

# LOW DOWN




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

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### **FRONT COVER:**

Graham 'Boppa' Curtis ...long time Homesteader

## **Quotes for Month**

*"The music is not in the notes, but in the silence between."*

*-Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart*

*"Music is a higher revelation than all wisdom and philosophy"*

*-Ludwig Van Beethoven*



## ***My Say*** Segment



There have been many books, articles, videos, training courses and yes, even companies set up all focussed on the area of personal fulfilment. Accordingly, we should under no circumstance consider ourselves to be too good or too perfect at anything and everyone has room for improvement. The experts in this field state that complacency is never an option. They recommend digging deeper, trying to improve, experimenting by testing a proven technique;.. learning a little here, a bit there and enjoying the journey without worrying too much about the destination. Fittingly, *The Psychology of Betterment* states “if you want to improve, you must first be capable of looking at yourself from an objective point of view from outside yourself.” (F.Saez)

L Becker-Phelps, Ph. D. similarly expresses it by advocating that we need to .. “Learn to increase self-awareness, as an essential step to self-improvement.”

This self-awareness process involves using your thoughts, sensations/feelings, personality and passion to not only establish orderly appreciation of where you are, but also begin to generate necessary steps to attain improvement.

You may have sung a song hundreds of times before. Nevertheless, ask yourself, What ways can I improve my performance ?  
 What areas can I address to enhance my performance ?  
*(To be candid, this is an automatic process for many of us!)*

It doesn't matter if you are young or old. When you walk on a stage, you perform! A song is a story with lyrics and rhythm. Your performance involves convincing the audience with emotional usage of those lyrics and rhythm.

It is worth keeping in mind,... if you believe you can do it, you are already heading in the right direction and part of the way there.  
 It proves that through self-awareness.... if you are prepared to put in the effort;... persistence, passion and the pursuit of excellence can pay off.  
 As Albert Einstein said.. “Once we accept our limits, we go beyond them.”

TT – Editor

R4AA... E & OE

### **ON THE NOTICEBOARD - 2018**



Concert	-	October, 19 <sup>th</sup>
Concert	-	November, 16 <sup>th</sup>
Concert	-	December, 21 <sup>st</sup>





# RAFFLE RESULTS



## June 2018

	<b><u>Prize</u></b>	<b><u>Sponsor</u></b>	<b><u>Winner</u></b>
1.	Blanket	Homestead	Pam Matthews
2.	Heater	Homestead	Errol Fancourt
3.	Casserole	Marion Boetje	Sandy Lewis
4.	Plant	Sandy Lewis	Bev Sweeper
5.	Stihl Pack	Stihl	Vern Duncan
6.	Cookie Pot	Marion Boetje	Fay Cotter
7.	Fudge Pot	Marion Boetje	Ngaire Parrish
8.	Hungry Jacks <small>Voucher</small>	Hungry Jacks	Queenie
9.	Garden Ornament	Lynda Steer	Hayley Anderson

## July 2018

1.	Stihl Pack	Stihl	Pam Matthews
2.	Meat Tray	Homestead	Julie Stamp
3.	Meat Tray	Homestead	Beverley Sweeper
4.	Meat Tray	Homestead	Carmel Kerr
5.	Homestead Cottage Ornament	Marion Boetje	Jenny Jones
6.	Set of Coasters	Homestead	Pam Matthews
7.	Potted Plant	Lynda Steer	Ken Hubbard

## August 2018

1.	Bracelet and Ring	Marion Boetje	Glyn Bleakley
2.	Stihl Pack	Stihl	Bernie Austen
3.	Stereo Cooler	Lorraine Austen	Leonie Hubbard
4.	LaserZone <small>Vouchers</small>	LaserZone	Shirley Kropp
5.	Candle	Lynda Steer	Leonie Hubbard

### **HOMESTEAD**

**2018  
Youth Expo  
Recipients**



# Homestead Youth Talent Expo 2018

## Reaching for the Stars

The 12<sup>th</sup> annual Homestead Youth Talent Expo has been run and won and all agree that it was another successful festival full of highly talented young country performers. Overall numbers were down on last year's huge festival, but the standard was higher than ever!

Thanks must go to the large band of merry men and women who volunteer their time and talents to make it all go so smoothly. You are all very much appreciated! Barb and Bek, our 2018 co-ordinators led a small but enthusiastic Expo committee to ensure no stone was left unturned and, of course, the kids did the rest!

