

PRELUDE



MAY 2003.

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HEY—WHERE'S YOUR LICENCE ?

The music industry is different from nearly all other industries on the planet and there are reasons why this is so. The carefully honed talents which are displayed to audiences and listeners all over the world are in the main, accidents of birth. How else could you explain my lack of vocal qualities when it comes to singing. Hey I know guitar players, yes you can teach yourself that, who will never get anywhere near mastering the instrument. So how come some have it and some don't ?

Of course the answer is very obvious to people of religious conviction, it's a talent given at birth that sometimes gets discovered and often just goes to waste.

Our industry has a total lack of credentials in the form of certificates, diplomas or licences and relies heavily on peoples judgment or being in the right place at the right time (luck). I can check out a Doctor, Nurse, Lawyer, Dentist, School Teacher, Accountant, Electrician and Plumber by their credentials, usually in paper form and often hanging on their walls. How on earth can I check out a country music singer or instrumentalist ? If I'm an employer these credentials are a big part of selecting a prospective employee.

Nowadays there are sound colleges that give a good indication of abilities and we have the College of Country Music at Tamworth, also Camarata, but you still can't look at a piece of paper to assess the talent within and without. So how do we achieve this momentous decision of who's good and who's not ?

Of course the answer to this question is simply that we hear other people's opinions or read and listen to the media, or even go hear them for ourselves. With everyone's tastes being different and from one extreme to the other, the personal opinion of others can only be obtained from like-minded acquaintances. Hey wouldn't it be great to walk up to the bass player and say 'Show me your credentials', you might get a shock if he didn't understand the question !! It's word of mouth and being in the audience or buying the CD that tells us how talented a person is. Please remember though one man's (sorry ladies) meat is another man's poison, yes it's all in our individual taste !

Following on from this digression let me induce, plead, beg, coerce you to come to our Champion Of Champions at the Burnside Town Hall on Saturday 28th. June where you will see and hear our talented and already quest winners, go head-to-head in their endeavours to win the big one. You see this is a great way to check out their credentials !! Planning is well under way by the SACCM committee set up to run the event on your behalf, it should be a RIPPER !

News from the Council on a negative note, for a change, is that Ian List and also Barry Sellers have resigned from the Board. The Council regretfully accepted their very good reasons and thank them both for the excellent service given to South Australian country music. Of course we will be calling on their expertise from time to time to give a hand. With Jeff Cook moving to the South East, the good news is that we have received two worthy volunteers for his post and will let you know of his successor when appointed by the Board. Jeff assures us that the reins will be passed over gently with ongoing guidance from afar, thanks for that mate ! Meanwhile the rest of us battle on (that's a topical word !) and the members are preparing the Hank William's Birthday Party and the South Australian Country Music Showcase for later in the year, Much preparation and burning of the candle from both ends I fear. Yours truly, whilst writing this edition of the Prelude must also plan out the following month's. Hey it's all go at the Council !!

David

maybe it's
diabetes



we're
smoke
free

alcohol
go easy

A P R A A M C O S



IT'S ON AGAIN AT THE HUGO'S !!

If a Bush Tucker Night is appealing to you and country music gets thrown in as well, then I know just the place to go. Graeme and Lynne Hugo are inviting you to be at their place on Saturday May 10th, isn't that nice of them ?

There's a small catch, of course but I can't see it as a problem, in that it will cost you \$20 per head. With the support being given again to the Royal Flying Doctor Service, a feast of bush tucker and great country music, well it's cheap at twice the price I reckon !

So pack your caravan or camper, or tent, or even your swag and stay the night for free, that's right, for nothing'. The great entertainment starts at 3pm and should conclude at 1am.

There will be Graeme and his band 'Ironbark' plus 'Cross-Fire' plus 'Wheeldrive', to keep you going.

Now it's essential that you leave your glass and eskies outside the entertainment area (or you'll be shot !). Hey there's full bar facilities and you can have breakfast at a small charge, you see they've thought of everything for your convenience !

