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Volume 2 – Edition 4

## HIGHER GROUND NEWSLETTER – April 2005

### Welcome

Hello everyone and welcome to our April newsletter.

### Pope John Paul II

On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2005, Pope John Paul II passed away at the age of 84. John Paul II was able to bridge many gaps between people of different religious backgrounds and he was loved by Catholic and non-Catholic alike.

When Pope John Paul II expressed a wish to visit a school during his Australian tour in 1986, it was to our delight that the school that I was working in was selected. Apparently St Leo the Great Primary School met all the criteria required to ensure the safety of the pontiff during this visit. A year 4 class was selected to meet with the Pope in a classroom setting where they children could ask him any questions they wanted. Apart from the diverse ethnic backgrounds of the children, the religious backgrounds were diverse. The grade 4 class included Greek Orthodox, Marianite and Coptic Catholic, Buddhist and Muslim children. It soon became apparent that he was able to communicate as effectively with 9 year olds as what he could with the rich, the poor, celebrities, the religious and world leaders. My own experience meeting with the Pontiff will be one that will never be forgotten.

As we await the election of his successor, we can remember the way in which Pope John Paul II was able to do more for peace and harmony in our world than any one leader. May he rest in peace, love and serenity. (Janette)



**There's a light in the Vatican window  
For all the world to see**

**And a voice cries in the wilderness  
And sometimes he speaks for me.**

**I suppose I love him most of all  
When he kneels to kiss the land,**

**With his lips upon our mother's breast  
He makes his strongest stand.**

**It's about time we start to see it,  
The earth is our only home.**

**It's about time we start to face it,  
We can't make it here all alone.**

**It's about time we start to listen  
To the voices in the wind,  
It's about time**

**And it's about changes and it's about time.**

Linda wrote the following...

*Whether you are one who recognizes the Christian faith or Catholicism, we all must recognize and celebrate the life of this truly God-loving man. He and John Denver certainly shared their joy for John's music and their undying devotion to working for the good of mankind and this glorious Earth that we share. John knew, loved, and honored Pope John II as a true "world leader" who worked for world peace and for the needs of all. May his soul rest in peace, and may he share the music of John Denver, which he loved.*

**Post Script:** Today it was announced that Cardinal Ratzinger of Germany has been elected to take on the responsibility of the Catholic Church. He will be known as Pope Benedict XVI.

### Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to you Alistair – 60 years young on the 17<sup>th</sup> April. We hope it was a good one!

### James Burton and Glenn D Hardin

As many of you may know, James Burton and Glenn D Hardin have been touring NSW Australia. Carmel, Alistair and Max went to see them at the Cessnock Leagues Club a couple of weeks ago...Max Moore was John's Australian tour manager and good friend.

*I thought you might like to hear about the concert we took Max to in Cessnock Leagues Club on Thursday night.*

Max had to attend a funeral for one of his extended family in Sydney and he was not able to make the 3 o'clock departure time for the Cessnock bus, so I said I would meet him at the end of the freeway and drive him back to our place so that he did not miss his chance to see his long time friends.

We arrived back at 6.30pm and the show began at 8.00 so it was a quick tea at the club and then the show.

James Burton recognised Max straight away and pointed him out to Glen D Hardin. It was great to know that they were looking for him. I had made several arrangements with different people to let them know he was going to be at the Cessnock concert, and it worked.

We had a great evening and after the show James and Glen D came to our table to greet Max and talk of old times.

What did surprise me was that Greg Page (the yellow jumper "Wiggles" member) was the lead singer, and he didn't do a bad job either!!

He explained that the show was not all about him but a celebration of music from the two musicians who played with Elvis and John Denver.

They put on a good show with a variety of songs from different artists they sang "Back home again" as a tribute to John.

Greg Page came over and spoke to Max as well. He had met him before in Sydney after one of John's concerts, so it was a real 'old friends' night. The guitarist who plays with me, Garry Murray (Gus) and his wife Barbara were with us as well as Carmel's good friend Mary.

I thought you might like a few shots of Max and Glen D. as well as Max, Gus and myself with James Burton.

We took Max on a trip through the vineyards today and sampled some of our fine wines, he did enjoy that.

Max is staying with us until Monday and we are having a BBQ tomorrow night, Gus is bringing his guitar and I will get my chance to sing "Some Days are Diamonds" for him, so it looks like being a good evening.

