



Talia Wittmann Back in SA!

Talia has returned home after spending 14 months in Queensland working & studying her Bachelor of Music at The Central Queensland Conservatorium of Music.

To support her studies Talia undertook bar work, childcare and performing at local rodeos and bull rides including Lee Kernaghan's Great Western Hotel.

While Talia was away she placed third in the 2005 Tamworth Busking Championship, out of 500 entrants and was also in the 2006 Telstra Road to Tamworth finals, performing in Tamworth on the Telstra Country Wide Stage, which was televised on CMC.

Talia has been very busy since she has returned home doing gigs, songwriting & practicing with her new band. Talia warms to her audience with her bubbly and very professional attitude, coupled with an awesome strength & range in her voice.

If you would like to catch up with Talia, her next gig is at The McLeod's Daughters – **Gungellan Hotel at Freeling on the 1st July 2006 from 9.00pm for the Bundy club social night** as requested by the Bundy club, consisting of 450 members. The night will revolve around a Bundy theme so come dressed in black and yellow or in your favourite Bundy gear. Best dressed will receive a prize and throughout the night there will be prizes, raffles and \$4 Bundy cans for members!

Talia performed at the Gungellan in May this year. The publican Kerry quotes, "The entertainment was great! It was one of the largest turnouts the Gungellan has seen and with the overwhelming feedback from the night I am sure Talia will become a regular act at the Gungellan Hotel in the future."

For enquiries & bookings please contact Talia's Management team on either of the following contacts: Ivan Mattschoss 83982098 ivan@mattschossguitars.com.au Manfred Wittmann 83884568 taliaw@ihug.com.au

Talia is a professional member of the SA Council for Country Music. To find out more info on Talia visit our website at www.saccm.com

South Australian Country Music Awards

Cold weather and high petrol prices dampened only a few spirits, but those who attended the Riverland Festival in June were not disappointed with the entertainment! Of course there were the regulars we have grown to love over the years such as Olive Bice, Cheryl Lethlean, Alison Hams and the powering voice of Murray Mac himself. The Riverland also welcomed Col Elliot, Trev Warner, Don Coster, Shane Teinaki, Jeanette Wormald, Stuie and Camille, and Sandra Humphries... the list goes on!! The line up of artists that this festival is able to produce is remarkable! There's something for everyone regardless of what kind of Country Music you like.

The gospel show was a great start to the last Sunday of the festival including a touching performance from the Sherrah family. As the day progressed into the Sunday Spectacular, John O'Dea wowed the crowd once again with his brilliant song writing and for the second year in a row, won the Senior Frank Harding Memorial Award. The Junior Division of the same competition was won by Kristal Collins singing rather impressively her signature song 'Suds in the Bucket' by Shelly Evans.

This festival is known as the friendly festival and it certainly was. On Sunday evening in the Barmera Monash Football Club, organisers got to take a short break whilst one of the locals decided to take to the stage. He didn't take the show away by himself though. In front of a huge crowd, this daring yet romantic fellow took control of the microphone to propose to his lovely girlfriend... Well they do call it the friendly festival. And by the way ... she said "yes"

Well done to all the organisers especially Dot McDonnell for a great festival FULL of the greatest music!! We are sure to see the festival just as strong next year!



'The Little Darlings' on Girls Day Out - Bernice, Hilda from St Kilda, Darleen, Maria, Sweet Sue from Strathalbyn and Katrina from Roseworthy



TIARA Award Winner Sandra Humphries with good friend and Golden Guitarist Trev Warner

2006 APRA South Australian Country Song Of The Year



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Entries for the APRA South Australian Country Song of the Year close on 30th September 2006.

If you are a songwriter who wants recognition for your unrecorded songs, you should consider entering in the APRA South Australian Country Song of the Year.

Follow our guidelines (found on our website or by calling our Secretary) and send your application to us before the closing date. With two cash prizes to be won for best Modern and Traditional song, the awards will be presented at the prestigious "South Australian Showcase" to be held at Norwood Concert Hall on Saturday 25th November 2006.



New Corporate Member!

Congratulations to the National Motor Museum of Australia, who have recently become a corporate member of the SA Council for Country Music Inc. Please support them by attending this year's **Birdwood Country Bash on Sunday 19th November 2006!**

Pull on your moleskins, slap on your Akubra and head to the National Motor Museum for the Birdwood Country Bash. A day that's pure country – a Ute, Truck and 4 wheel drive muster and great Country Music carnival.

The Ute has a great Aussie tradition – in the 50's and 60's the Ute was mainly owned by the man on the land and many an outback tale can be told about a life & death situation involving a man, his dog and his Ute. The image has changed and it's become cool to be seen around town in your hotted up Ute sporting a metallic paint job and a set of mag wheels.

Country music in South Australia is well organised and enjoying great support from the public. The South Australian Council for Country Music Inc continues to support and encourage country music stars of the future. The line up of talent at the Birdwood Country Bash will be well worth seeing.

