

LOW DOWN



A **'Homestead'**
Country Music Club
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Resources
Magazine

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FRONT COVER: Shirley Kropp



Quotes for the Month

*"One good thing about music,
When it hits you, you feel no pain"*

Bob Marley

*"People haven't always been there for me,
but Music has !!"*

Taylor Swift

In search for a topic for this magazine; someone recommended that I should research and illuminate Rhythm. The Rhythm Method was a No! No!! So Rhythm in relation to our musical endeavours was suggested.

On comprehensive investigation, Rhythm is stated as to provide the foundations upon which everything else is based. So without rhythm, there is inertia, it is only sounds or notes minus any form of connection in-between, no torque, thrust or traction to generate cadence, modulation or propulsion. Quite candidly, Rhythm is the glue that holds everything together as well as provide forward movement.

Sturdy and Sound Rhythms are essential to exhibit expression, recurrence, intensity and to add colour to what you play.

It is the Rhythm Guitar that propels the song and melody forward. Whilst Drums lay down the beat and timing, and Bass provides a recurrent pulse; Rhythm Guitar is a layered crest or the *‘cherry on the top’*.

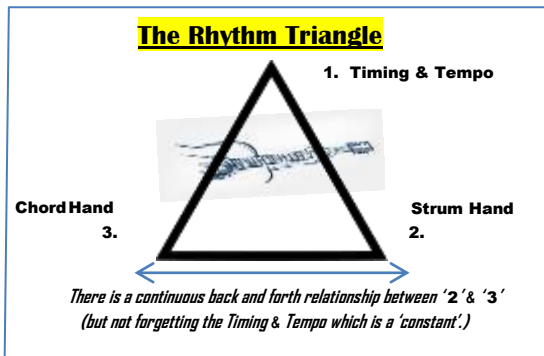
But Rhythm Guitar isn't just about strumming a few chords.

It can involve intricate picking techniques, muting, different strum patterns, variations in chord voicings and added dynamics.

New York Guitarist, Brent Vaartstra goes further by stating that a flawless, complete Rhythm requires **Feel** and **Precision** of and within the music and especially of the space between notes and phrases, to maximise its effectiveness. **Feel** denotes how we strum to create mood; melancholy, excitement, thunder and/or tranquillity, etc., and **Precision** signifies what we play or what we don't play; or as he puts it by *‘playing the rests’*. He goes on to say.... *“It is the way we place the notes or chords within the time frame that matters the most. Yes, we should play the rests as well, they are there for a reason, and it is our interpretation of them that gives music that rhythmic feel.”*

To be certain, no matter how old we are, there will always be challenges to address when we're playing Rhythm, on Stage.

TT



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Hi all and welcome to our first concert of 2024,
Due to shocking weather in February, Homestead Committee deemed it necessary to cancel the concert as the wellbeing of members and patrons was paramount. As it turned out, a lot of people were flooded in or running the risk of driving through flood water and dangerous storms.

James Douglas Rowe. Bek and Kaleb aren't with us tonight as they welcomed their little boy into the world on 17.2.2024. He was three weeks early and weighed 3 kg (6 lb. 6 oz). All are doing well. Uncle Peta is very happy to be on babysitting duties when required.

Mia Grace Spence. Our condolences go out to Mike after the recent loss of his little 22-month-old granddaughter Mia.

EXPO. Regrettably, we have decided not to hold an EXPO again this year. Hopefully 2025 will see the return of this exciting Junior festival. 'Containers for change' is the major fund raiser for this so please continue returning your empties to the bar and bringing along any containers you have at home. Peter Bigg does a fantastic job sorting and refunding these.

Microphone protocol. It has come to my attention that some people are critical of Homestead's strict hygiene protocols which we have continued to impose after Covid-19. The reasons are simple: no device is shared more at venues than any other piece of equipment. A microphone is touched by hands, noses and mouths as we all talk, sing, cough and sneeze into them. The microphone can gather saliva, sweat, make-up, food, skin particles, dirt, grime and other debris during use, so can potentially spread harmful bacteria and/or viruses like cold viruses, influenza, Covid-19 and other germs and diseases. I am appalled to note that other venues haven't learned anything from the epidemic and have ceased all efforts to control the health hazards that arise from the communal microphone.

At Homestead practices we are each responsible for protecting ourselves and each other by applying a foam sock prior to usage and cleaning down with a wipe after usage. NB: No sock = no sing. Cover with a wipe if you forget to bring yours. We have socks for sale. At Homestead concerts Rod and his dedicated team of stagehands not only sort out our stage needs but also do a superb job of taking care of microphone hygiene. Since Homestead has had hygiene protocols in place, we have reduced the spread of coughs and colds etc. which used to run rampant amongst members throughout the year. Keep up the good work Homestead.

