

20th Mildura Festival On Track

October 2006



Alison Hams & Mark Tempany



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www.saccm.com

Inside this issue:

Junior Country Crossover	2
Jeanette releases New Single	2
Kristy releases Debut Album	2
Opinion with Alison Hams	3
November of Country Music	3

Australia's largest Independent Country Music Festival is celebrating its 20th birthday this year.

Featuring over 100 artists appearing at 24 separate venues, the 20th Mildura Country Music Festival is on track to be the biggest ever.

The popular open-air venue at Henderson Park will again have performances for nine days of the Festival and Country on the Darling at Wentworth continues as a feature of the Festival. There will be increased shows at many venues and a new daytime Walk Up hosted by IAN MUIR will be introduced, at the recently renovated and popular venue, the Merbein Citizens Club.

"We have eleven new artists at this years Festival and things are shaping up extremely well," said Festival Co-ordinator John Arnold. "The great co-operation from Tourism Victoria, Mildura Rural City and Wentworth Shire Councils, our sponsors, the accommodation industry and venues are vital factors in making the Festival such an ongoing success," he said.

A couple of SA Artists promoting themselves in Mildura this year are Jeanette Wormald (see page two for New Single Release) along with Alison Hams and Mark Tempany.

Mark & Ali Make Their 'Mark' on Mildura

As national support act for UK star Charlie Landsborough in February, and for one of Australia's most respected and popular performers, Kate Ceberano, at the Adelaide Hilton, Mark & Alison's year gets better and better!

The release of their new twin CD pack *Summer Dreams - Remember* has been a hit - and Coopers Golden Saddle Winner Mark hosted his Concerts in the Chapel at Tamworth in January to sell out audiences.

Alison's original songs have been gaining her much critical acclaim, with inclusions on the soundtrack of an Australian feature film, and Second Fiddle winning the 2005 UK Songwriting Contest.

From Friday 22nd September at the Gateway Tavern right through to Sunday 1st October at the Coomealla Golf Club for the Costa Brothers Show the duo will be working a full schedule of concerts and appearances.

Check out www.milduracountrymusic.com.au or www.marktempany.com for details.

Champion Finalists Update

You may have noticed in the September Prelude that part of my column was missing in which I recognised and thanked sponsors of this year's Champion of Champions.

Unfortunately I didn't have enough room to mention everyone last month as there was a great deal of news to tell. SACCM would like to recognise the outstanding effort to all below!

Sponsors of Champion of Champions allowed the prize package to include a cash prize, a \$1000 voucher from RM Williams, a free photography session with Rising Star Media, and recording time with Billy Hyde's Recording .

Along with the overall Champion of Champions awards, the heat winners for the days events were Senior Female (17 and over) winner Vanessa Lee Shirley, Senior Male (17 and over) winner Danny Gyory, Junior 16 & Under winner Kristal Collins, Junior 13 & Under winner Nathaniel O'Brien and the Len Wakefield Memorial Award went to Georgie Shortt.

The elite backing band of Kevin Bergen, Alison Hams, Paul Orchard and Anthony Stewart, backed the quest both day and night. Dave Prior hosted the glittering awards night with Guest Artists - Jessie Che, Mark Tempany and Alison Hams.

A HUGE thankyou to all of the volunteers - your help is without a doubt irreplaceable! Visit our website for full results of this year's Champion of Champions finalists.

ROCKY PAGE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The name Rocky Page is known throughout Australia as a legend of South Australian country music. In 1950 he started his own music school before starting touring in 1956. Unfortunately Rocky passed on to the big gig above in 1997 and was elevated to the Roll of Renown in 1998. It is therefore fitting that the South Australian Council for Country Music decided to inaugurate an award which enables a worthy successful candidate to attend THE Country Music school at Tamworth in the name of Rocky Page. In the past SA has been well represented by the recipients of this award and it is expected that this year's award winner will maintain the high standard of our country music artistry. Who will be the talented performer who is offered this major opportunity to study with some of the best teachers Australia has to offer? Keep your eye out in future editions of Prelude - This is an exiting award well worth the wait!



