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Higher Ground Australia



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HIGHER GROUND NEWSLETTER – December 2004

Welcome

Hello everyone and welcome to our December newsletter. Most people are preparing for Christmas so I guess you are all quite busy. This is the last newsletter for 2004. The first one for 2005 will be in February as I am taking a break and will be away on holidays until the end of January.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas. May all your dreams come true.

For our Jewish friends, we wish you a belated Happy Hanukah

Members

We have another three members join up this month and we would like to welcome you to our group. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions at all or if you would like to introduce yourself to the group by writing a short profile about yourself.

Website

Our web address is:
www.highergroundaustralia.com The website is being updated regularly and if you want to leave any feedback, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you to Lynn for her beautiful Christmas page on the website. This is a lovely tribute to John.

2005 Gathering Bateman's Bay, NSW

Our gathering in 2005 will be in Bateman's Bay NSW. More information about the gathering will be posted through this newsletter early next year.

Australian Native Animal Care

The scales we purchased for Australian Native Animal Care were engraved recently with the following words.

12 October 2004 - Donated by Higher Ground Australia in loving memory of John Denver (1943 - 1997)

'And all those who see me, and all who believe in me share in the freedom I feel when I fly'

A further donation of a camera with infra-red for minimal lighting, a viewing box and a DVD recorder have also been donated by Higher Ground Australia. This equipment will be used in the captive breeding program. The equipment is used to monitor chicks for sickness and abuse. The recording of the activities of these birds during the breeding program will also give a great insight into these birds. Alf and Liz do a fantastic job and we are really pleased to be able to provide this equipment in memory of John Denver.

Steve Irwin Conservation Foundation

As stated in previous newsletters, the bulk of our silent auction fundraiser was earmarked to be donated to the Steve Irwin Conservation Foundation. There were some promises made by the person working for the foundation that were withdrawn. We were then told that the promised plaque would not be provided because the donation was too small (\$1360.00). We made a decision that the money would not be donated to this organisation and that Steve Irwin would be informed of the reasons. Some of the money has been used to provide equipment for Australian Native Animal Care to monitor their breeding program. We will still have about \$580 dollars left over, which will be donated to mutually agreed-on organisation. Although the Steve Irwin Conservation Foundation has disappointed us, we are happy that we have been able to provide additional equipment for Australian Native Animal Care so that their important work can continue.

Funds

We have \$583.79 yet to be donated to an organisation in SE Queensland for raptor rehabilitation. Please let me know if you know of a place that would benefit from receiving these funds.

Cook Book

Hurry – Last few copies of the cookbook are available. Thanks to everyone who has purchased a copy as 100% of your money will be donated to raptor rehabilitation in Australia. For any further sales, please contact Genie either through the website or on
gbp@almostheavendesigns.com

Thank you also to the people who have given us such positive feedback about the recipes they have tried. I am glad that you have enjoyed them. All recipes have been tried and tested in our own kitchens on our own families [and they have lived to tell the tale] and we are so happy that we had the opportunity to share our favourite recipes with other people.

Book Giveaway

As you know, the two picture books were donated to schools in regional areas of NSW and Victoria. We received a lovely letter of thanks from the Eleebana Public School who 'won' the book entitled Sunshine. This school was nominated by Pat Evans and here is what the librarian has written to us.

Please accept my thanks on behalf of Eleebana Primary School Staff and students for forwarding 'Sunshine' to us.

I was thrilled to read your letter and with the book itself. It is one of those special books which makes you smile each time you turn a page. Both our Head Librarian and Library Assistant are great John Denver fans and happily reminisced {in song} after seeing the book.

We intend to add it to the Library's Resource Collection because we are sure the Music teacher will make wonderful use of it with her classes.