Carmel bought a poster of the concert and we had it signed by James Burton and Glen D Hardin for the auction. (Alistair)

The following photo is of Max and Alistair, together with James Burton and Gus.



**Post Script: I wonder whether Greg Page is aware that we made an enquiry last year about the possibility of the Wiggles doing a tribute John Denver CD with the emphasis on songs suitable for little wiggles..... I did like the idea of a CD called 'Thank God I'm a Country Wiggle' It could have been yet another hit.....**

### **2005 Gathering – Bateman's Bay NSW**

Our 2005 JD weekend will be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> October in Bateman's Bay, NSW. Anyone out there who would like to join us for this wonderful weekend with friends, do not hesitate to contact Carmel on [hifis@bigpond.com.au](mailto:hifis@bigpond.com.au). She has done a wonderful job already with the initial stages of the organisation of this weekend. For more information about this lovely setting, their website is <http://www.south-coast-accommodation.com/>. The cost for the weekend (Friday to Sunday) will be \$60 per person for the accommodation and \$30 per person for food. A deposit of \$30 per person is required ASAP (\$15 deposit for accommodation + \$15 deposit for food).

### **Silent Auction 2005**

Jean has donated 6 'Rocky Mountain High' car bumper stickers, which will be included in our auction this year. We have also started collecting bits and pieces for the auction, which will be held on the 8<sup>th</sup> October. 100% of the proceeds will be donated to an eagle refuge in NSW (yet to be named). We have already been given some copies of the Wildlife Concert DVDs (brand new), CD's and some books. With 6 months to go, our auction looks to be our best ever. Please contact me if you would like to donate an item for our auction

### **Cookbook**

The cookbooks have been sold. The total amount raised by the sale of the cookbooks is \$750. Last year, the amount raised from the sale of the cookbooks during our John Denver Weekend in Boonah was donated with the proceeds of the silent auction to Australian Native Animal Care for equipment needed by Alf and Liz of ANAC. The remaining money will be included in our silent auction proceeds for 2005.

### Australian Native Animal Care

We have kept in contact with Alf and Liz Bodem, who run Australian Native Animal Care in Brisbane. They work tirelessly to look after and rehabilitate birds. Last year we were lucky to be witness to the release of a Goss Hawk and a Wedge-Tail Eagle, which were rehabilitated by Alf. I think we all could understand why John and Morley Nelson felt so close to these birds. We love to see this work continuing and we are lucky that there are suitable environments available to us for the release of the birds. Next time you watch 'Let This Be a Voice', pay some attention to the area in which Morley Nelson had preserved for 'his' eagles. The terrain is incredible and the view from the top is spectacular. We are so lucky that so many of John's trips and meetings with these people have been filmed and we can share these experiences.

### Ready Any Good Books Lately?

I have been a bit slack with the reading this past month, but I can highly recommend Woody Guthrie's autobiography named Bound for Glory. Although difficult to read in parts, it does give an insight into the life of Woody Guthrie and the way in which his early life during the depression in rural America influenced his songs. (Penguin Books, reprinted in 2004)

### Seen Any Good Interviews Lately?

ABC Australia aired Andrew Denton's recent interview with Bob Geldof on 'Enough Rope' Monday night. Although I do not particularly like Bob Geldof, I watched it out of interest. You may read the transcript of the interview by clicking the following link.

<http://www.abc.net.au/tv/enoughrope/transcripts/1343226.htm>

The one thing that did catch my attention was Bob's last quote, **...and that's how, when you ask what can the individual do, working in a collective manner towards the common good, you will succeed in changing things.** Can we say that this has a certain resemblance to something that John once said?

### Heard Any Good Music Lately?

For those who loved the movie *Oh Brother Where Art Thou*, there is a DVD available called *Down from the Mountain*. It includes the live concert performance by the artists and musicians of *Oh Brother Where Art Thou*, which was recorded, live at the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville Tennessee. It includes performances by John Hartford, Gillian Welch, Emmylou Harris, Alison Krauss and others. It also includes interviews with the artists.

### Seen Any Good Concerts Lately?

I have seen two fantastic concerts since our last newsletter. Neil Diamond played in Melbourne over the Easter break and it was two and a half hours of non-stop Neil Diamond hits.