The Juvenile and overall champion for 2018 is **Sarah Hamze**, a young singer from the Redlands CMC who has competed, along with her brother and sister, for the last few years. This year, however, Sarah dazzled the audience and the judges with consistently high level performances throughout the day. The Junior champion is **Felicity Kircher**, another Redlands performer. Felicity has also attended our Expo many times and it is great to see how quickly these youngsters develop into real quality entertainers. Runner-Up was a first time visitor to our Expo, **Bridie Middleton** from Broxburn CMC.

We sought feedback from our participants and their families through a survey this year. Every feedback form received rated the day as either good or excellent. Many encouraging comments were provided as well as a few suggestions for improvement for the next committee to consider. The most common positive comments were about the friendliness of our people and the high level of support provided for the kids – well done to everyone. Many families indicated that they would be returning next year.

So that's it for 2018 and planning for 2019 has already begun. Some of our committee members are planning to hand over their roles to others for 2019. If you are a club member with a little time or a few skills we could use, please consider becoming a part of the Expo committee, it really is very rewarding.

Have a talk to Barb and she can talk you through what needs to be done.

Congratulations and thanks to all involved.

Cheers Bob Cole



## EXPO 2018 - RESULTS

SECTION	1st	2nd	3rd
Juvenile Vocal	SARAH HAMZE Redlands	MYA VOLP Independent	GABRIELLE VOLL Broxburn
Junior Vocal	FELICITY KIRCHER Redlands	BRIANA DINSDALE Redlands	BRIDIE MIDDLETON Broxburn
Juvenile Australian	KEELY SLIWKA Bundaberg	SARAH HAMZE Redlands	MYA VOLP Independent
Junior Australian	FELICITY KIRCHER Redlands	BRIDIE MIDDLETON Broxburn	AMIRA HAMZE Redlands
Own Composition	BRIDIE MIDDLETON Broxburn	AMIRA HAMZE & SARAH HAMZE Redlands	n/a
Instrumental	FELICITY KIRCHER Redlands	BRIANA DINSDALE Redlands	RICARDO HAMZE Redlands
Group	HAM & BRIE Redlands	MSC Homestead / Independent	Low Voltage Broxburn
Juvenile Duet	Will & Keely Bundaberg	Sista Voll Broxburn	NA
Junior Duet (SC Award)	Mya & Sophie Independent	Sarah & Briana Redlands	Felicity Kircher & Owen Foster-Griffith Redlands & Bundaberg
Juvenile C Rock	SARAH HAMZE Redlands	KEELY SLIWKA Bundaberg	MYA VOLP Independent
Junior C Rock	FELICITY KIRCHER Redlands	BIANCA MURPHY Independent	OWEN FOSTER-GRIFFITH Bundaberg
Best Dressed	Hannah Austen		
Backstage Award	Briana Dinsdale		
Band's Choice	Toby Gray		
Judge's Choice	Bridie Middleton		
Juvenile Encouragement.....	Will Gray		
Junior Encouragement.....	Josie Hawley		
Juvenile Champion	SARAH HAMZE - Redlands CMC		
Junior Champion	Felicity Kircher - Redlands CMC		
RUNNER UP	Bridie Middleton = Broxburn CMC		
OVERALL WINNER	Sarah Hamze - Redlands CMC		

# NIHL (NOISE INDUCED HEARING LOSS)

Hey you!! How's your hearing?

Industrial deafness is loss of hearing due to exposure to loud levels of noise during the course of employment. Employers consequently in this day and age have a responsibility and 'duty of care' to protect workers from harmful environments, especially excessive and in many cases, persistent, loud noise.

NIHL (**Noise Induced Hearing Loss**) is initiated through excessive noise exposure in the high frequencies (high pitches). This often causes difficulties hearing the telephone or door bells, understanding the television at a normal volume or understanding speech in a noisy situation such as a restaurant or shopping centre. With additional noise exposure, the hearing loss extends further in the high frequencies and then slowly progresses to include the lower frequencies. By this stage, even face-to-face communication can become extremely difficult.

Many people with NIHL also complain of intolerance to loud noises. Even some moderate sounds such as clanking cutlery and crockery may be experienced as unbearably loud. Distortion is also commonplace and refers to the general lack of clarity of sounds, in particular, speech. These problems are due to physiological changes that occur in the inner ear/cochlea as a result of hair cell damage from excessive exposure to noise.

Employers in noisy industry are bound by Occupational Health and Safety regulations to safeguard their workers from exposure to too much noise. The regulations state that a worker may not be exposed to more than 85 dB (Decibel) over an eight hour shift. Another perspective refers to the relativity of noise levels to time of exposure. For every 3dB increase in noise level, the time of noise exposure must be halved to keep it within safe levels.

