

LOW DOWN



A **'Homestead'**

Country Music Club
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Resources

Magazine

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FRONT COVER:

Steven Fraser



Quotes for the Month

"Where Words Fail, Music Speaks"

Hans Christian Andersen

"Without Music, life would be a mistake."

Friedrich Nietzsche (1844-1900)
German Philosopher



‘My Say’ Segment

The festive season brings with it a unique magic, a time when hearts unite in joy, and the air is filled with the sweet melodies of Christmas songs and carols. There's something enchanting about the harmonious blend of voices and the gentle strumming of instruments, creating a symphony that transcends the ordinary and elevates the spirit.

While voices weave a magical tapestry, musical instruments add a layer of richness to the holiday celebration. The gentle strumming of a guitar, the warm tones of a piano, or the delicate notes of a flute – each instrument contributes its unique voice to the festive ensemble.

Picture a cosy living room and a Christmas tree adorned with twinkling lights, where family and friends gather in anticipation. The joy of singing together creates an atmosphere of warmth and togetherness. The laughter, the shared smiles and the occasional off-key note, all become part of the symphony of the season.

In a world filled with hustle and bustle, the simple act of coming together to sing and play music at Christmas becomes a reminder of the true spirit of the holiday.

So, as you gather with family and friends this Christmas, let the music flow freely. Embrace the joy of singing and playing together, for in these shared moments, the true magic of the season comes alive, creating memories that resonate long after the last note has faded away.

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

ON THE NOTICEBOARD - 2024



Concert	-	February, 16 th
Concert	-	March, 15 th
Concert	-	April, 19 th



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Dear members and patrons,

Welcome to the last Homestead concert for 2023. As this is obviously pre-written, I hope the hall isn't too hot, the food fills your belly and the beer is cold enough to quench your thirst. With a visit from a quirky Santa and a beautiful supper to look forward to, I'm sure everyone will have a fabulous night.

Make a note in your diary that as per usual, there won't be a concert in January. The first concert for 2024 will be on February 16th - 6.30pm.

A big thank you to Bill Turgeon, who stepped in, to drum for Mike while he has been recovering from knee construction surgery. Your help is appreciated. We also had a visit from Boppa last month but unfortunately there wasn't a spot on the board (this time) to give him a song.

Many thanks to everyone at Homestead who work tirelessly throughout the year to keep the concerts ticking over without too many hitches. After the performances onstage, the canteen and bar are a hive of activity, so a big thankyou to Cheryl and her team and Frank and his team for keeping the fine cuisine and cold beverages rolling over their counters. Thank you also to Rod and his stagehand crew who do a superb job of on-stage assistance and microphone hygiene that I don't see at any other venue. It's a pity that everything learned from Covid has now gone out the door. Thanks to our door/raffle ladies, sound crew, comperes, Friday set up team and everyone who stays to pack down – all jobs that are important in keeping our concerts happening. Thank you to J.B. (Tuesday roster) Peter (Concert programme) and Trevor (Magazine editor), all important jobs. Thank you to my committee; you guys rock. Apologies to anyone I have missed, your support is appreciated.

A special mention and huge thank you must go to our musicians. With the return of the warmer weather, our Tuesday practices have been hectic, as everyone wants to sound their best for the concert — our musicians do a superb job to make this happen. They work hard at both rehearsals and concerts AND put in a lot of time at home, to make 44 songs (every month), sound as good as possible. I don't think there is another club who has the dedication and expertise of such a professional band as Homestead.

The last and biggest thank you for 2023 goes out to you, our patrons, as without your support throughout the year, Homestead wouldn't have a reason to open its doors. Stay safe over the festive season and we will see you back for another fantastic year of friendship and music. Merry Christmas everyone and all the best for 2024.

Cheers Barbara



Alan Jackson, all American singer, songwriter, has received more awards, nominations and accolades than the majority of his contemporaries. These include:-

35 No#1 hits; 50 Top 10 hits; 31 Albums; 2 Grammys;

17 CMA [Country Music Association] Awards;

16 ACM [Academy of Country Music] Awards;

50+ ASCAP [American Society of Composers, Authors & Publishers] Awards.

His distinctive voice, heartfelt lyrics and a traditional country sound has left an indelible mark on the genre and he has become one of the most respected figures in country music history. His debut album “Here in the Real World” (1990), showcased his unique blend of traditional honky-tonk and contemporary country elements and hit singles like “Wanted” and “Chasin’ That Neon Rainbow” established him as a rising star. Throughout his career, Jackson’s music has been characterised by its relevant themes, emotional intensity and genuine storytelling. Chart-topping albums “Don’t Rock the Jukebox” (1991); “A Lot About Livin’ (And a Little ‘bout Love)” (1992); and “Drive”(2002); produced a string of hits like “Chattahoochee”, “Gone Country” and “Remember When”.

