

# LOW DOWN



**A 'Homestead'  
Country Music Club  
Publication**

**Issue No #6: March 2015**

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

### **Quotes for Month**

*Both are attributed to William Shakespeare, although not related:* -

***‘The earth has music for those who listen’***

***‘In music the passions enjoy themselves’*** W.S.(1564-1616)

## “My Say” Segment



Most people are inspired by the ‘Greats’. It doesn’t matter whether your preferences are sport, literature or music. It is those who achieve and reach great heights that create the momentum to further propel our meagre individual passions.

We are all different and all have varying degrees of what we want...and are prepared to work towards. In a small club like Homestead, this can be seen on a weekly basis, (and over time), the achievements of those dedicated to improvement.

To put it simply....I just love it !!

It doesn’t matter to me if it’s a beginner or an ‘old hand’, a senior or a junior;.. but I count myself lucky to have been on the spot to witness success, achievement and the joy such brings to the individual and all who witnessed the performance.

Some may find it strange, but it is why many of us keep coming back! It certainly is why I love to see effort rewarded and the delight which usually beams in the performer’s persona. It usually builds their self-esteem and pushes them to even greater individual heights the next month.

On a personal note to the application of extra effort, I am looking to working on giving some better performances in the future.

TT Editor



### Club Calendar

Urban Country Festival  
Queensland (Flag) Day  
Homestead Junior Expo (Festival)  
A.G.M.



1<sup>st</sup>- 3<sup>rd</sup> May  
8<sup>th</sup> June  
1<sup>st</sup> August  
25<sup>th</sup> August

# Composer's Corner

**A challenge is issued to our songwriters and especially, Bob, Peter and Norm to provide a lilt/melody (celtic or otherwise) to this sophisticated poem I've modified by adding a chorus.**

## Pickled

*The horse and cow live 30 years, and nothing know of Wine or Beers,  
The goat and sheep at 20 die, and never taste of Scotch or Rye,  
The sow drinks water by the ton, and at 18 is nearly done,  
The dog at 15 cashes in, without the aid of Rum or Gin.*

*Chorus: (or write your own) Away, Away, Away, Adieu;  
Pickles, (they) complement a stew,  
Scotch and Rye, and Rum and Gin  
'Pickled' you'll be, if ye keep a-drinkin'.*

*The cat in milk and water soaks, and then in 12 short years it croaks,  
The modest, sober, bone-dry hen, lays eggs for years and dies at ten,  
All animals are strictly dry, and sinless live and quickly die,  
But sinful, gin-full, rum-soaked men, survive for three score years and ten,  
And some of us, a mighty few, stay 'pickled' 'till 92.*

*Chorus: (or write your own) Away, Away, Away, Adieu;  
Pickles (they) complement a stew,  
Scotch and Rye, and Rum and Gin  
'Pickled' you'll be if ye keep a-drinkin'.*

*Anonymous*



## **HI-NOTES - FROM THE PRESIDENT**



Hi Folks and welcome to the first magazine for 2015.

With extensive flooding from the existing low and T.C. Marcia bearing down from the North, Homestead Committee had no choice but to cancel the February concert. All very sad but everyone's safety was paramount. Even though the Friday night remained quite clear – Norm, Frank and Bob were flooded in and no doubt many others as well. Not bad! only the second concert cancelled in 18 years. Many thanks to everyone (and social media) who spread the word.

A committee for 2015 Homestead Youth Expo has been elected with Peter taking on the Coordinator's task and Bob Cole as his right (and left) hand man. If you feel that you would like some input and assist the Expo committee in the lead up or on the day, please let Peter and/or Bob know, as 'many hands make light work'. Everyone is welcome at the meetings, even if you are not a committee member.