Wonderful Workshops!

Big thanks to Alison Hams, who hosted last month's workshops on Vocal & Mic Technique and Presentation & Performance at Junior Country Crossover!

If you would like a copy of workshop notes and booklets from Junior Country Crossover, just visit the JCC webpage or contact Tammy Latham on 0410 323 811.

The Junior Country Crossover workshops were made possible by Arts SA.



CELEBRATE SUNNYBRAE 2006

"Sunnybrae farm comes alive for a day of entertainment and celebrations. Medieval Knights, Archers and Return of the Vikings feature in the days events, along with veteran and vintage cars, motorcycles and model trains. Entertainment includes Blueridge Mountain Cloggers, rock and roll, belly dancing, line dancing, Country and Celtic music, heritage trail show bags, food and craft stalls and displays and face painting by the Junior Country Crossover. There will be six hours of non-stop entertainment with lots of prizes. Historic Sunnybrae Farm encloses an area of four and a half acres with old buildings, large trees, lawns, fountains and a rose garden, and this event covers the entire area."

If there are any performers that would like to perform at this year's Celebrate Sunnybrae, please contact Tammy Latham on 0410 323 811

This is a major event for the Junior Country Crossover in the Community and we consider it to be one of the biggest events we have participated in outside of the Country Music Industry.

There are lots of other events during the day to cater for all ages supporting a wide range of organisations.

*Please come along and support us.
(Event flier on the JCC webpage)*

Also, don't forget that **the next JCC will be held on Saturday 21st October** at the Folk Federation (Cnr George Street & South Road, Thebarton) from 1.00 - 4.30pm.

Check the JCC website www.saccm.com/jcc for more info, updates and events.



Jeanette Releases New Single

Jeanette Wormald has released a new single to Australian radio - the title track of her album *Opal Blue*.

This follows a phenomenal six months for the SA based artist since the release of her stunning new album *Opal Blue* in April.

The album's first single, *Boundary Rider's Daughter*, broke into the coveted top 5 ranking in the Country Music National Top 30 charts, reaching number four and charting for 16 weeks.

She has been named a finalist in the CMAA Australian Country Music Achiever Awards for Independent artist of the Year, is a finalist in the Australian Country Recording Awards for Best Female Album and was also a finalist in the SA Folk Awards for Most Outstanding Vocalist and Most Outstanding Album. The album, *Opal Blue* was also in the Top 5 of the Tasmanian and New Zealand Songwriting Awards for Album of the Year.

The new single, which is track four on NFS Publicity Radio Sampler number 108, is a very Australian take on the bluegrass style.

Once again it showcases not only Jeanette's crystal clear voice but her strength as a story-teller. The track also features a blistering guitar solo from producer, Michael Cristian.

"The crowd response to *Opal Blue* when I do it live has been fantastic," Jeanette said. "People love the infectious beat and melody and the energy in the song. It is quite a contrast to the *Boundary Rider's Daughter* which was a real ballad."

Jeanette said she is looking forward to performing the new single at the Mildura Country Music Festival which begins this Friday.

"Singing and playing music is pure joy for me. To be able to perform live with great musicians and then feel the appreciation of the audience is the closest thing to heaven."

"I am just so grateful that this album, which was such a joyful journey for me, has met with such a great response from radio, industry and fans since its release. I couldn't ask for anything more."

Lindene Music: 8587 4153



Kristy Releases Debut Album

Two-time Starmaker finalist and 2002 Nescafe Big Break Winner, 21 year old Kristy Cox has released her brand new album, *From My Eyes*. The album was recorded in Melbourne and produced by Hugh MacDonald in his studio.

Co-writing 9 of the 11 tracks, Kristy shows maturity in her songwriting and experience as a singer. Being Kristy's first commercial release, she is very excited about releasing the first track to radio in December this year.

