

# LOW DOWN



**A 'Homestead'**  
**Country Music Club**  
**Publication**  
**Issue No #3 July 2014**

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## Contacts ...

President	Barbara Hall	Ph: 07 5496 1487 or 0411 602613
Secretary	Peta-Maree Thornton	
Treasurer	Frank Moroney	Ph: 5493 0974
Webmaster	John Boetje	Ph: 3889 1185
Editor & V.P.	Trevor Tinworth	Ph: 3886 1880



*“Time is a playful kitten. She creeps up on you and drinks the day like a bowl of milk”*

*Lee A. Iacocca - Chrysler Corp.*

## “My Say” Segment

The beginning of July announces that half of our year has passed us by and it is always good to evaluate where we are and where we want to be by the end of another six months [i.e. EOY]. The goals we set ourselves at the beginning of the year should be half completed.

We can achieve this by recording our goals, and monitoring actions and activities on a regular basis.

To be effective, one should always include life goals such as education, health and prosperity with personal ambitions which could include singing and/or playing in a far more proficient manner at Homestead concerts.

It is also good to reflect on past experiences as it allows you to ask ‘what if’ as well as focus on things achieved previously that may assist in the future.

As I was pondering the ‘what if’ recently, I couldn’t help but wonder what my life would have been without music. Receiving my first instrument and lessons in 1955, I was exposed to so many facets of music and experienced the emergence of Rock’n Roll, lived through Beatlemania as a teenager and received the opportunities to play music in Orchestra Pits, Recording Studios, Big Bands, Rock, Jazz, R’n B, Dance, Country, Classical and Cabaret. My life has been surely blessed!

Homestead has given me the opportunity to experiment with more instrument selection as well as follow my passions at a time of my life when I could have very easily said; I’ve achieved enough and packed it all away. I thank my lucky stars that music is still very much a major part of my life.

Now is the time to revisit **your** goals for 2014 and take the necessary steps to ensure you attain those aspired EOY results.

TT Editor

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### Club Calendar

Homestead Junior Expo (Festival)  
A.G.M.

2<sup>nd</sup> August  
19<sup>th</sup> August





## **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 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 savor their improvements in our playing.

T.T. R4A E& OE

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Editor's Note: (Some Country/Classical cross-genre artists worth researching include; '*Harpeth Rising*' and *Andrew Heller*.)



Next Issue's Feature Article; the *LOW DOWN* on '**THE ORIGINS OF TODAY'S GUITAR**'

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## From The President

### Eagles Wings – C.O.A.T.



I became a nurse as a 17 year old so as to be able to work in underprivileged countries around the world. I envisaged no marriage, no children and a career of helping those less fortunate. Well, as you all know, life took me on a different path and I have indeed been married (and divorced!), had children (five whom I am very proud of and to count, 10 beautiful grandchildren) and worked my butt off all my life to support myself and my family and have happily done so.

Last year saw several changes happen in my life - turning 60, losing a friend (Sue Cobcroft) and a wind fall from the sale of my mother's house in New Zealand – has inspired me to once again follow my dream.

In October, I am going to China to volunteer with an organisation called COAT – Chinese Orphanage Assistance Team – Eagles Wings. COAT was founded by Linda Shum and her late husband after a visit to China in 1998 and witnessing the plight of the orphans – especially those with disabilities both physical and intellectual. COAT now runs 8 group homes, a school, day-care and is responsible for the welfare of 60 children housed in these group homes in the city of JiaoZuo, Henan, China.

Through money raised, donations and sponsorships, COAT provides day to day supervision, improved nutrition, education, medical care and enrichment activities to help the children reach their full potential. Some children will be adopted by 'forever families' in America while others will live their life with COAT. I will be volunteering in any way that I can, medical or otherwise and am looking forward to the challenge.

Because of China's one child policy, a child with disabilities, (both boys and girls) are abandoned on the street, left on doorsteps of orphanages or in the controversial 'baby hatches'. Through organisations such as COAT, these children have a future.

An offshoot of my upcoming journey is the willingness of my children to also become involved and we are jointly sponsoring a child in one of the homes. We feel privileged to welcome this little boy (Jin Hao) into our family and I will be able to meet him when I visit.

