

# LOW DOWN



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

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Resources  
Magazine

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**FRONT COVER:** Pam Matthews



## Quote for the Month

*" Music, once admitted to the soul, becomes a sort of spirit, and never dies."*

*-Edward Bulwer-Lytton*



## ***‘My Say’ Segment***



The year is all but over, bar our involvement in Christmas singsong and festivities. Nevertheless it has shown to be a re-birth of musical involvement post Covid 19 in that musicians have been able to perform without the strict restrictions that had the industry ‘on hold’ for so long.

However it is noteworthy that many musicians, (and especially established musicians,) used this ***‘time- On Hold’*** to assess and improve their on-stage personas and investigate maintaining and enhancing their ***‘audience connection’***.

To this end, I was interested to discover that such analysis has allowed musicians of all genres and benchmarks to empathise and connect with their audience in a more focused and two-way relationship. Such research included the following:

Singing songs listeners want to hear. [*Investigate the demographics*]

Selecting songs within one’s vocal range and one’s ability/proficiency.

The importance of Visuals including Dress, Gestures and Eye contact.

[*Never ignore your audience! To spark interest, you have to attract the eye.*]

Entertaining encompasses and is linked to audience values which include trust and honour. Therefore, knowing who your audience is and conveying recognition and respect. To achieve this, you must be sincere, natural and intent on pleasing.

Take every opportunity to interact with the audience and note their reaction.

Use this... ***‘reaction to engagement’*** to your advantage.

Don’t try to please everyone! Attempt the majority and certainly not a minority.

Enlarged, happy audiences are beneficial to our, on stage, livelihood.

Wishing everyone a safe and joyful Christmas and looking forward to a bright and music filled New Year.

TT Editor



### **ON THE NOTICEBOARD - 2023**

Concert -	February, 17 <sup>th</sup>
Concert -	March, 17 <sup>th</sup>
Concert -	April, 21 <sup>st</sup>





Judith Durham, AO, was the lead vocalist in The Seekers, Australia's Folk Music supergroup. She graduated from the University of Melbourne (Conservatorium) Associate in Music (AMusA), her intended career, Pianist. However, her extraordinary talent and love for singing generated her destiny.

With back up musically and vocally from Bruce Woodley, Keith Potger and Athol Guy, The Seekers recorded so many top 10 hits, their first being "I'll Never Find Another You" which reached No#1 in the UK and Australia.

In 1967, The Seekers, set an official all-time record of 200,000 (nearly 10% of the population of Melbourne), as they flocked to their performance at the Sidney Myer, Melbourne Music Bowl. The following year, 1968, during a tour of New Zealand, she made the decision to leave The Seekers and pursue a Solo career. In 1969, Judith married her musical director, British jazz pianist Ron Edgeworth. They lived in UK and Switzerland until the mid-1980's when they moved to a property in Yandina Qld.

In 1990, after recovery from a car accident, Judith was enticed to reconnect with The Seekers for a Silver Jubilee performance. During this reunion, Ron Edgeworth was diagnosed with Motor Neurone disease, (ALS) and died in 1994. Judith dedicated many proceeds and became the national patron to the Motor Neurone Disease Association of Australia.

Although she continued, primarily as a solo performer, she made sporadic recordings with The Seekers. In 2015, she was named Victorian of the Year for her services to music and a range of charities.

In 2013, she suffered a stroke and had to relearn how to read and write, both literature and music; however, her vocal prowess was unaffected.

Judith Durham was born with asthma and at the age of four was diagnosed with Measles, the severity of which left her with a life-long chronic lung disease Bronchiectasis which eventually took her life this year, 2022.

*T.T Editor*

List of Songs [The Seekers] & [Judith Durham]

A World of Our Own; Moringtown Ride; Someday, One Day, Georgy Girl; The Carnival Is Over; Muddy Water; Trombone Frankie; When You Come To The End Of A Perfect Day; When Starlight Fades; Maggie Mae; I Wanna Dance To Your Music; The Light Is Dark Enough; Maple Leaf Rag; Let Me Find Love; Clancy; So Easy To Love.



## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**



Dear members,

Well, we are at that time of year again, when we are winding down toward Christmas and our big break over New Year. It has been a strange old year, where we have seen Covid come and go and come and go again — something we will no doubt live with forever. Unfortunately, the crowds haven't returned to pre-Covid numbers but I am very grateful to the members and non-members who have continued to support Homestead. As much as we all show up on a weekly basis to practice our songs for personal gain, it would be great to get the word out there and have larger audience numbers return.

