

LOW DOWN



A **'Homestead'**

Country Music Club
Publication

Issue No #28: **June/July 2020**
Zero Personal Contact - Covid -19 #2 Issue

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FRONT COVER: Bek Thornton - Vice President
..... ' & Very Talented Homesteader'

Quote for the Month

"We all have an unsuspected reserve of strength inside that emerges when life puts us to the test."

- Isabel Allende



'My Say' Segment



Isolation has had its 'up-side'. (they say everything has an up-side!)

We have all come to appreciate how well we had it prior to Covid-19: our ability to mingle freely, travel widely, socialise & eat out at our favourite restaurants and clubs and participate in face to face communications with anyone we chose.

Another up-side has been the re-realisation and admiration of the medical profession, especially nurses, who have unselfishly cared for and treated so many, not only in our own Aussie hospitals and health care facilities but also overseas where the pandemic has been far worse than we have experienced with thousands of deaths.

The reality of this Covid-19 pandemic is alarming for it has diminished our ability to take advantage of our world, a smaller world that we, collectively, had created through technological advancement. But it has also created a need to collaborate and work together for a vaccine that can put the brakes on its spread and severity worldwide.

Casualties of the epidemic will include Exports and Cargo transportation, Immigration, Travel and Tourism in general; and Imports, especially food where contamination, disease and the spread of infection is a possibility.

But we are indeed the 'Lucky Country' when comparison with other nations points to enormous numbers of infections, intensive care patients and so many lives lost, something that we, by enlarge, have avoided.

Music has played a part in helping raise monies during these troubled times and has also provided opportunities for technological collaborations via social media; skype, face-time & zoom. I earnestly believe that enhanced musical opportunities will be available to us all and especially clubs like Homestead when all Australians, post Covid-19, seek to return to what is considered 'the norm'.

Nevertheless, it is fair to say as we emerge from this dangerous pandemic, the world will be different in many ways, especially economically. And not unlike the Great Depression of the 1930's, unemployment will be at levels never seen previously.

But it has been said so many times before...

'if we learn from the past, we can create a brighter future. (hopefully for everyone!)

That has to include playing and singing Country Music !!!

And the sooner the better!

TT – Editor



NOTICEBOARD

Date Claimers for your Calendar

All Concerts remain 'On Hold' and Cancelled until further notice.
Rehearsals will be advised as soon as Clubs are given
the Green Light to re-commence.
Meeting for nominated attendees at Stanmore Hall 30th June



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:

(ON HOLD UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE)



We reassuringly await a re-opening !!

Hope to see you there soon!

A Covid-19 Perspective

WE ARE NOT IN THE SAME BOAT



***I have heard that we are all in the same boat, but it's not like that.
We are in the same storm, but not in the same boat. Your ship
could be shipwrecked and mine might not be; or vice versa.***

***For some, quarantine is ideal. A moment of reflection, easy in
casual attire with a cocktail, beer or coffee.***

***For others, this is a desperate financial and family crisis.
For some who live alone, they are facing endless loneliness.***

***Whilst for others it is peace, rest and time with their mother,
father, sons and daughters.***

***With the weekly increase in unemployment, some are bringing in
more money to their households than when they were working.
Others are working more hours for less money due to pay cuts.
For some, not getting along with the family, domestic abuse is
rife.... We never know what goes on behind closed doors!***

***Some were concerned about getting enough Easter eggs while
others were concerned that they could have enough bread, milk
and eggs for that weekend.***

***Some want to go back to work because they don't qualify for
unemployment and are running out of money.***

Others want to kill those who break the quarantine.

***Some are home spending 2-3 hours per day helping their child with
online schooling while others are spending 2-3 hours per day to
educate their children on top of a 10-12 hour workday.***

***Some have experienced the near death from the virus, some have
already lost someone from it and some are not sure if their loved
ones are going to make it. Others don't believe it is a big deal !***

Some have faith in God and expect miracles during this 2020.