Taking her inspiration from female country artists with attitude, Kristy looks up to the likes of Dolly Parton, Gretchen Wilson, Lee Ann Womack and the Dixie Chicks.

Kristy's raw talent and versatility have really shone through with her much anticipated first album. The recording shows her ability to nail a country rock song with *Reverse*, and then pour herself into a ballad with *Don't Say You Love Me*. She also touches on another of her loves; bluegrass covering the classic *Rough & Rocky* and then quickly makes a turn into country pop with *Easier To*. A true stand out is Kristy's original, *Someone Waiting*, which really portrays her deep roots in country music.

Kristy is holding here album launch here in South Australia at the Parafield Gardens Community Club on October 20th, bringing with her a fantastic band featuring some of Australia's best musicians including South Australia's own Anthony Stewart and up and coming drummer Simon Wegener. Also playing with Kristy on the night is Lee Kernaghan's fiddle player - half of the Davidson Brothers, Lachlan Davidson. It is going to be a great show.

Come down and support South Australia's own Kristy Cox on her big night!!





OPINION:
by Alison Hams

Thanks to everyone who has read, and made comment on this series of columns. It has been a pleasure to write them, and hopefully some of my

opinions on how to prepare for, and be part of talent quests will continue to help those of you who compete, and go on to be guest artists at festivals!

"Judges and Judging Sheets"

Art is a very subjective thing, and there is no right or wrong to the visual or aural side of performance, so any competition boils down to three or four people's opinions!

If you all had to sing the same song or perform the same piece, then it would be easy to just compare the technical ability of each of you, and judge your abilities accordingly. *But...*

Because Country Music talent quests are based on Entertainment Value, Presentation of your song (and yourself) and Musical Talent, then personal opinions come into play, as does a judges interpretation of whether the audience likes or dislikes your performance. For example: while one judge may love you singing Crazy by Patsy Cline, another judge may think that by singing a Tania Kernaghan song, you may have better covered more of these bases.

So, in the end, like it or hate it, you need to trust the adjudicators on the day to use their considerable experience, and knowledge to give the right decision, based on these things.

As for Judging Sheets, there are many misconceptions from contestants, based on a number of variables. *NB: The judges generally have NO SAY on the judging sheet they use, and the criteria to be met. They are usually handed the sheets shortly before the competition starts, and have to quickly assess the scoring format to be used.*

As there is no governing body to control our Talent Quests or Judging Sheets, committees can choose to use whatever format they like. Some give each section an overall score adding up to 100. Some have each section broken into sub-categories- some give levels out of A,B,C, D, E (with no numerical values given) and a final score.

Lets touch on an example of the A,B,C,D,E sheet in more depth.

Lets say the first section is out of 50, there are 5 sub-categories - the Judge gives you five C's. If we were to work this out mathematically, this would be worth around 30 points. Five B's would be worth 40, and an A and four B's would be worth 42. *But...*

There ARE no guidelines given on these sheets to work it out mathematically!! One

judge may pick up his sheet; think no-one is ever worth less than a C, so therefore a B is really only middle-of-the-road (fifty percent) and may give you 25!! Yes, it sounds confusing, but once again, the sheets themselves come down to interpretation.

Remember that EACH judge, is only comparing YOU to the OTHER contestants. A Judge will set his or her benchmark and judge accordingly to that, so the low scoring judge may give the obvious, absolute winner of the quest sixty five, with all other competitors scoring lower than that. A second judge may give the winner ninety with all other competitors scoring lower than THAT! So, laying your judging sheets side by side doesn't achieve anything!

And because of these variables, you may score highly at one festival, and then much lower at the next. That means nothing, as its different sheets, different judges, different day!

The comments given on the sheets on the other hand, are VERY important. Earlier we spoke about the experience and knowledge these judges have - and these comments are given to help you improve. It's called "Constructive Criticism"

Approaching a judge after the event for clarification of these comments is usually fine. Approaching the judges to question their scoring is not, and approaching someone to ask them about ANOTHER JUDGES sheets is definitely uncool!

