

LOW DOWN




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

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Quotes for Month:

“Music has charms to sooth the savage beast, to soften rocks or bend a knotted oak.

William Congreve [*English playwright: 1670-1729*]

“My Say” Segment

Words are one of the most powerful things mankind has had at its disposal..... hence the saying, ‘the pen is mightier than the sword’.

The spoken and written word conveys our thoughts and feelings and how we use them sets us apart from others.

What we say can develop and/or ruin relationships, but more importantly, the shared meanings of words can bond us to some people and distance us from others.

My love of history and especially outstanding people of the past has provided all of us with legacies of their deeds and in many cases, it can be quite refreshing to note the wisdom of their utterances.

Vince Lombardo [1913-1970], the great American Football Coach said; “If you’ll not settle for anything less than your best, you’ll be amazed at what you can accomplish in your lives”.

So it follows that if you have a burning desire to do something and it’s the major goal in your life, nobody will need to motivate you. You will automatically come up with creative ways of doing it..... (to achieve it). When the ‘whys’ are big enough, the ‘hows’ take care of themselves.

As such, with 2016 up and running, I sincerely hope I can provide all Homestead members with the ‘*LOW DOWN*’ on all and sundry happenings in this our 20th celebratory year.

TT Editor





Only three events since the last issue of Low Down ... and
this report will be abbreviated to allow some extra space for the
'Tamworth' report below.

- At our usual Christmas Concert event we had a bumper crowd and a good selection of Christmas songs to entertain the audience. Juniors took to the stage with traditional vocal numbers and Christmas carols ... then Santa for the kids ... a great night with plenty of food for everyone.
- The 'Australia Day' show at the Historical Village was quite a departure from previous years ... no longer on the pub verandah, our new location was on a low stage and under a marquee in front of the Aircraft Museum.
This was a mixed blessing. We were a bit less 'front and centre' and had fewer spaces to store guitar cases and gear, but we had grandstand seats for the audience and less impact from other events
Downside was the need to split our show into two short and separate segments, **and then the rain!** With our 'support team' holding up umbrellas and valiantly trying to stem runoff from the marquee roof from causing electrical mayhem, we were forced to make an early finish!
- After our annual break, practice for the February Concert got off to a bit of a slow start. With only a three practice run-up, there were a few last-minute changes to the concert programme. It all came together, however, and our first 2016 concert was a resounding success, with a good attendance.
Featured in a guest spot was Gabrielle's group 'Mulletgut String Band', which wowed the audience with a selection of traditional bluegrass numbers

JB.



Glenn Frey – The Eagles

2016 had barely begun when we were to learn of the loss of one of the music greats of all time; Glenn Frey, aged 67 years, singer, songwriter, guitarist, visionary musician and band leader.



Glenn and drummer Don Henley were instrumental in the formation of 'The Eagles' in 1970. Over time, they were to become the most successful Country-Rock act of all time. Although classified as country-rock, their music has been described as a blend of country, soulful ballads, reggae, soft rock and country fusion.

There is certainly no argument as to the country flavour of songs such as 'Take it Easy' and 'Lyn' Eyes'. Whilst they were known primarily for their country-styled hits and thick harmonies, their music also featured some fine guitar picking and solos from Bernie Leadon, Don Felder, Joe Walsh and Glenn himself.

The enduring quality of their music, especially their hits, the freshness of their particular and recognisable sound and the exquisite harmonies that they were able to produce as a five (5) piece band set them apart from all others.

With 40 years' exposure to millions of dedicated fans, worldwide, that even embraced and traversed generation gaps, it is no



surprise that their songs will remain a lasting legacy within the music industry and society in general.

Glenn will forever be remembered for his song-writing skills with numbers like 'Hotel California', 'New Kid In Town', 'Desperado', 'Lyn Eyes', 'Tequila Sunrise', 'Already Gone', 'The Heat Is On', 'Witchy Woman' and 'Peaceful Easy Feeling'; to name just a few.

It is difficult to imagine continuation of the group without him.

We salute his long-term contribution....Glenn Frey born Detroit Michigan – died New York City.

T.T. R4A E&OE



Presidents Prattle

Hello Everyone and welcome to the first Homestead Magazine for 2016,

This year is Homestead's 20th year and we have planned a few exciting events during the year. I will put out a calendar when things are finalised as there's a few changes to some of our social dates - due to a misunderstanding with our regular Hall bookings.

Vale – William (Bill) Chippendale. Bill passed away at Kilcoy hospital on Thursday 4th February. For those who will remember him, he was an avid country music and Homestead fan who started coming to Homestead 15 or more years ago with his wife (Peg). When she passed away, Janelle Groves brought him along for many years more until he was too frail to be out at night. I nursed him at Kilcoy and he reminisced many times about Homestead and various club members he asked after. Bill was the father of Councillor Greg Chippendale who has also been a great support of Homestead club and 'Junior talent Expo' over many years. Bill was one of nature's true gentlemen and will be missed by his family and those who knew him.

Peter and I took a trip to South Australia during the break and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. We stayed with my niece Tracey who runs a wonderful B&B in Gladstone (SA) – Conningham Cottage. My highlight was Kanyaka Homestead ruins and Peters was Peterborough steam town. Loved the ruins amongst the wheat crops and reading their often sad history – now defunct towns as folk didn't believe the 'Goyder line' was to be heeded.

Have a great night folks and look forward to spending our 20th year in your company.

Cheers Barbara





Conningham B&B Gladstone SA



Kanyaka Ruins SA

All 'Country Roads' lead to Tamworth in January

Several of our younger Homestead members went to Tamworth this year and really got in amongst it all. We have captured some of their impressions in their own words for the March magazine.