St Patrick's concerts are always a lot of fun, filled with songs and laughter and seeing a few of us washing down the party food with a Guinness or two. With 2.4 million Australians identifying as having Irish ancestry, it's no wonder we enjoy the day.
Question: What happens to a leprechaun when he falls into the Irish Sea?
Well, that's it this time around. Have a fantastic night.

Cheers Barbara

FEATURE ARTICLE - David Soul



Who, amongst us today, cannot remember **David Soul** in **Starsky & Hutch** and their 1976 **Ford** Gran Torino (Red, with a White, wide-flash stripe), nick-named the “Striped Tomato”?

Despite his acting prowess; cast with Clint Eastwood in ‘Magnum Force’, ‘The Streets of San Francisco’ and appearances in Star Trek, I Dream of Jeannie, Gunsmoke, McMillan & Wife and All in the Family, to name but a few; ..he is quoted as saying on National Television,

“My name is David Soul, and I want to be known for my music.”

After Starsky & Hutch, he returned to his singing roots to forge a successful music career with chart-topping hits. In 1977, “Don’t Give Up on Us” reached No#1 in both USA & UK and then another No#1 hit with “Silver Lady”.

David Soul departed this world on 4th January this year (2024), aged 80 years, in London, where he had lived for the past 28 years, gaining British citizenship in 2004. Born in Chicago, USA, he began performing ‘on-stage’, both singing and acting in Minneapolis in the mid 1960’s before moving to New York City.

With a career spanning five decades, his widespread recognition and fan-base, it is not surprising that he toured extensively. He has been referred to as a Multifaceted Talent, able to showcase the depth of his artistic abilities as well as transition and seamlessly navigate between acting and music. Such was his ingenious versatility!

David Soul was not a one-dimensional artist.

TT. Editor



CONCERT SPOTLIGHTS



MEMBER BIOGRAPHY: **SHIRLEY KROPP**

I was born in Eumundi in 1943. My grandmother, a farmer, taught music and played organ for the church services that I attended. After her tuition, she singled me out to be her main vocalist when I was about eight or nine years old.

In my teens, I began guitar lessons with Jimmy Kerr of Nambour. Possibly, my first ever song, on stage playing rhythm guitar, was 'Sailor' with "Jimmy Kerr's Hawaiian Band".

My brother John and I also attended many dances as teenagers and we won many Jive Competitions.

I married Barry in 1964 and we moved to Gympie where Barry found work as a mechanic. I picked beans on farms and we built our first house from our earnings. Hard-work never hurt our generation and we reaped the benefits from work ethic. However, my much loved guitar stayed hidden under the bed for many, many years.

We moved to Wandoan in 1969 and started a family; Angelique, Belinda and Christopher. Whilst bringing up three children, the chores of housewife and the social life in a country town, I became the local Swimming Teacher and Coach. After becoming qualified as a Level 2 (Australian Swimming) Coach, alongside the likes of Laurie Lawrence, I was offered to be a Selector for the Qld Swimming Team. I declined as we lived too far away from Brisbane. Instead, I became a Scout Leader. Then we had a stint in Meandarra before moving back to Wandoan where Barry bought Wandoan Auto Service, and with hard work again, made a great success of it.

We moved to Morayfield in 2000 and opened a Dress shop, "Shirley K" which we sold after seven years. Always looking for something to do, I took up 'Oil Painting', which was something offered by community groups and something I had dabbled with whilst bringing up the children. Then there was an offering of Music and Guitar.

So I took out my old vintage "Framus" Guitar, dusted it off and haven't looked back. I now teach Singing and Guitar with Jeff Cook at the Seven Day Adventist Centre in Morayfield. I initially joined Country Roundup at Narangba and then Homestead in 2016 from contact with Jill Cuffe. There were some Oohs!! and Ahhs!! when I first brought my 'Framus' to Homestead. However my vintage guitar had not been maintained over the years. So a new 'Takamine' has been my guitar ever since at Homestead, where I am also happily helping out on the reception desk at each concert.

Shirley

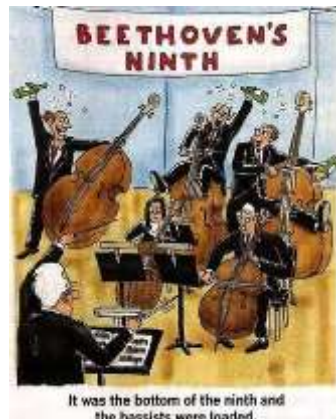
Editor's Note: "Framus" Guitars were one of the most important electric guitar manufacturers in Europe [1946-1970]. John Lennon purchased a "Framus" 'Hootenanny' in 1965. Elvis Presley began his association with "Framus", most especially, its famous 'Isana' Models, whilst drafted and stationed in Germany.



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	Banjos 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 Hinterland Music Pioneer Vllge. Bryce Lane, Maleny Community Hall, Burpengary	12 Noon 1:00 pm 10 am 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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