This week I saw Bette Midler. The last time she was in Australia was in 1978, and I was a poor student then, so seeing her in concert was out of the question. If you ever have the opportunity to see her in concert, do try to see her. It was pure entertainment – but the highlight was when she sang ***From a Distance***. The last song she sang as an encore was an Australian song and it brought a tear to almost everyone's eye, including her own, when she sang the late Peter Allen's ***Tenterfield Saddler***.

### John Denver Remembered

Some time ago there was an announcement that a DVD will be released. As a response to a question by one of our friends, the following information was forwarded to us....

***The latest news we have is that it will be out sometime in June.***

***With the resurgence of popularity of John's music and the timeless nature of his songs, people want to know about the man behind the greatness.***

***John Denver Remembered is a compilation of John's performances coupled with intimate interviews with his friends and loved ones. Each interview solicits comments about his most famous songs, beloved memories and fond personal moments.***

***Members of his band and personal friends talk about touring with John and playing before thousands of adoring fans. We see the impact of his songs, not only on his life but also on those closest to him as well as the millions of fans around the world.***

***His dedication to humanity and the environment remains unmatched. People around the world still consider John to be America's ambassador of good will and hope, of all that is good about our great country. Many people say we need this today more than ever, so let us now take solace in John Denver Remembered.***

***We invite the viewer to appreciate the soul of the man and celebrate the music of a legend.***

***Greg Poschman, Director: John Denver Remembered***

Keep your eyes out in June – I just hope it will be available here in Australia.

## **Where to Buy JD CDs!**

It has been nice to see the John Denver tabbed dividers back in the shops. For those special things that are hard to find, try [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), [www.cduniverse.com](http://www.cduniverse.com), [www.rediscovermusic.com](http://www.rediscovermusic.com)

There is a new Mitchell Trio CD now available called Alive. Check your usual stockists for this CD or order it from Amazon, CdUniverse or [www.collectorschoicemusic.com](http://www.collectorschoicemusic.com) It is about USD\$12.95

## **The One World**

Adri recently contacted me to ask whether I had ever heard the song, The One World that John wrote and sang at the Earth Summit in Rio in 1992. I had never heard this beautiful song before, but I have since not only listened to the song, have included the words below. You can listen to this song on the website. From the home page, click **The One World** button or click this link.

<http://www.highergroundaustralia2.com/2.html>

Take a moment to look at the images on this page – they all relate to our One World.

### **The One World (words & music by JD)**

**Take a moment to stop and think  
A moment is all it will take  
Take a moment, we're on the brink  
What a difference we all can make**

**It's up to us, to all of us  
We simply have to try  
It's up to us, to all of us  
Time is passing by**

**This is the one world for all of us  
The one world we ever may know  
This is the one world for all of us  
The blue skies the green earth below**

**This is the one world we're living in  
The one world we ever may share  
This is the one world we're living in  
The rivers, the oceans, the air**

**This is the one world for all of us  
The one world that's yours and is mine  
This is the one world for all of us  
A world only God could design**

**This is the one star of all the stars  
The one star we wish on each night  
This is the one star of all the stars  
A star with it's own special light**

**This is the one world for all of us  
One world we owe to the brave  
This is the one world for all of us  
The one world we have to save.**

## **ANZAC Day – 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

With the exception of Australia Day, ANZAC Day (25<sup>th</sup> April) is probably the most important national occasion. It marks the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australia and New Zealand forces during the First World War.

ANZAC is an acronym for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps.

In 1915 Australian and New Zealand soldiers formed part of the allied expedition that set out to capture the Gallipoli peninsula to open the way to the Black Sea for the allied navies. The plan was to capture Constantinople (now Istanbul), capital of the Ottoman Empire and an ally of Germany. They landed at Gallipoli on 25 April, meeting fierce resistance from the Turkish defenders. What had been planned as a bold stroke to knock Turkey out of the war quickly became a stalemate, and the campaign dragged on for eight months. At the end of 1915 the allied forces were evacuated after both sides had suffered heavy casualties and endured great hardships. Over 8,000 Australian soldiers were killed. News of the landing at Gallipoli made a profound impact on Australians at home and 25 April quickly became the day on which Australians remembered the sacrifice of those who had died in war.

Though the Gallipoli campaign failed in its military objectives of capturing Constantinople and knocking Turkey out of the war, the Australian and New Zealand troops' actions during the campaign bequeathed an intangible but powerful legacy. The creation of what became known as an "Anzac legend" became an important part of the national identity of both nations. This shaped the ways they viewed both their past and their future.

