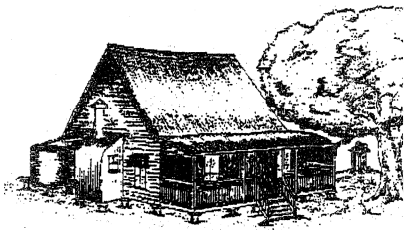


# LOW DOWN



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

Issue No #2 May 2014

*Cover Photograph. Celebrating the life of Sue Cobcroft in her rendition of "Sway"*

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...oooO.ooo...



**As the plane landed and was coming to a stop, a man in a Stetson and Riding boots walked to the control-tower microphone and in a booming voice quipped,:**

**“Whoa..., big fella, ...WHOA !!”**

## **Quote for Month**

*“After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible, is music”*

**Aldous Huxley**

...oooO.ooo...

## **“My Say” Segment**

The number of members who are capable of being part of the on-stage backing band has increased with membership and it now remains the responsibility of all members to ensure that as many as possible are given the opportunity to take their turn, learn this important area of Country Music and participate as part of the band.

This can be achieved by members using different lead, rhythm and bass players rather than constantly sticking with the previously used group of players. Just as we wish to boost our experience and gain knowledge from performing, so too can others be accommodated by varying our bass player and/or rhythm or lead guitarist.



On the subjects of Caring and Sharing, I remember learning that they are valuable life traits. I also recall reading that sharing information and experiences are entities that are seen as a public good and creative works like music, are at their core, about sharing with others. In fact, when we share our songs with the audience, we tell stories, reveal personalities, or comment on the world in ways that others can appreciate. We also enhance the elements of our culture, make our audience ponder, butter brainwaves and disperse complex, clever and rhythmic intellect.

I, for one, will endeavor to share the roles this year (to provide invaluable know-how) as well as support those who assist in between our Tuesday rehearsals.

**TT Editor**

## Club Calendar

Urban Country Festival	2 <sup>nd</sup> -4 <sup>th</sup> May
Queensland (Flag) Day	8 <sup>th</sup> June
Homestead Junior Expo (Festival)	2 <sup>nd</sup> August
A.G.M.	19 <sup>th</sup> August

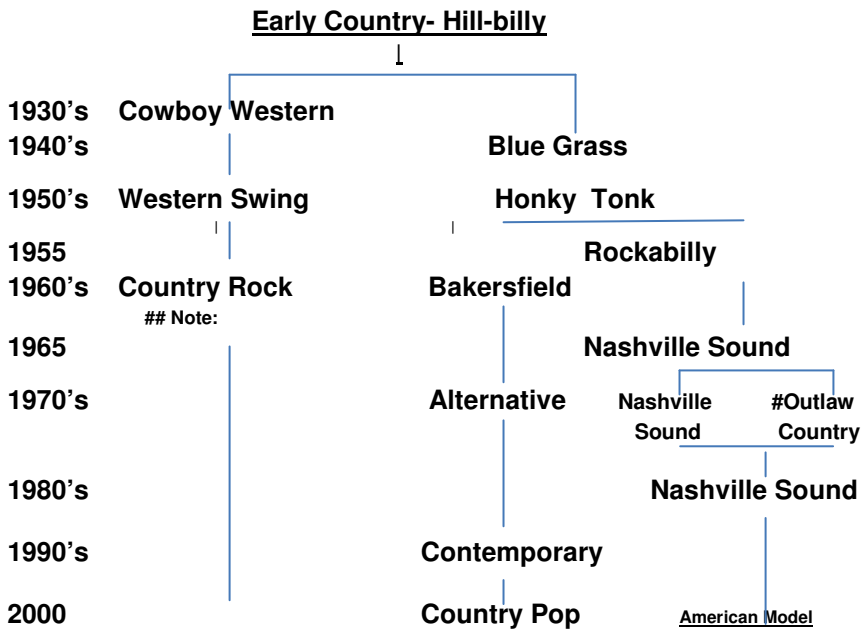
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## COUNTRY GENRES

The automobile has changed in shape and design, considerably and more than a few times since the early days of the Model T produced by Henry Ford. So too has Country Music.

