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Higher Ground Australia



[www.highergroundaustralia.com/](http://www.highergroundaustralia.com/)

Volume 1 – Edition 2

## HIGHER GROUND NEWSLETTER – July 2004

### Welcome

Welcome to HGA's July newsletter. Lots of things have been happening and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who made such positive comments about the first newsletter. I hope we can continue to meet your expectations. Don't forget to contact me if you would like to contribute to YOUR newsletter.

### July is Save the Koala Month

For the Australians, you can donate a gold coin in any Westpac Bank (Bank of Melbourne in Vic) or online by going to this website.

[www.savethekoala.com/savethekoaladay.html](http://www.savethekoala.com/savethekoaladay.html)

Overseas readers can also donate online before the end of July. **All money raised by the Australian Koala Foundation goes towards our ongoing work to ensure the conservation of the koala in the wild. The Australian Koala Foundation is totally non-government funded.**

### Members

Our membership is gradually growing and we now have nearly fifty members internationally. Welcome to our new members who have joined us over the past month.

### Member Profile

Name: Margaret Gilby

Location: Brisbane Queensland, Australia

One of our first and most dedicated members of HGA, Margaret and her daughter Maureen have attended each of the Australian gatherings, travelling to Victoria twice and NSW. Margaret travelled to Aspen with Maureen and her two grandchildren in 2000 and has recently returned from a month's holiday in Canada and Alaska to see the places John sang about. I am sure that she will have many stories to tell us when we get to Boonah in October.

### Website

Our web address is:

[www.highergroundaustralia.com](http://www.highergroundaustralia.com) There have been some wonderful additions made to the website over the past month, including a reminiscence about the 1977 concert. There is also a link to the concerts John gave on a month to month basis. This list will change each month! The July quiz will be closed at the end of July – please see whether you can answer the questions. Bill Danoff has kindly given us permission to use some of his photos of John, Bill and Taffy at the Cellar Door in Washington. Thank you, Bill. And thanks to our webmaster, who is responsible for our wonderful website.

### 2004 Gathering Boonah, Queensland

Our preparations for the Boonah weekend (Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>) are progressing well. So far, we have around 20 people coming for the weekend and a few coming just for the day, so our numbers are looking good. More details will follow in the next newsletter as we get closer to the event.

If you have any questions about the weekend, please email me. **Subject:** Boonah  
[jfrawley@highergroundaustralia.com](mailto:jfrawley@highergroundaustralia.com)

### Silent Auction

Donations for the silent auction are starting to roll in. If you would like to donate an item to the silent auction, please email me. **Subject:** silent auction  
[jfrawley@highergroundaustralia.com](mailto:jfrawley@highergroundaustralia.com)

A list of auction items will be released to everyone in September. Email bids will be accepted.

### Recipe Book

Last call for recipes. We need to get the books finished and printed/bound, which will take some time. These will be available at the October weekend. Mail orders will be accepted. More details to follow. Please email your recipes to Genie [gbp@almostheavendesigns.com](mailto:gbp@almostheavendesigns.com)

## Song Book

Last call for you to send me the name of your favourite John Denver song to be included in the book. If you have any requests for songs to be sung at our 'Campfire' sing-along, please email me. We will make sure that those songs will be sung 'for you'. **Subject:** Song Book  
[jfrawley@highergroundaustralia.com](mailto:jfrawley@highergroundaustralia.com)

## Windstar News

The first meeting of the newly formed Australian Windstar Connection will take place later this year in November. This meeting will primarily be a 'getting to know you' session, together with plenty of discussion about the aims and visions of an Australian Windstar Connection. For further information about Windstar, please email Genie on [gbp@almostheavendesigs.com](mailto:gbp@almostheavendesigs.com)

## Let This be a Voice on DVD

If you have not already signed the Let This be a Voice on DVD petition please add your name to the growing list. We might be lucky enough to see this wonderful production on DVD. See the website for the link to the petition page.  
[www.highergroundaustralia.com](http://www.highergroundaustralia.com)

## Ancient Rhymes

**John Denver's poignant lyrics of the birth of a dolphin are both a lullaby and a paean to "dolphin kind," as adapted in this gorgeous picture book. Denver embraces the unique, almost mystical quality of a baby dolphin as "giving hope to life as all we must." Hardback edition includes the musical score and a CD of John Denver singing this beautiful song.**

This book may be pre-ordered from Amazon and will be posted as soon as it becomes available.

