

LOW DOWN



Cassi Hilbers



A **'Homestead'**

**Country Music Club
Publication**

Issue No #8: September 2015

Index ...

♪ <u>Editorial</u>	“My Say” Segment	P 3
♪ <u>Eye on Stage</u>		P 4
♪ <u>‘Youth Talent Expo’</u>		P 6/7
♪ <u>Music-flavoured Horoscope</u>		P 8/9
♪ <u>From the President</u>	- ‘Hi Notes’	P 10
♪ <u>Homestead Travelers</u>	- Boppa /JB&Marion	P 12&14
♪ <u>Painting by Carmel Kerr</u>	- “Keith”	P 16



Contacts ...

President	Barbara Hall	Ph: 07 5496 1487 or 0411 602613
Vice-President	Bob Cole	Ph: 07 54838236
Secretary	Peta-Maree Thornton	
Treasurer	Frank Moroney	Ph: 5493 0974
Webmaster	John Boetje	Ph: 3889 1185
Magazine Editor	Trevor Tinworth	Ph: 3886 1880



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

Quotes for Month

“Our biological rhythms are the symphony of the cosmos, music embedded deep within us to which we dance, even when we can’t name the tune.”
- Deepak Chopra 1947 - USA

“My Say” Segment

I was taught never to accept things at face value.

Always investigate, look deeper, question and analyse before acceptance.

Of the many examples my father provided... one of Moses, has never left me. Here was a man who after 40 years of age, [1500BC] and having lived a life of privilege in the Royal Pharaoh's household, did an 'about-face' and led the Hebrews out of slavery in Egypt. What of those 40+ years and what influences were ingrained in such a mature-aged man?

He had been destined for high office, having been schooled in writing, law and Egyptian religion. And astrology and numerology played a large part in their teachings and beliefs, both of which are still present in the 21st century. Nonetheless, the Sun, Moon and Stars have always fascinated mankind and Astrology was the science of the time in 1500BC.

Heeding my father's advice and questioning things has paid dividends and is, in today's world of communication overload, almost mandatory.

Just as our ancestors gazed into the skies with wonder, there is no reason, regardless of our advances in technology, we should not do also.

Notwithstanding, I have challenged myself in this issue, in line with appropriate, astrological investigation, to produce a horoscope, something that I have always said I should attempt.

Questioning, however, does have its limitations and procrastination can lead to loss of opportunity in certain situations. Music Theory was one area I had difficulty accepting without query and further explanation, but procrastination lost me many an opportunity, I have since regretted.

I am however firmly of the opinion that, no matter how much we have thrown at us in this era of communicative bombardment, we should endeavor to query anything that may have any form of impact on our or our society's lives. Damage from inaction can impact negatively.

Nevertheless, hesitation before acceptance is, I believe, a necessity in the 21st century.

TT Editor



EYE ON STAGE



Our audiences numbers have dwindled somewhat. This is a normal occurrence during the coldest months. Old Stanmore Hall can be frigid at times and I can fully appreciate the hesitation of even some of our dedicated audience members to attend. The good news is the cold months are about over and we will again see capacity crowds for our concerts. It happens every year like the swallows returning to Capistrano!

Our club is blessed with some very talented junior members and they shone in both of the last two concerts and our Junior EXPO. Not just in the performance area but also behind the scenes in the running, the music and the sound system operation for all those events.

This EXPO, Homestead took the step of providing our own sound system and operators for the competition, as opposed to hiring outside help, and, there were no complaints received from any of the competitors, the judges, the audiences and our working members regarding the sound. It was gratifying in fact to receive complements from various people from all those categories as to the sound quality. Largely that comes down to the expertise and dedication of both our younger members, Jonathan Sweeper and Jennifer Cole who spent significant time on the mixing desk. The trial runs on concert nights paid off!

The quality of performances of the competitors has been referred to separately but I would now add my own well done to all who competed. There were some superb performances and an absolute show stopper with Janet Cuffe performing a piece from “The Phantom of the Opera” in the anything goes segment. My personal favourite was the fiddle instrumental piece by Gabriel Kerr called “Buckshot Mountain”.