Time of exposure	Level of surrounding noise (dB)
8 hours	85
4 hours	88
2 hours	91
1 hour	94
½ hour	97

The maths involved with sound say that if one SPL, (sound pressure level), is twice another, it is 6 dB greater. But how do we perceive SPL? Answer: The force of air pressing against eardrum. And, a sound that is 3 dB louder than another is barely perceived, by our ears/brain, to be louder. However, our ear perception is that if one sound is 10 dB higher in level to another it is perceived to be twice as loud. **NOTE** Loudness is a subjective quantity and is also greatly influenced by the frequency,

(i.e. Whether high or low in pitch); the distance from the sound generator and, the amount of background sound, (i.e. the absolute sound level).

### Here are some examples of SPLs for common sources of sound :

A .45 Colt pistol @ 8 m	140 dB
A 50 horsepower siren @ 33 m (eg Air Raid siren)	130 dB
<u>Threshold of pain</u>	<u>125 dB</u>
Typical control room recording rock music @ 3 m	120 dB
Loud classical music	110 dB
Heavy street traffic @ 2 m	90 dB
Cabin of jet aircraft in cruise mode	85 dB [Note WH&S limit!]
Normal conversation	65 dB
Quiet auditorium	40 dB
Quiet whisper @ 2 m	25 dB
Rustling leaves	15 dB
Threshold of hearing	Approx 0 dB



The link between occupational noise and hearing loss has been well established, and these days, people tend to protect their ears when using drills, grinders, and other noisy power tools.

What people don't realise is .. any loud sound can damage hearing, **including music**.

According to the World Health Organisation, hearing loss is one of the leading causes of disability in adults globally, and 'Noise-induced hearing loss' is its second-largest cause. In Australia, hearing loss is a huge public health issue, affecting one in six people and costing taxpayers over A\$12 billion annually for diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation.

And the issue is not limited to adults. Reports have suggested there is an increased prevalence of noise-induced hearing loss in Australian teens who use personal music players, as well as a 70% increased risk of hearing loss associated with use of personal music and media players in primary school-aged children. These are very worrying trends considering the widespread usage of these devices. Even a slight hearing loss can negatively affect a child's language development and academic achievement.

Hearing loss or damage is regarded greatest in the industries of Manufacturing, Construction, Agriculture/Farming and **Entertainment (night-life)**.

Nightclubs regularly exceed the level at which employers are required to provide hearing protection for their employees, but very rarely are PHPs provided or worn in this industry. Employees in the entertainment or night-life sector including DJs, musicians, bartenders, and wait and security staff, are regularly exposed to noise far in excess of the recommended levels. Exposure to thumping bass and live music night after night, often at levels reaching over 100 dB, can wreak havoc on hearing, causing noise induced hearing loss and tinnitus. Further, most nightclubs regularly exceed the



level at which employers are required to provide hearing protection for their employees and yet very rarely are PHPs provided or worn in this industry.

For musicians – including rock musicians, DJs, classical violinists, and pop singers – the problem is amplified (pardon the pun). For this group the repeated exposure to loud music at gigs, nightclubs and recording sessions often leads to permanent hearing damage, hearing loss, and tinnitus (see below). Initially this damage is subtle and rarely noticed, however problems become significant in middle age, when the noise-induced hearing loss combines with the natural loss of hearing due to ageing, and people start to experience hearing loss that would usually only have appeared in old age.

Measures taken to reduce excessive noise include.... quieter machinery and/or processes; isolating the noise source from workers; installation of noise guards, mufflers and/or soundproofing workplaces and providing high grade PHPs that enhance sounds workers want/need to hear while blocking harmful decibel levels.

One of the other major symptoms of noise induced hearing loss is **Tinnitus**.

Tinnitus is a physical condition, experienced as noises or ringing in the ears or head, when no such external physical noise is present. This constant or intermittent ringing, pulsing, buzzing, whistling or hissing noise is perceived in the ears. It is normally caused by a physiological fault in the hearing system and is usually accompanied by a hearing loss. Industrial deafness sufferers report tinnitus as being the worst aspect of their condition causing major frustration, loss in concentration, loss of sleep, apprehension, anxiety and in some instances it can cause severe depression. (It has been suggested that Van Gogh may have cut off his ear because he was unable to bear the constant invasive sound of tinnitus and not because he was a romantic tragic.)

My fellow members and Ladies and Gentlemen of our audience. Industrial deafness is permanent and debilitating.