## Ancient Rhymes – Free Raffle

We will be donating a copy of Ancient Rhymes to a school or kindergarten in Australia. To select the recipient, I am asking all of you to nominate a primary school or kindergarten of your choice (name and address of the school/kinder please). We will place all names into a hat and draw the winning school/kinder over the weekend. Overseas members may also be involved by selecting a town or city in Australia and then letting me know whether it will be school or kinder. I will find a non-denominational/needly school/kinder to nominate on your behalf. Please email me with your nomination. **Subject:** Ancient Rhymes. [jfrawley@highergroundaustralia.com](mailto:jfrawley@highergroundaustralia.com)

## JD Christmas Ornament

A beautiful musical Christmas ornament has been released in the United States, and from what I have heard, most of them have been snapped up already. It is a figurine of John and it plays Annie's Song.



## John Denver Tribute Show

Geoff Sinnbeck

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2004 at Café Phill's, Barwon Heads, Victoria.

Geoff has his own tribute show that he performs periodically around Victoria. He has also written a song dedicated to John, which will be released on CD this year some time. More information about Geoff and the tribute show next month.

## Quote

To be human is to be nourished by the wild country.

To know that there is a place where the eagle flies in freedom, the grizzly walks in majesty, and the caribou runs with the wind across the open tundra, lifts the human spirit.

Let's not let a few people in Congress, out of sight and out of touch with the American people's commitment to keeping some wild places alive -- for ourselves, for all peoples and for the future -- take actions all of us will soon regret.

Extract from Alaska: A Challenge For Democracy By John Denver

## Book Review

**Some Days are Diamonds** by Max Moore is the true story of the man behind the Australian entertainment industry for forty years. Max writes about his fond memories when he was tour manager for John Denver's Australian tours. This book is a wonderful insight into the Australian entertainment industry in the early days. A book well worth reading. My rating: 9/10

## Discussion Point

National tree day was last Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> July, and like other years has been a huge success.

Tree day is organised nationally by Planet Ark and endorsed by AMP and Toyota. Jamie Durie and Olivia Newton John (Fly Away) both put a lot of time and effort into promoting National Tree Day.



## Why plant trees?

Trees help to filter water, combat salinity, clean the air and increase flows into water catchments. They also provide food and shelter to Australia's unique wildlife and are an integral part of our country's biodiversity.

Although trees should be planted all year round, the concept of national tree day was devised to encourage people to work together as a group to help replant trees in public areas. No matter how many trees have been planted already, there is still room for more.

## What type of trees?

Plants grow best in soils they are suited to, so it is critical to find out not only what the local plants in your area are, but **where** they grow best (this includes soil type and position; for instance, some grow better in swampy areas, others on the tops of hills).

## **Healthy growing plants tolerate adverse conditions better than those that are struggling.**

Your local native nursery is the best place to find out which plants are best suited to your area. If you are unable to get the information that you need, then contact Land Care Australia [www.landcareaustralia.com.au/](http://www.landcareaustralia.com.au/) Remember to include shrubs and small plants because these understorey plants are really important for food and shelter for native animals.

## Planting the Trees

- Before planting, soak the seedlings in their containers in a tray of water
- Fill the hole with water (before the plant goes in) and allow to drain

- Trim any roots protruding from the bottom of the plant container. If you have to do this, also tip prune the plant to reduce stress and dehydration.
- Shape the soil surface to make a **shallow depression 3cm around the plant**. This will collect water from rain and hand watering. The depression should hold at least half a bucket of water.
- Water in gently, up to half a bucket per plant depending on soil dampness. Apply water **upslope** from the plant, **not** directly onto the root area.
- Check that **roots are not exposed** to watering. Add more topsoil if necessary.
- **Mulch** lightly around the plant to conserve soil moisture. Use dead leaves, compost or contact your local council for supply. Avoid heaping mulch against the plant as this can bring on stem rot and insect attack.

## Maintaining the Trees

- Monitor the new plantings for wilting. In sandy or loamy soil, you may need water at least once a week. In hot weather, water every 2-3 days for the first month until the plants are established.
- In clay soil, water less frequently - once every week to 10 days for the first month.
- Water early in the morning or late in the evening to reduce evaporation.
- Less frequent deep soaking is better than more frequent light watering. A good soak encourages plants to develop strong, deep roots, which eventually reach the watertable. Shallow, light watering encourages roots to grow towards the surface, leaving them vulnerable to wind and dry periods.
- In clay soil, be careful not to over-water. Clay soil traps moisture and too much water will cause roots to rot.
- It is best not to stake plants. Staking can alter growth shape and encourage smaller root systems. When you have to stake a tree, use three stakes and soft material like an old stocking, forming a triangle. Remove the stake as soon as the plant will stand upright on its own.
- Surround the plant with a milk carton with the bottom cut out or a plastic guard held in place by 3 small stakes. This will create a **humid atmosphere** around the plant.