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Higher Ground Australia



www.highergroundaustralia.com/

Volume 11 – Edition 5

HIGHER GROUND NEWSLETTER – August 2014

WELCOME

Welcome to our August newsletter. So much has happened in the world of 'John Denver' over the past few weeks, so sit back and enjoy this newsletter!

TAKE ME HOME

Congratulations to Bevan Gardiner who recently toured Australia and New Zealand with the beautifully written 'Take me Home, The Music and Life of John Denver' show. Written by promoter Dennis Brown and his daughter, Lisa, this show was a sensitive and beautifully executed collection of John's most well-known and best-loved songs. Most of our Australian members went to see the show in the various cities, including Newcastle, Brisbane, Melbourne, and Sydney.



The Melbourne team were able to meet Dennis and Lisa, and producer Ken Denison after the show. We were all delighted to meet and chat to Bevan and the beautiful Georgie Daniell afterward. It was lovely to see the Palais Theatre in Melbourne almost full for the Melbourne performance.



Dennis Brown, Janette, Ken Denison



Left – right: Carolyn, Colin, Sandy, Gwen, Anne, Janette, Dianne, Ray

BOONAH 2014

We are all excited to be meeting up again in Boonah, Queensland at the end of next week. I have received a number of deposits, thanks. If you have not yet sent yours through, please do so as soon as possible. Payment of the deposit is made by direct debit to:

Bank: Westpac

BSB: 733-039

Acc: 542649

Name: Mrs Janette Frawley

Please enter your name and JD into the description. If you pay over the counter of a bank, please email me to let me know that it has been paid.

For more information about the weekend, please refer to the last newsletter or email me directly on

hga.vic@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS FOR COWBOYS!

Don't forget to bring your best 'Christmas' attire with you to get into the Christmas Spirit for our Saturday night entertainment. Become familiar with the words of 'Christmas like a Lullaby' and 'Christmas for Cowboys' as we go through some of these and other favourite JD songs. PLEASE BRING YOUR SONGBOOKS WITH YOU....

SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER:

This year, we are moving away from our traditional BBQ dinner and the Saturday Night Christmas Dinner will be catered for by Vicki. Final numbers are important for this special dinner, and we ask that you confirm that you will be attending by sending through your deposit as soon as possible. If you have any questions,

please contact me on hga.vic@gmail.com or call/SMS on 0407417459.

There will be vegetarian options for those who have already advised of their dietary requirements.

ADDRESS

The Outlook Training and Resource Centre
4001 Ipswich-Boonah Road
Boonah QLD 4310
PH: (07) 54631900

ACCOMMODATION:

The accommodation is just under \$2000, including a compulsory booking fee and a cleaning fee. As for past gatherings, the more people attending, the cheaper it becomes. Based on 20 people, it will cost approximately \$100 per person.

For the people who are bringing their caravan or motor home, you site fee will be \$15 per night. The designated place for the motor homes and caravans will be outside Unit 3 on the grassy area.

All linen, pillowcases and towels will be provided by the Outlook Centre.

SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE!

We have just heard that we have an additional and 'surprise' guest who will be helping out with the music. Welcome to Gus and Barbara, who will be joining us this year.

FUNDRAISING:

I am currently putting together a catalogue for the annual silent auction. If you have anything you would like to donate to the auction, please let me know. ALL proceeds of the silent auction will be donated to Wingcaribee WIRES.

TREES:

We will plant three trees this year. One for John and one in memory of Steve Weisberg and Harold Simpson.

We are also going to plant a tree for Max, as Boonah was one of his favourite places to visit, and held a special place in his heart. Vicki will ask the Outlook owners about suitable trees for us to plant.

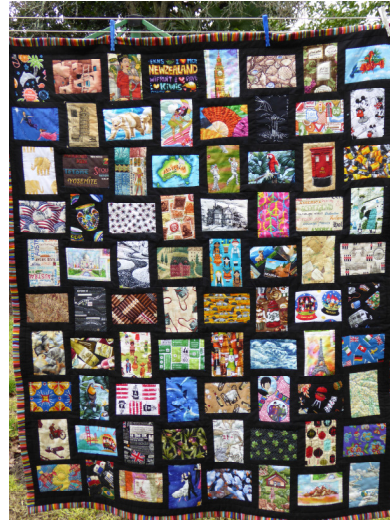


RAFFLE:

I have sent some books of raffle tickets to sell to some of our members. If you think you would like to sell some tickets and would like to help out with this worthy cause, please let me know and I will forward tickets to you. If you would like to buy some tickets for yourselves, please contact me and I will organise it.

