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Higher Ground Australia



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HIGHER GROUND NEWSLETTER - August 2005

Welcome to this Crazy Place...

Congratulations to Great Grandma Margaret and Great Aunty Maureen on the birth of Noah Adam last month. Congratulations to all the Gilby Family on your newest addition.

I Watch You Sleeping (Batt)

**I watch you sleeping, little angel face.
And on behalf of the human race,
Welcome to this crazy place.**

**I watch you sleeping, innocent and free.
I don't know what your dreams may be.
You don't know what you mean to me.**

**You have never heard thunder,
You have never seen the rain.
But you can still feel the wonder,
You can still feel the pain.
And sometimes you look at me,
So wise and so sure,
I could easily believe
You have been here before.**

**I watch you sleeping, little angel face.
And on behalf of the human race,
Welcome to this crazy place.
I won't be here forever,
But as long as I'm around,
I promise you I will never let you down.
To help make a world you can feel worthy of,
I will teach you to fly on the wings of my love.**

**I watch you sleeping, brave and unaware.
You don't know yet so you don't care.
I want you to know it's hard out there.
I watch you sleeping, little angel face.
And on behalf of the human race,
Welcome to this crazy place.
I watch you sleeping, I watch you sleeping,
I watch you sleeping,
I watch you sleeping, I watch you sleeping,
I watch you sleeping.**

Get Well Soon...

Our thoughts and prayers go out to two of our beloved members who have been a bit under the weather lately.

Margaret, we hope that you will be feeling better soon.

Max, we hope you get back on your feet soon and watch out for those vacuum cleaners – they have been known to bite!

We are looking forward to seeing you both in Bateman's Bay in October, so look after yourselves.



Happy Birthday, Linda

Many happy returns for your special day, Linda. I hope your birthday was a very happy one for you, Love and best wishes,

HGA

Welcome

Hello everyone and welcome to our August newsletter. There are lots of things happening in our John Denver world as we prepare for October events in Aspen, Monterey, New Zealand, and of course, here in Australia. What is happening in Bateman's Bay in October?

The following link will list everything that is happening in this wonderful part of Australia.

<http://www.bayinfo.com.au/outandabout/october.html>

2005 Gathering – Bateman’s Bay NSW

Our 2005 gathering at Mogo, near Bateman’s Bay between the 7th – 9th October is organised and we are all looking forward to meeting our old friends and welcoming our new friends who are coming for the first time. Our numbers are great and we are going to have such a lot of fun. It is not too late to join us and we welcome all new people who come along. You will certainly go home with many happy memories. For further information about the weekend, please contact Carmel on hifis@bigpond.net.au, who is organising the venue this year. For more information about Mogo’s 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).

Water for our Tree Planting

Last year, Alistair suggested that we each bring a small bottle of water that we have filled from our taps at home. Our bottles of water that we had brought from our homes were each emptied into a bucket and used to water the trees that we planted. Symbolically we were bringing something from our different parts of Australia and blending it to bring life to our trees.

It was such a moving ceremony that we would like to do it again this year, starting a new annual tradition. Please bring along your bottle of water to Bateman’s Bay.

Our First Radio Advertisement (2005)

Carmel sent an email to one of our local radio stations. It’s a University one and very popular. They play a lot of easy listening music daily, so we thought we would ask Felicity Biggins to give us a plug on her morning show. She usually plays a JD song at least two or three times each week. It had been a few days since we sent the email and we were concerned she might not be able to do it. But this morning she played "Annie’s Song" and after it she said it was for Higher Ground Australia and mentioned the weekend and she said she would be in touch with us closer to the event. She mentioned our names and said she hoped we were listening, so I rang the station to thank her for the song and the plug.

We are all excited about the radio plug. it was station 2NUR FM

Thanks to Carmel and Alistair for doing this on our behalf. I also know that they have sent an email to ABC radio and to the local station in Bateman’s Bay.

Silent Auction 2005

If you have any items for our annual silent auction, please do not hesitate to contact me and let me know what you would like to donate. We have already got some really nice items and we thank all those people who have pledged items.

All proceeds [that is, **100%**] 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

A catalogue will be emailed to you a couple of weeks before the October weekend and bids will be accepted by email from people in Australia.

