

LOW DOWN



A **'Homestead'**

Country Music Club
Publication

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Contacts ...

President	Barbara Hall	Ph: 07 5496 1487 or 0411 602613
Vice-President	Bek Thornton	
Treasurer	Sue Morbach	
Secretary	Peta-Maree Thornton	
Roster Co-ord.	John Boetje	Ph: 3889 1185 0408054533
Magazine Editor	Trevor Tinworth	Ph: 3886 1880



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

FRONT COVER: Moya Handsley

Quote for the Month

"The music is not in the notes, but in the silence between."
-Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart



When I penned the ‘Quote for this Month’, I recalled a number of my previous teachers suggesting interpretation, silence and space, (gaps for ambiance, breath etc.) and wanting my version, my creative take on what I was singing or playing. I remember one teacher stating that anyone can copy another artist’s rendition, but if you are aware of spatial interpretation and are creative and slightly different, and produce something that stimulates and provides personal satisfaction; then you own your own rendition of the song.

An article (1925) written by H. Antcliffe is entitled “SPACE & SPACING IN MUSIC” He refers to Space and includes characteristics such as ‘Light’, ‘Shade’, ‘Colour’, ‘Outline’, and ‘Form’ and also notes that Space is indeed an extension of Form.

Frederico Macedo (2015) discusses “SPACE... AND MUSIC WRITING” re *‘specific aspects of music such as pitch, **structure**, timbre and **dynamics**’*. These occur within what he defines ‘*enclosed space marked by precise divisions*’.

Similarly, Elvira Di Bona, (2017) is quoted thus; “*A person listening to music can be said to ‘hear space’ ...melody, harmony or rhythm, * ..that evoke space*”.


Such indicates that **structure** and repetition of Rhythm* provide the partial spaces, creating what we know as Verse, Chorus, Interlude/Bridge and Turnarounds, etc.

And so it follows that Repetition of/and Rhythm generate movement and pattern. Nonetheless, it has been noted that repetition without other elements can become ‘mundane’ and ‘dull’ (lacking direction and providing insufficient and ineffectual movement). The inclusive elements suggested relate heavily on Space and Spacing and include such **dynamics** as ‘Emphasis’, ‘Volume’ and ‘Pauses’.

Emphasis is related to delivery of the lyrics and the inflection on certain words to make your audience appreciate those accentuated words as well, as clarify meaning. A delivery without some emphasis can sound ‘monotone’.

Volume Varying your volume will also assist in your delivery and interpretation of the lyrics of the song. Volume and raised or lowered pitch on specific words can greatly enhance one’s performance.

Pauses, however are, by far, seen as extremely important elements in your performance. The “POWER OF THE PAUSE” is often quoted as an essential element in improving your performance on stage. They generate the partial space and silence between (the notes). There are a number of variations within this element.

1. One is related to what has been described as a ‘Breath Mark or ‘Breather’ and is often signified in charts as a ‘HOLD’ or ‘PAUSE’. In written music, it is called a “Fermata” which is a half circle with a dot  the centre. [Orchestra conductors control the length or shortness of the Hold]. (The chord will usually ring but the rhythm pattern will cease. Drum cymbals and Snare usually ring unassisted.)

2. Another is the “STOP”. It is considered a powerful tool because of the silence it creates. It can often make the audience sit up and listen more intently. Don’t be afraid to incorporate Pauses in your charts!

Dave Ruch, an American performer and teacher reiterates: “*Too much of any one thing - however amazing it is – is TOO much.*

Variety is the spice of life. Look for ways to mix things up.”

Certainly, Colour, Light, Shade, Space & Silence can do wonders!! *TT Editor*

*Note: * Rhythm is defined as the pattern of the poem, marked by stressed and unstressed words and syllables. [Wikipedia]*

ON THE NOTICEBOARD - 2022



No Concert	-	April
Concert	-	May, 20 th
Concert	-	June, 17 th



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.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hi everyone,

How good is it to be holding Homestead's second concert for 2022! Two in a row is a long way from the last couple of years. BUT! Just to upset the apple cart when we are on a roll —next month's concert (April 15) falls on Good Friday, so we have made the decision to not hold one. In previous years, we have tried changing dates but being creatures of habit, people found it difficult to adjust and the alternate date clashed with other clubs and/or other commitments.

