

LOW



DOWN



A **“Homestead”**

Country Music Club
Publication

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[Refer Homestead Web page for further information and email addresses](#)

FRONT COVER:

Janelle Groves -
Long-time Homesteader'

Quote for the Month

"One good thing about music, when it hits you, you feel no pain."
Bob Marley (1945-1981)



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Hello friends.

I have been giving some thought recently to the devastating effect Covid19 has had on the music industry.

Most of us have experienced that effect personally as a result of the cancellation initially of Homestead rehearsals (for our performers) and concerts (for both our performers and our audiences).

We should also bear in mind that a number of our members, who are working musicians and rely on being paid for performing for an income (full or part time), have had a very difficult time during these last eleven months.

The closures of venues and the ban on people congregating en-mass has meant nowhere to perform at, nor audiences to perform to, and consequently no income for the extended period.

Of course there was an initiative by the Commonwealth government to support ex-workers with a collection of payments. The requirement for workers to fit a specified criteria was incumbent for those payments to become effective and virtually meant that a lot of musicians were not entitled.

So it is with great relief that I note the relaxation of some of the prohibitions and bans. There is also great news of vaccine/s becoming available soon on a large scale. There seems to be a vast desire in the general public to experience some live music and Homestead will do it's best to fulfil that desire.

I hope fervently that come 2021, we will be able to get back to some form of pre-covid19 normal and that Homestead can once again provide concerts for the enjoyment of our members and our audience friends. When finally we are able to begin our monthly concerts again we hope to present them with the same amount of expertness as before all this forced interruption.

Fortunately, after some changes to the covid19 rules, our performing members have been rehearsing, (and for our sanity meeting for social contact as well), during the last few months with a view to keeping our performing skills up to their normal levels of expertise.

We will be combining this year's Christmas party for members and members' immediate families only with some performances similar to our end of year concert. But, no public will be invited to attend.

Homestead was again approached by the Moreton Bay Council to play at the Carols in the Park this year but, rather than play a set on a stage, they wanted us to act as strolling players to entertain the crowds waiting to see the Santa Wonderland area. I have done that type of thing before at nursing homes without PA or stage and singing and playing under those circumstances are very difficult and very wearing. There was also talk of having to dress up (outside and in this heat!), for photos. The offer was again to pay our club for the performance to go towards our

EXPO expenses. I was unsure that we should do the gig and was in negotiation with some of our younger members who had tentatively agreed to do the job. Fortunately, we had word at the last minute that one of the acts had pulled out and we could have a 20 minute spot on the stage at 4.40pm. I immediately offered the job to those who had volunteered to do the more difficult gig and all agreed. So here is my final thought for 2020 - After such a difficult year for us all, it is my personal wish that you all have a very merry Christmas and a healthy and happy 2021. So roll on next year and with any luck, happier times.
Norm Smith (President)



The Home of Live Music
in Beerwah



Make the trek to Beerwah, ...[53 Beerwah Place], ... you won't regret it!

BEERWAH'S GOT COUNTRY



Upcoming Feature Shows:

(Check the Web Page for up-coming guest artists & shows)



We reassuringly await a covid-free re-opening !!

Hope to see you there soon!

Attention: All Members & Patrons

'CONTAINERS FOR CHANGE'

Recycling to boost Youth Expo Fundraising.

Homestead has an ID C10134337 for you to quote and money redeemed 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.





‘My Say’ Segment



PEACE ON EARTH & GOOD WILL TO ALL.

‘Tis that time of the year, ‘Christmas Time’, when we tend to get in touch with our friends and loved ones and celebrate the end of another year, its triumphs and pitfalls, gains and losses and the fact that we are still here to face yet another year of opportunity and uncertainty.

Amongst this backdrop, there is the annual declaration of ‘Peace and Good Will to All’ that we express via contact be it in personal, by phone, email or Christmas card.

The contrast, however, between ‘peace and good will’ and the realities of life are far from similar and we need to lift our heads above the tinsel and decorations and take heed of how it really is for many in the world around us: especially, when words of comfort and cheer are cold and contrary to their actual current circumstances.

This controversy has been addressed in verse and song; examples include:

- **‘Christmas Bells’** Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1863)... “And in despair, I bowed my head; ‘There is no peace on earth,’ I said; ‘For hate is strong and mocks the song of peace on earth, good-will to men.”
- **‘I Believe in Father Christmas’** Greg Lake (1975)... “They said there’ll be snow at Christmas, they said there’ll be peace on earth, but instead it just kept on raining a veil of tears for the virgin birth.”
- **‘Stop the Cavalry’** Jona Lewie (1980 [World War 1 song])... Hey, Mr Churchill... to say we’re doing splendidly. But it’s very cold out here in the snow, marching to win from the enemy. Oh, I say it’s tough, I have had enough. Can you stop the Cavalry?”

