

# LOW DOWN



A **'Homestead'**

**Country Music Club  
Publication**

*Issue No #11: June 2016*

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### **Quotes for Month:**

“A good country song takes a page out of somebody’s life and puts it to music.”  
Conway Twitty

“Life is one big road with lots of signs. So when you’re riding through the ruts, don’t complicate your mind.”  
Bob Marley

## **“My Say” Segment**

It has long been said that acting on the spur of the moment is fraught with danger and that you risk the satisfaction derived from rational contemplation. In essence, the world would be a much better place if everyone, not just you and me, but governments, industry and the like, all remembered words like ‘contemplate’, ‘care’, ‘patience’ and the term ‘what if’.

It was interesting to read Kathleen Noonan state that “It is a pleasure to listen to or read those who enjoy words, who roll them around in their brains before slipping them off the tongue.”

(Oh how I wish I could heed such measures at all times!!)

On the other hand, it pays to be decisive rather than being foolhardy-compliant and not taking a stand... and our innate, lightning-fast reactions should, at appropriate times, kick in, lest we be steamrolled by inaction or lack of effort. Our ideas, thoughts and opinions are as important as the next person and your value does not decrease based on someone’s inability to see your worth. Expressing ourselves is a lifelong struggle since comprehension is in the ear of each and every listener and says volumes of what has been received by them.

Which brings me to the subject of song lyrics! It has always been the role of innovative writers and composers to break new ground, bear witness, imagine, cogitate and prophesise events.... and the untold truths of society. In many cases, these are revelations and thoughts not previously espoused; so when they do, it makes us sit up, ears pricked, like a well-trained kelpie. Such is considered making a definitive statement and also why music has outlived generation upon generation.

Today’s lyricist is faced with so many options, music genre and subgenre, that it is fair to say, it is ‘open-slathe’. I often wonder where song-writing is headed and whether genres such as country and rock, which seem to be on a collision path, will eventually amalgamate or even merge.

Oh, to live so much longer and see what words are rolled around and slipped off the tongue and what actually happens in the future!!

Living life to its fullest is so, so exciting..... Roll on!!

TT Editor

**\* PS.** A special thank you to Marion for assisting me and finalising the Magazine for the last issue when we were in America.



## ***EYE ON STAGE***



Some of our readers may not be aware that Jonathon Sweeper who has been operating the sound desk for our Homestead Concerts is not presently available for this task due to study commitments.

I have put aside my (some would say already failed), aspirations of being a major country music star and have taken up the sound operator gauntlet to operate the desk until further notice. This is a task I hold very dear. I enjoy the aspect of helping our artists and musicians provide a top quality sound for the concerts.

The past two concerts have been very successful and I have found the job of sound mixing to be somewhat of a doddle. Our artists have been performing to the very best of their abilities and from our youngest performers to our most experienced their efforts have made it easy to have a quality sound production for the concerts.

Similarly the musicians have been playing with the full cognisance of the restraint needed to keep the music as a whole, at volume levels that allow the sound system to do the job for which it was designed and to allow the operator to concentrate on pulling out the best sound possible for the enjoyment of our patrons.



These last two concerts have been among the top half dozen that I have seen and heard at in nearly twenty years at Homestead.

The talent levels of our more junior performers are often astounding or dare I say mind-boggling.

This of course takes nothing away from our more experienced performers who have done themselves and the Club proud.

I can only hope that all our patrons enjoyed our concerts as much as I have enjoyed mixing the sound. It has been great. Roll on more of the same.

N.S.

## Tamworth 'Country' Roads' cont'd



The pilgrimage to Tamworth from all quarters of Australia is not only for performers . All festivals require an appreciable audience and those who have made the effort often return. It is that good !!

Even members of our own Homestead audience make the trek! It follows:

*Tamworth Country Music Festival is probably on most country music enthusiast's bucket list and deservedly so: it is a terrific event.*

*I think the key words to its success are accessibility and variety with accommodation and music available to suit every budget and preference. It would be possible to spend the entire 10 days listening to free performances if one followed the advice of buying the book that lists the artist and gigs and went through it with a highlighter. This would include performances from some of the top names (admittedly these are only cameos at the free concerts) but also performances from young and rising stars. Kasey Chambers, Beccy Cole and Troy Cassar-Daly all openly acknowledge the debt they owe Tamworth because they got their start busking in Peel Street.*



Image Envision - 14577

*We've been to Tamworth twice (yes I know that doesn't rate against those of you who have been going for 20 years) and we have been delighted in the professionalism (and obvious talent) of some established stars, and been disappointed in some others (I'm thinking of an established female country singer who started her show singing out of tune) . However some of our most enduring memories are of singers/ groups we've "discovered". Last year we were blown away when a young ex-Homestead singer Bridget O'Shannessy was invited up onto the stage and more than held her own with a group of professional musicians. This year we went on spec to a concert from a group called "The Feral Swing Katz" and, though they don't play traditional country music , it was a terrific show. They are all professional musicians who make their living as session musicians between gigs (as evidenced by the fact that they formed part of the backing band for the Golden Guitars).*



*We have heard that some mourn what they see as a move by younger singers and groups away from traditional country music towards a more rock and roll sound. I personally don't mind provided the music is good and if it helps attract more young people to the festival that is great. I do think one of the strengths of Tamworth is the variety in music: everything from Gospel to traditional Australian bush ballads to bluegrass to roots to country rock. The only negative observation I have is that I think most of the sound engineers must have lost their hearing working on rock concerts because I found the sound balance was annoying. In general the band sound was too loud and overwhelmed the singer.*

*Tamworth is a lot of fun because everyone we met and talked to was there to have a good time and catch some great country music.*

Gaye & Rob

## ***Vale - Merle Haggard***

Born 6 April, 1937, Merle Haggard is broadly acknowledged as one of, if not the most important singer, songwriter and country music artist from the 1960s to the present day. So many of the modern day country music greats acclaim Merle Haggard as their single biggest inspiration – there's a reputation that will take some beating!