As you can see, there's already more than enough for the judges to think about while you're singing - and a very short time to fill out, add up, write comments on, and collate your sheets between acts.

Something to remember - if you are first on in your section - you'll probably NEVER receive FULL MARKS!! The judges have to leave themselves somewhere to go - and you are setting the benchmark!

Corrections on a judging sheet are usually made and initialled, to ensure the best artist on the day does win. A lengthy section will see many of the performers receiving similar scores, and count backs are sometimes necessary to ensure the placings are correct.

Final Note: the onus for good judging does not rely ONLY on the judges themselves. It relies on good organisation and preparation by event committees so that judges have prior knowledge of what's expected of them.

It also makes a judges day so much easier to receive well laid out judging forms with contestants names and details already filled in - allowing them to concentrate on the performances, not the paperwork.

A contestant clearly and slowly introducing themselves also helps the cause. And remember! First impressions count, so grab the judges attention early - and dress well!!

Questions? Email me ali@alisonhams.com

Cheers, ALISON HAMS.



**Red Brick Music
Supports SA Songwriters**

A HUGE Thank you to Anthony Stewart at Red Brick Music, who has kindly donated EIGHT HOURS of recording time to the overall winner of this year's APRA South Australian Country Song of the Year Award.

It is a great achievement to win such an award, and an absolute honour to record with one of the best in SA. It's great to have you on board Anthony!

Don't forget - Entries for the APRA South Australian Country Song of the Year close on 30th September 2006.



**NOVEMBER 2006
COUNTRY MUSIC MONTH**

Look for more info on this great event regarding country music month in the next issue of Prelude!

The aim of this promotion will be to widen our audience and create an appreciation of local artists performing (**New Country Music**)

Take time to listen to the lyrics –
Relate to the story –
Enjoy the skill of the musicians –
Surprise yourself –
BECOME A NEW COUNTRY MUSIC FAN!

For further information you can also visit our website at www.saccm.com



Keep an eye out for tours from our Corporate member Harris Coaches!

SACCM AGM OCT 14TH

Another reminder that our AGM is to be held at the Folk Federation of SA, Cnr George Street and South Road, Thebarton on Saturday October 14th at 2pm sharp. Club Reps, Professional and Corporate members are invited to attend.

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The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor or the SACCM Committee and no responsibility will be taken for the same.

Upcoming Major Event Dates:

22nd Sep-1st Oct – Mildura CMF
5-7th October – Country Music Roundup
27-29th October – Blanchetown Campout
18th -19th Nov – Birdwood Country Bash
25th November – SA Showcase



Kingfield Home Loans
1st Floor, Safeguard House, 285
Anzac Highway Plympton
Email: fil.g@bigpond.com



Check out our NEW Prelude Advertising Deal! Too good to miss out on!

Want to advertise a performer, CD or business? Take advantage of our SACCM Prelude Advertising Deal!

You can advertise in our monthly Prelude Newsletter which gets mailed to over 600 people around SA and also interstate.

You provide the recommended amount of fliers (Provided on application as the mailing list changes every month) and we fold, insert and post at a price of only \$100. **That means a saving of \$200 on postage alone!!**

All applications for the Prelude are to be received by the 10th of the month and are subject to approval.

If you would like any more information on the above or would like to utilize our advertising deal please contact the Secretary.

SECRETARY'S UPDATE

I received some comments regarding the promotion of artists and thought I would inform all members of Professional benefits.

Not all artists are aware that being a Professional member of SACCM doesn't just get you monthly editions of Prelude and Gig Guide. Along with discounted tickets to shows and voting rights at the AGM you receive prominent advertising on the SACCM website, and are also highlighted on the online and hard copy of the Gig Guide.

We make an effort to promote at least one South Australian Professional Member in the Prelude each month and hope that you support these members by inviting them to play at your venue or festival.