Once our plaque has been paid, the rest of the funds raised for the raffle will be donated to Wingcaribee WIRES.

The quilt measures 157 x 120cm, pure cotton, and hand quilted. Tickets will be 1 for \$2, 3 for \$5, or 10 for \$10.



DONATION 2014:

We were both surprised and delighted to receive a very generous donation of \$500 from Alf and Liz Boden of Brisbane. We donated the proceeds of our auctions on a couple of occasions to Alf and his raptor rehabilitation centre in Brisbane. It was really wonderful to hear from him and to receive this wonderful donation, which will be put together with our fundraising effort and donated Peggy McDonald at Wingcaribee WIRES in the Southern Highlands, NSW. On behalf of all of us at Higher Ground Australia, we would like to thank Alf for this donation, and we do know that Peggy will put the money to good use.

INAUGURAL JOHN DENVER MUSIC FESTIVAL – ASPEN 2014

<http://www.wheeleroperahouse.com/events/detail/inaugural-john-denver-music-festival>

The music of John Denver will be celebrated all day on Thursday, October 9, 2014 in the inaugural John Denver Music Festival at the Wheeler Opera House in Aspen, Colorado.

Tribute artists from all over the world will perform for the first time on stage at this historic venue. More than 15 artists will take the stage throughout the day, from 12-3 p.m. and 4-7 p.m. during the annual John Denver Tribute Week that takes place in Aspen every October.

The festival is FREE and open to all attendees of the tribute week.

No passes are needed to attend. Reserve seating is available only to those who made a pledge of \$100.00 or more.



Thanks to Willy Hoevers for his hard work and for keeping me up to date on this information. As you can imagine, it is a daunting task to organise performers from over the globe to come together for this tribute.

ASPEN IN OCTOBER EVENTS

When the "John Denver Band Project" from Belluno Italy meets the "Aspen Meadow Band" from 'Oregon-USA, in a magic place like Aspen in Colorado, with the common love for the music of John Denver... well it comes out a special day of music.

October the 10th, this is the day, the meeting will take place at the **Limelight Hotel** in Aspen and from **2.00 pm to 5.00 pm** there will be on stage the "Aspen Meadow Band" and the "John Denver Band Project" with a unique tribute to the music of John Denver.

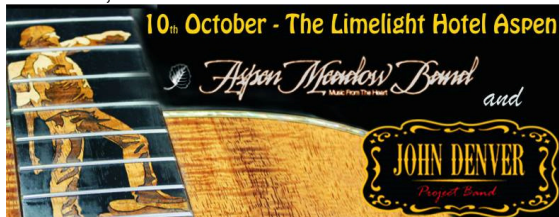
You cannot miss it!

Free entrance - stay tuned for more news!!!

www.johndenverprojectband.it

www.aspenmeadowband.com

WE REALLY HAVE TO THANKS THE ASPEN MEADOW BAND FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY!!!
GRAZIE, THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!



ASPEN CHAPEL

Sunday Service at The Aspen Chapel

October 12 at 9:30am in MDT

Aspen Chapel in Aspen, Colorado

SPIRIT STATUE UNVEILING - POSTPONED

Colorado Music Hall of Fame -Spirit.

We received news earlier today that the planned opening of the Colorado Music Hall of Fame and the unveiling of Spirit, at Red Rocks, which was being planned for 12 October, will not go ahead as we had hoped. The City of Denver has yet to grant the necessary permissions. The opening event will be re-scheduled for a later date when the required permissions have been granted by the city.

As soon as we have a further update we will let you know.

Allison and Karmen.

FOR SALE!