Merle's dad was a fiddle player and mum was a fine church choral singer. Following his dad's passing when Merle was just nine, Merle's childhood was characterised by rebellion and petty crime. In and out of various juvenile detention centres and reform schools, life was tough for young Merle. He scored his first musical break when invited to sing a song or two at a Lefty Frizell concert in Bakersfield. The teenage Merle was well received by the audience.

While imprisoned in San Quentin for taking part in a drunken robbery, Merle eventually made the big decision to turn his life around. Once released, he reunited with his wife, Leona, and worked as a labourer during the day and a country singer at night. Alongside artists such as Buck Owens, Johnny Barnett and Wynn Stewart, Merle developed a solid following. He became a genuine country superstar during the late 60s with 37 consecutive top 10 hit songs including such classics as Bonnie and Clyde, Mama Tried and Working Man Blues.

By 1970, Merle was being celebrated by the new Country Music Association as their number one star. Multiple number one singles like Okie from Muskogee and Hungry Eyes helped to cement Merle Haggard and his band, 'The Strangers', as country music legends in the USA.

Merle remained active in the country music industry for the rest of his days. While his most celebrated work is from the 60s and 70s, many more solo and collaboration albums rounded out the Merle Haggard musical portfolio, the last one with his good mate Willie Nelson in 2015.

Merle Haggard died on his 79<sup>th</sup> birthday, April 6, 2016, from complications associated with pneumonia. What a life, what a songwriter!

Bob Cole



## HI-NOTES - FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi Everyone, on what is beginning to be cold and fresh nights. A well named month with 'Beyond Blue' will be 'blue' inside and out.

Homestead has had a busy time the last few months and I must on their support and commitment to these outings.



as our theme - we out and about over commend our members

Firstly, the sausage sizzles at Bunnings: This raised a lot of money to go toward our 10<sup>th</sup> 'youth Expo'. We sold 40 loaves of bread and 55kg of sausages. The adults held the fort inside with presenting the well-cooked goodies for sale and the 'youth' wooed the customers with an acoustic jam session outside. We made a lot more money this time around so I would like to think it was the 'music on the bread' that did the trick and not an impending Mother's day. Thanks



everyone.

Secondly, Urban weekend: Because of a change of planning, we lost our usual concert but I negotiated with the organisers and we were lucky enough to be given a spot on the 'Next Generation' stage on the Sunday afternoon. With the weather turning bad, the venue was moved into Stanmore Hall, so we had one of the driest stages at the Village. Not only did our 'youth' present a cracking show that was well received by the audience, but it was great to see many of them performing around at the various venues over the weekend and at the 'Champs' showcase.

A couple of dates for your calendar:

\* July Social is NOT the third Friday – it will be on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July starting at 10:30. As this will be our 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration, the day will be a bit different with a larger break in the middle to allow for ‘official’ proceedings to occur.

\* August 6<sup>th</sup> is Homesteads 10<sup>th</sup> ‘Youth Expo’ so put that date aside for some great entertainment from our up and coming country music stars. If you would like to sponsor a section or donate some time as a volunteer, please see Peter Bigg.

Have a great night.

Cheers Barbara



## ***NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE.***

As part of our recent holiday in South & North America, Cheryl and I spent several days on a riverboat on the mighty Mississippi which was running at an elevated height and had broken its banks in some areas due to heavy rains further upstream. The experience was a blast!! And as an awesome climax to our vacation, our last four days were spent in Nashville.

Not only is Nashville the country music capital of USA, it is fast becoming the music capital of USA as all genres of music move their offices from New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, etcetera and gravitate to set up in the area. Nashville is booming. There are cranes in all directions and the spike in construction and development is anticipated to continue for years to come. Nashville’s population is estimated to double in the next three years. Currently, the AT&T building, the tallest in the city, (affectionately known as the Batman Building), is about to be dwarfed by a new 64 storey skyscraper currently under construction.



The Country Music Hall of Fame is an enormous building with the windows

of the façade spaced accordingly, depicting the keys on a piano. However the Entertainment Centre next door is even larger. We were fortunate as the Keith Urban Display has only been recently finished and opened to the public. Some of his instruments that were on display had been ruined in the 2012 floods as was the Grande Ole Opry.





The southern part of USA appears to be obsessed with Greek architecture, be it town or city mansions, government buildings, or, in the case of Nashville, a full-scale model of 'The Parthenon' in Athens. A must to experience!!



venues,  
the  
their all.  
stage,



We only  
be seen

I would certainly recommend car hire and at least another couple of days to soak up what is on offer and especially seek out suburbia.

There are numerous Recording Houses, Studios and venues for bands and up and coming artists to gig. In fact, it is ongoing seven days and nights a week. Honky-tonk Alley and Broadway intersection is the hottest place in town with several three and four stories high, packed to rafters and bands on each floor giving And as soon as one band vacates the another sets up!

touched in four days, what is able to and experienced in Nashville-central.

Another major item I am able to cross of my bucket list!!

T.T.

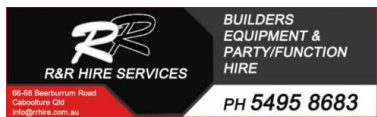
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**Moreton Bay Regional Council**



***J.B. in action during May  
the old 'Vox' with new Humbuckers***

## ***COUNTRY Music CLUBS - Monthly Date Claimers***

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

# Homestead

Country Music Club    Est. 9/7/96

*Check out our website ...*

<http://www.homesteadmusic.org>

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

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