Others say the worst is yet to come.

***So friends, we are not in the same boat. We are going through a
time when our perceptions and needs are completely different.***

Each of us will emerge, in our own way, from this storm.

It is very important to see beyond what is seen at first glance.

Not just looking, actually seeing.

***We are on different ships during this storm experiencing a very
different journey.***

***It remains extremely important to understand, be conscious of
others' situations and be kind.***

Author unknown

PRESIDENT'S PRATTLE



June 2020



Hi Folks,

Hopefully, if everything goes to plan, we will get practices up and rolling on 14th July. No doubt the COVID-19 rules will change at beginning of July, but we will stick to the current plan meantime. Concerts might not get going for a month or two as a lot needs to be organised with canteen and social distancing. All these things will be discussed at the meeting on 30th June. I apologise that meeting attendance must be limited to those on my list, but minutes will be available a.s.a.p. after meeting.

Some people will be aware that Homestead FB page has been hosting 'live' shows of some of our members on a Wednesday night at 7.30pm. At this time, there have been two (Liam and Steve) and they went down well, thanks guys. It is a means of increasing the visibility of Homestead CMC online. If you would like more information on taking part, contact Liam or Bek and they can get you up to speed on that one.

It has certainly been a strange time for many folks and one we will never witness again in our lifetime. Peter and I have been going to Stanmore Hall on a Tuesday night for over 25 years and before that, out to Ningy, so to sit at home in front of the goggle box has been very different. I know a lot of people are missing the musical outlet in their lives so hopefully things will slowly get back to normal. Meantime stay well and out of the cold.

Cheers Barbara

WE RECOGNISE AND THANK THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS:

Please support them with your custom wherever possible.



R & R Hire Services

*Beerburum Road
CABOOLTURE*



Beerwah Hotel

*53 Beerwah Place, Beerwah
Home to the Sounds of live Country Music*



The Garden Shed

STIHL

*Mowers, Chainsaws, Grass Trimmers,
& More.....*

*Morayfield Road,
MORAYFIELD*



JANET C'S ART (JANET CLAYDON)

Australian Artist. Inspired by the Vast Richness of our Planet

..... Look for me on Facebook

Attention: All Members & Patrons

Recycling to boost Youth Expo Fundraising.

'Containers for Change'

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.

...0000000...



Homestead Country Music weekly rehearsals are held at

Stanmore Hall every Tuesday Night



On Hold (until further notice)

Life can be tough at times, but Homesteaders will rise again and perform enthusiastically !!



Music, a Soothing Safety Valve in Hard Times

The last time Aussies were tested with unparalleled unemployment and economic hardship was in the 1930's during the Great Depression. This was before I was born but my parents and grandparents lived through these lean and mean times. Ten years of poverty and gloom! Paterson's "Waltzing Matilda" and the 'Swaggie' had romanticised life on the wallaby, where, unemployed and homeless;... many were forced to uproot and travel the roadways in search of work; some pushing wheelbarrows with their entire worldly possessions, some on horseback or bicycle, but most used shank's pony, walking from town to town. But, for the vast majority, it was not without heartache and suffering; bread and dripping sandwiches and soup made from potato skins was all they survived on. The land of milk and honey had become very sour and the resultant despair, frustration and pent-up anger necessitated a '*safety valve*'. Fortunately, Aussie humour in the form of **ditties** and **songs** proved to be an answer. Ten years is too long to be miserable. The folk songs and refrains personified the here and now of the 1930's and enabled, in times of adversity, some lighter moments through the darkness to pacify and soothe the populace via parody and satire, Aussie's style. One of the oldest recordings from a Mrs Susan Colley titled "Half-livin' down in Sydney" had lyrics of



*"Half a loaf of bread and cheese.... Half a steak and kidney....
That's the way the money goes.... Half-livin' down in Sydney.
Another entitled "Bald-Headed End of the Broom" stated
"*Where's the money you spent.... and you can't pay the rent*"*

And yet another;

*"We're looking for work but we find none,
We wish we had something to eat
Soup, soup, soup, soup, ...They gave us a big bowl of loop-the-loop,
They gave us a big bowl of soup."*



The decade began with Jack O'Hagan's recording of "Along the Road to Gundagai" in 1931.