Over the years, I have often read that we must make amends and rectify that which makes a mockery of peace, freedom, dignity and quality of life. However to do so, we will have to do much more than make statements.

As such, the following plan provides a more proactive approach.

If we were all to heed and follow the steps from 1 – 8, just maybe conflict, racial injustice, inequality and wars could be eradicated.

1. Education Deactivate autopilot, be prepared for a sensory refocus, open mind, open heart, to gain a clearer picture. Look for alternate, proactive, positive approaches and solutions.
2. Courage to speak up ... to recognise the other side and others’ points of view.
3. Intention A determination to better society and bring about positive change.
4. Collaboration Get on board. Act to correct inequality and injustice.

5. Empathy Care about feelings of others and put yourself in the other person's shoes.
6. Individuality Respect and notice individual traits; seek and comprehend others' qualities.
7. Humanity Provide support. Search and discover common goals. Hence, 'humane treatment'!
8. Equality Interconnectedness and bonding with others. Not looking but actually finding and generating Good-will.

Here's to a more peaceful, more harmonious world with less conflict and increased global friendship.

Have a wonderful Christmas!

TT Editor

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 <p><u>The Garden Shed</u></p> <p>STIHL</p> <p>Mowers, Chainsaws, Grass Trimmers, & More.....</p> <p>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>



GENRE CROSSOVER

INFLUENCE, IMPLICATIONS AND LESSONS TO BE LEARNED

Many musicians and artists have successfully performed in several genre including Pop, Country, Jazz and other areas of music over the decades. However, just as Bing Crosby, Elvis Presley and Dolly Parton traversed such deviations relatively undetected, the same cannot be said for artists in today's multi-dissected music genres. This is nearly always documented and available via social media, to all and interested parties.

My focus, as a musician, over the years has been with individual band members and not only what they bring to the table music-wise, but what influenced or inspired them and how they were able to achieve the end results attained. Moreover, it has always been more important from my perspective to ascertain what I can learn from any such investigation, exposure and/or research into the legends of the stage and music creation. I have always embraced Education as being the key to almost everything on the planet and just as our vocabulary and ability to express ideas is improved through the spoken word, so too is our musical acumen through listening to lots of music and trying to emulate that which we see as worth putting our stamp on.

And so, musicians who come to mind and of note include, Roger Waters ex 'Pink Floyd' and Jimmy Page, 'Yardbirds' and 'Led Zeppelin'.



Roger Waters' mother, a war widow and teacher swayed Roger in the classics and he studied at Cambridge and was heavily influenced by Beethoven. There is evidence of this in his music. Needless to say, after the breakup of 'Pink Floyd', he went on to write the Opera, 'Ca Ira', which played on West End in London. [Waters quote: "my tastes lie in classical and choral music." (Blake 2008, p.392)]



Jimmy Page's influences on the other hand, were Country, in particular 'skiffle' an English country-music sub-genre which is a mix of rockabilly and blues with a smattering of acoustic folk. (Wikipedia) His musical genius was enhanced by a long association

with session work in recording studios. When he joined the *Yardbirds* and later formed *'Led Zeppelin'*, he knew exactly what he wanted and how he was going to achieve it. He described Musicianship as *'knowledge, skill and artistic sensitivity... and ability to collaborate with others outside of the self'* (Need for Keys 4/5/13). He was then quoted as saying; *'If you want to capture the mojo created by musicians playing together, you have to create "space".'* Similar statements were made to me when I first started backing artists and performing some session work. I am eternally grateful that I took heed. *'Less is more'*, is another such statement.

'Space' and *'Who's on First'*, [not to be confused with baseball], are essential criteria in any band performance. In most cases, the lead vocalist is *'who's on first'* and all other lead instruments in the band are on *'tacet'* or subdued with fills and part of the overall rhythm section. (A perfected rhythm section is appropriately described as *'cumulative equilibrium'*.) Jimmy Page had extensive exposure to sessions with more than one lead guitarist and since he relished the *'live performance'*, loathed using equalizers in studios and preferred what he and others describe as *'natural instrument bleed'* through microphones;..... hence his predisposition for *'space'* and only one *'on first'* at any time.