If you would like to know more about COAT, go to this website [www.eagleswingschina.org](http://www.eagleswingschina.org). The video on this of Linda Shum's interview with Channel 7's 'Sunday Night' program is well worth watching.

*Cheers Barbara*

## **Quote for Month**

*‘Great music is that which penetrates the ear with facility and leaves the memory with difficulty. Magical music never leaves the memory’*

**Sir Thomas Beecham**

...oooO.ooo...

## **Jalousie**

*Just recently, I got to discussing the origin and history of some of the songs that have thrilled and pleased singers, instrumentalists and listeners during the past (perhaps) century.*

*I, personally, like to do some research on some of the songs I might want to perform here at Homestead.*

*One that came to mind was ‘Jalousie’, a powerful and melodious “Gypsy Tango”. No; I haven’t misspelt the title. It is Jalousie not Jealousy.*

*It was written back in 1931 and was the first ‘light classic’ to sell over one (1) million records, [not bad for 1931].*

*A one-time violinist with the New York Symphony Orchestra and a Danish national, Jacob Gade, wrote the music after he returned to Copenhagen.*

*The wonderfully, exciting lyrics were written by Sal Bloom. It was recorded by Arthur Feidler’s Boston Pops Orchestra.*

*Eighty-three years later, it still sets some hearts a-flutter... including mine!*

*I will perform it shortly at one of our Homestead Monthly Socials.*

*Set to an exciting Gypsy Tango beat, it seems set to please dancers, players, vocalists and music-lovers for many years to come.*



**Allan Handsley**

## FAME & FAMOUS RECORDING



Everybody “acknowledges” that Slim Dusty is the most recorded singer in Australian recording history. Some 100 odd LPs and 20 – 30 single releases. Say 2000 – 2500 songs recorded. Pretty impressive right?

So here's a question:

Which Australian singer IS the most recorded singer in history?

.....was known worldwide and is recorded in the Guinness Books among the top ten best singers in history?



Answer: Peter Smith Dawson

[born Adelaide 13/01/1882 – died 27/09/1961]

Why?

During his life he recorded on all recording mediums from experimental wire format to wax cylinders right through to vinyl long play and his remastered recordings have been released on all digital and all tape mediums and he can be heard on YouTube. He may well be the only singer ever to have been recorded on all mediums. He is believed to have recorded approx. 3500 songs for HMV (and those recordings are reasonably well documented), but he also recorded under some ten or so aliases for other recording companies so as not to be involved in legal litigation for breach of contract (and possibly to dodge taxation). He also sang and recorded his original material under some half-dozen alias names. Some estimates within the recording industry put the possible total recorded by him at about 5000. Slim Dusty, Johnny Cash, Elvis, Bing Crosby and other similar prolific recording artists do not even come close!



He toured the world singing popular music concerts, opera and operetta parts and his original songs between 80 and 90 times and in most of the countries where English was spoken or understood and quite a few where it wasn't (e.g. Russia).



His bass – baritone voice range encompassed E-flat in the bass to a high A or A-flat similar to the total range of Paul Robeson and Elvis combined and (along with singers like Caruso and Elvis), was included in the 10 best singers list by *The Guinness Book of Recorded Sounds*.

Older people would remember his famous recording of:

*The Road to Mandalay*.

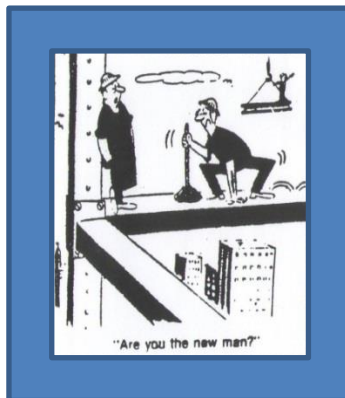
What isn't well known is that in the country music area, he recorded a number of famous Australiana songs including *Waltzing Matilda* and *Clancy of the Overflow*. His recording of *Waltzing Matilda* was instrumental in the song being considered for the National anthem. In 2007, Peter Dawson's 1931 recording of the song *Along the Road to Gundagai* was added to the National Film and Sound Archive's "Sounds of Australia" registry.



Pretty damn important Australian but how many under 55's have even heard of him?