Eagle/Raptor Rehabilitation Refuge

Carmel and Alistair have contacted the people at Birdland, which is close to Bateman’s Bay. We have asked that they provide a plaque in John’s name to acknowledge the donation we make to them. We raised approximately \$1700 last year, which was used to purchase equipment for Australian Native Animal Care in Brisbane. Alf and Liz Bodem, who operate this facility have been able to put the equipment to good use. Alf also gave us the wonderful experience of being present when he released a Goss Hawk and a Wedge Tail Eagle at our gathering last year. I am sure that our donation this year will be put to great use again this year.

Some Days are Diamonds.....

When Alistair and Carmel went to Boonah recently to attend to John’s tree, which was providing feed for kangaroos, they saw a couple of wedge-tail eagles flying around. Of course, we would like to believe that one of those eagles was ‘our’ rehabilitated eagle. Here is a photo that Alistair took of one of the eagles he saw.



Thanks to Carmel for taking the time to send me the photos.

Higher Ground Caps

We are currently looking into purchasing some caps, embroidered with our name – Higher Ground Australia on the front. As an optional extra, we can have the URL embroidered on the back. Prices are AUD\$22.00 for the one with our name on the front and \$27.50 for the embroidery on both the front and back. Postage will be approximately \$4.50 (this to be confirmed). Please contact Lynn for further details. Imagann@iprimus.com.au



Some Days are Diamonds...

"JD: A Song's Best Friend" has been shown on TV in America over the past few weeks on the PBS station. I hope that many of our American friends were able to watch this wonderful show on TV.

And the following advertisement has been sent to us courtesy of Jean.

Also, Nina's Discount Oldies - 1-800-336-4627 - catalogue is offering "JD: Take Me Home" 24KT gold Record/w/picture, 12" x 16", for only \$98. Says" Ltd. Ed. 2500.

...Some Days are Stone

Let This Be a Voice on DVD / What The?

We received this very exciting news that Let This be a Voice was released on DVD as follows, however...

"Let This be a Voice" on regular DVD (not just DVD-R) is available from www.thirteen.org. Item #WT256 for \$19.95 plus \$4.95 s/h or by phone at 1-800-336-1917.

.. one of our Australian members, Gloria contacted the website and this is the response she received...

Thank you for contacting Shophirteen.org! It is possible to order our merchandise from anywhere in the world. However, this item cannot legally be shipped anywhere outside of the U.S. and its territories and possessions, including authorized U.S. military installations. It is also important to note that our VHS tapes and DVDs are currently only available in NTSC format, not PAL. We

apologize for any inconvenience this may cause you.

If you wish to order from outside the U.S., but ship to an address within the U.S., please feel free to fax your order to us.

Our fax number is: (802) 864-9846.

Please feel free to contact us again for further assistance, or to inquire about other titles in which you may be interested. Your purchase supports Public Broadcasting.

Regards,

Ashley

Customer Care Center Shophirteen.org

E-mail: thirteen@ordering.com

Phone: 888-255-9231

FAX: 802-864-9846

Web: <http://www.shophirteen.org>

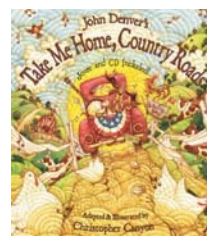
This apparently means that anyone outside the USA cannot order this item. As for the NTSC/PAL issue, although our region is PAL, most newer equipment can play both formats. I know that there are a number of Australian people who would love to own this on DVD, and we would love to hear from anyone who knows of a vendor who will sell this DVD to people outside of the United States.

NOTE: I would not mind trying to get hold of perhaps 6 copies for people here in Australia who have enquired about this DVD lately.

Take Me Home, Country Roads

Take me Home, Country Roads is the third book in the series that has been illustrated by Christopher Canyon. This wonderful picture book will be released at the end of August by Dawn Publications. For a 30% discount on this and the previous two books, please use this link:

<http://www.dawnpub.com/HTMLEmail/CountryRoads/DenverFans-CountryRoadsFINAL.htm>



Chad Mitchell Trio Reunion

"The Chad Mitchell Trio Reunion" with JD can be ordered from www.rediscovermusic.com. It is \$30 plus \$5 s/h. It won't be available until late August but they are taking pre-orders by phone at 1-800-232-7328 and they will ship it as soon as it

arrives. I think lots of people going to the Wheeler shows in Oct. will be interested in this news.