Please note there are very few, if any, of us more experienced musicians/singers who have not suffered industrial deafness degradation of their hearing.

It is a salutary lesson for our younger performing members, (some of whom, through bad practice may already be on the verge of noise induced hearing damage), to adopt a more careful approach to their music and particularly their stage performances. Amateur musicians have no one but themselves, or for the younger ones, their parents, who can care for their hearing. Special ear protection devices (ear plugs) can be purchased for a reasonable price now which will not interfere with your music appreciation, are easy and comfortable to wear and, will protect your hearing so that you will not suffer the indignity of having **Noise Induced Hearing Loss** and the detrimental effects to your social, educational, working and musical lives.

Take it from one who knows - *Caring for your hearing is well worth the effort!*

Norm S.



## PRESIDENT'S PRATTLE



Hello everyone. As I write this, it is actually raining outside and quite cold. I think this has to be the longest and coldest winter I have experienced in my 30 years of living in Queensland. The rain is lovely to see and will dampen down the dust.

Homestead recently had its AGM and I am (once again) President Elect. Not much movement in the camp other than Norm Smith finds himself as Secretary. Many thanks to Bev Sweeper for her year as Secretary – a job well done but she has a busy year ahead so declined to continue in the role. Frank is still Treasurer and Bek, Vice President. It's the family/friendship bond that keeps this club strong and united so will be looking forward to another great year.

This concert, as farmers face the worst drought in living memory, Homestead will be donating all of our profits to the drought relief but more specifically – to the **Burrumbuttock Hay Runners**. For those of you who don't know anything or much about them, this is their story (copy from website):



In 2014 Brendan 'Bumpa' Farrell heard about a farmer in Bourke (NSW) that was struggling in the drought. He contacted the farmer and offered to bring him a truck load of hay to help him out. From that, the Burrumbuttock Hay Runners was born. Since that date in 2014, they have completed 11 successful hay runs to help drought affected farmers all over NSW & QLD. The last three have been to Ilfracombe QLD.

BHR is about mates helping mates in a time of need. Farmers impacted by drought often struggle to ask for help and many, due to the financial strain of trying to keep the farm afloat, also battle mental health issues.

All hay is donated from generous farmers all over Australia. The money fundraised and held in the Rotary Club bank account is used

to fuel the trucks that transport the donated hay. No one in the Burrumbuttock Hay Run group are paid a wage, everyone is a volunteer. This includes all the truck drivers who also donate the use of their trucks & machinery to load and unload the hay. They also deliver donated dog food and items that women in the bush do without during these times.

We will also pass a hat 🧢 around for anyone who would like to donate and/or throw in their loose change.

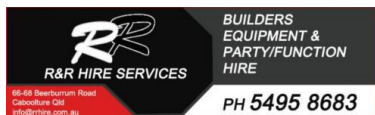
Have a great night folks.



Cheers Barbara



We would like to recognise and thank the following Sponsors:



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

**Stihl Shop Morayfield**



*for all instruments, lessons and service  
Morayfield Road, MORAYFIELD*

**Homestead Country Music** weekly rehearsals are held at Stanmore Hall every Tuesday Night from 7.00 pm





# CONCERT SPOTLIGHTS





CONCERT SPOTLIGHTS



Guest Artist: VANESSA SANGER





# ***EYE ON STAGE***

Junior Talent Expo 2018



It was another very successful EXPO for 2018. Of course there are so many people who worked very hard to have such a great result for the whole festival and others have put their thanks into words for this newsletter. I can only echo their comments.

My particular observations relate to the musicians and the sound management for the day. What an absolute delight it was to experience the professionalism and musicianship of the stage musicians for our EXPO. Not all the musicians were from Homestead. They ranged from far and wide - as did our contestants. The common factor was that they were all respectful of the artists and played to allow the judges to hear the contestants' performances clearly. It certainly makes the judges jobs a little easier to be able to clearly hear the vocals and where applicable the instrumental offerings of the contestants. Their jobs are hard enough without adding excessive sound levels from musos.

From the point of view of the sound system management, it was so much easier to make the contestants' performances clear, prominent and accurate sound-wise. A very stressful day managing sound levels can lead to operator burn-out problems and the quality of the sound can suffer accordingly. However, because of the musos' prudent playing, the sound-desk operators were under way less stress and did not suffer that affliction during the day. That is not to say that there weren't a couple of hiccups, mainly electrical components. Fortunately they were managed with little delay or disruption.