His commitment to preserving the traditional country sound has earned him esteem as well as controversy. In 2000, he collaborated with George Strait with “Murder on Music Row” in a rallying call for Country to return to its traditional bluegrass roots. Certainly, some country had been gravitating towards pop music and some artists such as Kenny Chesney, Faith Hill and Shania Twain considered more culpable than most. However one radio station stated; *“We are not playing it and we never will. It puts down today’s modern country music, and that’s against everything we’re about.”* [KIK-FM (94.3)]. But at L.A.-based KZLA-FM (93.9), which is playing the song, Operations Manager R.J. Curtis said, *“This is an event record, with two of the icons of our format recording together. . . . To me it’s pretty simple, but maybe I’m an idiot. Whether it becomes an anthem for the statement in the song, I don’t know.”*

Despite the lyrics*“Ol’ Hank wouldn’t have a chance on today’s radio”* and *“For the steel guitars no longer cry/ And you can’t hear fiddles play/ With drums and rock ‘n’ roll guitars/ Mixed right up in your face,”* the song and the unforgettable duet later went on to win a CMA Award in 2000 for Vocal Event Of The Year, as well as 2001 Song Of The Year.

Beyond the music, Jackson is known for his humility and authenticity and he remains grounded in his Georgia roots and often pays tribute to his family and upbringing in his songs.

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CONCERT SPOTLIGHTS



MEMBER BIOGRAPHY: STEVEN FRASER

My mother purchased my first guitar when I was 9 years old. It was a Hofner semi acoustic, similar to the one played by Easybeats' rhythm guitarist George Young, a Club 60 Hofner; [cost £79 / 15's in 1960... valued around \$5000 today].

I learned instrumental songs mainly from the Shadows and the Atlantics. In high school I teamed up with some senior students and formed a band. Some of my friends at the time were Robbie Rosenlund, his brother Jimmy, and bass player Laurie Stone. Robbie joined Wickety Wak, Laurie joined Railroad Gin, and I joined the RAAF.



Whilst in the Air Force I played at various places around Melbourne and Sydney, teaming up with like-minded musos. The problem, whilst in the Air Force, was that just as you got really good at your music, the band members got transferred away and so you have to start again. I also did some solo gigs in restaurants and nightclubs for a while. Similarly, post Cyclone Tracy [1974/75], I was transferred to Darwin.

I met Heather whilst in the Air Force. We were married in 1976 at Penrith NSW. After leaving the Air Force, I played at several restaurants in Sydney, including a nice little trio at the Businessman's Club in Parramatta for quite a while.

I joined Overseas Telecommunications Commission (OTC) and became a Maritime Radio Officer, working at Sydney Radio (VIS) and was transferred to Thursday Island Radio (VII) in 1981 where our family, Heather, our son Matthew, and daughter Melissa lived for 5 years until 1986. During our time on TI, we had many enjoyable moments from boating, singing and playing guitar in the pubs, and having a new baby, Rebecca. We made some great friends whilst on the Island and still keep in contact with many of them. In 1986 I was transferred to Brisbane.

Bruce Berry, a work colleague, informed me of a Country Music Club that operated from the Caboolture Historical Village. So, one Tuesday night I popped into Homestead to see what it was all about. That was around 1998 or 1999. I've been here ever since, playing and singing, and sharing some great music. I have shared the stage with many talented musicians and loved the comradery which is part of the Homestead culture. I have also tried to help artists perform to the best of their ability and to improve their performances.

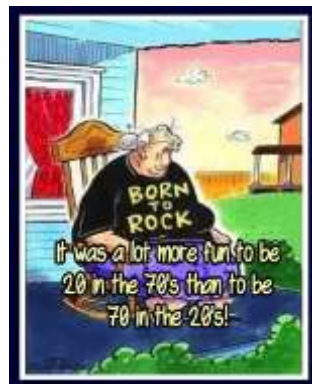
These days I play backing for others when requested to do so, and I still enjoy performing my most loved songs. This has been and is still a remarkable club that provides entertainment and friendship to all who enter. This club is one of the foremost amateur Country Music Clubs you can find anywhere, run by some dedicated people wanting to promote music and friendship. I am so proud to have been a member for all these years. Have a great night!

Cheers Steve

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 Velvet CMC	Banjors Bar Ipswich Mermaid Beach Bowls Club Queen/ Ulm Sts Caloundra except Jan.	12:30 pm 11:00 am 11:00 am
Second Saturday Country Roundup	Caboolture Snr. Citizens Hall	12 Noon
Second Sunday Maroochy River Golden Wattle Maleny Phoenix	Yandina ACMA Hall Cedar Street Wynnum Pioneer Village Bryce Lane, Maleny Community Hall, Burpengary	12 Noon 1:00 pm 12 Noon 11.00am
Third Friday Homestead	Stanmore Hall, Caboolture except Jan.	6:30 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.)



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