In celebration of many of our ancestors, Homestead has a St Patrick theme this evening, so you will hear a few Irish numbers and a bit of blarney throughout the night. Hopefully the bar has a few cans of Guinness or Kilkenny to share a few tall tales over. Add a snack of 'greens' from the kitchen and you should have a great night.

Tonight, is the first night of trialling an early start and finishing time. After our last concert, several people approached me and asked if Homestead could have a discussion around shortening the concert and changing the times — tonight is the result of those discussions. Not only is winter approaching, but a large portion of our members and audience are heading for their twilight years, so it's time to start looking after everyone a bit better. The days have long gone from when those of us who were in the hall after pack down, headed to the servo for a coffee and critique until the small hours.

As the government mandates are still in place this month, Homestead is obliged to follow the correct procedures and admit only vaccinated persons to the hall. At least the masks have gone.

Can people please sign in with your name and signature at the door. This is for insurance purposes and to know how many people and who we are looking for in an emergency.

May the luck of the Irish possess you and your glass be ever full.

Cheers Barbara



CONCERT SPOTLIGHTS





CONCERT SPOTLIGHTS



FEATURE ARTICLE **JOHNNY ASHCROFT**



It is almost one year since Johnny Ashcroft, the Australian country singer best known for his hits 'Little Boy Lost' (1960), 'The Girl Behind The Bar' (1962), 'Playground In My Mind' (1973) and 'Holy Joe The Salvo' (1975), passed away, aged 94 years.

Growing up during the Great Depression, his parents were very poor and they lived in a dirt-floor, bag-walled shack. These humble beginnings would lead to an intriguing and deep interest in Australian Aboriginal Culture.

He was a singer, songwriter, and musician and is credited with recording in genres of Country, Pop, Skiffle, Jazz and Disco.

Johnny's first hit song [1958] "They're A Weird Mob" was recorded in Skiffle style with Aussie Jazz legends Graeme Bell, Don Burrows and John Sangster and based on the John O'Grady book of the same name.

Two years' later [1960], Johnny penned & recorded 'Little Boy Lost' which was a major hit and is considered Australia's first country-rock song, years before the term was ever used. Jazz guitarist George Golla arranged and with the aid of other recording-session jazzmen, was instrumental in the song's recording. The lyrics tell the story of Steven Walls who was lost in rugged bushland, rife with wild dingos and venomous snakes near Guyra, NSW and his search and discovery, safe and sound, thanks to many, including Aboriginal tracker William Stanley. The search effort involved 5,000, (over 3,000 locals) and seven aircraft.

In 1975, Johnny Ashcroft wrote the first Australian female trucking song "My Home-Coming Trucker's Coming Home" which was recorded by Gay Kayler who he later married in 1981. During the 1970's, they were often seen performing together in the Sydney Opera House. Gay was originally from Gatton (Qld) and is currently 81 yrs.

In 1990, Johnny was awarded the Order of Australia Medal 'OAM' for service to the entertainment industry and the community, and for his support for Aboriginal rights. He was a true Aussie legend!!

T.T Editor

Editor's Notes: Johnny Ashcroft is credited with recording over 20 Albums.

His Great, Great, Great Grandfather Corporal John Gowen arrived with the First Fleet in 1788, [HMS Sirius] and his Great, Great Grandfather entered as a convict in 1814 on the [HMS Surrey].



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JANET C'S ART (JANET CLAYDON)

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MEMBER BIOGRAPHY: MOYA HANDSLEY



I was born in Rockhampton on 20th Nov.1936. I attended Joseph's Primary School up to Scholarship year...

Went to work aged 14.

My mother was a gifted Violinist, playing in Orchestras and Dance Bands, so we grew up with music all around us. At school my sisters and I were in the school and church choirs, and also in the annual St. Patricks Day Concerts held in the beautiful Kindergarten Theatre.