Mary also added the following information about this DVD: *The Chad Mitchell Trio reunion video is a must have ... it features two songs with John: "For Baby" and "Last Night I Had The Strangest Dream."*

NEW 'MITCHELL TRIO' CD - 'The Mitchell Trio, Alive' This was the last Mitchell Trio album recorded when the Trio consisted of Mike Kobluk, John Denver and David Boise. The new CD is now in stock and available from 'Rediscover Music', Web site <http://www.rediscovermusic.com>

Thanks for passing on this information, everyone...

A Review of the latest DVD

(from Gloria) Having picked up the John Denver Remembered DVD today & having just watched it, I'm delighted with it. It was uplifting to hear the comments by Annie (who has a lovely speaking voice) and John's friends and fellow musos.

It was also enjoyable listening to songs from 30 years ago, knowing that they are still known and heard today. Also pleasing: the mention of John's love for the Earth & its inhabitants. Well done, to all concerned with this DVD, & many thanks.

What's Happening in Australia?

Thanks to Christine who passed on the following information

NEW JOHN DENVER DVDs AND CDs:

(from Jim and Fay) Recently whilst browsing through the 'JB HI-FI' store in Brisbane, Qld, we found one new John Denver DVD and three new CDs.

1. DVD: 'A Song's Best Friend, John Denver Remembered'

This is an edited one-hour programme which goes deep into John's life, his songs and his passion for music. It features 10 of John's songs, and interviews with his wife Annie, Producer Milt Okun, Manager Hal Thau, fellow musician Pete Huttlinger, and John himself.

2. CD: 'John Denver, Rhymes and Reasons'

This was John's first solo album and was originally released in 1969. A CD of this album was later produced in Japan, but was available for a limited time only. The new CD includes two bonus tracks - A. Rusty Green, B. Take Me To Tomorrow (early version)

3. CD: 'John Denver, Back Home Again'

This album, originally released in 1973, has been newly mastered and upgraded. The CD includes three bonus tracks - A. Daydream (from 'Rhymes

and Reasons'), B. I Guess He'd Rather Be In Colorado (from 'Poems, Prayers and Promises') C. Sail Away Home (from 'Whose Garden Was This')

4. CD: 'Guitar Tribute To John Denver'

This CD was produced by Fastforward Music Limited, Ipswich, Suffolk, England and includes 16 of John's popular songs.

If you cannot find these titles in your local JB HI FI store, you can easily order them by phone. JB HI FI stores tend to stock music genre, based on the location of the store. They also employ people who are 'experts' in specific music types. Unfortunately the one closest to my work place specialises in Heavy Metal!

Postscript: I happened to go into the abovementioned 'Heavy Metal' store today and much to my delight, found 'Back Home Again' and 'Poems, Prayers & Promises'. They are \$17.99 each.

The following DVDs are also available...

Early this year we found two multi-pack movie DVDs that included a John Denver movie.

1. DVD: 'Family 10-Movie Pack'

This pack contains four DVD discs with 10 full-length movies recorded on them. The John Denver movie included in this pack is 'Walking Thunder'. The DVD multi-pack was produced by Dollar DVD Pty. Ltd., a Flashback Entertainment Company.

NOTE: A copy of this Family Pack has been donated to our silent auction.

2. DVD: 'Triple Treat Adventures' This pack contains one DVD disc with three full-length movies recorded on it. The John Denver movie included in this pack is 'Walking Thunder'. The DVD multi-pack was produced by Flashback Home Entertainment.

NOTE: There have also been a large number of copies of Walking Thunder available on ebay recently for a reasonable cost, some of which originate in Australia. There will be some single copies of Walking Thunder (sealed and new) available at our silent auction.

Tribute Show in NSW

Stephen Cheney (one of our members) will be performing his 'Tribute To John Denver' show on Wednesday, September 21st.