One of a kind opportunity to own a compound in Starwood. The Former Estate of John Denver. The main house (6 bedrooms) and the guest house (5 bedrooms) are on two separately deeded lots with separate entrances and driveways but has a lovely walking path between the two featuring the red mountain ditch gurgling along the way. The main home has beautiful woodwork throughout and intimate spaces. The grounds are wonderful with an inground outdoor

pool and beautiful green lawns or pasture for horses. A fun built in barbeque area. The guest house all on one floor is contemporary and open in feeling. - See more at:

<http://aspenrealestate.caroldopkin.com/idx/11652/details.php?idxID=177&listingID=134799#sthash.dljo7em9.dpuf>

Listing ID 134799

Price: \$10,750,000

Address	570 & 678 Johnson Drive
City Name:	Aspen
State/Province:	COLORADO
Postal Code:	81611
Bedrooms:	11
Total Baths:	7
Partial Baths:	2
SqFt:	9077
Acres:	7.61
Area:	01-McLain Flats
County:	Pitkin
Sub Area:	Starwood
Type:	A

MORE ABOUT THE HOUSE

This is an interesting blog, which is worth reading!

<http://www.house-crazy.com/john-denvers-house-in-aspen-colorado/>

NEW ITEMS FOR SALE

There are two new releases that will become available shortly.

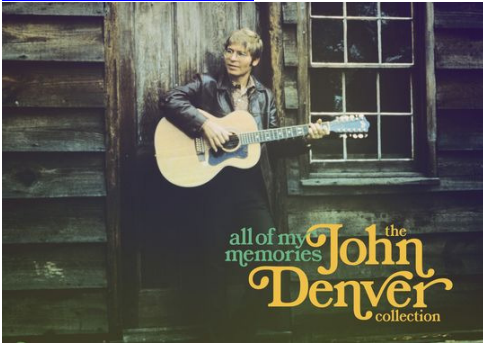
Career-Spanning Boxed Set of JD hits; John Denver will get the deluxe box-set treatment this fall. The four-CD All of My Memories: The John Denver Collection, due Nov. 4 from RCA/Legacy Recordings, will contain 90 songs spanning the entirety of the late singer's career, including six previously unreleased tracks.

The tracks on All My Memories draw from 31 albums and cover the years 1964, when he made a pair of demo recordings for Capitol Records, to 1997, the year of his death. In addition to the hits he regularly had on pop and country radio — like chart-toppers Annie's Song, Thank God I'm a Country Boy and I'm Sorry — they include live performances and promotional rarities, as well as limited-edition and private-pressing recordings. These six tracks have never seen commercial release:

- Cover versions of The Road and Far Side of the Hill, two 1964 demos recorded for Capitol Records in Hollywood, prior to joining the Mitchell Trio;
- An early version of Rhymes and Reasons, cut in early '69 for Reprise Records and re-done as the title track of his debut LP for RCA later that year;
- A live version of Spirit recorded at the Sydney Opera House in 1977 but not included on the 1999 concert album release;
- An alternate take of Eli's Song from 1976; and
- A 1973 of the standard It's A Sin to Tell a Lie, the 1955 Somethin' Smith and the Redheads version of which was his mother's favorite record.



"All of My Memories: The John Denver Collection," due Nov. 4 from RCA/Legacy Recordings, will feature 90 tracks on four discs. (Photo: RCA/Legacy Recordings) For the full track listing follow this link; <http://www.usatoday.com/story/life/music/2014/09/11/john-denver-box-set-all-of-my-memories-november/15412317/>



The Christmas Gift will be released on DVD on November 4th – just in time for Christmas. You can pre-order this wonderful movie through Amazon for US\$12.74



SOUTH DAKOTA'S FIRST 'MAKE A WISH' FAMILY CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Posted: Sep 15, 2014 12:50 PM

By Bridget Bennett - email

Make-A-Wish South Dakota is celebrating 30 years of granting wishes for children facing a life-threatening illness in our state.

This Saturday, Make-A-Wish families, donors and volunteers got together in Sioux Falls to celebrate the outstanding impact the organization has had in South Dakota.

"Back in 1984 we granted six wishes a year, today we grant anywhere from 60 to 70 wishes a year. We've granted a total of 1100 wishes since 1984," Paul Krueger, the President of Make-A-Wish South Dakota said. Some of the special guests at this weekend's anniversary celebration were Richard and Janice Olsen, the parents of Krista. Krista was the first Make-A-Wish recipient in South Dakota.

Although 30 years have passed since her wish was granted, the Olsen family is a testament to

how long a wish's special memories can last.

