to assist – Trivia is once again on the planner as is a Bunnings sausage sizzle. Put the date 1 August 2020 in your calendar, for another great day of music and talent.

Remember there is NO HOMESTEAD CONCERT IN JANUARY 2020. Our first concert in the New Year is 21st February and its theme is ‘Beach party’ so come along in your beach finery.

Have a great night. Have a great Christmas and all the best for a fantastic New Year.

Cheers Barbara



BEERWAH'S GOT COUNTRY

The Home of Live Music in Beerwah!

North of our Caboolture Homestead base & Mt Tibrogargan is the Beerwah Hotel. Every 2nd Saturday night of the month, live country music is performed with first class, well-known performers and often showcases tribute bands. Make the trek to Beerwah, [53 Beerwah Place], you won't regret it!



See you there soon!



ON THE NOTICEBOARD - 2020

- ~ Concert - February, 21st~
- ~ Concert - March, 20th~
- ~ Concert - April, 17th~
- ~ Concert - May, 15th~



~RAFFLE RESULTS~



September 2019

Prize

Photo Frame
 Stihl Pack
 Weather Station
 Flower Pot
 Tumblers
 Organiser
 Clock

Sponsor

Jill Cuffe
 Stihl
 Kerry
 Janelle Groves
 Lorraine Austen
 Lorraine Austen
 Jan Smith

Winner

Kaitey Elton
 Martyn Phillips
 Jo Marie
 Cheryl Tinworth
 Alex Riddiford
 Neville Cole
 Neville Cole

October 2019

Prize

Stihl pack
 Handbag
 Platter
 Scales
 Fan
 Place Mats
 Dish
 Travel Mugs

Sponsor

Stihl
 Jill Cuffe
 Jill Cuffe
 Jill Cuffe
 Jill Cuffe
 Jill Cuffe
 Jill Cuffe
 Jill Cuffe

Winner

Barbara Hall
 Joshua Cuffe
 Graeme Styles
 Graeme Styles
 Rebekah Sweeper
 Sasha Bishop
 Jill Cuffe
 Dee Hilbrink

November 2019

Prize

Set of 12 Tumblers
 Fruit Garden
 Tic Tac Toe
 Bench Caddy
 Handbag
 Square Platter
 Hand Towel/Lotion Set
 Mug Set

Sponsor

Sponsor
 Sponsor
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Winner

Leonie Hubbard
 Lorraine Austen
 Bek Thornton
 Darryl Scheiwe
 Robin Dear
 Robin Dear
 Rod Lougheed
 Sandy Lewis



EYE ON STAGE



The October concert was somewhat experimental for our members and audience as a different PA was used courtesy of Liam Kennedy-Clark. He had only taken possession of the full system a few days before and it was agreed to use the concert to run-in the system under performance conditions. It was an auspicious beginning albeit with a few teething glitches.

The system is capable of sufficient volume to lift the roof, but was run at idling capacity for our concert with a clarity both on and off stage markedly better than the Homestead system. We are looking at a possible upgrade of our system during the Christmas – New Year break.

Our performers did extremely well and lifted their performances to match the better sound with some appropriate Halloween spooky numbers and costumes. The audience were also heavily involved with the ghostly scene. The song “I Put a Spell On You” from the film Hocus Pocus was a great hit for the night.

November was back to our normal concert arrangements and went off brilliantly. There was a lively performance of an ABBA set with dress-ups and dance moves by Jenny and Carmel. (Some photographs were taken and I have it on good authority that promotional prints are going to be available with autographs by those involved.) There were top performances by all our artists and particularly our youngest artist April who at such a young age performs like a stage veteran.

During the last couple of months we have had the presence of “the three”; Luke, Liam and Rebecca to give a more professional polish to our performances. We also had the prodigious talent of Gabby on fiddle for a few numbers in November. She has been a Homestead performer for a long time but recently has been unable to attend because of other commitments. It was good to welcome her back.

A Council run Sunday afternoon Christmas concert was held at The Lakes, Caboolture on 24/11/2019 and our younger Homestead members performed a forty minute set. Those who performed and played were April, Kaitey, Rebecca, Liam, Luke, Peter and a friend Troy on drums. (Troy has played at Homestead when Bill was not available.) The performances were great with professional sounding backing and superb vocals. This was a great

example of the talent of the younger members of Homestead and couldn't help but impress the crowd who attended. Mention was also made of our monthly concerts so we may see a number of new audience members at future concerts.

Well that's about it for 2019 but it remains for me to wish you Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous 2020.

N.S.