Mikara Freeman

This was my first experience at Tamworth Country Music festival and I had a ball! Overall the atmosphere of the festival was so positive and the crowds were some of the best you could hope to play for. I played around the festival most days and kept myself busy in between gigs seeing songwriters sessions and attending shows of other artists that I had met during the week.

The support shown by the bigger-named artists was incredible, with most of them inviting the younger musos up on stage with them to sing or play. I was given so many invitations to sing on stages all over the town. Again this was something I hadn't expected to see however it gives me faith that country music will continue to grow with the help of the current generation of musicians.

Overall the festival was a massive eye opener as to how diverse country music can be and how even though every artist is singing country there is always something unique each of us can bring to country music.

I look forward to going back to Tamworth next year!

(Note .. Mikara went to Tamworth as the 2015 Champs winner)

Gabrielle Kerr

2016 for me is becoming a year of many wonderful opportunities and experiences; and the thing that started off this great year was my trip to Tamworth.

Originally I had no plans to go this year (although I was wishing I could) and then one of the members of the Wayward Angels (our guitarist in the Mullet Gut String Band) asked if I'd like to join her in going this year and play fiddle for her group. Of course I jumped at the opportunity! We played four gigs, three of which filled a very busy Saturday.

The venues we played at were the Hog's Breath Cafe, the Post Office Hotel, and also on Fanzone! My favourite was Fanzone I had an absolute blast! With our busy schedule we never had much time to see many other acts but a standout was Chris Matthews who played after us on Fanzone; he had an enormous amount of energy on stage which made him a brilliant act to watch.

Campsite jams were a regular occurrence, and by fate or luck we were camped next to two fiddle players from Canada; the Keister sisters. Jamming with them was definitely a highlight! They recommended the Calgary stampede saying I would have a ball there. So now that's a definite bucket list item if it ever was, and speaking of bucket lists: before we left we took photos in front of the famous Golden Guitar, we couldn't leave without ticking that one off of the list. It was sad to leave but I can definitely say that I want to go back next year!

Cassi Hilbers

I had the most amazing time in Tamworth this year! It started off with being asked to sing at the Aristocrat Entertainer of the Year Show. I came third which was really exciting! Gina Timms was a judge and she asked me to come and sing at her show. I ended up doing this twice during the festival, so I am really appreciative of Gina for asking me! I also received some lovely comments from Beccy Cole and Libby O'Donovan, which was

really nice. I sang at the Fresh Sounds of Tamworth Show at the services club, which I was asked to open, Fanzone, Tamworth Town Hall, and Post Office Hotel ... and Liam and I finished off with an a show outside under the sails at The Pub. All in all it was a great festival! It's always fun to catch up with everyone and I have already secured some great gigs for next year which is awesome! I am really looking forward to going back to Tamworth in July for the CMAA Academy of Country Music.

Liam Kennedy Clark

My trip to Tamworth was an absolute blast ... I attended the Senior Academy of Country Music for the first two weeks of January where I met many great people, both new and experienced. I was a part of the Academy band where we played for all the students and mentors alike. The mentors we were lucky enough to learn from include the likes of Lyn Bowtell, Roger Corbett, Kevin Bennett, Catherine Britt, and many more. From these people I gained lessons and experience which is invaluable from people who know the industry, and have been a part of it at a professional level for some time. A real highlight would be singing alongside and jamming with Kasey Chambers while at the academy.

After that we were all go into the festival, where I was averaging about 2-3 gigs per day, both solo performances, duo gigs, band gigs, and session work in bands. I got to work alongside some great musicians which is always a lot of fun and rewarding at the same time.

The biggest highlight for me of the festival itself would be performing in the Toyota Star Maker Top 10 finals, where I played two original songs off my new EP. Although unsuccessful in making the top 3, being a part of it was unreal, as I have always wanted to be a part of the competition, and have always looked up to the many gone through it, inclusive of winners and finalists, and to be able to stand on the stage that so many have before, was a privilege in itself.

Although, I came to a bit of a rough ending at the festival, in which my car got written off after being involved in a crash, all in general was great.

New friends made, CDs sold, and (as it has been for the past four years), the festival has been the best one so far.

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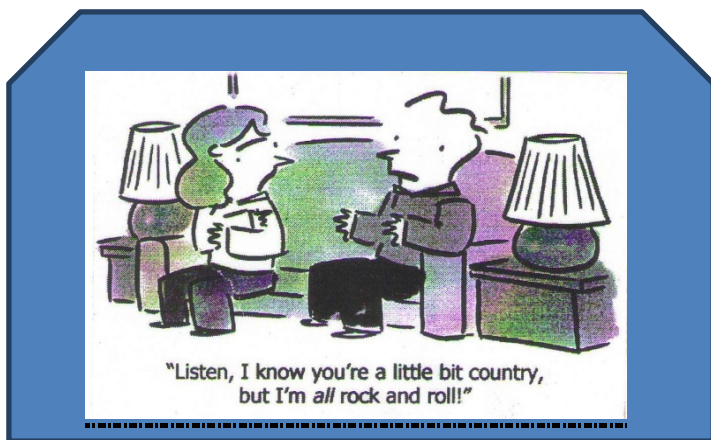


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LEARNING TO LEARN

Did you study music in High School? Or play in the school band? If so, chances are you're a better listener and reader than your non-music peers.

A study from the North-western University School of Communication in the U.S.A. found that two to three hours of musical training each week during high school years helped teens' brains mature.

This meant they were better at responding to sound and had a heightened sensitivity to aural details.

The study also found the music training led to an improvement in the language skills necessary for reading. Although learning to play music doesn't teach skills, specific, that seem directly relevant to most careers, the results suggest that music may engender what educators refer to as 'Learning to Learn.

Study Author Nina Kraus NUSC U.S.A.

<http://www.homesteadmusic.org>

Homestead Country Music