"Krista was our firstborn, beautiful daughter diagnosed with cancer when she was 12 years old," said Janice Olsen.

The Viborg teen suffered through many surgeries and hospital stays over the next four years of her life; but her parents say there was one bright memory from those days.

"We were at home and it was Christmas eve day there was a knock on the door and two ladies showed up and said they were with Make-A-Wish...they asked her who her favorite entertainer was and she said John Denver," said Richard Olsen.

"Two ladies from back east some place explained what the organization was able to do and wanted her to be the first SD child and we were just in awe. That doesn't happen to the normal South Dakota farmer child," said Janice.

Krista, her family and one of her closest friends flew to Colorado to meet her favorite star, John Denver.

"He spent a little more than an hour with us...he sang several songs and gave Krista several albums and was just a very congenial guy....we managed to go skiing on the slopes there at Aspen...we had a wonderful time and she had some wonderful memories," said Richard.

"They made her feel so special and just it was a joy to watch her face, her excitement after having to go through so many surgeries and hard things she had to go through," said Janice.

While Make-A-Wish and all of the media attention made Krista feel extra special...it's the way her family has always felt.

"She's always been special, she is a very intelligent girl, loved to play piano, ride horse, she was a very capable student and everything but this happened to her and she dealt with it like nothing that I could ever do. She dealt with it courageously," said Richard.

It's the kind of courage many South Dakota kids still share today.

"My hope is for all the kids we serve in SD that the wish is something that really helps them get through their battle and the family too, because when a child is sick it really impacts the whole family," said Krueger.

Over the past 30 years, Make-A-Wish South Dakota has granted more than 1100 wishes to kids battling a life-threatening illness.

With the help of donors and volunteers all over the state, more children and families can have those precious, good memories to last a lifetime.

<http://www.ksfy.com/story/26530022/south-dakotas-first-make-a-wish-family-celebrates-30th-anniversary>

THE STORY OF 'FOUR STRONG WINDS':

'Four Strong Winds' was written by Ian Tyson, of Ian & Sylvia fame. Ian is a Canadian folksinger, and at aged 80, tells the story of how he wrote this



iconic folksong, which was recorded by John Denver, Johnny Cash, Joan Baez and others.
<http://www.cbc.ca/strombo/videos/web-exclusive/i-was-there-ian-tyson-tells-the-story-behind-four-strong-winds>

Aspen is not the only place that has snow!
Ballarat has had some nice snowfalls over the winter.



Some material included in this newsletter has been derived from the public domain, such as the internet and printed media. Articles and reviews are the opinion of the individual writer and as long as the content is of a reasonable nature and it is appropriate, it will be included. Organisations mentioned or featured in this newsletter are included to educate and inform people of their role and purpose. HGA does not profit from including the names of any organisation in this newsletter.

This newsletter is only emailed to those people who have individually contacted HGA and expressed a wish to receive it. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you no longer wish to receive the HGA newsletter.



Rocky Mountain High

*He was born in the summer of his 27th year
Comin' home to a place he'd never been before
He left yesterday behind him
You might say he was born again
You might say he found a key for every door*

*When he first came to the mountains his life was far away
On the road and hangin' by a song
But the string's already broken and he doesn't really care
It keeps changin' fast, and it don't last for long*

*But the Colorado Rocky Mountain high
I've seen it rainin' fire in the sky
The shadow from the starlight is softer than a lullaby
Rocky Mountain high*

*He climbed cathedral mountains, he saw silver clouds below
He saw everything as far as you can see
And they say that he got crazy once
and he tried to touch the sun
And he lost a friend but kept his memory*

*Now he walks in quiet solitude the forests and the streams
Seeking grace in every step he takes
His sight has turned inside himself to try and understand
The serenity of a clear blue mountain lake*

*And the Colorado Rocky Mountain high
I've seen it rainin' fire in the sky
You can talk to God and listen to the casual reply
Rocky Mountain high*

*Now his life is full of wonder
But his heart still knows some fear
Of a simple thing he cannot comprehend
Why they try to tear the mountains down
To bring in a couple more
More people, more scars upon the land*

*And the Colorado Rocky Mountain high
I've seen it rainin' fire in the sky
I know he'd be a poorer man if he never saw an eagle fly*