As we attend dawn ceremonies across Australia and in Gallipoli, we remember those who gave up their lives in the First and Second World Wars and the Vietnam War.

As we have deployed more troops to Iraq just this week, it is time to sit and reflect on the reasons there is conflict in this world and we pray that one day someone will see the futility in it and move toward a world of peace and harmony.

## **Guess Who is Going to Aspen in 2005?**

Mary Ledford passed on the following great news. For those people who will be in Aspen in October, 2005, you are in for a special treat.

**Hi Everybody,**

***You don't know how I have been dying to tell you this ... ever since Karen and I talked to Joe, Mike and Chad at the WFMA benefit back in January!***

***It IS official ... the Trio will be in Aspen and will perform on Sunday evening!!! Further details will come with the official ticket announcement. It is so cool that they will be there as 40 years ago this year, John joined the trio!***

***This year will be as John would say "FAR OUT!!!!"***

**Mary**

**Mary K. Ledford**

**EaglesHorses Productions**

We will certainly pass on more information as we hear about it. Also, don't forget to check the News page on the website from time to time as we post news about new releases and concerts as we hear about them

## **Earth Day**

**22 April 2005**

Earth Day is widely celebrated around the world as a collective expression of public will to create a sustainable society. Linking citizen activists, Earth Day educates and mobilises people worldwide for environmental protection. It inspires action on personal, community, national, and international levels.

Earth Day is an international event with participants from 174 countries. There are many things we can do, either as an individual or as a group. One person recently mentioned that on Earth Day they do not use any energy from fossil fuels – walking, and not using the electricity for an entire 24 hours. Perhaps some of you would like to write to us to tell us what you did on Earth Day.

The following link to the Wilderness Society highlights our Planetary Heroes, such as Mardie Murie and Gaylord Nelson (the founder of the Earth Day concept). Although this link has been designed primarily for kids, I think we could all have a look at the biographies of the people mentioned here.

<http://earthday.wilderness.org/hero/>

**How can we improve our habits for a greener earth?**

1. **Better fuel efficiency reduces our dependence on oil.** In the current climate where oil prices have steadily risen, it is time to think about we really need to take that trip in the car. Can we use public transport or walk the distance instead? Getting into a habit of walking short distances not only saves money, it is good for you. Think about using public transport to work one day a week.
2. **Recycling packaging reduces precious landfill.** Try to purchase products that also have available refill packs. This is usually in the laundry detergent and soap departments of your supermarkets. This is a cost saver as well as reducing land fill. Also, where possible, buy products in bulk. Packaging increases product cost.
3. **Saying NO to disposable Napkins (diapers) substantially reduces landfill.** Disposable baby napkins can take up to 500 years to break down. Disposable Napkin companies pay extortionate amounts of money to dominate the market with imagery. The overwhelming influence they have on young parents can affect their outlook and beliefs about nappies. This information is privately funded and not in the best interest of the environment or for the baby. Disposable napkins will cost you almost \$4,000 for each child from birth to toilet training, compared to approximately \$100 for 3 dozen napkin squares. Environmentally, disposable napkins are a scourge. No-one has convinced me that filling the bin with plastic and chemical gels (often with raw sewage inside) is better than re-using fabric and washing them in a biodegradable washing powder.
4. **Say NO to Plastic Bags. Use reusable shopping bags in the supermarket.** REUSE IS BETTER THAN RECYCLING. The 'green' shoppers that are more prevalent in Australia have so far reduced the use of plastic bags in supermarkets by 25%. Other retailers are beginning to provide their customers with alternate reusable bags.
5. **Use your clothes line instead of the clothes dryer.** Clothes and linen dried on the clothes line smell fresh and at the same time save money and energy.

**We have added a page to our website for Earth Day.**

<http://www.highergroundaustralia2.com/earthday.html>

## Earth Day Every Day (Celebrate)

Celebrate morning, the cry of a loon on a lake in the night.  
The dreams that are born in the dawn's early light, celebrate morning.

Celebrate living, the laughter that sings in the heart of a child.  
The freedom that flies at the call of the wild, celebrate living.

Celebrate evening, the stars that appear in the loss of the sun,  
whispering winds, we are one, we are one

Celebrate Earth Day, every day, Celebrate Earth Day, every day.  
Celebrate land and sea, celebrate you and me, celebrate Earth Day, every  
day.

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.