Latest John Denver News

John's name seems to come up more and more often these days. Just a couple of weeks ago, I heard a familiar tune on a television ad. It was a Sony BMG advertisement for Peter Brocklehurst's new CD, entitled **For You**. Peter Brocklehurst is English, moving to Australia with his family when he was a child. He was a shoe repair man and quickly became known as the singing cobbler and was encouraged to record. This latest release is called **For You** and he sings John's song so well, but the best part is the song **Perhaps Love**, in which he sings his own harmony. Apart from the two John Denver songs, this wonderful tenor has put together a very nice CD.

Also this month saw the release of the **So Fresh Presents Songs for Christmas CD**. So Fresh albums are like the old K-Tel hits of the year albums that we used to buy in the 1970's, so their main audience is the younger set. Although this particular CD is directed to a wider audience, it was really nice to see John Denver singing **Away in a Manger** included in this CD.

You can see other John Denver News on our website
<http://www.highergroundaustralia.com/News.html>

For the Australians, if you are in K-Mart or Big W, you may easily find a copy of **Lullaby** by John

Denver in the Christmas CD section of the store. This is the Christmas Like a Lullaby under a really cheap label.

A Lovely Picture Book

I recently bought (from Amazon) a delightful children's picture book called **Inch by Inch – The Garden Song** by David Mallett. Some of you would know that The Garden Song is one of my all time favourite songs – brings back memories from my childhood, I guess. Peter Paul and Mary and John Denver have recorded this lovely song, as has David Mallett. If you are looking for a nice picture book to give to the child in your life, please consider this one. Just lovely!

NOTE: John recorded a number of David Mallett songs, including **The Garden Song**, **The Ballad of St. Anne's Reel** and **You Say the Battle is Over** to name just three. If you ever get a chance to hear David Mallett singing, you will get a pleasant surprise. He has a nice folksy voice and his songs are really nice.

Windstar Australia Connection News

The Windstar Australia Connection held its first meeting in Werribee Park, Victoria on 20/11/04 from 1:00 until 4:00. We gathered and had a picnic lunch then started our business meeting directly afterwards. The business meeting was kicked off with discussion of our first year goals and in what direction we wanted the Australia Connection to go, in order to make a good solid foundation. It was agreed that we would concentrate on recruitment of members and to bring awareness of Windstar to Australia first and foremost.

The Australia Connection logo is dark blue as in the Australian Flag and encompasses the Windstar arrow in the middle with feathers to the right, the Southern Cross to the left, and "Windstar" above the line of the arrow and "Australia Connection" below the line. We agreed to use this logo throughout stationary, with "with compliments" sheets, and with donation sheets.

The Australia Connection (5 members strong) will be recruiting members and bringing awareness to the Windstar Foundation during our first year as a non-profit business. Our first project will be volunteering our services in July for "National Tree Day" with Planet Ark. Environmental Educational booklets are in the works for distribution to schools to get the Windstar name out in at least Queensland and Victoria, hopefully to spread soon across Australia as new members join Windstar in the future. We are already contacting free public service announcements on the radio, websites and newspapers.

The Windstar Australia Connection members will be donating to food banks during the holidays and

to the Salvation Army, in which we also have our "With Compliments" forms to add with our donations to bring more awareness to the Windstar Foundation. We are already using the forms with recycling our ink cartridges. Our next meeting is in June 2005.

The Windstar Foundation was founded in 1976 by John Denver along with Aikido Master Tom Crum. Windstar is a non profit environmental education organization which promotes a holistic approach to addressing environmental concerns. It is the recognition and demonstration that each of us is part of, and responsible for, the quality of life on planet Earth; and that which affects any one of us, affects us all.

If you are living in Australia and are interested in joining the first International branch of the Windstar Foundation, see us on the web at www.windstaraustraliaconnection.com for more information. We'd love to have you and we feel it very necessary to pass on John's mission and legacy throughout Australia. We are up and running now as an organisation, so stop by the website and see what we have to offer. We also can be contacted via email at:

info@windstaraustraliaconnection.com .