Tex Morton and Buddy Williams 'the yodelling jackaroo' are considered to be the only major players, musically, during the Great Depression but their first recordings did not occur until later in the decade, 1936 & 1938 respectively. The jingle "I like Aeroplane Jelly" was released in 1938 and was an immediate hit with the general public especially with sales of the product to a hungry nation. The Great Depression was NOT SO Great for Australia. Unemployment reached 32%. In comparison, USA unemployment peaked at 25%. When everything is

taken into consideration, a few months of suffering in 2020 is nothing compared to ten years (1930-1940) of constant despair. Music was a soother back then! Let's hope that **Music** can play its part in pacifying a nation that, due to social distancing, has been seriously curtailed with congregating disallowed.

A few songs come to mind..... "Let the Band Play",
"Let's Get Together" & "Sing, Sing, Sing".

R4AA Wikipedia

TT



Pandemic History & Antiquity



Pandemics have been with us for centuries and their ancient and modern history is alarming to the extreme.

History, a subject that I certainly enjoyed during my schooldays, reflected upon many, many achievements of mankind as well as wars that resulted in various changes in geographical ownership, but little do I recall of Plagues, Pestilence and Pandemics. Nevertheless, many did indeed occur and millions of citizens perished as a result.

Such were the effects of such catastrophes and sufferings of the general populace, that despondency and depression created morbid nations of individuals facing a bleak future and in almost every occurrence when daily survival was extremely uncertain, people were driven to 'live for the moment'. This unfortunately, as we all know today, does not lead to caution and certainly not social distancing and escalated sanitation.

The 'List of Pandemics', abridged, is a wakening and a stirring reminder that history does re-occur, repeat itself, albeit with variations on previous situations; World War I & World War II, typical examples.

However it is compelling reading when you discover how many times Pandemics have occurred and the consequences there-of.

(Apologies: No music content was found in the research.)



1. The Plague of Athens 480BC - 475BC 100,000 Deaths

The Greek Historian Thucydides (460-400BC) recorded "*...people in good health were all of a sudden attacked by violent heats in the head, and redness and inflammation in the eyes, the inward parts, such as the throat or tongue, becoming bloody and emitting an unnatural and fetid breath*" It is believed to have been exacerbated by overcrowding during the Spartan War and resultant siege of Athens.

2. Antonine Plague - Roman Empire 165AD 5 Million Deaths

The spoils of victory resulted in smallpox being brought back to Rome via returning legions.

25 Million Deaths

4. The Great Pestilence “Black Death” 1346 – 1353. 75–200 Million Deaths
Initially, this outbreak bacterium, spread by fleas and black rats, [Xenopsylla Cheopis or Oriental rat flea] (bubonic plague - lymphatic), infected the Silk Road villages and municipalities connecting Mongolia and Central Asia to Europe, then invaded merchant ships to further spread throughout the known world. It is believed to have mutated becoming a Septicaemic Plague (blood) and finally a Pneumonic Plague (lungs).

These have been classified as a cluster of Eurasian diseases including smallpox and measles that allowed Spanish invaders like Cortez to overcome/conquer the large indigenous nations of South America.

DNA from the skeletons of victims found that they were infected with a subspecies of *Salmonella* which causes enteric fever, a category of fever that includes typhoid. This was the last straw for the Aztecs!

A form of the 'Great Pestilence' or 'Black Death', the disease was transmitted by fleas and infected rodents. [15% of Population perished.] To make matters worse, it was followed by the Great Fire of London.

This plague commenced when a ship, the *Grand-Saint-Antoine*, docked in Marseille, France, carrying a cargo of goods from the eastern Mediterranean. Although the ship was quarantined, the plague still entered the city, likely through fleas on plague-infected rodents. [30% of Population died.]