Mention should also be made of the excellent musicianship of both Jennifer Cole and Liam Kennedy-Clark who were both an integral part of the backing band for the EXPO. Peta-Maree Thornton has also been integrated as a formal member into the backing band and handled it with aplomb.

Finally I would like to congratulate our adult members for their great performances in these last two concerts. Notwithstanding the cold conditions, I thoroughly enjoyed these concerts.

Well done all.

N. S.

Happy birthday dear Roster ...

September was the second anniversary of the Homestead Roster System

What the heck's a Roster System, and why does Homestead need one??

Like most Country Music Clubs, Homestead worked on the principle of each vocalist having two songs to sing at the monthly concert.

In earlier times this left enough space for walkups, guest artists, and visits from other CMCs ... but by early 2013 the growth in membership was making this difficult to sustain.

Using his IT experience, JB created a computerized system to manage a sequence where each vocalist is rostered for one or two songs in a rotation that is fair to everybody. The initial application first went 'on trial' in September 2013 ... hence the 'birthday'

This increase in membership also impacted on practice nights, with those vocalists at the end of the evening's schedule possibly missing out.

The system soon morphed into an application to manage practice sessions, giving each vocalist a standardised length of time on stage.

Since its inception, the system has seen quite a few changes, both to ensure fair and equitable treatment for all members, and to incorporate enough flexibility to take various 'human' requirements in its stride.

Over time, the Roster System has evolved into a communication tool that allows each vocalist to get the best outcomes from their 'Homestead Experience.' Using this system vocalists ...

- nominate their song(s) and members of 'their band'
- communicate their charts and downloads of their songs.
This gives band members a chance to learn the songs
- are aware in advance of which part of the evening their practice session will take place, allowing 'arrive late' or 'leave early'

Those taking full advantage have been rewarded with a much better sound.

Right now Homestead membership seems to be fluctuating, and once again most vocalists are getting two songs. Come what may, vocalists can still use the roster system to their best advantage. JB.

‘YOUTH TALENT EXPO’ - 2015



The highlight of August every year for Homesteaders is our ‘Youth Talent Expo’. The festival provides an opportunity for young performers to test themselves on stage in front of country music circuit judges and a highly supportive audience.

This ninth Homestead Expo was again a raging success – plenty of generous sponsors (both within the club and from the local community), lots of willing workers, and an exceptionally talented group of young competitors. Numbers were lower than in past years but all agreed that the quality was as high as ever. The performers competed in two categories: Juvenile (up to 12 Years) and Junior (13-17 years) and ranged from absolute first-timers to some who have been competing for several years. They came from as far afield as Gympie and Toowoomba and some of those who travelled were well rewarded on the day.

The 2015 Juvenile Champion was 12 year old **Sophie Volp** from the Garden City Club, based in the Toowoomba area. The Junior Champion was **Alison Jensen** from Gympie, now a new Homestead member. Sophie was also crowned as the 2015 Overall Champion by last year’s winner, Cassi Hilbers, who performed a great set prior to the presentation ceremony. Apart from trophies, cash and other prizes, Sophie and Alison will be invited to perform on **Homestead’s stage at Urban Country** in May, 2016. Sophie will also perform a **paid 30 minute set on the main stage** during Urban 2016.

Homestead CMA thanks each and every member who contributed in any way, big or small, to the success of the 2015 Expo. A very big shout out to our seven excellent judges – Cheryl-Lee Garnett, Darryn & Tracy Robinson, Tamiann Morgan, Lance Coassin, Liam Brew and Caitlyn Shadbolt. Their judging sheet comments and personal conversations afterwards will provide a boost to our young performers as they seek to improve on stage. A comment worthy of repeating here came from Liam Brew – “For every win I ever had, there were a hundred losses and those

losses are what made me work harder to improve my performances. That's how I eventually ended up with a career in country music."