For more details including a mud map have a look at www.saccm.com or phone either of these phone numbers 8642 2595, 8645 5212 or 0427 861 632.

Of course it's just a short distance from Whyalla and lots of FUN !!!

LISA GETS AWAY FOR NOW !

Had a nice letter from Betty Vasey about her daughter Lisa Vasey, who you may remember was a member of the Executive Committee of the SACCM, not so long ago.

Well Lisa has had the audacity (only joking !) to move to the Lismore / Byron Bay area of NSW to further her country music career and is proving to be very popular with her audiences. If you haven't heard Lisa sing before, believe me you are missing an exceptional voice. In fact one of her songs was nominated by the ABC in the Golden Guitar awards, so well thought of by their musical hierarchy it would seem.

We wish her well in this venture and look forward to hearing that great voice in SA again and of course seeing her.

GET READY, GET SET, LET'S MUSTER !!

The 2003 Adelaide City Muster is at the Entertainment Centre on Saturday August 9th.

This year the muster will feature Lee Kernaghan, Adam Harvey, Catherine Britt and the Topp Twins from New Zealand. Other special guests are also expected to appear.

Again this will be a top country music event not to be missed and the attendance should top the previous best of over 7500 people in the audience, who will add greatly to the prevailing atmosphere on the night. Can't wait but I must !!

THE MURRAYLANDS MUSIC FESTIVAL PUTS SOME BITE INTO IT IN 2003 !!

Over 1000 receptive and adoring country music fans were on hand to applaud the acts at the festival. Taillem Bend was 'chock a block' so to speak, when 80 entrants in the now burgeoning talent quest came to town to display their talents.

In attendance with the South Aussies were several participants and audience members from NSW and Victoria. It was great that they supported what is becoming a really successful festival.

The organisers were obviously ecstatic that the festival attracted as many people as it did. For me the reason is simply organisation and great artists.

A comment from the principal (yes he is !) organiser Mr Noel Kneebone stated ' Overall comments received praised the friendly atmosphere, community spirit and professional organisation of the festival. All artists can be proud of their performances in front of an appreciative crowd'.

Carter & Carter and Craig Giles showed they are class acts by stunning the crowd with brilliant stage performances. The people appreciated the stars joining them in the crowd and also by their encouragement of the talent quest performers.

Add in Mallee Blue, the fabulous Sherrahs, Archive, Short Notice and that icon Big Jim Hermal, and the participating audience had a ball down Murraylands way !!

A mention must be made of a special charmer who just happened to be there. In a previous edition of the Prelude I mentioned that Ros Giles is the lovely wife cum manager of Craig, but I was not aware of her snake charming ways ! By way of an explanation let me say that poor Ros got bitten by a brown snake in the caravan park she was staying at, when attempting to protect some nearby children. So she picked it up, got bit and spent a sleepless night in the local hospital. Nobody was game to ask her about the incident and by the time I next see her, she may (hopefully) have forgotten this Editor's report. Hey she's a great lady !! Reckon there's a song in there somewhere for you Craig !!

THE PIRIE FESTIVAL HAS A NEW TIME FRAME.

The Port Pirie Festival of Country Music has new dates which you should be made aware of. The next festival will be run on the 14th to 17th May 2004. Let me stress 2004 !

This is a significant change after years of discussion and debate.

Several factors were involved but the main one was the clash with Mildura. Now there is no excuse not to support one of our own great festivals and you have time to save up as well ! The Northern Country Music Association is to be congratulated for making this informed decision.

TWO GREAT COUNTRY MUSIC ALBUMS AS PRIZES FROM THE EDI-



The Editor has donated the following CD albums as this month's prizes to our members and the lucky 'Friends of Country Music' this time are :-

Colcannon - ' Dolphin Bay'.....Kevin & Roxanne Frith of Blanchetown

Susan McCarter - ' Money, Love & Destiny 'Graham Argent of Port Noarlunga

OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE ' FRIENDS OF COUNTRY MUSIC '

SARA DOWNS SWOOPS ON THE AWARDS



The Future of SA Country Music ?

