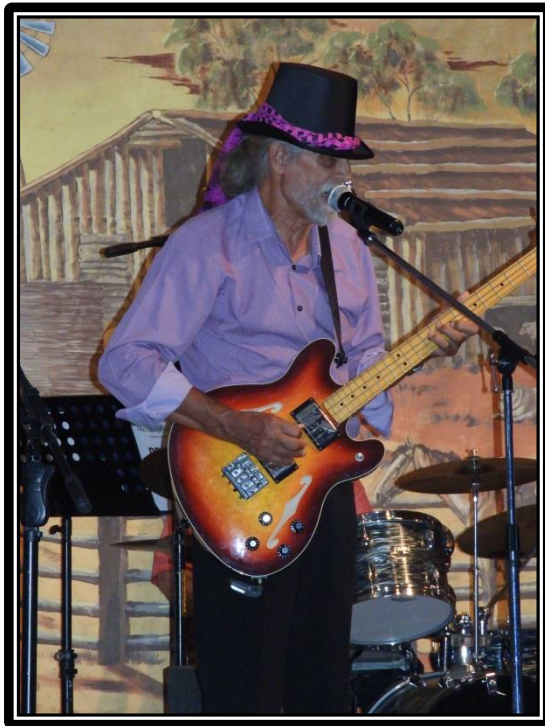


# LOW



# DOWN



A **“Homestead”**  
Country Music Club  
Publication

Issue No #31: **March 2021**

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

### **FRONT COVER:**

JB John Boetje -  
*To many... a Homestead Legend.*

## **Quote for the Month**

"I like my nights Starry, my days Sunny and my life Country."  
***Cynthia Arias (1977)***



## PRESIDENT'S WORDS

Hello. Well fortunately, most of us from the Homestead family and friends have made it so far through Covid 19 with very few ill effects health wise. Of course a number have been financially, socially and not least mentally affected and I'm sure you all join with me to wish anyone who has been unfortunate the best in the future. (I really hate the phrase "going forward". It makes me think of a rugby scrum!!)

A future, with the "jab" to assist us, may to be getting back to some semblance of the old normal.

However, we presently still have to contend with the effects of the virus and the rules by which we have to live, work and play. My personal view is that it will be some months yet before enough people receive the injection to allow our governments to relax the rules sufficiently for our concerts to continue as they were.

Presently Homestead has number restrictions placed on Stanmore Hall of 73 people total including all members and audience attending. We have managed to continue rehearsals Tuesday nights keeping under that number to prepare for possible future concerts.

In any case, until some "normality" is reached we still have to contend with the hall renovations not yet being completed. The new kitchen area has been finished almost to usable stage and on good authority we are advised the hall will again be able to be in use by the end of April. That is good news but we will have to see how it goes. There has been no mention of a renovated bar area yet, but that may be well in the future.

There have been opportunities for us to conduct concerts but at a venue in Woodford and only in the latter months of 2020 and in March 2021. Of course we had to take the available times when the venue could fit us into its bookings and none of those were on our usual third Friday of the month. We are hopeful also of having our brand new PA equipment all up and running for our first concert at the hall but we are presently awaiting delivery of some on-stage monitor speakers, the last items, as yet to be received by the suppliers from the manufacturer in Japan. It may be that they will arrive in the next few weeks, (fingers crossed). Of course then comes the matter of learning how to use the system correctly. There is probably going to be a steep learning curve for some of our members prepared to assume the job of sound desk operator.

Given all the obstacles we still intend to give our members every opportunity to perform at a concert or concerts if we can again book the venue. There will be lots of notification of any upcoming event and we would all be delighted to have the company of our audience friends. Until then stay well and keep an eye/ear out for news of our next foray into country music.

Norm Smith (President)

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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:

*(Check the Web Page for up-coming guest artists & shows)*



*We reassuringly await a Covid-free re-opening !!*

*Hope to see you there soon!*

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**Attention: All Members & Patrons**

***'CONTAINERS FOR CHANGE'***

**Recycling to boost Youth Expo Fundraising.**

Homestead has an ID C10134337 for you to quote and money redeemed 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.





## ***‘My Say’ Segment***



Despite financial loss, job insecurity, mental stress and anxiety, there is immense optimism, resilience and hope within the Australian music industry (especially Country) that will engender a post-pandemic future of not only survival, but also a bounce back of substantial significance due to those that have had the ability to adapt and innovate.