Congratulations to Hannah and Jacob Cara on the safe arrival of Octavia. Hannah grew up at Homestead so it is lovely to see her become a mum. Maybe Octavia will be one of the next generation of Homesteaders?

A big thank you to Cheryl and her sub-committee for putting on a fantastic supper. The canteen (with the bar) is always the hub of our monthly concerts – where else can you grab a bite to eat for such a great cost. Thanks also to Mike for stepping away from the drums to fill in for Santa – not many members are willing to don a winter outfit even for such a short time. Many thanks to our superb band members who work tirelessly to help us put our songs together and let's not forget Rod's boys for their stagehand work – 'No covid or colds on our watch,' said Rod. Thanks to everyone else at Homestead who help in some way – it is only with member's untiring support that the club keeps going.

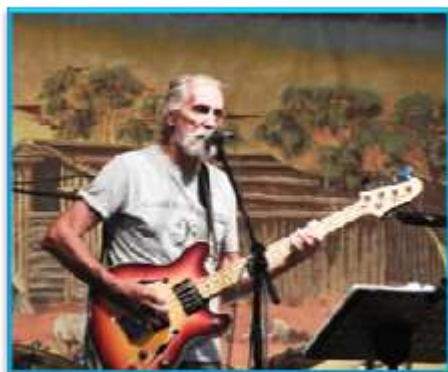
Remember that there will not be a concert in January and the first one in the New Year will be on 17<sup>th</sup> February. See everyone in 2023.

Cheers Barbara





## CONCERT SPOTLIGHTS







## CONCERT SPOTLIGHTS





# Reindeer & Rudolf



I have always found 'History' something that constantly aroused my sense of amazement. It continues to this day and as a result, I often ponder 'what if' when I learn something new, re yester-year happenings of time gone by.

Santa Claus is one character whose history is equally remarkable and worthy to explore. Initial references to this character are based on St Nicholas of Myra and Sinterklaas of Dutch lore. Both of these figures travelled on horseback via a noble white steed. However, a habitat in the North Pole and abundant herds of reindeer resulted in a not so unnatural transition which became the more accepted within western culture. A reindeer-drawn rather than horse-drawn sleigh was followed up with verse written by Clement Clarke Moore\* in 1823, where Santa's eight (8) reindeer were named.....

Dasher, Dancer, Prancer & Vixen

Comet, Cupid, Dunder & Blixem

'Dunder and Blixem' literally translated to 'thunder and lightning' and was a popular Dutch-American expletive in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

This was swiftly altered to 'Donder' which is the more acceptable spelling of the colloquialism 'Dunder' meaning thunder and 'Blitzen', which is said to better rhyme with 'Vixen' and is a German word meaning 'flash', 'sparkle' & 'lightning'.

The later change to 'Donner' was instituted by publishers, instead of one word Dutch and one German.

However, there was **No Rudolf !!!**



116 years were to pass before 'Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer' was created under the pen of copywriter Robert May, in 1939, as he peered at the thick fog that drifted off Lake Michigan and enveloped Chicago.

Based on the theme of 'The Ugly Duckling', he envisaged a reindeer with a luminous nose guiding Santa and his sleigh through the dense and murky atmospheric conditions.

However, history would have seen his efforts destined for the company's archived files or a dingy library shelf; had it not have been for his Brother-in Law, Johnny Marks, penning and setting the story to music.

Bing Crosby reportedly turned down the opportunity to record the song.

Hence, Gene Autry, the singing cowboy, recorded it; sold two million copies in the first year, 1949, and the rest is history.

How many million times is it sung, every Christmas, around the world?... !!!!