It seems impossible to keep our talented young stars from plundering the spoils outside of South Australia. The latest country music 'pirate' is sixteen year old Sara Downs from Mount Gambier in the South East. Last year whilst compeering the 2002 Showcase it was very obvious to me that here was a young lady with talent to burn and a desire to succeed. Little did I realise that having attended the Camarata at Tamworth in 2002, Sara would top this off with yet another great effort.

Suspense killing you ? Well OUR Sara has won the 2003 Rudy Brandsma Award which is a perpetual song writing award and has been awarded since 1997 by the Australian Songwriters Association. Sara entered her obviously original songs 'Life Mundane', 'Oblivion' and 'Why You' in the Ausmusic / Youth category. These entries not only won her the award but also an overall citation for excellence in song writing and to a member who demonstrates outstanding potential. There were 2,000 (that's right !) entries which makes Sara's win all the more a remarkable achievement, after all she's only sixteen and has light years ahead of her to develop that prodigious talent . With the prize money of \$500 cash, the trophy and a brand new Maton M225 acoustic guitar, she also has gained an invitation to perform at the Australian Songwriters Association Award's night to be held in Sydney on May 4th. Well done Sara Downs, you're a great ambassador for SA country music !!

SA HAS A SPEAKER BUT THE SACCM HAS THE CHAIRMAN.

Apart from the fact that Peter Lewis is the Speaker of the South Australian Parliament and seemed to be a target for others misfortune in the political field, most people don't know of his deep held love of country music. A man who has more than enough on his plate can still find time to pilot the South Australian Council for Country Music ever upwards and onwards, whilst keeping yours truly and others in control. Not an easy task I should imagine !

His lovely wife has told me that he is a good singer or did she say he had a good voice, no matter we'll put that to the test later.

At our last Board meeting Peter had an engagement with some Asian businessmen and their mayor, which obviously was very important to the State and he departed mid-meeting with many profuse apologies. 'That's him for the night' I thought but no, back he came at an ungodly hour to resume his pursuit of country music organisation.

To be the Chairman of any organisation over a long period of time requires a dedication and stamina that few of us have, but Peter has it in abundance. So the next time you meet our 'Boss' bear all of this in mind and be assured of his love for country music in South Australia, shake his hand and marvel at the stamina of a man burning the candle at both ends. Still when it's time to quit politics he'll still have his country music and all of us as his friends. Must find out though if he can sing !!



PIECES

The Grace Bros department store in Tamworth will soon be no more and one wonders what will happen to the free and long running shows (since 1991) it played host to ?

Kym and Carol Warner going well in the USA and about to purchase a home in Austin, Texas. They have a band called 'The Green Cards' and getting good gigs

Australia's own Lee Kernaghan has been nominated as one of 10 artists for the inaugural Global Artist Award to be presented by the CMA of America at the Fan Fair in Nashville this June. Good onya Lee !

With John Williamson (plus Warren Williams & Pixie). Troy Cassar Daley and Sara Storer (plus Peter Denehy) set to tour in Australia, perhaps we ought to send them all a map with South Australia included ! Keep your fingers crossed, they might find us anyway !

ALL SET FOR THE CONVENTION PLANNED TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY MAY 10th 2003.

TO BE CHAIRED BY PETER LEWIS WHO IS OF COURSE THE SACCM CHAIRMAN FOR 2003.

SUBMISSIONS OF EXTRA TOPICS WERE TO BE RECEIVED BY 15th APRIL BUT HOPEFULLY THERE WILL BE TIME IN GENERAL BUSINESS TO TAKE EXTRA TOPICS THAT ARE CONSIDERED CONSTRUCTIVE.

THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO BE HEARD AND FURTHER THE COURSE OF SA COUNTRY MUSIC. TO BE HELD AT OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE, BE THERE AT 12 NOON. LET JEFF KNOW ON 8379-7741 IF YOU'RE COMING SO THAT HE CAN MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS TO GET YOU ADMISSION, ETC.