For more information or to register your interest in supporting this event contact Pauline Renner, Event Coordinator on 8568 4034 or email preenner@history.sa.gov.au

Junior Country Crossover Exciting Revamp!

The Junior Country Crossover would like to officially thank ARTS SA through Live Music for its generous sponsorship to further promote and develop the young talent in SA!

"We are very pleased with the result and are in the process of further developing the committee to improve all the services offered through JCC" – Tammy Latham

Due to the current workload of the current coordinator Tammy Latham, (now Secretary, Treasurer, Grants Coordinator and more), Tammy is unable to continue coordinating the JCC's, however has passed it onto Jon and Candy Latham, who have been heavily involved in the project from day one.

Jon and Candy are now co-coordinating the potential project which has helped many children and young adults in SA. They have called on assistance from people such as John Turner (Former Rustler, now from Sound Forge), who are willing to revamp the whole thing!!

"We are looking for people who can do sound, play instruments, run raffles, organise canteen, set-up pack-up, run the door and even sweep a floor..." "We want all to come who are interested in improving the committee and enhancing this project to make it an exciting learning experience for all involved.

During the next twelve months, stay tuned for updates on the Junior Country Crossover and formal workshops hosted by industry professionals! Next year is shaping up to be very informative and fun!!

For further information please ring Jon or Candy on 8326 9943

Emily Reed wins Cindy Shelton Award



Congratulations to Emily Reed who has won this year's **Cindy Shelton Memorial Award** to attend the 2006 Tamworth Camerata in July!

Although SACCM were available to fund the Scholarship for 2006, Camerata kindly kept a special place for our SACCM candidate. After a selection process Emily was selected to go to Camerata in 2006 at her expense. A singer, songwriter and guitarist, Emily is keen to gain further instruction from a guitar master class and intensive song writing tuition from Buckwackers' member and long-time Camerata tutor, Roger Corbett. We wish Emily the best of luck and are looking forward to hearing about her experiences in the next couple of months.

"TALENT QUEST TALK" OPINION : by Alison Hams

Hi Everyone! I thought I'd put together a little column, mainly directed and the young (and young at heart) people who enter Country Music Festival Talent Quests!

I have been involved in these quests in many different facets – organizer, judge, compere, backing band, and of course have my own experiences from years gone by as a competitor.

There seems to be a number of little issues that pop up from time to time – nothing that should be too serious – but things that maybe Talent Questers don't realise, or don't know who to ask! These, in my opinion, revolve mainly around four topics – CHORD CHARTS AND TIMING, RULES AND REGULATIONS, JUDGING SHEETS AND JUDGES, and PRESENTATION & WATCHING OTHERS!

CHORD CHARTS AND TIMING:

For a usual Talent Quest, bear in mind that the band is being handed *at least* 45 songs in a day, not just yours, and if your chart isn't up to scratch, they are relying on maybe having already heard the song, using common sense, and listening to you to get your song right. Ideally measures, or "bar charts" are better, then they know when to change chords, but a lyric sheet is ok, so long as the chords are on top of the correct word, the chords are correct, and in the right key!

If you work out your chords playing guitar with the capo on, and don't know how to transpose it into the correct key, don't be afraid to call up any one of us, the people who you see around the industry, performers and backing bands, and we'll gladly help. Unfortunately capo chords don't help bass players, pedal steel players, keyboard players etc... and transposing "on the spot" after a long day can get a little hard.

Another interesting tip is – if you are in a "flat" key, write the chords out as "sharps", that way the guitarists CAN use a capo if they choose – for example – A flat, then C sharp, then E flat can be written as G#, C# and D# - these are called enharmonics – and allow a capo to be used on the first fret.

As far as timing is concerned, learning to count in your own song is a MUST! Ask a drummer to show you how. 4/4 timing written on a chart doesn't tell the drummer if it's fast, or slow, whether it's a swing or a rock beat. Counting "a1, a2, a1234" indicates a shuffle feel where as "1 2 3 4" would indicate a rock beat. Waltz times can be counted in as "1 23, 2 23," and 2/4's are generally "1,2, 1234". Again, in 2/4 there is polka time, and train beat – so ask a drummer what kind of "feel" your song is, and how to count it in.

If you are still not confident with counting, come on stage, go STRAIGHT to the drummer, and sing him a bit of the Chorus of your song – he or she can then count you in (verses don't give a true indication of the meter or feel) - the judges won't start judging you until you turn to the microphone and start introducing the song – something I'll touch on in a future column.

Just one last tip with your chord charts – red and green print can sometimes disappear under stage lights, bold print and yellow highlighters work best!

Just remember talent quests are just another opportunity to get up, sing a song, and gain experience and exposure – winning a prize is a bonus!!

NEXT MONTH: Rules and Regulations!

If you have any questions about what I've written here, please email me on ali@alisonhams.com – I'd love to help, or discuss your opinions too!

Cheers, ALISON HAMS.



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