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HIGHER GROUND NEWSLETTER – May 2006

Welcome

Welcome to our May newsletter. There have been lots of things happening this month, so you are going to be in for a BIG read. Have fun.

Have fun reading this newsletter.

Happy Birthday Jesse Belle

All of us at HGA wish Jesse Belle Denver a very Happy 17th Birthday. We hope that your day is very special for you.



Happy Mothers Day

It is that lovely day for celebrating mothers on 14th May. Happy Mothers Day to all the mums and grandmas. We hope that your day was a really good one and that you were all pampered all day long.



John Denver Weekend Oct 2006

The John Denver weekend will be held from Friday 13th – Sunday 15th October, 2006. We will be returning to the friendly town of Boonah, approximately one hour out of Brisbane. We will be returning to the Outlook Training and Resource Centre, Ipswich-Boonah Road, Boonah, Queensland.

The accommodation has been booked and a deposit paid. Because we are not asking for a deposit for the accommodation (you will pay the

full amount on arrival in Boonah), we will ask that all numbers are finalised by the 29th September.

Our weekends are self-catered. We ask everyone for a **NON-REFUNDABLE** deposit of \$15, which will be a deposit for the food only.

Costs for the weekend are as follows:

Accommodation: \$36.00 per person per night

Food: \$30.00 per person for the weekend (\$15.00 deposit, plus \$15.00 paid at the beginning of the weekend)

The total cost for food and accommodation for the weekend is **\$102.00 per person**

Please contact Margaret and Maureen on marjo@powerup.com.au to organise payment of your food deposit.

The annual JD weekend is a great weekend for everyone. We start the weekend with a meet and greet and a shared dinner. This is usually followed by our AGM, which gets the 'business' side of the weekend out of the way, so we can concentrate on having fun for the rest of the weekend.

Saturday is usually fairly low key with a shared breakfast, odd jobs and leisure time in town meeting the locals. The evening meal is a BBQ, followed by our annual sing-long and silent auction, drawing of the raffles and books. Sunday starts with a shared breakfast, odd jobs and the annual tree planting. It is possible that there will be some other activities included. Two years ago, we were lucky enough to witness the release of a gos hawk and a wedge-tail eagle, both of which had been rehabilitated by Alf from Australian Native Animal Care. Last year we took a quick trip to see 'our' eagle down at Birdland at Bateman's Bay. These are the things that allow us to witness first hand the wonderful work these people do with raptors in Australia. It also allows us to see how the money we raise each year to donate to these facilities is being used. Of course, we believe that through John's music, we are all brought together. For the prospective first-timers, please spend a weekend with us – but beware – you will make some life long friends during the weekend – and THAT is really not hard to handle!

Extraordinary Feat of Survival

Australia sat on the edge of their seats for two weeks as we learnt of an earthquake in Tasmania, which had caused a landslide in a goldmine in Beaconsfield. Most had escaped, but three men were missing. Five days later, the body of one miner was found one kilometre below the ground. Hope was fading for the other two missing miners, but rescuers were relentless in the search around the area of the rock fall. Suddenly, strains of a Kenny Rogers song were heard from deep within the rocks. They were not only alive, but singing country songs! Altogether, it took some 14 days from the time the miners started their shift on Anzac Day until they walked out of that mine after an incredible rescue mission, there is no doubt about the strength and resilience of the human body and spirit. We wish Brant Webb and Todd Russell the best of luck for the future. We also extend our deepest condolences to the family of Larry Knight who lost his life during the earthquake.

The following lyrics were written by Rita MacNeil, a Canadian songwriter. I am sure the sentiments expressed in this song would be echoed in Beaconsfield this week. Mary Duff (an Irish singer who often tours Australia with Daniel O'Donnell) sings this on her Country Girl album.

Working Man (Rita MacNeil)

It's a working man I am
And I've been down under ground
And I swear to God if I ever see the sun
Or for any length of time
I can hold it in my mind
I never again will go down under ground

At the age of sixteen years
Oh he quarrels with his peers
Who vowed they'd never see another one
In the dark recess of the mines
Where you age before your time
And the coal dust lies heavy on your lungs

At the age of sixty-four
Oh he'll greet you at the door
And he'll gently lead you by the arm
Through the dark recess of the mines
Oh he'll take you back in time
And he'll tell you of the hardships that were had

Update...

In the February newsletter, I related a part of an article written by Neil Kearney in the Melbourne Herald Sun on Saturday, 4th February. The article was about the first day of school for children who have achieved under extraordinary circumstances. One of the stories centred around twin girls who both have multiple disabilities and after their first day at school, Neal had called up to

see how they had coped. ...Judith was feeling similarly buoyant when I called her after her children's first school day. A John Denver song was playing loudly in the background.

'T' loves John Denver,' Judith explained. "It must be the vibration from the banjo".

On behalf of HGA, a John Denver CD was posted to Judith via Neal.