Despite the non-existence of Aeroplanes, this flu virus spread throughout Europe and the rest of the world.

11. Polio Epidemic **1916** **USA** **City cluster** **2,000 Deaths** **New York**
alone. A known world disease with Swedish & Austrian breakthroughs in

1905 & 1908. Despite epidemic proportions by 1916, the Salk Vaccine was not developed to combat the Virus until 1955.

12. Spanish Flu **1918 – 1920** **50 Million Deaths**
A Post World War 1 Disease. It's origin unknown. **500 Million infected**

13. Asian Flu **1957 – 1958** **2 Million Deaths**
This was a blend of the Avian Flu virus which occurs naturally among wild aquatic birds, worldwide and can infect domestic poultry and other bird and animal species. Categorized as Influenza, it originated in China.

14. Flu Pandemic **1968 Influenza** **1 Million Deaths**
15. Aids Pandemic **1981** **36 Million Deaths**
16. Swine Flu **2009 – 2010** **500,000 + Deaths**
 1.4 billion infected

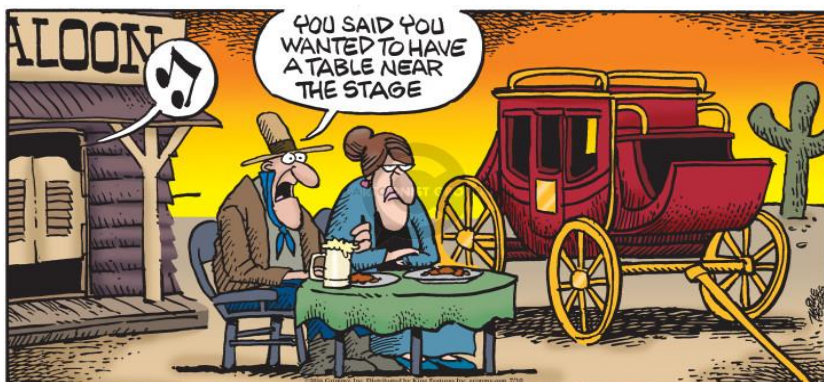
17. Middle East Pandemic **2012** **862 Deaths**
A Coronavirus Respiratory Syndrome affecting Europe and especially the Mediterranean with 80% of cases confined to Saudi Arabia. There was a further outbreak in 2018 confined mainly to the Arabian Peninsula.

18. Ebola Pandemic -Africa **2013** **11,325 Deaths**
19. Zinka Virus **2015 – Present** **Mosquito borne**
20 Covid – 19 **2019 – Present**

It is all very well saying ... ‘We will overcome’, but we tend to, as a civilisation, put the bad times and awful things to the back of our minds. We are programmed to do so. Concentrate on the positive! Mankind, it would appear, still has a lot to learn!

“The times, they are a-changin’....” [Bob Dylan]

TT



Social Distancing 200 years ago !!



CONCERT SPOTLIGHTS

Remember the Days



Allan August 2018
"The Wayward Wind"



Dr Hook December 2015



Sandy July 2019
"Walking the Floor Over You"



Bev March 2017
"Can I Have This Dance"



'And Along Came Jones' December 2018
Carmel, JB, Vern & Norm



Shirley November 2018
"The Cowboy Rides Away"



Kaitay December 2019
"I want a Hippopotamus for Christmas"



Murray & The Huckleback Dancers November 2018



John D & 'Ringo' August 2018



CONCERT SPOTLIGHTS

May the Good Times Return



Jay June 2017
'Among the Gum Trees'



Band Versatility with Gabby, Mason & Hannah (2016)



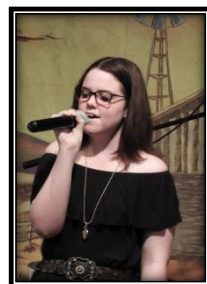
Barbara December 2017
'Prop me up beside the Jutebox'



Liam - 'St Patrick's Day 2018
'Moon over Ireland'



Sonny & Cher Aug 2019 & May 2016
'I Got You Babe'



Hayley June 2017
'Little Toy Guns'



'He drinks Tequila August 2019
She talks dirty in Spanish'



Queenie 'On Sulva Bay' April 2017



Chas & 'The Wanderer' February 2018

HIRECH in Lockdown

I guess the Covid-19 crisis caught us all on the hop!