Next year will be our 10th junior festival and promises to be bigger and better than ever. Well done everyone!

Bob Cole

(on behalf of Peter Bigg (Coordinator) & the Expo committee.



Sophie Volp



Alison Jensen

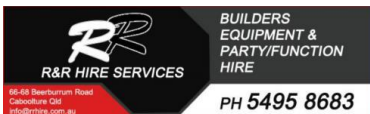
.....000000000000.....

We would like to recognise and thank the following Sponsors:



**Chainsaws, Grass Trimmers,
Mowers & More...**

Stihl Shop Morayfield



R & R Hire



**Palmwoods
Hotel**

Beerwah & Palmwoods Hotel



for all your music requirements



WWW.BITSTRIPS.COM

2015

LOW DOWN

2016



HOROSCOPE



♍ Virgo [23/8-22/9] The influence of Mercury (& Chiron) will enhance your problem-solving ability intellectually and if you endeavour to be open-minded and even more empathetic, solutions are likely to reveal themselves as if by chance. *Sing a song of sixpence. The pie you create will have more than black birds in it! Acoustic and acapella tastes lie here!*

♎ Libra [23/9-22/10] The steadying influence of Venus will assist in your quest for harmony and (*easy-listening*) balance. Blind acceptance is not part of your makeup but questioning things has its limits and those who can make the decisions to move forward will find their way..even their utopia. *Not only does music feed the soul, it can become all too consuming.*

♏ Scorpio [23/10-21/1] The smorgasbord of life offerings can overwhelm you. Do you attempt or reject (a genre)? Don't forget that there are always opportunities to re-evaluate and assess situations. Although action speaks louder than words.....melodically, Pluto will guide you as you successfully navigate the obstacles of life with astute rhythmic vibrations. *Clang, Clang, Clang went the trolley...Ding, Ding, Ding went the bells!!*

♐ Sagittarius [22/11-21/12] Remember not to generalise when evaluating and processing information. Philosophise, by all means, but make sure you have plenty of substance prior to decision making &/or action. Jupiter cannot do it alone but with support from Saturn's rings honing your skills on a new song are not out of the question. Your preferences for laid-back and upbeat music will impact on your temperaments and daily routine. *Skip to the beat of the drum!*

♑ Capricorn [22/12-19/1] Being meticulous has paid dividends and as opportunities come your way, relish the challenge(s) and the aftermath which should always be deemed a beneficial lifetime experience. Nevertheless, just as your talents for organisation are sought and utilised, don't forget the word 'share' or you may be left with all the tasks. Your ruling planet Saturn will aid in knowledge sharing. *Whistle a happy tune!*

♊ [Aquarius](#) [20/1-18/2] Your ruling planet Uranus is feeding off Mercury the Messenger to encourage your participation in humanitarian and just causes which will directly or indirectly lead to a larger social life and circle of friends, hence the charity gig. Whether rebellious or accommodating, inclined to appreciate alternative music.

Do you feel the rhythm and music in your veins?

♋ [Pisces](#) [19/2-20/3] There are some truly wonderful things in this world that defy all understanding. The true Piscean is more likely to seek these out and their emotional awareness will embrace the awe. Neptune with some assistance from Jupiter will allow you to remain unassuming in the main but extremely loyal and devoted in yet a modest way.

Hum a melody that comes deep from your heart! Soulful influences here!

♈ [Aries](#) [21/3-19/4] Mars is always on your side to seek perfection, but remember there are more things to take into consideration than ambition and monetary rewards. Materialism must always be balanced with emotion, resultant affect and consequence. You will still maintain high expectations and achieve. Unless you are on the cusp, modern and/or rock music are likely preferences. *Listen to the music! Feel it in your veins!!*

♉ [Taurus](#) [20/4-20/5] As each of the planets traverse the zodiac, Venus, your ruling planet is influenced and your inbred conviction on almost all areas that you deem pertinent will be channelled through such planetary alignment to cement your sense of belonging and provide a deeper connection with family and hometown roots. Impatience could foil triumph. Count the rest notes correctly. Temper your zeal accordingly!