Although many within the community resist change, it is the one constant, to state a conundrum, which we all need to embrace if we are not to be left behind. What has evolved and developed within 'Country' over time includes the following:

### *Timeline of Country Music Genres*



**In Australia, however, genre dissections have not totally adhered to the American pattern for a number of reasons. Australia's ties with Great Britain as part of the Commonwealth and the longevity of such artists as Slim Dusty have allowed Celtic and Bush Ballads to maintain a dominant role over an extended period within 'Country'. Another reason is the acceptance and blend of 'folk' within Australian Country Music, [considered part of our 'Bluegrass/Celtic'].**

**In America, to some extent, 'Folk' and 'Country' tended to distance themselves as each pursued its own agenda. Folk saw itself as part of an environmental, down-trodden, anti-war, movement to which its songs were directed. Nevertheless, Country Rock song 'One Tin Soldier' by Canadian band Original Castle and 'Pipes of Peace' by Paul McCartney, are notable exceptions.**

*[others include 'Peace Train' & 'Universal Soldier' etc.]*

**International influence has impacted on 'Australian Country' and is unavoidable when many of our most talented artists venture to the likes of Nashville studios to cut their latest recordings and enlist the services of international session musicians.**

**The various genres have diversified and enveloped the Country Music scene in such a way as to increase its appeal, its audience and its appreciation world-wide. Homestead Country Music has, over the years, embraced these changes and different genres, and many categories are to be seen 'on stage' at Stanmore Hall. It is all part of 'Country' !**

**## Note:** The longevity of Country Rock is considered to be partly due to extended appeal of bands such as 'The Eagles'.

**#Outlaw Country** was a short-lived Genre replaced with a re-invigorated Nashville Sound which incorporates orchestral instrumentation and remains a popular format to this day.

TT R4A E&OE

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**Next Issue's Feature Article; the *LOW DOWN* noted 'Implications of Genre Crossover'**

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## **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dear members and friends of Homestead

As most people now know, Geoff McKenzie has resigned as Homestead's President in March 2014. I take this opportunity to thank Geoff for his time and efforts as President during a difficult time of change-over from being under the auspice of ACMA to striking out on our own as a fully independent Inc. club.

I have been reflecting on how life goes in cycles and I find myself back in the Presidents chair (recycled if you like) after an absence of 18 years. When we struck out as Homestead in 1996, we had eight members remaining from the Bribie Island branch ACMA – Peter Bigg, Marianne Harth, Dixie and Ashley Jaggard, Winston Walker, Tracey and Gary Nicholson and myself, with a bank balance to match the membership. 1996 was the year when John Howard became Prime Minister, Dolly the sheep was cloned, Mad Cow disease hit Britain, Prince Charles and Princess Diana were divorced, EBay and DVDs were launched and a little girl called LeAnn Rimes was singing 'Blue'.

Although there were only eight of us, we fought long and hard to rebuild as Homestead and with the people we have gathered and retained on our way through those 18 years, (who have proven to be loyal friends, great musicians/members and a faithful audience) we still have a magnificent club today.

I would like to thank all those people who have been so wonderful to me (but more especially to Homestead) over the years and have no doubt that we will keep going forward for many years to come. I have faith that we will continue accomplishing our ultimate aim of producing and enjoying some excellent music, but more importantly fostering and enjoying the comradeship that comes from our shared love of music.

Have a great night folks.

Cheers Barbara

## Eye on Stage



The year kicked off to a flying start with our February concert producing the best Homestead performances of 2014 from every performer. Added to this, there were some stellar performances from many who would have gone home on a 'high'.

Stanmore Hall continues to reverberate the sounds of past and present country music stars with February and March concerts including songs by Slim Dusty, Reg Lindsay, Johnny Cash, Tammy Wynette, Trisha Yearwood, John Williamson, Kacey Musgraves, Sara Storer, John Denver, Taylor Swift, Carrie Underwood, Gordon Lightfoot, Dolly Parton and Charley Pride to name just a few... these renditions of 'Country' via talented Homesteaders.

Crowd numbers were down a little in February with quite a few still away on holidays but numbers were back to normal by March.



Our 'sound techs' continue to tweak the new PA equipment and it will not be long before they have all the minor 'glitches' sorted.

I hope you all enjoyed both concerts, year to date, as much as I did.

T.T.

PS. The exuberance of our youth never ceases to amaze me. Foot-tapping and dancing are to be applauded as they exhibit added appreciation. I have noticed more of it of late as our younger members mingle during rehearsals.



## I BELONG HERE



*I sit here on my veranda. My old bones warm in the sun.  
My mind fills with distant thunder and the far-off highways' hum.  
The wanderlust of others passed me by long ago in my youth.  
This country's home and I love it. A lifetime spent here is proof.  
My life on the land was well spent though it left me with breaks and with scars.  
There's a freedom I've always sensed: no walls, no borders, no bars.*

*Hidden treasure draws men to this land, not coal nor oil or gold.  
But stand 'neath a night of stars and you can feel it fill your soul.  
Its beauty is veiled to some eyes, those with their minds on green fields.  
Browns and reds possess their own splendour. I feel it down to my heels.  
And I've lived through a farmer's worst fears: droughts, bush fires, and flood.  
But this land whispers, "You belong here". This country runs deep in my blood.*