*Norm Smith.*

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

Refer **Homestead** website

<http://www.homesteadmusic.org>

## Eye on Stage



*The Urban Festival saw Homestead commence proceedings to a greater public as the National Rodeo had attracted people Australia-wide. I was blown away by the standard of the concert and joined by many in rating it 'one of our best!' Our enthusiasm was boosted by bus-loads of people arriving at Stanmore Hall en-route to the footy-ground, 'Opening Concert' and discovering another venue with quality music to attend. In they came!! ..and with our stalwart regulars, filled the hall. Our musicianship was a joy to witness with lead guitar working well with sax, while a solid rhythm section supported each performer's number. Homestead is blessed to have the services of these musicians.*

*Our following concert, our regular for May, was, in my opinion, disappointing in both sound and musicianship. With microphones dropping out; we lost 4 out of 5 due to battery failure (new batteries) and with subsequent replacement down the row, the sound desk, understandably, became confused and unaware of line positions. The initiative of one member seeking and finding a local store open and purchasing replacement batteries, saved the day. Lesson No #1 for the night. Increased on-stage volume levels resulted in front of house being turned off with no subsequent reduction in overall volume. Another lesson to be learnt!!*

*We took heed and I'm pleased to report that our June concert was very pleasant on the ear with great music performed throughout the evening. On-stage musicians and performers need to be continually listening to and for each other, operating as a team...making space for individual members as they feature in whatever particular part of the number being performed. Listening is the keystone to good music!*

*Pete.*



## ***"Success in Performance"***

*continued from previous issue.*

The challenges we face at each concert can be partially addressed by Positive Self-Awareness as discussed in the last issue of Low Down.

Nevertheless, to completely master our self-inflicted ordeals, an awareness of what constitutes 'The Performance' and why we pursue it, is extremely helpful.

Dr Alexandra Lamont, Keele University UK, suggests that we exhibit *'emotion, engagement and meaning in strong experiences of music performance'* and that its *'potential..... to achieve pleasure and wellbeing'* is likely *'... to sustain long-term motivation to engage in practical music-making'*. [*Psychology of Music* Sept 2012 vol.40 no.5]

Therefore, if we are to achieve and perfect our performance we must harness attributes such as Persistence, Concentration, Dedication, Curiosity and Resourcefulness.... and we have the secret to our success. What is amazing about these acquired traits is, not one is measured by tests or examinations!

Combined with a passion, resolve and willpower to achieve, every member has the formulae to attain their most sought after 'great performance'. It's not rocket science!

Nevertheless, it also requires a positive self-image, self-confidence, direction, discipline and copious quantities of self-esteem to reach some of our more challenging aspirations. It is also striving harder and not being satisfied with 'second best'!!

What's more, we see it on display at every concert in Stanmore Hall!

TT



**Homestead**  
Country Music Club

**£41. 9/7/96**

## **Homestead Junior Festival** --- 8 Years On.....



Homestead members have always understood the need to encourage young people who enjoy listening to, and performing, country music.

Our members decided, in early 2007, that the time had come to show the world our commitment to the development of our younger performers and the Youth Talent Expo was born. Since that first Expo, the general feedback to the committee from past entrants has been overwhelmingly positive. Many have gone as far as to claim that ours is the best Junior festival in the country!

2014 will be our eighth consecutive Junior Festival and all would agree that the first seven have been highly successful. Some of our past winners have gone on to become QLD Champion of Champions; several have their own CD recordings produced and available and are regular performers in music venues all over Queensland and beyond. Past Homestead Overall Champions include Kimberley Thomson, Dana Hassall, Amelia Richards, Brodie Holmes, Becc Holdorf, Kiara Rodrigues and Bridget O'Shannessy. Beyond these overall winners, many others have continued their musical journeys, some even making full time careers out of their music.

Entries for this year's Expo close on 18 July and entries are being accepted online through the Homestead website at [www.homesteadmusic.org](http://www.homesteadmusic.org) – Please encourage any interested young people you know to get their entries in quick. Saturday 2 August 2014 promises to be another big day for country music in Queensland!

A list of our generous sponsors is to be found on our web-site. *Bob Cole*

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### **Homestead** Country Music Club

Check out our website ...

<http://www.homesteadmusic.org>



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

*Locate us on Facebook 'Homestead Country Music'*