The show will be in one of the function rooms from 11 a.m., and will run for approximately 60 - 90 minutes. The entertainer will be Mr. Stephen R. Cheney, a local artist who has performed in the USA and New Zealand, and is known for his voice being similar to that of John Denver.

SHOW BOOKINGS: Telephone 1800 014 014
COST: Club Members - \$5.00, New Members - \$10.00

Another Tribute show in Victoria

Hopefully, by next month, I will have some news of another tribute show planned for Victoria. As soon as I get the details, I will pass them on to you all.

New CD to be Released Soon

According to KO's website, Kris has finished John's 1987 solo concert at Cedar Rapids which will be released as a new CD by BMG soon. Keep your eyes peeled for this one.

Here is the link to Kris O'Connor's website and big hugs to him for being able to keep John's music alive. <http://www.krisoconnor.com/>

Mark Cormican's New CD

Mark is one of the performers appearing in and around Aspen this year, and in particular at the Peace Cloth concert. He has a new CD called "Mark Cormican – LIVE at the Music Cafe" is now available. There are 19 songs on it, some from his past albums, some brand new ones and some songs that JD covered in some of his shows, such as "It's a Sin to Tell a Lie" and "Today". THE COST: \$15 per CD and \$2 (no matter how many CDs you order) for shipping to:

Mark Cormican, P.O. Box 22, Warsaw, KY 41095

NOTE: For non-US members, perhaps you could drop Mark a line to ask about postage costs for your country.

M.U.S.E. Foundation Concerts

For anyone living in or visiting the east coast of America in October, there will be a musical tribute to John Denver on October 29th, Maryland Hall, Annapolis MD at 8pm. This concert will feature John Denver's former band members and a full symphony orchestra.

On 30th October, an encore concert will be performed at the Rouse Theatre, Columbia MD. For further information about bookings please go to their website via the following link:

<http://www.musicunites.com/>

Nice Website

Here is a new page by Linda, dedicated to the wonderful song, Flight (The Higher We Fly). Linda is constantly updating this page, so call in often

<http://www.freewebs.com/sweetdreamsplace/flight.html>

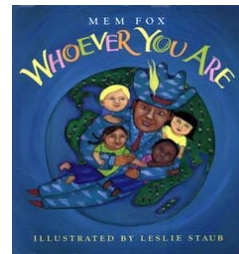
Read any Good Books Lately?

Author: **Mem Fox**

Book Title: **"Whoever You Are"**

My book this month is a children's picture story book by celebrated author Mem Fox, illustrated by Leslie Staub, an illustrator from New Orleans. This wonderful book is about peace and equality and very much fits in with John's so very famous words, which are reflected in the following:

**"Little one,
Whoever you are,
Wherever you are,
There are little ones just like you,
All over the world.
Their skin may be different from yours
And their homes may be different from yours;
Their schools may be different from yours
And their..."**



This book would make a great Christmas present for a special person in your life

My score is 9/10

Video Clips from the Netherlands

About once a month, Michiel ten Brug uploads a new video clip of John on his website. These are wonderful to see. Here is the link and if you check this website about once a month you will be able to watch or download some wonderful video clips.

Thanks to Michiel for doing this and thanks to Netty for keeping us up to date.

<http://home.wanadoo.nl/mtenbrug/denver>

Jesse Belle's Birthday Book

As many of you know, we created a birthday book for Jesse's 16th birthday in June. Many of you sent some lovely messages to her through the website. Thank you to everyone who participated in this activity. After the closing of the birthday book, it was printed and sent to Jesse. She has made contact and this was what she said...

Hi

Thank you so much for the birthday book. It was very very nice and it was sweet of all of you to sign it for me.

Jesse

It was our pleasure, Jesse and thank you for taking the time to thank us. We really appreciate it.

Aspen events - 2005

The following information has been derived from the RMH newsletter by Emily Parris.