We received a wonderful **Thank You** from Judith who was delighted to receive the CD. She has filled me in on the activities of her wonderful family and has also sent us a photo of her John Denver fan! Of course, Judith and her husband are fans from way back and Judith even said that she had attended John's concert at the Albert Hall in London. Music is the universal language and it breaks through some huge barriers. Thanks to Judith for her feedback and we will really enjoy hearing about the family. Later this year, we will also be running our annual JD Picture Story Book Giveaway, where the names of nominated schools will be entered and drawn out of a barrel. The winning schools will each receive a copy of one of Christopher Canyon's beautiful picture books, based on songs that John either wrote or sang. Meanwhile here is a picture of Tegan, who loves listening to John Denver.



BTW – I have had it on good authority that Neal Kearney, the writer of the article is a keen JD fan!

The Travelling Wilsons

As you know, Alistair and Carmel are currently travelling around parts of Australia. Alistair is currently writing an epic poem, the first instalment is as follows:



The Travelling Wilsons

We made up a list of days to go
Till we were on our way
Stuck it on our kitchen fridge
And crossed off every day
Finally, the lumbago rolled out of Cessnock
on April twenty two,
To a sixtieth birthday in Sydney, for an old
fiend we both knew
Sunday morning we headed south
With Albury on our mind
We made it there safely leaving
600 kilometres behind
But we struck some bother when
The Lumbago's radio wouldn't work
No matter what I tried I just couldn't fix it,
We were both just about bezerk!
No Roy or Cliff to listen to,
Well it really wouldn't do
And you can all imagine how Carmel felt
when she couldn't hear "you know who"
We'd planned to follow the mighty Murray
As it makes its way to the sea
And check out every town along the way
It all seems too easy to me
Echuca was our first port of call,
We thought a river cruise would be fun
Wouldn't you know we were on the paddle
steamer used on "All the Rivers Run"
On Anzac day we followed the marching
band down the main street
A nice remembrance service at the cenotaph
in the sunshine and the heat
We both thought of our friend Max and
wondered how his day would be
Perhaps the boys would take him to the Club
to spin a yarn or three.
Ever since his pacemaker went in
The doctor's instructions were quite clear
It's just a cuppa or orange juice for him,
Certainly not beer
Before we left Echuca we stopped
At the "Holden Museum"
What a great old car they have been,
We just had to go in and see 'em
Then it was off to Mildura with
An appointment to keep
To get the b---dy radio fixed
Probably won't be cheap!
It seems the 12 volt esky we bought
Blew the fuse in the LIGHTER socket
They replaced the fuse
The radio was fixed;
It was still under warranty

*Nothing out of the pocket!
Some tips on growing oranges you had to
hear to believe was true
Dried fruit, gemstone shop,
a pot of pumpkin soup
Filled in a wet day and
Gave us something to do*

© Alistair Wilson 2006

Alistair and Carmel have since visited Kangaroo Island and Port Lincoln, and The Barossa Valley in South Australia. Stay safe and we look forward to reading the next instalment in the next newsletter.

John is Everywhere!

This is so cute from Jan in New York

Wanted to share this with you.

Yesterday Atlas (the just turned 2 grandson) was sitting with me drawing and he started singing Sunshine. He was even holding an OK tune.

I asked him what he was singing and he said "Denba said sing sunshine on my shoulder"

John Denver's Car

John Barry, who recently purchased a car, which was later to be found to have belonged to John some thirty years ago has a new website. This will keep you all up to date with the location of the car and any exhibitions or rallies that John may be involved in with his car..

www.geocities.com/johndenverscar/Homepage.html

Linda's Sweet Dreams...

For Baby (for Bobbie) was recorded by the Mitchell Trio in 1967 and later that year became a minor hit for 'The Sandpipers'. John's version was on the Rocky Mountain High album. John's comments: **"For Baby (forBobbie) was an early attempt to order my romantic thoughts. Our romance, if you can call it that, began after she (Bobbie Worgo) came to a show and lied about her age to get in ... Looking back on our relationship, I remember her as my confidante more than anything."**

I decided to use the baby theme with this song ... hope you enjoy it!

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

Roger Nichol's Lifetime Achievement Award

Roger Nichols produced some of John's albums. He recently was awarded a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award. The following was written by Connie Reader, Roger's wife. Connie was also a backing singer for John as well as a good friend: ***Ron and his wife, Terri, attended the event. Ron started with, "I'm here because my brother can't be." My eyes weren't the only ones watering. He gave a phenomenal speech. My favorite was the cute story about Roger recording John Denver's album, One World, with The Wailers. The Wailers insisted on smoking these big spleefs while recording, and Roger would periodically run out into the hallway, (at Criteria/Hit Factory in Miami) suck in fresh air, hold his breath, and run back into the control room. Thanks to Ron - John was very much 'in the room'.***



The good-looking bloke on the right is Roger the recipient of the award, and other good-looking bloke is Ron D.