Feel the deep bass notes. Tap your feet, but not in anger!!

♊ [Gemini](#) [21/5-20/6] We all start out with nothing but some embrace more opportunities and challenges than others. Neptune is a guiding influence that will keep you adaptable and in many cases, as the communicator of the zodiac, a positive sharer of knowledge. Although most of us resist change, you are more likely to view it as variety through mental analysis and embrace the new, up-tempo and possibly electronic.

Break the Sound of Silence and Sing like a bird on the wing!

♋ [Cancer](#) [21/6-22/7] The Moon is not only a calming influence but will also keep you grounded...and in most cases focus on the better things in life; moreover family, friends and the good that exists in today's world. True Cancerians are the slow & mellow Country and Folk music lovers.

The Rhythm of Life has so much to offer!

♌ [Leo](#) [23/7-22/8] Like the Sun, you didn't seek permission to emerge from the shadows. Forcefully engage the rigours of daily routine and use your self-assurance to sometimes go out on a limb. Continue to push the boundaries. Even the high notes can be reached.

Sing out loud!! You will be heard!!

HI-NOTES - FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hi Everyone,

AGM is over and done and dusted for another year. The same committee has retained their seats, so many thanks to my fellow committee members for their help and support in the previous year and I look forward to working with you all this year. Bob is once again my right hand man (Vice President) and I am grateful that I can ring him for some sound advice and smoothing of ruffled feathers whenever I need him – thanks Bob. Frank has been the treasurer now for many years and hasn't shot through to South America yet – thanks Frank. Peta-Maree is once again Ms. Secretary and heading into her 3rd year as such – Thanks Peta – love your work and your style 😊.

A lot has been mentioned by other people in this issue about the recent EXPO but I can't let it go without thanking the committee members this year for doing such a fantastic job and having such a large profit margin as to be able to set money aside for next year's committee to work with. Great job. Peters report can be viewed on website homesteadmusic.org.

I also want to mention our Judges. We mixed it up this year with some tried and true judges who did a fantastic job Cheryl-Lee Garnett (head judge), Darryn and Tracy Robinson and Tamiann Morgan. We also brought in the young Guns – Lance Coassin (who has been with us a couple of years now), Caitlyn Shadbolt of X factor fame – whom the contestants loved getting their photo taken with and Young Liam Brew. Liam was a Homestead junior not too many years ago but it was his words of wisdom, from his own experiences, that he shared with our contestants at presentation that was noteworthy. Wise young man. Thanks Everyone.

Homestead has had quite a few sick and broken members over the colder months so bring on spring!

Cheers Barbara



COUNTRY MUSIC CLUBS - *Monthly Date Claimers*

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



Boppa doesn't Skip the



Eifel Tower



My wife Moreen , daughter Jodie and son in-law Paul, along with Granddaughters, Mercedes and Talana and I left for London on the 14th August where we did all the touristy things, London Eye, Buckingham Palace, Trafalgar Square , Madam Tussauds, Piccadilly Circus, Harrods , The Tower of London and Abbey Road Studio s.

It was easy to get around on the Underground. We really enjoyed ourselves even though it was very expensive and we didn't like the food. The kids got photos skipping everywhere they could.

Then we took the train through the Channel to Paris where the grandkids were entered in the Skipping competition, "World Championship Rope Jumping". Competition was pretty fierce from 27 Countries around the world, including the US, Canada, Japan, China, Germany, Portugal, Korea, UK, India and France of course. But the girls and their team came out on top of the world, with the most medals, my eldest granddaughter won Three Gold, One Silver, One Bronze medal and a Fourth Ribbon and my youngest won Two Gold, Two Bronze medals and a Fourth Ribbon.... and I'm as proud as punch.

We did all the touristy things in Paris like the Eiffel Tower, The Louvre, The Arch de Triumph and Euro Disney.