October 6th

Aspen, CO - Work detail at the John Denver Sanctuary 8:30am - Noon Contact: Curtis Curtis.Griffy@guidant.com

Aspen, CO "Meet and Greet" at the John Denver Sanctuary 3:00pm / Worship on the Mountain 3:30pm Paster Keith Perry / Deb Perry aspeninOctober@wowway.com >

Aspen, CO - "Friends With You" featuring Mark Cormican and Chris Collins and the Boulder Canyon Band - Aspen Community Church 7:00pm \$10 APokey1@aol.com

October 7th

Aspen, CO - Singalong at the Pitkin County Assisted Living Center - World Family of JD Singers / Rehearsal at Wagner Park at 9:00am apokey1@aol.com

Aspen, CO - Mt. Chalet Ballroom - 333 East Durant, Peace Cloth Event 1:00pm - 4:00pm Chris Collins and the Boulder Canyon Band, Mark Cormican, Ken Dravis and Tim Durnan. Presentation of The Vision Award Tickets \$20 eve@johndenverpeacecloth.com

October 7th - 8th

Aspen, CO - Wheeler Opera House / 8th Annual John Denver Tribute Concert / Concert benefits Challenge Aspen. Tickets \$45 & \$75 VIP \$125 7:00pm. Special Guest: Mike Taylor, one of JD's first original band members and co-author of "Rocky Mountain High." www.wheeleroperahouse.com * info@wheeleroperahouse.com

October 8th

Aspen, CO - Mt. Chalet Ballroom - "Let This Be A Voice" Auction/lunch/concert 10:30am - 3:30pm with registration beginning at 10:00am. Mark Cormican, Keeper Koplinger, Kevin Demolino, Roy Rivers and Jim Salestrom. Christopher Canyon will showcase the new book "Take Me Home, Country Roads." \$25 or \$15 for just the concert/auction. Check/M.O. payable to Pamela Beasley / 721 Ravencroft Dr. / Garland, TX 75043 (SASE) pamela.beasley@airmail.net or eagleshorses@yahoo.com

Snowmass, CO - Third Annual Windstar Connections Conference. 9:00am to 5:00pm on the Windstar Land. Featured speaker/entertainer Kyle Vincent. Also Cottonwood Stone, Michael Snovak and Barbara Davis. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. \$100 for Windstar Members. (\$135 for non members) <http://www.wstar.org>

October 9th

Aspen, CO - Wheeler Opera House / 8th Annual John Denver Tribute Concert / Concert benefits Challenge Aspen. Tickets go on sale July 1st. 7:00pm Special Guests: Chad Mitchell Trio in honour of the 40th Anniversary of John joining the trio. www.wheeleroperahouse.com info@wheeleroperahouse.com

Snowmass, CO - A Windstar Celebration! Windstar Foundation - All Windstar members, old and new, are invited to a special day celebrating and thanking you for all you do to support The Windstar Foundation. Musical performances by Mark Cormican, John Adams, Paul Swanton & Diane Ireland, Chris Collins and the Boulder Canyon Band. Light refreshments served. Windstar Membership \$35 <http://www.wstar.org> 9:00am - 4:00pm * Campfire 6:00pm Apokey1@aol.com >

Aspen, CO - A Special Concert with Mack Bailey & Friends featuring Chris Nole and Pete Huttlinger. Mountain Chalet Ballroom (lower level) / 333 E. Durrant 8:00pm \$25 includes a dessert buffet and beverages (7:30pm). Send a \$25 check payable to Mack Bailey with a sase to: Mack Bailey Concert / c/o Karen Tupek / 6300 Wynkoop Blvd. / Bethesda, MD 20817 * or (Paypal: mack@mackbailey.com) www.mackbailey.com / More info karen@mackbailey.com

October 10th

Aspen, CO - "Colors of the Rainbow" presented by Georgiann McDaniel / Mountain Chalet Rooftop, Conference Room 9:00am - Noon \$20 / SASE to Georgiann McDaniel / 48 E. Tamarack Circle / Battlement Mesa / Parachute, CO 81635 Info: RockyMtnHaven1@msn.com

Aspen, CO * John Adams "Rocky Mountain High" Concert / Wheeler Opera House 7:00pm with Guido Bos, Tom Paxton, Rusty Speigle, Diane Ireland, Dave Harding and Randy Utterback. 7:00pm. Tickets \$35 & \$20 (970) 920-5770 www.wheeleroperahouse.com www.johnadams-music.com

Aspen, CO - "It's Goodbye Again" 5:00pm Wagner Park on Durant Avenue. aspeninOctober@wowway.com >

Aspen, CO - Mt. Chalet 2:00pm (new time!) downstairs concert - "New Friends To Find" Steve Brook, Rene Wingelaar and Tim Durnan / John Denver Trivia Contest \$12 jht@spamarrest.com > Event is produced by the Singing Skies Foundation.