*I hope I echo this country, its character resilient and tough,  
Brimming with age-old experience beneath a surface so rough.  
A tough life but a good one a demanding of things to be done,  
A growing older and closer together this land and its dutiful son  
So I feel a quiet satisfaction as I sit out here in the sun  
This is my land, my Australia, and I know it's here I belong.*

*Anonymous Homestead Member*



## *Notable Aussie Songs & Hits of Yester-year*

1891	Click Go The Shears	Author unknown
	(first published as “The Bare Bellied Ewe”) [from ‘Ring the Bell’ by Henry Lawson]	
1895	Waltzing Matilda	A.B. Paterson
1924	The Prisoner’s Song	Vernon Dalhart
1930	Railway Bum	Tex Morton
1937	The Sandy Hollow Line	Duke Tritton
1941	I’m a Happy Go Lucky Cowhand	Smoky Dawson
	Where the Golden Wattle Blooms	Shirley Thoms
1946	When the Rain Tumbles Down in July	Slim Dusty
1952	The Sheik of Scrubby Creek	Chad Morgan
1957	Pub with No Beer	Slim Dusty
1960	Little Boy Lost	Johnny Ashcroft
1962	I’ve Been Everywhere	Lucky Starr
1964	4,003,221 Tears from Now	Judy Stone
1970	Old Man Emu	John Williamson
	Goondiwindi Grey	Tex Morton
	Royal Telephone	Jimmy Little
1972	The Band Played Waltzing Matilda	Eric Bogle
1974	Armstrong	Reg Lindsay
1981	True Blue	John Williamson
1992	Boys From The Bush	Lee Kernaghan
1999	Where the Blacktop Ends	Keith Urban
2003	True Colours	Kasey Chambers
2008	Long Distance Love Affair	Davidson Bros.

R4A E& OE



## TO BE, OR NOT TO BE COUNTRY... *THAT IS THE QUESTION*

There has been much said and written over the centuries relating to music in its 'so-called' Purity. There are many writers and musicians in mainly the western world who are engrossed and in some instances obsessed with the idea that music should only be presented in what they deem its 'uppermost' forms. All other music according to their narrow views is an abomination. Country music of any sort is considered by these people as vulgar and common.

However popular music is written by members of the masses for the masses. Quite often it is written with the express purpose of making money and specifically aimed at a certain demographic of the population. But, it is also written as a form of expression in a format that just happens to appeal to a section of society. Music writers and lyricists, (often the same person), can often find no other way to express their ideas, messages, stories, criticisms or concepts in any other form. It's the same for country music.

There are many other media forms of course such as the written word, sculpture, painting, drawing, etc., which also serve as a means of communication. However, the song format in popular music seems to be the one which expresses emotion and concepts so well in such a small package that people generally can adopt it as their own form of expression.

Writing a song takes no great acquired knowledge of music; years of training; nor being a disciple of any great learning process. It only takes a tune and some words. And, as much as the pundits of the music publishing and recording companies believe they know what sells, there will always be songs written by complete unknowns that become wildly popular confounding these faceless outfits.

The companies also try advertising/brain washing to have people buy the music they think should sell (to make a profit of course). It may take some time but eventually people see through the facade.

But people also know what they like and should they like country music then they will listen to, sing, whistle and play country music songs that appeal to them. These people generally decide what they find appealing and so they decide what is or is not country.

The arguments of those who try to classify what is, or is not country are totally up against popular opinion and bound to lose in the long term. I personally class those trying to convince others that country music is only what they say it is, in the same company as the 'purists' I referred to above.

Country music is to be enjoyed in whatever form you prefer. However we must remain open-minded regarding music others consider country.

"Live and let live", sounds right to me.

N.S.

## CMC 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	Progress Hall, Clontarf	7:00 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> Homestead Northern Suburbs West Moreton	Stanmore Hall, Caboolture Sandgate RSL Briggs Road, Raceview	7:00 pm 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 3:00 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

## "Success in Performance"

The challenges we face are, in the main, self-inflicted as we endeavour to produce a first class performance at each concert. This applies to the experienced and not-so, the youth and the elderly amongst us. In so doing, we all need the following attributes:

### Positive Self-Awareness:

Be inquisitive and willing to learn new things.

Embrace possibilities and challenges as 'opportunities in work clothes'.

Continue to grow every year of your life -(Don't remain in a petrified forest.)

Read a good book.

Make the most of every day. (Include sunrises, sunsets and the world around you where appropriate. When did you last watch a koala climb a mighty Gum?)

Never sell yourself short.

*: continued next issue.*

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## **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'*