Clay Walker has created a not-for-profit organisation to help fight multiple sclerosis called 'The Band Against MS Foundation'. Clay suffers from this dreaded disease also ! Go to it Clay !

Wade Hayes is joining with **Mark McClurg** (a 12 year veteran with **Alan Jackson's** band 'The Strayhorns') to form a duo called the **McHayes**. Look out for their CD this year.

Dixie Chicks always in the news nowadays (fighting their own war it seems) have just said sorry but in the land of freedom of speech, some folk just don't practice what they preach !! Sounds familiar ! Hey they just sold 5 million units of 'Home' !

Quote: ' I'm on the Waffle House diet'..... **Vince Gill**

Tim Rushlow who headed up ' **Little Texas** ' in their hit-making years and launched his solo career with ' She Misses Him ' has a new band called ' **Rushlow** ' and a new contract with **Lyric Street** What great mind thought up that band name ? No prizes for guessing who that was I reckon !!

The hunt is on for **Bobbie Gentry** who has disappeared off the map it seems. The wags reckon she's jumped off the Tallahatchie Bridge !

What's the country music world coming to ? **Donna Summer** has been elected as a director of the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. That should cover the pop influence nicely !! However **Vince Gill** was elected as President for a second year term.

Do you remember that **Merle Haggard** sued for the cassette of unreleased tracks that appeared on E-bay's internet auction ? He dropped the lawsuit on a promise of getting the tape back.

The **Grand Ole Opry** is to receive a \$7.5 million renovation which is scheduled to be completed in a year.

Tim McGraw out of chilly Nashville and playing a couple of gigs in balmy Florida should have been relaxed and happy ! He was to spend some time with his look-alike biological father Tug McGraw, the 20 year major league baseball star. However Tug was rushed to hospital with brain tumors and an operation has been performed.

Pam Tillis has a new album out called ' It's All Relative—Tillis Sings Tillis '. Of course the songs that her father made famous and has turned 360 degrees from some of the country music tracks on US radio today. (PS...heard it on Coast FM 88.7, Mondays 2 to 4 pm.)

US MTV banned violent music videos for the duration of the war with Iraq. Video words such as bomb, missile, war or any other sensitive words in the artist or song-title will not be aired. Don't you worry though, after the war, it's back to violence !!

There is an alternate concert, on the night of the **Dixie Chicks** opening night of their US tour, it will star the **Marshall Tucker Band** at the nearby Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium. The chicks concert was a sell-out before their controversial statement on George Bush before a London audience. Free speech OK ?

Talking of **George Bush** did you know that he told the Calgary Sun newspaper that he likes to work-out to old **George Jones** songs like 'White Lightening' and ' The Race Is On'. By the way that's the songs that are old, not George Jones !!

Willie Nelson's 70th. birthday came round the mountain on April 30th. Shotgun Willie is reputedly in good health and revving up, like they say 'You can't keep a good man down' !

Buzzwords from **Gulf War II** are emerging to be used in general conversation. To appear with it try using the word 'embedded' which is a well-known computer expression meaning 'to enclose in a matrix'. Now however instead of using ' well connected' it is 'embedded' that is used. So you don't sleep with anyone to climb the corporate ladder, do you become 'embedded' ???

The next buzz word is used instead of being briefed, updated or brought up to speed, it's now directing someone to 'calibrate me' ! Now go and impress your boss or an acquaintances.

Johnny Cash has been in and out again at the Nashville Baptist hospital suffering from pneumonia. Word is that's he's OK .

Quote: 'I understand why people are resentful when celebrities get on the political soapbox. I'm not a political expert on foreign policy but at the same time I live in a democracy. I still have the right to to say what I believe, I don't think my opinion carries more weight than a doctor or plumber but I have as much right to say it'. That was **Rosanne Cash's** comment on cmt.com.

On a similar vein, **Darryl Worley** said ' It's amazing to me how a lot of people become successful at their particular job in entertainment and all of a sudden they become a force to be reckoned with on a political level. There is nothing in this world that I want less than that'. Hey good news Darryl !!

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