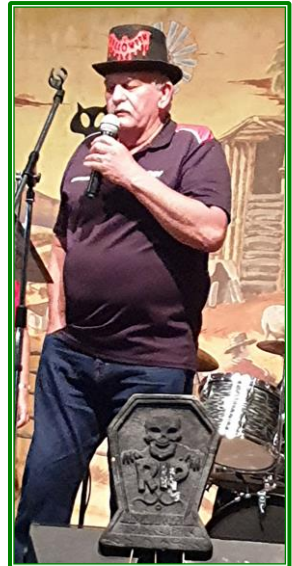
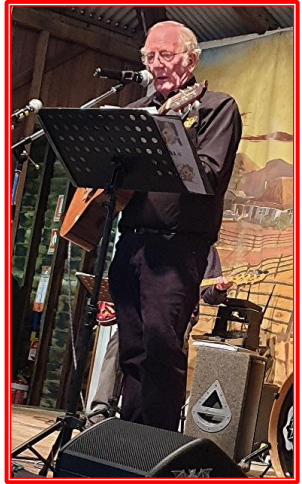


CONCERT SPOTLIGHTS



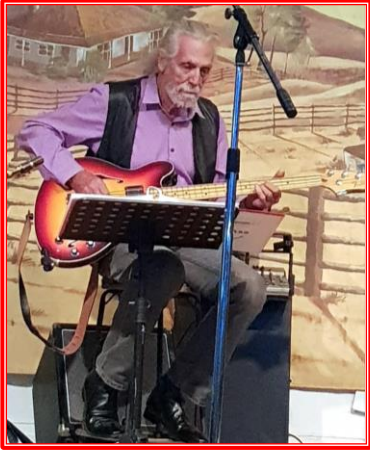


CONCERT SPOTLIGHTS





Merry  
Christmas





Feature Article

In many ways the most successful and familiar character actor of American sound films and the only actor to date to win three Oscars for Best Supporting Actor, Walter Brennan attended college in Cambridge, Massachusetts, studying engineering. While in school he became interested in acting and performed in school plays.

He worked some in vaudeville and also in various jobs such as clerking in a bank and as a lumberjack. He toured in small musical comedy companies before entering the military in 1917.

After his war service he went to Guatemala and raised pineapples, then migrated to Los Angeles, where he speculated in real estate. A few jobs as a film extra came his way beginning in 1923, then some work as a stuntman.

He eventually achieved speaking roles, going from bit parts to substantial supporting parts in scores of features and short subjects between 1927 and 1938. In 1936 his role in *Come and Get It* (1936) won him the very first Best Supporting Actor Academy award. He would win it twice more in the decade, and be nominated for a fourth. His range was enormous. He could play sophisticated businessmen, con artists, local yokels, cowhands and military officers with apparent equal ease.

An accident in 1932 cost him most of his teeth, and he most often was seen in eccentric rural parts, often playing characters much older than his actual age. His career never really declined, and in the 1950's he became an even more endearing and familiar figure in several television series, most famously *The Real McCoys* (1957). He died in 1974 of emphysema, a beloved figure in movies and TV, the target of countless comic impressionists, and one of the best and most prolific actors of his time.

Author Unknown

Editor's Note: 'For lovers of Country Music, Walter Brennan's rendition of "Old Rivers" is an all time classic [released 1962], reaching No# 3 on the Billboard Charts





The Humble Evolution of Halloween and its Influence on Today's Music



One of my favourite pastimes, (apart from my lifetime obsession with music), is History and since retirement, I have visited many places that remain etched in my brain from school days. When this also involves music, I am usually more interested and absorbed. Our holiday to Britain and recent Halloween-themed concert are testimonial to both history and music, and together, strongly influence what happens at a specific time each year. Halloween and its history are spell-bounding as it was, in many ways, where the foundations of Celtic; ...Irish, Scottish and Skiffle music can be traced. This also includes similar dance music roots where Irish, Scottish and Morris Dancing and their flamboyant and colourful costuming first emanated.

British farmers in the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries lived in small villages where the cultivation of crops and final harvest had to be completed by August/September before the onset of winter when the ground would soon be covered with snow and ice, frozen solid and unworkable. There were no bitumen roads, automobiles or electricity. Candle wax, was also considered too expensive, for many of these peasant households to purchase.

So, after nightfall, the pitch black of darkness was unavoidable and oncoming winter meant families hibernated in their thatch dwellings to sit the winter out. During the long, cold winter; village elders organised house to house sharing of supplies. Hence the beginning of what is now celebrated as '*Trick or Treat*'.

With no electricity, large bonfires in the village heralded end of harvest festivities late in October each year. Superstition was prevalent amongst the populous and bonfires were also seen as tools to chase away the evil spirits on the oncoming winter. Music, dancing and singing were all part of village life and togetherness at this time of the year. Many of these villagers were to emigrate to the New World, America and what happened with the continued evolution of Halloween devoid of government jurisdictions, is now modern history. Unfortunately, much of what happens today is tied to commercial interests and what monies/profits can be made. To my mind, it has spoilt what was a very healthy community activity to one of crazy commercialism.