Both Waters and Page were well versed in *'light and shade'* as well as the understated ambience of *'space'* and this made their music shine above the then competition. They knew how and when to soften the score and when to create impact, *forte*, and make a statement in music and verse.

We can all learn from the experiences of those who have travelled the path before, but it is even more exciting to encounter and replicate these lessons first hand and savour their improvements in our playing.

T.T. R4A E& OE

Editor's Note: (Some Country/Classical cross-genre artists worth researching include; *'Harpeh Rising'* and *Andrew Heller.*) *Reprinted from Low Down #No 3

Homestead Country Music weekly rehearsals are held at
Stanmore Hall every Tuesday Night
commencing February 2021



CONCERT SPOTLIGHTS



MEMBER BIOGRAPHY

JANELLE GROVES

I was born in Southport on the Gold Coast which was called the South Coast in those days, on 17th July, 1954. As a youngster, I recall growing up on a farm with four (4) brothers and two (2) sisters. We enjoyed an adventurous life, there were always horses to ride, cows to milk, sheep, pigs, chooks and some goats.



People used to dump their pregnant cats off in front of our farm and at one stage, we had about 22 running around the place. Mum loved cats, so we called her the ‘Cat Lady’. Dad would pick up the food scraps from the hospital and several motels in Surfers Paradise to feed the pigs. That’s how the cats were able to be fed also.

My brother and I had an old FJ Ute that we used to flog around the paddock. Attached was an old Caltex sign so we’d climb aboard and go surfing over the long grass. We would swim in the dam, not very clean, but great on a hot day and you’d get used to the ells biting now and again. After Dad found he’d hit gold when it was discovered that we had first class Brickies’ Loam and Plaster Sand on the property, farming sort of fizzled out. The business expanded to be the biggest sand and gravel pit on the Gold Coast, supplying to all the brickies and plasterers to build what we now know as the Gold Coast. Things went pretty well in the 70’s, it was a booming time in the building trade. We all learned to drive loaders, trucks and excavators which I still have a ticket for!

The years rolled by; experienced life’s knocks, blessed with three (3) great kids and have three (3) grandsons whom I adore.

I moved from our family home in 1993 to Beachmere to start a new life. That is where I discovered Homestead Country Music.

My music influences during my teens include Lesley Gore and Crystal Gayle and favourite songs include “Someday Soon” & “I want to know where love is”. Singing and making friendships with like-minded singers and musicians at Homestead, is really a close-knit family that we have all become to know and value.

The saying goes; “You can take the girl from the country but can’t take the country from the girl”.

THE ALICE



Oh Alice Springs, how I miss you! But I am also so happy to be back with my music family here at Homestead.

Living in Alice for just over 2 years opened my eyes to a whole new world, one that is incredibly different to what I was used to here on the Sunshine Coast. For starters, nothing happened quickly! Mail takes weeks, the speed limit (in the town at least) was 40kms and the rain took forever to reach us!! In my time in Alice, I only saw the Todd river flow 2 times and both were in the last 6 months

of me living there. But it was so amazing to see everyone flock to the bridges to see the brown debris-filled water roar through the town and then disappear a few days later.

While in Alice, I was working at Flight Centre and Coles, leaving me little time to explore. I wish I had had more time to take the 6 hour drive down to Uluru or to check out the beautiful ranges surrounding Alice but I guess it just gives me an excuse to go back one day.

I did however get to play at a few 'Open Mic.' nights at a funky little bar and jump in on a line dancing class which were both always so much fun! I also was asked to play some songs at the Alice Christmas Street Fair in the Bush Garden, where people would sit and have dinner or watch the reptile display.

Unfortunately Covid played a huge part in me moving back but as we've been saying all through this crazy time, "it is what it is" and I'm sure 2021 will bring new adventures and lots of music I hope!

Peta-Maree

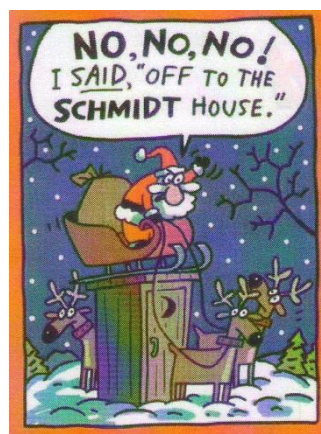
Country Music - Social Timetable



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 Kallangur 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 Northern Suburbs	Memorial Hall Gympie Rd. Bald Hills	12 Noon
Country Roundup	Caboolture Senior Citz Hall	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 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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It is very much hoped that this Social Timetable will be operational and able to be used again, post Covid-19.