I don't know why the Parisians are so skinny as there is a patisserie every 500 meters and the pastries are fantastic.

We then took the train to Venice which really was the best place for me on our trip. I loved getting around everywhere on boats, I had the best feed of spaghetti bolognaise I have ever had and in the best location, on the Grand Canal, then we went over to the Murano glass factory, some very nice glass sculptures for sale there.

We hired a van in Venice and attempted to drive to Pisa. After getting hopelessly lost and short on patience, we bought a GPS unit. The drive through the mountains was absolutely fantastic, even though they drive on the wrong side of the road, and after reaching Pisa we had to take the mandatory pictures holding up the Tower.

I then made the mistake of driving in Rome, what a mad house. There seems to be no rules and if there were, nobody obeyed them, but it appeared to be organized chaos as we did not see an accident while we were there.

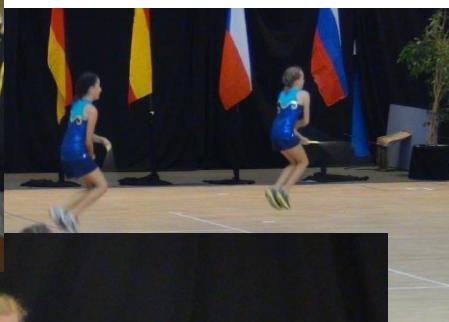
The ancient ruins are a sight to behold. It's hard to imagine they have been there for 3000 years, sort of humbles you.... humbles you even more when you realize how many people must have died during the construction.

I was really disappointed in Rome's presentation. It was extremely dirty and unkempt, with graffiti everywhere and total lack of maintenance. If I was Italian I'd be ashamed. But in saying that, the Italians were much better to get along with than the Parisians. I am not a religious person and The Vatican, although having great architecture, engineering, and artwork; to me it was disgustingly opulent and reinforced my dislike and mistrust of the churches.

Almost everywhere we went there were beggars and problems with illegal refugees much more so than in Australia. I hope we never get that bad.

So, even though we enjoyed the trip overall, it was good to get back home and relax.

Boppa



Top : Australia leads out all Nations in Opening Ceremony

Right: Going through their paces during competition.

Bottom: Winners are Grinner!!

World Champions !!
.....Congratulations..



Homestead - Club Calendar



Homestead Concert
Homestead Halloween
Homestead Concert

16th October
30th October
20th November

JB & MFB in UK



We have been asked a few times about the music scene we found on our recent trip to the UK. However, I have to say that music driven adventures were not really the object of this trip (surprise, surprise!). We didn't make pilgrimages to Liverpool or Manchester. Nor did we tread the crossing outside the Abbey Road studios. Nonetheless, everywhere we went, music in one form or another made its presence felt.

Going back over the years, songs have always evoked memories, e.g. where I was when I first heard a Beatles song, the campsite south of Townsville where we first listened to Gordon Lightfoot's 'Sundown' ... and Ted Mulry's 'Get Out of my Car'! We remember the bush auction where we picked up that old guitar. I guess we all have those memories.

Well, this time it was the other way around, with the towns and places we passed through bringing old songs back to mind. We made a special day trip into North Wales just to have a 'loverly time' at Bangor. Hmm! And for those who remember school music lessons including 'On Ilkley Moor Baht At', we passed there, too...and sang a chorus!

We didn't drive with the radio on. We needed all our senses focused on the Sat Nav, the conditions, the road signs and me filling in the details from the paper map! However, at night, with the purchases of the day all written up and packed ready for the next visit to the shippers, we would occasionally turn on the telly for a look see.

It was interesting to note how many names that would have been big headliners if they came out to Australia were playing just down the road at the local pub, or the next weekend at some small venue. It seemed so ho-hum to have these singers just available.

