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Higher Ground Australia



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HIGHER GROUND NEWSLETTER – May 2005

**Happy 16th Birthday,
Jesse - Belle
Denver**



**Best wishes for a wonderful day and a
special year ahead from us all at
Higher Ground Australia**

Welcome

Hello Everyone and welcome to our May newsletter. I hope that you all well as we move into the end of the first half of the year. Where has the time gone?

New Baby!

Alistair and Carmel are expecting their second grandchild at the end of May. We wish Rachel and Mark good luck as they prepare for the birth of their baby. We will let you know more details in the June edition of this newsletter.

Good Luck Grandpa and Grandma.

2005 Gathering – Bateman's Bay NSW

Our 2005 JD weekend will be held on the 7th – 9th 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. 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

Now is the time to be thinking about whether you are able to donate something to our silent auction. All proceeds will be donated to an eagle rehabilitation refuge in New South Wales. We have already got a number of items such as stickers, books and CDs. Please email me if you have something you would like to donate.

jfrawley@telstra.com

Eagle/Raptor Rehabilitation Refuge

If anyone knows of an eagle rehabilitation centre somewhere in new South Wales, please contact me. Carmel and Alistair have contacted the people at Birdland, which is close to Bateman's Bay, but we would like to know if there are other, maybe smaller ones that would benefit from a donation from us.

Dutch Theatre Extravaganza

Netty of the Netherlands has passed this exciting news about a theatre production about John in the Netherlands.

"Why did you leave us on your jetplane?"

A Dutch theater play about John Denver fans.

Four women who once fainted meeting John Denver. decided to found a group of people with the name "John's apostles". A fan club or working group who is committed to do something good for the World and for people in need.

In the play they are having a mission, they have John and with the help of John and for John they will save the world or go down with that world.

They are also singing some songs of John Denver.

This is the first time in this country that something like this is happening. One of our club board members has already attended the play and it seems very good and friendly for John. She even gave them John Denver t-shirts to wear during the performance :-)

The theater play will be in Theater Bellevue, Amsterdam. We are going to attend the play with a group of people of our Dutch club "The World of John Denver" on May the 29th!

Ready Any Good Books Lately?

October Sky (The Rocket Boys) by Homer Hickam is an inspiration. I first saw this in movie format when it was my daughter's 'favourite' movie. It is a story of determination to achieve your dreams – no matter what obstacles may lay in front of you. It is the story of a small-town boy who was inspired by Werner von Braun and his Cape Canaveral team to build his own rockets. He grew up to become an engineer working on the development of the space shuttle.

This book is brilliant – both for the adult and the teenage reader **8/10**

At Last! The Long Promised DVD

Sony/BMG will release a DVD documenting JOHN DENVER's life, entitled *A Song's Best Friend*, on June 7th. The release includes live performances and interviews with the folk singer-songwriter.

(From Rolling Stone – this might have appeared in the US version of Rolling Stone – I certainly did not see it in my current copy)

John Denver Remembered DVD

Do not forget that this DVD should be released in June. We will let you know if we hear any more about this release.

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.

7-inch vinyl Catalogue

For those in America who would like to ensure that their 'single' collection is up to date, you can obtain a catalogue from Nina's Discount Oldies by calling (toll free USA only 1-800-336-4627.

Mailing Address: PO Box 77, Narbeth PA 19072-0077

(thanks Jean for sending me this information)

John on the Radio

John has been heard on the radio waves recently. Keith McGown (3AW) played 'For You' this week, while WSND 88.9FM, Notre Dame Indiana played 2 hours of John's songs on Jan 16th 2005. Keep those requests rolling in.

Now there was a song: 'Country Boy' one of many hits for Denver (Texarkana Gazette)

Friday, May 13,
2005 8:41 AM CDT

This week in 1975, Henry John Deutchendorf -better known in music circles as John Denver-was about to add his seventh charted single and his second No. 1 hit to make the record charts.



"Thank God I'm A Country Boy" was originally recorded in the studio as part of his 1974 "Back Home Again" album.

But the version released on RCA Records in 1975 was recorded live during a southern California concert at the Universal Amphitheater.

The song was written by John Martin Sommers-Denver's guitar player. The single entered the pop music Hot 100 chart on March 22, 1975 and was pop music's top song eleven weeks later.

The live concert-recorded for a television special, "An Evening With John Denver," was awarded an Emmy as "Best Musical Special" for the 1974-75 season.

The Country Music Association also awarded John Denver their Entertainer Of The Year trophy in 1975. This caused quite a controversy within the country music industry, as many insiders did not consider Denver to be a country music artist. That attitude was exhibited during the nationwide TV awards presentation, when Charlie Rich announced Denver as the winner-then took out his cigarette lighter and burned the envelope.

An outspoken environmentalist, Denver later founded the Windstar Foundation "to foster the concept of harmony in nature and provide a context for positive transformation in all areas of life."