What you may not know is that although SACCM aim to help promote and develop Professional artists, we are not a booking agency for these artists nor do we treat any artist with preferential treatment.

If you have seen an artist profiled on our website or in the Prelude, it is probably because the artist involved has sent us updated information on what they are currently up to.

We encourage all members to send us information that will help promote you or your band and increase the awareness and appreciation of Country Music in SA.

However... Being a non-profit organization, all our Board members work voluntarily to bring you special concerts and updates, including our webmaster Ian Fisk and Prelude Editor Tammy Latham. It can be difficult to collect information and news, so we are calling on artists to provide us with their first-hand information that we can distribute to our members.

Although we can't write your press releases for you, we can still assist in providing the information to do this. A brief outline is below, however there is currently a great media release checklist under the Hints and Tips section of our Junior Country Crossover webpage at www.saccm.com/jcc Have a look - It may just be the help you were looking for!

Keep an eye out for 'Hints & Tips' on the Junior Country Crossover webpage including workshop notes & booklets!

Writing A Media Release - How?

Keep it short, simple and clear. Busy newspaper chiefs of staff want to see, almost at a glance, whether your message is interesting or newsworthy. Your first sentence should capture their attention. Remember the five 'Ws' - *who, what, when, where and why.*

Summarise your story in the first paragraph. The five 'Ws' do not have to appear in the order given, or in a single sentence or paragraph, but should all be included near the beginning of your story.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE CLUBS AND FESTIVALS AROUND SA.

Visit our website for more info!

Adelaide Country Music Club Inc.

Secretary: Rob Smith 08 8266 6689
1st Sunday * - Slovenian Club

Barossa Country Music Club Inc

Secretary: Natalie Pearce 08 8523 1957
2nd Sunday * - Nuriootpa Bowling Club

Gawler Country Music Club Inc.

Secretary: Helen Warren 8255 8920
Third Sunday * - Munno Para Bowling Club,

Junior Country Crossover

Promoting, Developing and Assisting Young Talent in the SA Music Industry
Hold workshops and performance days each month on a Saturday 0410 323 811

Kilburn RSL Country Music Functions

Fourth and Fifth Sundays * Kilburn RSL
Robyn 8349 6694

Marion RSL Country Music Evenings

Live Country Music from 6pm Fridays
Marion RSL 8296-4535

Millicent Country Music Assoc. Inc.

President: Michael Gurney 8733 5292
Third Sunday * - Millicent & District Community Club

Murray Bridge Country Music Club Inc

Secretary: Heidi Van Hooff 8569 1698
Fourth Sunday * - Imperial Football Club,

Murraylands Country Music Festival

c/o Noel Kneebone 8572 3266
Runs Murraylands Country Music Festival

Northern Country Music Ass of SA Inc.

Secretary: Roma Sampson 08 8633 4417
Run special shows during the year and hold talent quest and Festival in Port Pirie

Open House Country

President: Ian Holt 8263 8221
4th Sunday * Parafield Gardens Comm. Club

Port Augusta & District's CMC

Secretary: Kaye Wade 08 8643 6006
Festival, Dance Nights & regular jam sessions

Railroad Country Music Club

Patron: Pat Hamilton 8382 5611
3rd Sunday * Morphett Vale Function Cntr

Riverland Country Music Club

Dot McDonnell 0417 868571
Run the Riverland Country Music Festival

South East Country Music Association

Secretary: Liz Leibhardt 8726 8159
1st Sunday * -Nth Gambier Sportsmans Club.
Run a talent quest in Mount Gambier.

Southern Country Music Club Inc

Secretary: Malcolm Doyle 8381 5817
2nd Sunday * Mitchell Park Sports Com. Club

West Darling Country Music Assoc Inc

BROKEN HILL NSW 2880
Secretary 8087 9287



Government of South Australia
Arts SA

The SA Council for Country Music is proudly supported by the Government of South Australia via Arts SA