Then there were the musical instruments available at the fairs. While I was antique spotting, JB was guitar spotting ... and banjo spotting ... balalaika spotting and zither spotting. His best 'spot' was a six-string banjo in guitar tuning. I don't THINK we ended up with any instruments in our boxes but it was such a frenetic time, it won't surprise me if one turns up when we come to unpack. I can't remember a tenth of what we bought!

One place where we stayed was a converted 19th century manor house. The outhouses, stables etc. were all 'apartments'. A group of European guys in a couple of the apartments would gather with their guitars and have a singalong in the courtyard in the evenings. Very nice. Not our music and nor could we understand a word of what they were singing, but great to hear them having such a great time!.

About the time we were in the south, the Glastonbury Festival was in its final planning stages, but unfortunately our own schedule was set and we couldn't take time out. We did hear a lot about the lineups on offer, mostly unknown to us.

One day, when we were diving through the west Midlands, we saw a sign for a music festival to be held 'In the Middle of Nowhere' Hmm! This was a district with just 20 miles between towns and with green fields, village churches and sheep all around.

I thought ... if you want the Middle of Nowhere, try Australia for size.

We saw many cathedrals, but it was only at Winchester on a Sunday that we heard choral music. It was awesomely moving, with many people sitting outside on the green lawns just listening ... not engaged in the service but just listening to the music. Under those circumstances, JB declined singing the 'Winchester Cathedral' song.

Our basement flat in London was just over the road from a small, but very noisy pub. Music until all hours on the weekend. Great to just lie in bed and listen...

So on reflection we were immersed in quite a hodge podge of mini musical experiences, each adding their little bit to the enjoyment of the trip overall.

Homestead Country Music Club Est. 9/7/96

Check out our website ...

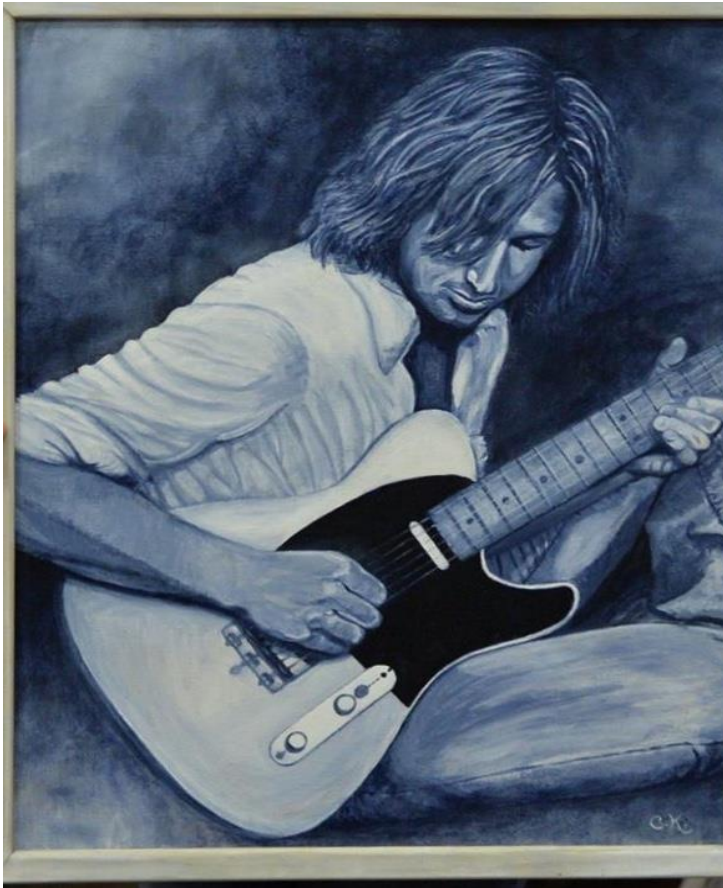
<http://www.homesteadmusic.org>

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

Locate us on Facebook 'Homestead Country Music'



Printing of 'LOW DOWN'
Courtesy of
Moreton Bay Regional Council



Monochrome Painting by *Carmel Kerr* entitled.. "Keith"..
which was raffled at the Junior Talent EXPO..