He also served on The Presidential Commission on World And Domestic Hunger for 1978-1980 while also taking an active role in The Wilderness Society, Friends Of The Earth, World Wildlife Fund, Environmental Action and The Alaska Coalition.

From 1971 thru 1989 John Denver placed 27 songs on the country music charts, including three

No. 1s. Twenty-one of those also scored on the pop music charts.

He died in 1975 when his home-built single engine plane he was piloting crashed into California's Monterey Bay.

John Denver was 53 years old.

****Note – the date in this article is clearly a typo**

The Cincinnati Enquirer published this article

Sunday, May 15, 2005

Kids blend reading, love of nature

Students create swamp, desert, forest in Goshen

By Cindy Kranz
Enquirer staff writer

GOSHEN - With the pressures of proficiency tests behind them, the staff and students at Spaulding Elementary turned their focus last week to creating natural wonders and fostering a love of reading.

Right to Read Week has become an elaborate production in many schools, and this Goshen school of 540 students is no different.

With the theme, "Reading is a Natural Wonder," each grade level designed its own ecosystem. Third-graders created a desert in their wing of the building, fourth-graders built a rain forest and fifth-graders a marshland. An island paradise was staged so students could visit while reading silently.

Jerian Powers, the language arts chairwoman for the building and third-grade teacher, spearheaded the project, giving up countless hours to plan and decorate.

"I believe in literacy," explained Powers, a Goshen teacher for 34 years. "I believe in books. I love books. It's the window into the world for the kids. Reading can take them to college. Reading can take them to a profitable job."

Principal Darrell Edwards said the school tries to set aside a special week to draw attention to the importance of reading.

"If you can read, you can be successful in school."

The week's theme was inspired by Christopher Canyon, a children's book illustrator who visited with his guitar and samples of his work in tow. Canyon's current project is illustrating John Denver's songs for Dawn Publications.

His goal when he visits schools throughout the country is to inspire children's creativity.

"When you use your creativity, you never stop learning," the Columbus artist told the students. "There's always new experiences and new things to explore."

Books also played a key role in his life. He was a fifth-grader when his parents gave him books on learning to draw and learning to play guitar. "These books changed my entire life," he said, noting how he parlayed his interests into a career.

Throughout the school, hallway walls and display cases are full of colorful butterflies, flowers and animals, like the papier-mâché snake Allison Grothaus, 10, wore around her neck to school Monday. When Powers first saw the girl, she started, because the snake looked so real.

The fifth-grader and her two classmates, Seyairra Guevremont and Jessica Bennett, spent the previous weekend making and painting the colorful snake for their swamp.

Those kinds of finishing touches were evident everywhere. Sand was glued to the clay-colored paper that represented the desert, and brown paper was twisted to form long vines in the forest.

The week was filled with time set aside for reading and visits from the Dreamweaver Storytelling Troupe and community guest readers. The weeklong event wrapped up Friday with a hike outside to a spot where the students sat and read, munching on trail mix.

"I like to read because it's fun, and you can let your imagination go in a million different directions," said Erin Ross, 10, a fourth-grader.

PS: If you have not yet seen these beautiful books illustrated by Christopher Canyon, please take a look at them on the Amazon site.

Earth Day – April 22nd, 2005

On April 22nd, thousands of Clean Up the World volunteers will join the millions of people celebrating the 35th anniversary of Earth Day around the globe. As Clean Up the World volunteers join together to protect and conserve the environment for our children and the future they will clean up local waterways, streets and parks, plant trees and hold environmental education activities.

"Earth Day Network and Clean Up the World are two like minded organisations with the common goal to improve the health of our planet. Together we are helping to ensure that our children will have a cleaner and healthier world to live in," said Ian Kiernan AO, Chairman and Founder of Clean Up the World

"Congratulations to Earth Day Network for 35 years of environmental achievement," added Mr Kiernan, "It is fantastic to see our Clean Up the World volunteers participating in this global celebration."

In the Tamil Nadu state of India, Clean Up the World volunteers will plant 3000 tree saplings in wastelands across the Dindigul district with the help of local school children.

Long time Clean Up the World member in Poland, Our Earth Foundation, will mobilise 10,000 people across the country to clean up rubbish from local streets and parks to commemorate Earth Day. In Vera Cruz, Brazil, a local Clean Up the World member will operate an "Eco-Bus" that will visit 1500 school students to promote a healthier environment. Brought together by the United Nations Environment Programme, Clean Up the World and Earth Day Network have worked together since 2004. Both organisations encourage their members to implement environmental initiatives under the Clean Up the World and Earth Day banners.

Clean Up the World Weekend is September 16-18 2005. For more information visit www.cleanuptheworld.org. For information on Earth Day Network and the 35th anniversary of Earth Day visit www.earthday.net.