April concert will be a night dedicated to raising awareness and money for Australian Cervical Cancer Foundation. The night will be called 'Orange for Emma' and everyone – members and audience – are encouraged to wear something Orange. Emma is my 24 years old daughter-in-law who was diagnosed with this cancer before Xmas. She has just finished eight weeks of a rigorous treatment regime aimed at a cure but we have yet to find out her prognosis. The night is to raise a small amount of money (Queenie will be taking a 'hat' around) but more to raise the awareness of this preventable cancer – every two minutes, somewhere in the world, a woman dies of cervical cancer. If at the end of the night, one woman or young lady goes for a pap smear and is saved from 'Emma's' ongoing ordeal, I will consider the night a success. I thank you for your support.

The recent vandalism in the car park has had an outcome. The young children responsible were caught and cautioned but as minors (one a twelve year old girl), I doubt if there will be any further action taken. Previous to coming to vandalise our car park, these youngsters had run rampant at the show grounds and stolen bikes and it was the caretaker who had called the police.

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## AN AMERICAN COUNTRY MUSIC GREAT

Hiram King Williams was born on 17/9/1923 in Alabama. He was to become the most important influence to American country music and an important influence to gospel, blues and rock music and a lesser but definite influence on other popular music genre during and after his very short but musically extraordinarily productive life. His short life ended at 29 years of age on 1/1/1953. Most people know him under his stage name of **Hank Williams**. But, he also performed and recorded as The Singing Kid, The Hill-billy Shakespeare and Luke the Drifter.



After having been taught guitar chording and playing by Rufus “Tee-Tot” Payne, an older street performing blues musician, at a very young age of 14, he dropped out of school to take up a musical career with his mother's blessing, who acted as his agent and manager for many years. He gathered a number of fine musicians together to form his backing band called The Driftin' Cowboys. Although some changes occurred to the line-up during the years, the band always remained his backing band when he toured. He was born with a condition called Spina Bifida Occulta which caused him to suffer serious back pain continuously and because of his prolonged use of painkillers, he became addicted to prescribed drugs and alcohol. His death which occurred while he was travelling by car to his next concert was attributed to heart failure due to his addictions.

Hank Williams looms large in country music. His recognition as a pivotal figure is shown by the many awards received posthumously including:  
1960 – Star laid on the Hollywood Walk of Fame at 6400 Hollywood Blvd.

1970 – Induction into The Songwriters Hall of Fame

1985 – Induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

1987 – Induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame (Early Infl. Cat.)

1989 – Grammy award for Best country Vocal collaboration (There's a Tear in My Beer) with Hank Williams Jnr.

1989 – Vocal event of the year and music video of the year from CMA with Hank Williams Jnr.

1989 – Video of the year; Academy of Country Music w/- Hank Williams Jnr.

2010 – Pulitzer Prize Special award and citation for his pivotal role in transforming country music and as a cultural force in American life.

2011 - “Lovesick Blues” inducted to the Recording Academy Grammy Hall of Fame.

His adult life was a continuous battle with alcoholism and although he went into treatment programs, his painful back condition always saw him fall back into the same dependency to assist with pain relief.

Unfortunately his drunkenness saw him fired from a number of high profile positions with The Grand Ol' Opry and the famous radio show Mother's Best Flour with WSM radio station. After one of these firings Roy Acuff, one of his idols warning him of the dangers of alcohol told him, “You've got a million-dollar talent son but a ten cent brain.”

Regardless, he still managed to have an astounding 11 number one hits from 1949 to 1953 (two posthumously), nine of which he wrote including Lovesick Blues; Long Gone Lonesome Blues; Why Don't You Love Me; Moanin' the Blues; Cold Cold Heart; Half as Much; Hey Good Lookin'; Jambalaya and Kaw-Liga. His other number ones were: I'll Never Get Out of This World Alive and Take These Chains from My Heart...all this from a man who could not read or score music charts.

But it was his song-writing which was his greatest influence. His superb sway in country can be exemplified by the numbers above and some which didn't sell big including: Sea of Heartbreak and Dear John. A typical blues influence song was Diddy Wa Diddy, and who can ignore his gospel songs like, I Saw the Light and Sermon on the Mount. There have been renowned singers and songwriters from other music genre who have acknowledged him as being so influential in their own works including: Bob Dylan, Melissa Ethridge, Bruce Springsteen, Cheryl Crow, Bono from U2, Norah Jones, Sting, Tony Bennett, Willie Nelson and so many others.