It certainly caused some withdrawal symptoms for JB ... isolated and alone for weeks ... how was I going to exist without my regular ration of music??

Random thoughts took me way back to the beginning, at a time when a group of youngsters got together to form what would later be called a 'garage band'. No support structures back then, no CMCs, it was just getting together and jamming, learning on the run!



I can remember spending hours alone, bouncing tracks back and forth on an old reel-to-reel tape recorder, trying for that ultimate production but picking up more background noise and distortion with every layer.

Later, of course, came the cassette tape. The remark was made that there will be generations unaware of the relationship between these two objects!



What's the connection???



For years I lived with the 'Radio-Cassette' running continuously, ready to reach out and slap the 'record' button whenever I heard a new song that had potential. I still have a collection of these cassettes ... with most songs missing half the intro. I had always planned to digitise them, but You-Tube has since made these recordings redundant.

But all of this I've left far behind. What is available in today's technology that will help with music, and getting things together remotely?

Although I had no experience with video calls on phones, I was aware that they were familiar territory for just about any grandparent. Isolation certainly opened up this experience for me, but the on-line delay seemed to preclude any realistic potential for music. So how were performers putting

together the awesome productions seen daily on TV? The secret was revealed during an interview ... each ‘track’ was recorded separately, with some sort of visual prompt, such as a clap, that could be used to get the tracks assembled in synchronisation. There is a rising generation of young musicians following this path to commercial success. Check this track from Josh Turner <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IB0k6LmXks8>

While I haven’t the technology to achieve this using video, a bit of an on-line search revealed an application that could successfully be used with audio. This is the multi-track recording software MixPad, part of a suite of similar applications from NCH Software.



A version with fewer features is free for non-commercial use. Here I have it configured on my laptop, with the screen mirrored to the TV for better visibility. Unlike the old tape decks, you can add layer upon layer of audio without any degradation of quality.

So how does this help with remote music production?

Well, just save the file of whatever you’ve produced, or export an mp3, and email it to someone who has the same application ... they can load the file and carry on from there, all still in synch! And so I have come full circle from those adventurous early days.

Very soon now, of course, the Covid restrictions will be relaxed, and this need will be a thing of the past.

However, the experience has reminded me the value of this process for keeping on track with your performance and practice. Why is this so? Every error you make sticks out a mile, and you are encouraged to practice and practice and practice until you get it right!



You don’t need anything fancy to benefit. Only a computer, a set of headphones, and a microphone. I got sneaky, and borrowed a ‘gaming headset’ from a family member. Just plug it into a USB port and it all comes together.

At the simplest level, here's how it can be made to work for you.

1. Click in the header of track one to select it

2. Use the 'Open' icon to load an mp3 file

3. Click in the header of track two to select it

4. Click the 'record' buttons. This will play back the mp3 while recording your voice or instrument on track two.

5. On playback, use the volume sliders to adjust the level on each track to compare

Volume slider

Be prepared for a shocking surprise ... I am always dismayed by my own performance ... but it certainly gives you the motive to work on getting it right!

One useful function from the **Tools .. Speed .. Pitch Change** menu is the ability to alter the pitch of a track to suit your vocal range. In this instance, I'm taking it down a semitone.

Talk to me if you need to know more. Enjoy.

JB



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 Citzs 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 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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**Moreton Bay
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and

Rosenbauer Australia



It is very much hoped that this Social Timetable will be operational and able to be used again, in the not too distant future.