Thanks should go to Carmel Kerr who was the "P" plate sound system operator for the festival. She has a pretty unflappable approach to running the desk and takes in all the desk operational usage easily. She also has "good ears", having had a life of less sound-stress than the writer.

Both she and I would like to see other club members, particularly those with good ears, take up the baton of learning the sound operator's job providing back-up for situations where neither of us is available for whatever reason and taking turns at the desk on concert nights.

(As a personal note, I particularly would like more time on stage with the backing band on concert nights without having to divide the night between stage and sound desk.)

Lastly I would thank those who were directly involved on stage with the positioning, sanitising, and arranging of the microphones and connection of chords, etc. - Trevor T. and John D. They did sterling work. N.S.

## MEMBER BIOGRAPHY - **BOPPA**

I was born to Bill and Connie Curtis on the 31/12/1948.

We first lived at Gregory terrace in Army married quarters, as my Dad was a chef in the Army. We then spent 4 years in Wallangarra on the NSW/ QLD border before moving to Coopers Plains and building our family's first house. My three brothers and myself got up to all sorts of stuff back then and we were the best of mates. There was plenty of bush back then. I bought a 1937 Chev sedan which we used as a bush basher along with a few mates who also had bush bashers.

During my apprenticeship with a Caterpillar dealer I developed an interest in music and bought a Maton flamingo guitar and a Fender Vibra-verb amplifier from my elder brother and joined a band for a couple of years, before going to work on Bouganville Island in the Solomon Islands.

I didn't play the guitar for another 35 years and basically forgot everything I had learned, I had bought a Holden Monaro to tow a caravan to worksites and developed an interest in old cars, started a family with a wife, son, and daughter. I worked up in the Gulf at Gunpowder, and in Windarra in WA, and after a stint working for myself and a couple of other employers, I started work at Fisherman Islands as a stevedoring mechanic, where I met Peter Bigg.

After working there for a few years Peter convinced me to come up and have a look at Homestead shortly before it became the Homestead we know and love. I was so nervous for a long, long time because I was just a mediocre guitar player, and had not sung before an audience for such a long time, but, with the support of Peter, Steve, Norm and Bill and the encouragement from quite a few others, I think I have improved slightly. They encouraged me to try some Elvis Presley songs and they worked out OK so I started working on a few more. I now have a lot of Elvis songs and we have done quite a number of Elvis concerts and shows and have a ball doing them.

I thoroughly enjoy what we do at Homestead and the friendships I have made over the years. Sadly both of my parents and all of my brothers have passed away now, and the friendships made and the good times we have had have helped me through the hard times.

I now have four Grandchildren who are the apple of my eye, attend a lot of their sports days and went with the granddaughters to Paris for the World Skipping Championships. My grandson also is very accomplished in BMX and I am so proud of them all. My Granddaughters are both learning Saxophone so maybe one day they can back me in a few songs.

I now have a 1938 Chev Sports coupe and am the current President of Rods Ins Hot Rod Club, which also keeps me busy, along with my association with Ulysses on my Harley. I cherish my time with Homestead and its members and hope I can for a long time to come.



# Country Music - Date Claimers



<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	Booval Bowls Club Southport Bowls Club Geebung Bowls Club Queen/ Ulm Sts Caloundra	12:30 pm 11:00 am 11.45 am 12.00 Noon
<b>Second Saturday</b> Blue Denim Northern Suburbs  Country Roundup	Progress Hall, Clontarf Memorial Hall Gympie Rd. Bald Hills Caboolture Senior Citzs Hall	7:00 pm 12.00 Noon  12 Noon
<b>Second Sunday</b> Maroochy River Golden Wattle Twin Rivers	Bli Bli Hall Cedar Street Wynnum Wagner St., Eagleby	12:00 Noon 1:00 pm 12.00 Noon
<b>Third Friday</b> <b>Homestead</b>	<b>Stanmore Hall, Caboolture</b>	<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	Heritage Park, Pimpama Redcliffe Showgrounds Ipswich Golf Club	12 Noon 11:00 am 1.00 pm
<b>Fourth Friday</b> Redcliffe	Redcliffe Showgrounds	7:00 pm
<b>Fourth Saturday</b> Min Min	Kruger Hall Ann St, Kallangur	1.00 pm
<b>Fourth Sunday</b> Blue Denim Bribie Island	Progress Hall, Clontarf Bribie Island Recreation Hall 158 First Ave Bribie Island	12:30 pm 11.00 am
<b>Last Sunday</b> Cane Country Laidley	Concerts on hold Exchange Hotel, Laidley	TBA 1:00 pm

## **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.

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