*Trevor Tinworth*

*PS: Do you realise that your grandparents, as children, grew up never knowing of a Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer !!!*

*TT*

*\* Note: Clement Clarke Moore[1779-1863], NY American Professor of Oriental & Greek Literature, Divinity & Biblical Learning - "A Visit from St Nicholas" widely known as "Twas the Night before Christmas".*

R4A E&OE





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in Beerwah



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[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)*



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### **R & R Hire Services**

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### **Beerwah Hotel**

*53 Beerwah Place, Beerwah  
Home to the Sounds of live Country Music*



### **The Garden Shed**

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

***Morayfield Road,  
MORAYFIELD***



### **JANET C'S ART (JANET CLAYDON)**

*Australian Artist. Inspired by the Vast Richness of our Planet*

*..... Look for me on Facebook*

## THE WEDDING OF VERN'S DAUGHTER JACKIE TO DAN MIFSUD



Our daughter Jackie's wedding was a momentous event for our family. It took place at 'Undara Downs' a working property one hour from Clermont on 6<sup>th</sup> August. The family property and farm has its own airstrip, houses, a large machinery shed and workshop and acres and acres of paddocks of sorghum. After receiving a call for **Help!** we made the twelve hour drive north to arrive early and assist in the preparations and set up for the big event. This included preparing for the reception which was to be held in the machinery shed. The work load included packing away equipment, covering the workshop truck service pit and pressure cleaning the concrete floor with a Gerni. Once this was completed, we were able to organise decorating the ten metre high shed walls and set up the tables and chairs in preparation for all who had been invited. The girls had some great ideas which made the reception area look fantastic.

An ornate, timber-arch Altar and a signatory table and chairs were located at the

end of the airstrip with seating on both sides of the runway. Jackie arrived in Dan's Prime Mover truck and was escorted down the airstrip aisle by her dad, four bridesmaids and four flower girls for the ceremony to begin. Jackie wore a



sleeveless, lace, white wedding gown and looked absolutely stunning.

All of the family was there to witness Vows declared and Signing of the Wedding



Certificate. It was a beautiful setting for a wedding with fields of sorghum and the Gemini Mountains as surrounding backdrops. Then I had the opportunity to

perform the song “Soulmate”. The words of this song are a fitting reminder of what marriage is deemed to be, when two become one and the commitment of love conquers all that will prevail in the future.

After many congratulations, conversations and photographs taken, it was time to celebrate via the reception.

A bar had been set up using a Kombi Van with drinks set up on tap at the side of the van. Everyone attending had great food and music was provided with a DJ for all to party on the dance floor.

The official speeches were given, one of which was mine as father of the bride and then I sang two more songs “I Loved Her First” and “The Older I Get”. The first song tells of a father giving his daughter to another when she is married to her life partner and the second song is one which one gives thanks for a life fulfilled and having attained old age.



Suffice to say, it was a great wedding. We all had a very good time.  
Then everyone got home safely.

Vern Duncan

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## **CONTAINERS FOR CASH – PAYING IT FORWARD**

Over the last three years, Homestead has been collecting containers for cash and saving the money to put toward the next junior EXPO. Unfortunately, EXPO was cancelled again this year as there weren't enough entries. At this stage, it has been agreed that we will revisit the possibility of holding another festival sometime in the future. Meantime, we are still collecting cans that are very generously given to us and they are stored in one of our sheds. From there, Peter sorts them and takes them down to the recycle centre once a month. At last month's general meeting, it was unanimously agreed that the \$4,500.00 collected plus an extra \$500.00 would be given toward the rent of a Woodford family who were in dire need of help. Several months ago, Mick Walker was the victim of a hit and run tragedy and is lucky to be alive. He is still recovering from internal injuries and multiple bone fractures and it will be a long time before he will be able to work – if at all.



Consequently, they lost their business (Walkers Garage) and as parents of several young children, they are struggling to keep above water financially.

Peter and I took the receipt out to them a few weeks ago and they are very grateful for Homestead's generosity.

Everyone at Homestead who donates their containers to the club, can be very proud of themselves in knowing that a few cents here and there, has been used to benefit someone less fortunate.

Barbara

## **Gabrielle Kerr – Small Halls**

Peter and I recently had the pleasure of attending a 'Small Halls' concert at Mt Mee. For those who are unfamiliar with 'Small Halls', it is an initiative of Woodfordia (Folk Festival) who adopted the idea from Prince Edward Island in Canada. The tours take national and international folk musicians off the beaten

track to perform in small town halls Australia-wide.

Much to our surprise the supporting act was Miss Gabrielle Kerr! For those who are new to Homestead, Gabrielle has grown up at Homestead and is still a very valued member.

It is great to see a youngster come up through the ranks and

make good in the world as a musician. Congratulations Gabby, we are so proud of your achievements.