Clean Up the World is a campaign held in conjunction with their Primary Partner UNEP. Patron- Fondation d'Entreprise Veolia Environnement. Global Media Partner - National Geographic Channels International. Sponsor - Qantas. Supporter - The Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

As many of you know, the Clean Up Australia Campaign started in 1989 after Ian Kiernan returned from the BOC solo around-the-world yacht race. After seeing the rubbish in the world's oceans, he decided to start cleaning up his own back yard – Sydney Harbour. In 1990 the first Clean Up Australia day took place on January 21, 1990, when more than 300,000 Australians volunteered their time to make a difference to the health of their local environment. In June 1991, Ian and his team were invited by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to meet in Nairobi to discuss the Clean Up Australia's proposal for a global Clean Up campaign. Since then, Clean Up the World has grown to encompass some 40 million volunteers from more than 120 countries who annually take to the streets, beaches, river banks, and parks to conserve their local environment.

Ian is now the full-time chairman of Clean Up Australia Ltd, a non-profit organisation that

co-ordinates the Clean Up Australia and Clean Up the World campaigns. Amongst other related activities he is also involved in providing education programmes such as 'Leave only Footprints', a beach litter prevention programme and lobbies on community-based initiatives such as usage of plastic bags.

“What One Man Can Do”

Ian has more than shown that love of the environment and the ability to make a difference to the local, national and global environments is possible.

Thank You Ian.

What the Individual can do for Earth Day

This letter recently appeared in the IAT newsletter.

Hi IAT,

I have a little thing I do each Earth Day. It isn't much, but if we could get a lot of our friends to do it too, it would mean quite a bit to help the environment. And it's very easy to do.

What I do is pick a day, if the actual Earth Day isn't a good day to do this. And on that day, I turn off all electric/gas/propane/oil devices I can. Then I spend the day reading, or working by candle light. Each year I try to do it longer than the year before. Last year, I did it the entire day! If we all could do it, just imagine how much we could save for the environment! I hope this note gets a lot of positive feedback and we actually can make a dent in the use of fossil fuels that we consume each day without realizing it. It's only 1 day, so give it a try!

Take gentle care,

Kathy

Water Conservation

As Victoria slips further towards one of the worst drought in history (this will be the 9th year). It may be timely to remind you all, wherever you are in the world that we need to conserve as much water as possible. With a warmer than normal April and May and below average rainfall, we are looking headlong into another year of water restrictions. The effects of drought are far-reaching, with farmers unable to plant their seed until some rain has fallen. The small communities in rural areas are hardest hit. As water levels fall, so does the amount of water that is available for irrigation, which means that farmers have to pay more money for water to be channelled through their properties for irrigation purposes – if they are granted the water rights.

Further, the forests around the Murray River in Victoria are in a poorer state than we have ever seen before.

Before you turn on your tap to do your washing up, or to clean your teeth, THINK about what you are doing. Are you running fresh water down the drain while you wait for your water to heat up? Don't waste it. Put a container under it to catch it and use it on your garden.

Turn off your tap when cleaning your teeth.

Fill your washing machine or dishwasher before starting it.

Think of ways in which you can re-use water. Your washing machine water will not harm your garden. Use it on your plants, especially your azaleas and hibiscus. Grey water keeps aphids at bay.

Mulch around your plants – they need less water as the evaporation rate is diminished. Lucerne mulch also repels snails, so lucerne might be a good mulch to use if you have a snail problem.

My greatest fear is that one day, we will only be able to drink bottled water. After visiting Mexico earlier this year, it became so obvious to me that water must be conserved at all costs. Mexico is a beautiful country with incredible sights and culture, but a severe lack of water.

Flying for Me

Australian astronaut, Andy Thomas will take his last space flight sometime after 22 May on the space shuttle Discovery. It will be the first launch since the space shuttle Columbia disintegrated during re-entry on 1 February 2003. Good Luck, Andy and crew. You are flying for me and for all Australians. You are an inspiration to us all.



Flying For Me

Well, I guess that you probably know by now-I was one who wanted to fly.I wanted to ride on that arrow of fire right up into heaven.

And I wanted to go for every man, every child, every mother of children,

I wanted to carry the dreams of all people right up to the stars.

And I prayed that I'd find an answer there or maybe I would find a song, giving a voice to all of the hearts that cannot be heard.

And for all of the ones who live in fear and all of those who stand apart, my being there would bring us a little step closer together,

They were flying for me, they were flying for everyone.

They were trying to see a brighter day for each and every one.

They gave us their light, they gave us their spirit and all they could be, they were flying for me, they were flying for me.

And I wanted to wish on the Milky Way and dance upon a falling star.

I wanted to give myself and free myself and join myself with it all.

Given the chance to dream, it can be done, the promise of tomorrow is real.

Children of spaceship Earth, the future belongs to us all.

She was flying for me, she was flying for everyone.

She was trying to see a brighter day for each and every one.

She gave us her light, she gave us her spirit, and all she can be, she was flying for me.

They were flying for me, they were flying for everyone.

They were trying to see a brighter day for each and every one.

They gave us their light, they gave us their spirit and all they could be, they were flying for me, they were flying for me.

They were flying for me, they were flying for me.



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