According to “Making Music Work Industry Reports” [18/6/2020],... ‘Musicians were among the hardest hit by Covid-19 ... the industry heavily impacted and will be slow to recover.’ Unfortunately, as lockdown restrictions ease in some areas and are eventually renounced, music venues will be one of the last to re-open with festivals and large-scale concerts remaining ‘low on the government’s list of priorities’, [CMO Brendan Murphy].

With live performance “On Hold”, many musicians have looked and sought “on line” & “virtual performance” to maintain fundamental populous contact.

Being creative and accommodating has paid dividends!

Maybe some of the group can arrange a few more members to participate via virtual performance as did Liam, Bek and Norm.

One of the great pluses during Covid has been the general public ‘turning to music’ to cope with crisis. We use music to soothe, bring humour, stability and a sense of community in our lives. Music can be a form of self-medication and meditation and has always aided people to process grief and provide solace and joy in the midst of calamity and stress.

Music can help us get through some of the toughest moments in our lives. It has, in fact, connected, consoled and distracted us during this lengthy pandemic.

We, as a local Country Music club, have not been as severely affected as the likes of Tamworth and Gympie where an annual event of considerable size, planning and financial endeavour has had to be cancelled but vaccination of the population will hopefully bring some semblance of return to normality to society.

Let’s make 2021 a year of revival, group support and merriment.

TT Editor

## THE BUSHWACKERS



If you were to compile a list of true blue, fair dinkum Aussie bands, you would certainly find THE BUSHWACKERS right up near the top of that list.

Founded at La Trobe University in Melbourne in 1971, the ‘Original Bushwackers’ were guitarist Dave Isom, tea-chest bass player Jan Wositzky and lagerphonist Bert Kahanoff. Over the next few years, drums, fiddles and an accordion were added. The band went full-time in 1974 when Dobe Newton replaced Bert in the group and their first album, *Shearer’s Dream*, was released. The band also toured the UK for the first time that year.

Fast forward 50 years or so, now with 30 albums under their belt, the BUSHWACKERS have won three Mo Awards for Best Country Group and CMAA Awards for Bush Ballad, Instrumental and Heritage Track of the Year.

Roger Corbett, now the band’s main songwriter, joined in 1980 and the Bushwackers have delighted audiences throughout Australia and all over Europe ever since. Roger is heavily involved in the CMAA and the Academy course to which our Homestead Expo participants aspire each year.

The current line-up features Dobe and Roger with fiddlers Mark Oats, Clare O’Meara and Gabi Blissett, drummer Andy Gatus,

guitarists Ben Corbett and Liam Kennedy-Clark, and a range of other talented musicians. In all, more than 95 musicians have joined the Bushwackers on stage at one time or another. Some already big names in the business, others (in Roger's words) "still cutting their musical teeth on the road". It is a great credit to the leaders of this wonderful band that they provide up and coming musicians with such opportunities.

Homestead CMC is both proud and excited to see our own Liam Kennedy-Clark and Gabi Blissett taking full advantage of the opportunity to 'cut their teeth' and learn everything they can from life on the road with the iconic Australian band, The Bushwackers. We all wish them well.

If you haven't seen the Bushwackers in action for a while, consider a trip to the Gympie Muster 26-29 August – they'll be in fine form as usual!

Bob Cole

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IN REMEMBRANCE OF LAST YEAR (2020)



# CONCERT SPOTLIGHTS





**WE RECOGNISE AND THANK THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS:**

*Please support them with your custom wherever possible.*

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 <p><b><u>The Garden Shed</u></b> <i>Mowers, Chainsaws, Grass Trimmers, &amp; More.....</i></p> <p><i>Morayfield Road, MORAYFIELD</i></p>	 <p><b>JANET C'S ART (JANET CLAYDON)</b> <i>Australian Artist. Inspired by the Vast Richness of our Planet</i></p> <p>..... Look for me on Facebook</p>

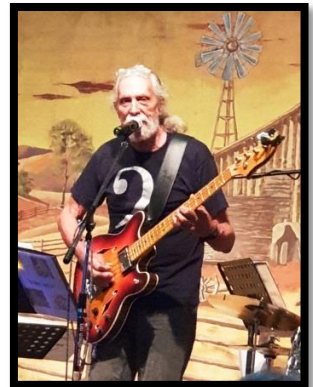
**MEMBER BIOGRAPHY JB**

Been a 'muso' almost all my life ... never really serious, aiming at fun rather than fame, certainly never a fortune!

**JOHN BOETJE [JB] →**



Started in High School in the early 60's, playing guitar in 'garage bands' before the phrase was even invented. Here we're doing the 'Peter, Paul and Mary' ... but we couldn't find a blonde!