Like so many great artists before and after him, his was a prodigious talent cut short. Fortunately in his instance his family have carried on in country music with his son Hank Williams Jr, his daughter Jett, his grandson Hank Williams III and granddaughters Hilary and Holly all performers. And, of course his music lives on today through so many country and cross-over music artists still performing his songs.

Norm Smith

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Feature Articles for *LOW DOWN* can be submitted to the editor !!



## **EYE ON STAGE**

To attempt to ponder and scrutinize the happenings on the raised platform in Stanmore Hall, is no small task. From the audience's perspective, it is pleasing to see the variety that continues to be a Homestead norm. This not only applies to style(s) and song selection but also quality of performance that makes Homestead the great concert and spectacle for us, a group of regular paying patrons, every month.



December 19<sup>th</sup>, saw the culmination of 2014 with great performances from those who indeed stepped up to the microphone. With a mix of carols, yuletide and country songs, there was a considerable number of superb renditions from our group viewpoint, of which three (3), stood out.

Firstly, Janet, ably accompanied by her mum, stunned us with her powerful delivery of 'Ave Maria'. You had to admit it was very special as there was complete silence from all seated in the hall.

Then, someone who sits back all year and supports everyone else, rose to the occasion. Billy Turgeon let us all know how a drummer can feature and stand out with a performance of 'Tails of a Raggy Tram Line'. It brought the hall alive after a couple of previous ballads.

Not to be out-done by anyone, it was Hannah who wooed the crowd with her 'Six White Boomers'. This is one young lady, who has blossomed during 2014 as she stepped up to the mark and proved that she definitely has the voice and poise of a fine stage performer.

It was a very warm night and from what we were advised, the heat affected the overall sound system which was not up to its best in sound reproduction. The desk operators looked notably 'frustrated at times.'



We had a great night! Christmas festivities had been kick-started!!

Anonymous, Regular Patrons



## **COUNTRY MUSIC CLUBS - MONTHLY DATE CLAIMERS**

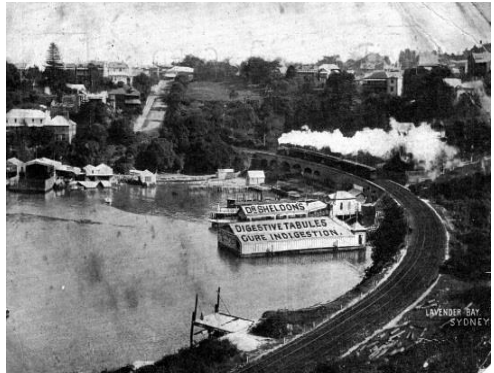
<b>First Friday</b> Pine Rives	Kallangur Community Centre	7:00 pm
<b>First Saturday</b> Brigalow Redlands Mod.	Wagner St., Eagleby Sports Reserve, Thornlands	6:45 pm 6:00 pm
<b>First Sunday</b> Coal City Gold Coast	Booval Bowls Club Southport Bowls Club	1:00 pm 1:00 pm
<b>Second Saturday</b> Blue Denim Northern Suburbs	Progress Hall, Clontarf Memorial Hall Gympie Rd. Bald Hills	7:00 pm 1.00 pm
<b>Second Sunday</b> Maroochy River Pioneer Village Twin Rivers	Bli Bli Hall North Pine Country Park Wagner St., Eagleby	1:00 pm 1:00 pm 12 noon
<b>Third Friday</b> <b>Homestead</b> Northern Suburbs West Moreton	<b>Stanmore Hall, Caboolture</b> Sandgate RSL Briggs Road, Raceview	<b>7:00 pm</b> 7:30 pm 7:30 pm
<b>Third Saturday</b> Boonah	Boonah Golf Club	7.00 pm (even months)
<b>Third Sunday</b> Guanaba Redcliffe	Heritage Park, Pimpama Redcliffe Showgrounds	12 noon 1:00 pm
<b>Fourth Friday</b> Redcliffe	Redcliffe Showgrounds	7:30 pm
<b>Fourth Saturday</b> Country Flavour Min Min	54 Rinto Road, Eagleby Kruger Hall Ann St, Kallangur	12 noon 7.00 pm
<b>Fourth Sunday</b> Blue Denim Roadhouse Pumicerstone	Progress Hall, Clontarf Wagner St., Eagleby Bribie Island Recreation Hall 158 First Ave Bribie Island	1:30 pm 12:30 pm 11.00 am
<b>Last Sunday</b> Cane Country Laidley	Jacaranda Avenue, Kingston Exchange Hotel, Laidley	1:00 pm 1:00 pm