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM WINDSTAR AUSTRALIA CONNECTION! HAVE A PROSPEROUS 2005!

Nature Music Website

Nature Music <http://www.naturemusic.com> has always had a great reputation for supplying a large range of John Denver related items, such as CDs and DVDs. I had heard that there has been a change in ownership/management and apparently a number of people who have ordered from Nature Music in recent months were disappointed to have their money returned after waiting for quite a long time for the items they ordered.

Rather than being disappointed with their service and getting upset when your orders are not fulfilled, it might be a good idea to first contact them and ask whether they can supply you with the goods you want. I know a lot of people who have been extremely happy with their service in the past and I would hate a small hiccup in business management to adversely affect the company. I am sure that if you email the manager first on manager1@naturemusic.com then you will be sure of getting the information about the availability of the items you want.

Other excellent sources of CDs is www.cduniverse.com I have purchased a lot of CDs from this company and can highly recommend them for good service and quick delivery.

www.amazon.com is also good when you want to buy DVDs and books

Recycling

During this busy time of the year, we would all be guilty of using a lot of paper, card and toner/ink cartridges.

There are a number of things YOU can do to reduce or recycle the amount of waste generated at this time of the year.

Planet Ark <http://www.planetark.com> has some really good information on their site and is worth looking at, especially the Australian readers.

BE A TONER DONOR

Australians throw out about 18million toner cartridges each year, most of which goes into landfill. Your used/empty toner and ink cartridges can be taken to the Planet Ark boxes at your local post office, Tandy, Harvey Norman, and Dick Smith stores. Please make the effort to take them to these collection points to ensure they will be recycled.

CARDS 4 PLANET ARK

What do you do with your Christmas cards when you no longer need them? **STOP**. Don't even put them into your recycle bin. Planet Ark wants them to recycle into packaging for the Safe brand of toilet tissue. Next time you are at a Coles Supermarket, check out the Safe brand of toilet paper and don't forget to put your cards in the collection boxes at Coles Supermarkets after Christmas.

Alternately, you may like to ask for a free postage paid recycling envelope next time you are in the post office. Simply take it home, fill it with your old cards and pop it into your nearest mail box.

SAY 'NO' TO PLASTIC BAGS

The best thing that ever happened were the vivid green bags being introduced to many stores across Australia over the past year or so. Many people are using these and we would encourage you to use a re-useable bag when you are shopping.

Sadly, the fallout from people using the green bags is the increase in the sale of Glad (and other brand) plastic bags to line kitchen bins.

What did our parents do before we had Glad bags? They composted fruit and vegie peelings, and they wrapped other garbage in newspaper. We can do the same to a great extent. See how many bags you can stop yourself from using this week!

Coles Bay in Tasmania is a plastic bag-free town and others are following suit.

I might be biased because of the Australian content in this song, but it is one of my favourites.

Christmas Like a Lullaby

Christmas like a lullaby steals across the land
A breeze upon the water, rainfall upon the sand
We celebrate a baby born from spirit into man
And Christmas like a lullaby steals across the land

It's morning in Australia; in fact it's Christmas day
And Colorado never seemed so very far away
And back where night has fallen and it's still Christmas eve
And snow is on the mountains where I always hate to leave

Here I am down under with a brand new family
And Christmas bells are ringing
And there's presents 'neath the tree
I know that it's been said before and now I know it's true
That home is where the heart is
And Christmas lives there too

And on this morning peace on earth
Is still our fervent prayer
And I can feel it being
Whispered softly everywhere
And guns are called to silence
And anger called to still
And brotherhood and sisterhood
Surrounded by goodwill

Christmas like a lullaby steals across the land
A breeze upon the water, rainfall upon the sand
We celebrate a baby born from spirit into man
And Christmas like a lullaby steals across the land

Words and music by John Denver

**Merry Christmas and a happy and safe new year from
all of us at Higher Ground Australia**