Did my ‘apprenticeship’ in pubs and clubs around Wollongong, playing in 50/50 pop and old-time bands. Couldn’t afford to wait for the sheet music ... a new number came on the charts on Tuesday, the patrons expected to hear the band play it on Saturday night! It was mainly simple stuff, but excellent training.

The regular band that grew out of this scene had a great run, climaxing in a three-year season contract to play the snow-fields at Jindabyne ... down by coach after work on Friday, ski all Saturday, play all Saturday night, ski all Sunday, coach back to Wollongong Sunday night, get to bed at 2am, and back to work on Monday. Oh to be young again!

1970 saw a complete change in lifestyle, with a migration to the Central Queensland gemfields. Managed to get a little band together, but the transient population made it quite common to lose a guitarist and have only a fortnight to ‘break in’ another three-chord player before the next gig.

An accident put a bit of a crimp in my guitar-playing ability, but we pressed ahead, and got plenty of work around the district playing country dances. One year at our annual Gemfields Festival we staged a ‘mini-Woodstock’ with bands from three states and audience in the thousands.



Ten years later, and another move, to Brooweena, west of Maryborough, and a first try at the bass. I liked the meld of melodic and rhythmic content. Mucking round on bass at a local jam session, I was head-hunted by the Hervey Bay country rock group ‘Déjà Vu’ and began my ‘big-power’ phase.

At one stage we had the full outdoor rig, W-bins, the lot ... undoubtedly a factor in my hearing problems today! We played pubs, clubs and festivals throughout the Wide Bay district and had a great time until a back injury put me out of contention in 1986.

Took a couple of years to get back on my feet, and my return to music was another quirk of fate. An acquaintance asked me if I would enter a talent quest to raise money for the Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Foundation ... I said 'Sorry, I'm not really a solo performer' ... next day another pair turned up on my doorstep with a guitar and lagerphone and suggested some Australian bush music.

Cutting a long story short, we entered for a lark as 'Totally Anonymous', won the talent quest, picked up a great keyboard player, and rode the wave of bush dance popularity after the Bi-Centenary.

A change of job in 1993 and the new pressures involved put me out of the music scene until I discovered Homestead. It has been great to have the opportunity to keep my musical skills alive and work with such a talented and friendly bunch.

I enjoy playing a wide variety of musical styles, and lately I've been getting inspiration from the latest trends in country music being brought on board by our junior members.



**JB.**

# Country Music - Social Timetable



<b>First Friday</b> Pine Rivers	Kallangur Community Centre	7:00 pm
<b>First Saturday</b> Brigalow Redlands Mod.	Wagner St., Eagleby Sports Reserve, Thornlands	6:00 pm 5:00 pm
<b>First Sunday</b> Coal City Gold Coast Sundowners Velvet CMC	Banjoes Bar Ipswich Mermaid Beach Bowls Club Kallangur Bowls Club <b>On Hold</b> Queen/ Ulm Sts Caloundra	12:30 pm 11:00 am 11.45 am 12 Noon
<b>Second Saturday</b> Northern Suburbs	Memorial Hall Gympie Rd. Bald Hills	12 Noon
Country Roundup	Caboolture Senior Citzs Hall	12 Noon
<b>Second Sunday</b> Maroochy River Country Links Golden Wattle Maleny	Bli Bli Hall <b>On Hold</b> Bribie Indoor Bowls, First Av Cedar Street Wynnum Pioneer Village Bryce Lane, Maleny	12 Noon 11:00 am 1:00 pm 12 Noon
<b>Third Friday</b>		
<b>Homestead</b>	<b>Stanmore Hall, Caboolture</b> (on Hold due to Hall Renovations)	<b>7:00 pm</b>
<b>Third Saturday</b> Boonah	Boonah Golf Club	7.00 pm (even months)
<b>Third Sunday</b> 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
<b>Fourth Friday</b> Redcliffe Cane Country	Redcliffe Showgrounds Sherwood Magpies Club	7:00 pm 7:00 pm
<b>Fourth Sunday</b> Bribie Island	Bribie Island Recreation Hall 158 First Ave Bribie Island	11.00 am
<b>Last Sunday</b>		

## 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**  
Sponsored by  
**Moreton Bay  
Regional Council**



and

**Rosenbauer Australia**  
 **rosenbauer**

It is very much hoped that this Social Timetable will be fully operational with vaccine roll-out, post Covid-19.