I didn't do a lot of singing during my teenage years, too busy playing sport and going to dances. I met Allan at a country dance when I was nearly 17 years old, and we were married in Brisbane on 28th May, 1960.

Allan's work took us up and down the Qld. Coast so our first home was a caravan for 15 months. We moved to New Guinea in 1961 where we lived for 10 years, and then we had 11 years in [S.E.Asia](#).

I didn't have much chance to get into the music scene in those years as we had 4 children by then, but there was always music in the house. We came back to Australia in 1992 and had 3 years in Byron Bay. I joined the Byron Bay Singers Theatre Group. We travelled through the Shire performing in small halls whenever available, (in freezing winter months). We moved to Melbourne in 1985, due to Allan's work, only staying for 2 years before moving to Townsville.

We both got involved in singing again with the North Qld Music and Opera Theatre. Quite a few shows; EVITA and ANYTHING GOES, the choir performed Mendelssohn's ELIJAH, and Faure's REQUIEM and Vivaldi's GLORIA.

After 7 years in the "heat", we moved to Woodford in 1994 where we were foundation members of the Caboolture District Choir. In 1997 we were fortunate enough to perform in the opera AIDA at the QE2 Stadium in Brisbane.

I sang in a Barbershop Quintet with Allan for a number of years, The Ironbark Theatre in Woodford, The Woodford Lions Club Music Hall concert in 2004, and now very involved in the Woodford Singers. We entertain at the Embracia Nursing Home monthly, and also perform at Woodford RSL Services.

Around 2005, Allan joined Homestead Country Music Club, and I can remember going to different country towns for week-end trips. Lots of fun!

I was very happy helping with the annual Expos, and also giving Cheryl a hand in the kitchen sometimes. I love being in the audience every month enjoying the great entertainment, lots of young children in earlier days. Not so long ago I plucked up enough courage to get up on stage.

I can't thank the Homestead Family enough for all their support, particularly the musicians who give so much of their time and encouragement. Hopefully I can continue for some time yet. THANK YOU. Moya



MARTIN HAD ALWAYS BEEN A BIT HIGH-STRUNG

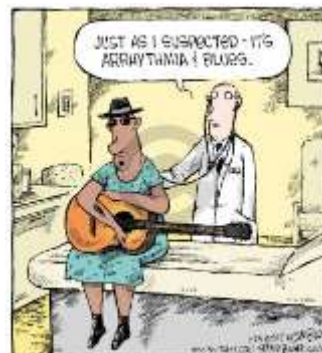


"Shall I play something romantic?"

Country Music - Social Timetable



First Friday Pine Rivers	Kallangur Community Centre	7:00 pm
First Saturday Brigalow Redlands Mod.	Wagner St., Eagleby Sports Reserve, Thornlands	6:00 pm 5:00 pm
First Sunday Coal City Gold Coast Sundowners Velvet CMC	Banjors Bar Ipswich Mermaid Beach Bowls Club Kallangur Bowls Club On Hold Queen/ Ulm Sts Caloundra except Jan.	12:30 pm 11:00 am 11.45 am 11.00 am
Second Saturday Country Roundup	Caboolture Snr. Citizens Hall	12 Noon
Second Sunday Maroochy River Golden Wattle Maleny	Yandina ACMA Hall Cedar Street Wynnum Pioneer Village Bryce Lane, Maleny	12 Noon 1:00 pm 12 Noon
Third Friday Homestead	Stanmore Hall, Caboolture except Jan.	7:00 pm
Third Saturday Boonah Northern Suburbs	Boonah Golf Club Memorial Hall Bald Hills	7.00 pm (even months) 12 Noon
Third Sunday Guanaba Redcliffe West Moreton ACMA Hall of Fame	Heritage Park, Pimpama Redcliffe Showgrounds Ipswich Golf Club Yandina ACMA Hall	12 Noon 11:00 am 1.00 pm 12 Noon
Fourth Friday Cane Country	Sherwood Magpies Club	7:00 pm
Fourth Sunday Bribie Island	Bribie Island (relocating) - TBA	11.00 am
Last Sunday Caloundra Country Music & Blues	Yandina ACMA Hall	12 Noon (except Dec.)



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'**