Nevertheless, it should be remembered that Halloween and its roots can be traced to Celtic Britain and its history is both curious and fascinating analysis.

TT R4AA E&OE



From a young age music and performing have always been a part of my life: having my stage debut at karaoke at the ripe old age of four. My song of choice, 'Wild Thing' by the Troggs, but more so the Jimmy Barnes version - full belt. They dived for the mixing desk to turn it down so I wouldn't blow the speakers!

Throughout my life I've tried various other performance arts such as, dance, circus and acting, and I loved them, but music just kept drawing me back. High school was the real turning point when I started writing my own music rather than just playing others'. Then I decided to take it further and study music at university. I got into the Queensland

Conservatorium of music and this time last year graduated from the Bachelor of Popular Music. That course pushed to further develop me into the songwriter and musician I am today. It also took me to Nashville, LA and Clarksdale to immerse myself in the American music industry through a conference, co-writing and recording in Nashville and learning more about the birthplace and roots of a genre which inspires me: the blues.

This last year I've been keeping busy: getting a sync deal for one of my original songs, Monsters, and also releasing my debut EP, The Truth of Flowers. So, that's the story so far but I'm writing fervently for the next project and hopefully in 2020 you'll see the new direction my music is taking!

Thanks for sticking around for the ride so far. Gabby 🎵



Attention: All Members & Patrons

Recycling to boost Youth Expo Fundraising.

Homestead has an ID C10134337 for you to quote and moneys will go straight into the bank if you drop your cans and bottles into your own recycling depot.

Alternately, drop your cans, bottles etc. off at the hall on a rehearsal or concert night.



Homestead Country Music weekly rehearsals are held at Stanmore Hall every Tuesday Night



Homestead thanks those who sponsor prizes for our monthly raffles as its intended fund raising finances our ongoing community involvement and especially our Junior Expo each year.

We also congratulate all those winners who, once the draw is announced, have the correct, coloured, ticket number. Winners are Grinners !!



We would like to recognise and thank the following Sponsors:

 <p>R&R HIRE SERVICES BUILDERS EQUIPMENT & PARTY/FUNCTION HIRE 66-68 Beerburum Road Caboolture Qld info@rnhire.com.au PH 5495 8683</p> <p><u>R & R Hire Services</u> <i>Beerburum Road CABOOLTURE</i></p>	 <p><u>Beerwah Hotel</u> 53 Beerwah Place, Beerwah <i>Home to the Sounds of live Country Music</i></p>
 <p><u>The Garden Shed</u> <i>Mowers, Chainsaws, Grass Trimmers, & More.....</i> Morayfield Road, MORAYFIELD</p>	 <p>JANET C'S ART (JANET CLAYDON) <i>Australian Artist. Inspired by the Vast Richness of our Planet</i> Look for me on Facebook</p>



Country Music - Social Timetable



First Friday Pine Rivers	Kallangur Community Centre	7:00 pm
First Saturday Brigalow Redlands Mod.	Wagner St., Eagleby Sports Reserve, Thornlands	6:00 pm 5:00 pm
First Sunday Coal City Gold Coast Sundowners Velvet CMC Laidley	Booval Bowls Club Southport Bowls Club Geebung Bowls Club Queen/ Ulm Sts Caloundra Exchange Hotel, Laidley	12:30 pm 11:00 am 11.45 am 12 Noon 1:00 pm
Second Saturday Blue Denim Northern Suburbs Country Roundup	Progress Hall, Clontarf Memorial Hall Gympie Rd. Bald Hills Caboolture Senior Citzs Hall	7:00 pm 12 Noon 12 Noon
Second Sunday Maroochy River Country Links Golden Wattle Twin Rivers Maleny	Bli Bli Hall Bribie Indoor Bowls, First Av Cedar Street Wynnum Wagner St., Eagleby Bryce Lane, Maleny	12 Noon 1:00 pm 1:00 pm 12 Noon 12 Noon
Third Friday Homestead	 Stanmore Hall, Caboolture	 7:00 pm
Third Saturday Boonah	Boonah Golf Club	7.00 pm (even months)
Third Sunday Guanaba Redcliffe West Moreton Laidley	Heritage Park, Pimpama Redcliffe Showgrounds Ipswich Golf Club Exchange Hotel, Laidley	12 Noon 11:00 am 1:00 pm 1:00 pm
Fourth Friday Redcliffe	Redcliffe Showgrounds	7:00 pm
Fourth Saturday Min Min	Kruger Hall Ann St, Kallangur	1.00 pm
Fourth Sunday Bribie Island	Bribie Island Recreation Hall 158 First Ave Bribie Island	11.00 am
Last Sunday Cane Country	Concerts on hold	TBA

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'**



LOW DOWN

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