Barbara



## **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.

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### ***STEVIE NICKS WEATHER REPORT***



### **STOP PRESS:**

*Our November concert featured a gem by Bill Payne that he wrote and recorded when in Sydney many years ago .*

*“Tommy Emmanuel: The Ballad of ”*

*Check it out on YouTube. It is well worth the YouTube search !!*



## **MEMBER BIOGRAPHY:**

## **PAM MATTHEWS**



I was born in Ayr North Qld the youngest of three. My father was a cane cutter, timber cutter and moved around quite a bit where ever the work took him. He later bought a truck and built it into a shop on wheels and took it around the cattle stations and outback towns in Queensland the Northern territory and the top of Western Australia so the kids had to go into boarding school in Charters Towers. At that time I was just six years old.

We moved to Darwin when I was nine. Dad bought another truck and he worked for the mines in Rum Jungle and U.D.P. mines in Adelaide River carting uranium from the mines to the wharf. We still had a lot of stock left so Mum my brother, sister and I did the outback on our own. To relieve the boredom of the journey over long, dusty potholed tracks we sang all the way to various destinations where our arrival was much anticipated and welcome. We met some of the real characters of outback Australia and gained an appreciation of aspects of an Australian way of life that other people living in the big towns and cities would never know.

I had to leave school at twelve and go to work. I worked in a coffee shop and used the first coffee machine to make it into Darwin. I was only just tall enough to pull the handle down. These days they have buttons, levers, switches and flashing lights. How the times have changed.

As a teenager Darwin was the best place to grow up, although there wasn't much in the way of entertainment. However, every once in a while the traveling shows would come through including Rick and Thel, Stan Coster, Slim Dusty and many others. My favorite was the Buddy Williams show they had nice young fellows with the band and my friends went wild. The isolation of Darwin brought people together in very tight social groups and some of the friendships that were forged in those days still endure after the passage of many decades.

I was married in 1962 and had two beautiful children who still live in Darwin. We went through cyclone Tracey in 1974, and then spent 12 months in Rockhampton before going back to Darwin where our marriage broke up. I worked at the University for 14 years and in that time I bought my own home, joined a country music club where I met this charming man who you all know as Frank. We have now been together for 36 years. We moved

down here in 97 and joined Homestead almost straight away. I didn't sing for a long time but was talked into it by (so called) Friends. We used to entertain at Nursing Homes and Senior Citizens Clubs and I loved doing this immensely. It brought a lot of satisfaction to see the oldies singing along to the songs they remembered. I have made so many friends here at Homestead it is a second home for me. This is just a shortened summary of my life. If I put it all in, it would rival War and Peace.

Pam



## **THE VALUE OF MUSIC**



Music has often been called “the food of the soul”, and many artists and listeners can attest to that sentiment. **It can cheer you up when you're sad, invoke memories, inspire creativity, give you energy for a better workout, and make you feel calmer.**

Research has shown that music can **enhance intelligence, improve mental focus, boost the immune system, strengthen self-esteem, and increase confidence.** Music reduces stress, lowers blood pressure, improves memory and aids toward inducing a better and deeper sleep. Music literally lifts your spirits.

Homestead



*The Editor reserves the right to edit and publish articles in any format.*

# 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	Banjors Bar Ipswich Mermaid Beach Bowls Club Kallangur Bowls Club <b>On Hold</b> Queen/ Ulm Sts Caloundra except Jan.	12:30 pm 11:00 am 11.45 am 11.00 am
<b>Second Saturday</b> Country Roundup	Caboolture Snr. Citizens Hall	12 Noon
<b>Second Sunday</b> Maroochy River Golden Wattle Maleny	Yandina ACMA Hall Cedar Street Wynnum Pioneer Village Bryce Lane, Maleny	12 Noon 1:00 pm 12 Noon
<b>Third Friday</b>  <b>Homestead</b>	<b>Stanmore Hall, Caboolture</b> except Jan.	<b>6:30 pm</b>
<b>Third Saturday</b> Boonah  Northern Suburbs	Boonah Golf Club  Memorial Hall Bald Hills	7.00 pm (even months) 12 Noon
<b>Third Sunday</b> 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
<b>Fourth Friday</b> Cane Country	Sherwood Magpies Club	7:00 pm
<b>Fourth Sunday</b> Bribie Island	Bribie Island (relocating) - TBA	11.00 am
<b>Last Sunday</b> Caloundra Country Music & Blues	Yandina ACMA Hall	12 Noon (except Dec.)



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