Fuel

With fuel prices skyrocketing to \$1.25 last week before stabilising at \$1.17, it is time to think about alternatives to using the car for every trip.

For short trips, it is necessary to ask yourself whether you can use an alternate method of transport, such as public transport, bicycle, or even walk. It is amazing how often we jump in the car to run a quick errand when we could have walked.

Replace one car trip to work a week with travelling on public transport. Don't forget to take your book and favourite JD CD with you to keep you company during your trip to work. You will be amazed how relaxed you feel when you arrive at work.

Slow down. In most cars, travelling 90km on the open road uses 25% less fuel than travelling at 110km.

Don't let your tank empty. This forces you into the nearest service station and you cannot hold out for cheaper prices. Keep your supermarket discount vouchers in your car with the one with the shortest expiry at the top of your pile. Four cents per litre is better in your pocket than in the pocket of the oil companies.

Shop around for your petrol. Some prices can vary in price up to 10cents per litre.

Watch for the days and the time of day that petrol prices are reduced. Most prices rise on Thursday night (a combination of payday and the forthcoming weekend). Also purchase your petrol during the day – I have noticed that prices are rising as much as 12cents around 5pm on some days.

If you drive a manual car, use the higher gears where possible – they use less petrol.

Stay aerodynamic – keeping windows closed improves your fuel efficiency up to 5% compared to the drag that is increased by open windows. Bullbars and roof racks also increase drag and would be better removed when not required.

If you live in the same area as some of your work colleagues, think about car pooling. Costs may be shared and you will also be able to use the transit lane on freeways for quicker travel to work.

Make sure your tyres are inflated to the manufacturer's recommendations. If they are flat, the car needs to work harder.

Think about what you are carrying in the boot of your car. Those golf clubs that were left there since the last game you played last month are costing you money. A heavy load makes your car work harder

World Solar Challenge 2005

The 8th World Solar Challenge will leave Darwin on Sunday 25th September. As many of the world's top universities are involved in solar car projects, it would be nice to cheer them on as they make their way through some of the world's most inhospitable terrain.

The 2005 World Solar Challenge is an investment in our young people; an investment in our future; and an investment in those who are destined to deliver the technology of tomorrow.

Driving 3021 kilometres through the middle of Australia requires some careful planning and route maps are the heart of the challenge. Route markers every kilometre, check points throughout the route and a couple of mountains, the challenge is a test for people and equipment.

The Challenge will travel through the following places:

Darwin

Katherine

Dunmarra

Tennant Creek

Alice Springs (Ayers Rock – Uluru)

Cadney Homestead

Glendambo

Port Augusta

Adelaide

60th Anniversary of the end of WW2

During the course of 2005, there have been many commemorative ceremonies marking the 60th anniversary of events that finally closed the door on World War 2. Although war is a senseless waste of young life, we need remember that this was to be the war to end all wars.

Although there have been some serious 'wars' in different parts of the world since then, it is my sincere hope that peace is not only achievable, but attainable.

The journey of a thousand miles

Begins with a single step

Last Night I Had the Strangest Dream

(Ed McCurdy – John sang this song on The Ray Martin Show in the 1980's)

*Last night I had the strangest dream
I'd ever dreamed before
I dreamed the world had all agreed
To put an end to war*

*I dreamed I saw a mighty room
Filled with women and men
And the paper they were signing said
They'd never fight again*

*And when the paper was all signed
And a million copies made
They all joined hands and bowed their heads
And grateful pray'rs were prayed*

*And people in the streets below
Were dancing 'round and 'round
While swords and guns and uniforms
Were scattered on the ground*

*Last night I had the strangest dream
I'd ever dreamed before
I dreamed the world had all agreed
To put an end to war*

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