# The story behind the song ...

For many of us, Little River Band songs are part of our musical heritage. Quirky ideas, great melodies and evocative story lines were their stock in trade ...and no more so than the story of the Long Jumping Jeweller of Lavender Bay. This song has been on JB's songlist for many years ... initially we just went with the flow, enjoying the song and the visual images it evoked. But was it a real story, or just an urban myth?

Lavender Bay is one of the inner North Shore suburbs that started out as a middle class Sydney commuter suburb, but over the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century leafy bungalows and boarding houses have gradually given way to high rise harbour-view units and hi-tech business precincts.

Our interest in the 'old' Lavender Bay grew when we found amongst JB's grandmother's effects, an early 20<sup>th</sup> Century postcard of Lavender Bay. In this picture you can see the streets, houses and some gardens. You can also see the old railway line which ended at what was then Milson's Point station, later to become the site of Luna Park.



On a trip to Sydney in 2006 we took a photo from across the harbour of approximately the same area as that of the old postcard. In this photo no streets are visible and no gardens, only high-rise unit blocks! And it seemed that no commuter ferry could make its way through the fleet of pleasure yachts moored in the bay itself.

But still we wondered a bit about the story of the Long Jumping Jeweller.

Then recently, we came upon a reference to a book by author Hugh Atkinson called 'The Jumping Jeweller of Lavender Bay'. We tracked down a copy in a bookstore in Maleny of all places and read that Hugh Atkinson had first written the tale as a short story in 1958. This had captured the imagination of some local film makers who produced a short 'boutique' film in 1972.

Although this film had a limited showing, the story gained some momentum and passed into local urban legend. Coincidentally, Glenn Shorrock and the Little River Band heard of that legend, and without having seen the written story, came up with their song quite independently in 1976.

Hugh Atkinson expanded his original story into that short novel in 1992, describing it as a 'whimsical fable'. It was to be the last of his fifteen novels ... he died in 1994.

After a visit there recently, Geoff McKenzie assured us that the ferry wharf was still there, but there was no regular ferry service in evidence ... here's a 2015 view via Google. The old rail tracks are still in existence, although they stop short of Luna Park and are now only a siding at the end of the line!



The story lines of the song and original book vary somewhat in essence, but the vision they both evoke are equally quirky. Anyone who has ever caught, nearly missed, or fully missed a ferry would love to be able to make that jump!

..Marion

...Continued from Page 5

I must congratulate some of our juniors who made it to Tamworth this year. I saw many photographs of Cassi Hilbers and Ruby Gilbert on a variety of stages and with a variety of 'stars' but one in particular took my eye and that was of Ruby sharing the stage (and a microphone) with Casey Chambers. Well done!

The brochure is already out for this year's Urban in May and along with the likes of Beccy Cole and Lee Kernigan, Cassi has her name in the line-up. Keep your calendars free.

Have a great night folks.

Cheers Barbara



## Homestead

Country Music Club *Est. 9/7/96*

*Check out our website ...*

<http://www.homesteadmusic.org>

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

*Locate us on Facebook 'Homestead Country Music'*