Tribute CD

This is an announcement for the release of a new John Denver Tribute CD commemorating the 2005 first-ever performance of the John Denver band and The Columbia Orchestra. We are proud to release this new CD for immediate sale for US \$20 (plus \$2.50 S&H per CD) celebrating our 2006 "A Musical Tribute to John Denver – The New Symphonic Series" of concerts. Our first concert in this series is one our John Denver friends everywhere won't want to miss –

Saturday, June 17, 2006 at Peabody Concert Hall in Baltimore, MD. Tickets are now on sale and purchase information can be found at this site www.musicunites.com.

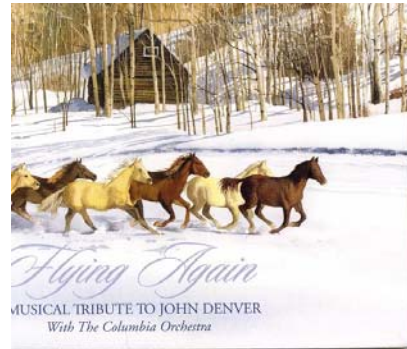
Would you please help us to get the word out immediately by releasing this email announcement to your entire email list of John Denver friends? **We would like to give everyone an opportunity to experience this memorable CD with a special surprise for fans by permission of John Denver's family.** Also, we want to give everyone the chance to purchase their tickets for our first "Symphonic Series"

concert of 2006 – Saturday, June 17, 2006 at Peabody Concert Hall in Baltimore. All proceeds from this concert will benefit the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing's community outreach centres providing medical assistance to needy families in Baltimore's inner-city.

As always, your assistance and support of these events is most appreciated. Thank you for releasing this as soon as possible.

Donna M. Young, Executive Assistant
The M.U.S.E. Foundation, Inc.
410-825-6873 (MUSE)/Toll Free - 1-888-384-5054
Fax - 410-825-2501

<http://www.musicunites.com>



Footnote: I believe that the MUSE Foundation will send CDs to overseas addresses – the postage will cost \$USD5.00

What is Happening in Your Neck of the Woods?

May:

May 23, Tuesday, 8 pm at Monterey Live, 414 Alvarado Street, Monterey, CA 93940: A John Denver Tribute Concert by Mack Bailey and Chris Nole: tickets \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door. www.montereylive.com Please check out www.mackbailey.com and www.chrisnole.com At the time of the concert, the magic carpet is in total bloom for a mile in Pacific Grove... magenta pink as far as the eye can see.... if you haven't been to the Monterey area to see this, consider taking a super great vacation! Local info: jht@spamarrest.com or 831-373-7780

May 25, Thursday, 8 pm at Don Quixotes, 6275 Highway 9, downtown Felton, CA 95018; A John Denver Tribute Concert by Chris Nole and Mack Bailey; tickets, \$12 in advance, \$14 at the door; for tickets, call 831-603-2294 This place is near where John's last CD photos were taken: the steam engine and the caboose at Roaring Camp, Felton.

June:

"A Musical Tribute to John Denver – The New Symphonic Series" of concerts. Our first concert

in this series is one our John Denver friends everywhere won't want to miss – **Saturday, June 17, 2006 at Peabody Concert Hall in Baltimore, MD.**

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Or check Mack's website (www.mackbailey.com) for details.

August:

Friday, **August 18, 2006 @ 6pm** Dinner at my house. 209 Gifford Road Schenectady, NY 12304-4014

This is just a casual you bring **NOTHING** dinner! I have not decided on the menu yet, but if you have any ideas, let me know.

Saturday, August 19, 2006 from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

The 7th Annual John Denver Potluck Picnic

@Saratoga Spa State Park

19 Roosevelt Court

Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

I will have my karaoke machine CD player and all of my JD CDs.

The idea here is to have fun while listening to John's music.

I will be bringing my croquet set and some cards.

I will be bringing some soda, water and juice.

I will be bringing corn on the cob.

I will be making homemade chex mix.

I will also bring a cassarole of some sort.

I will be bringing paper plates, cups and silverware.

You need to bring whoever wants to come, plus one share dish [able to feed 8 or more] and whatever you feel you will need for a day at a park.

Point your clicker here for more detailed information:

<http://www.geocities.com/darceyfarrow/JohnDenverPicnic.html>

Paul Larsen:

An emerging singer, Paul Larson, will be in Aspen this year. To listen to some of his songs go to this site www.paulelarsen.com

Tribute DVD - 2007:

Further information about the release of this DVD will be available next year. The following was written by Dennis

Over the years I have taped those marked with a singing their tributes to John. I have been working with these performers and the Windstar Foundation to produce "Aspen In October - A Musical Tribute to John Denver" to released on DVD next year at the tenth annual "Aspen In October" celebration of John's life. All the performers have donated the use of their performances to benefit "John Denver's Windstar

foundation", all proceeds will go to support the Windstar Foundation to continue the work John invited us to share.

*Chris Collins "Alaska"

www.chriscollinsmusic.com

* Christopher Westfall - "No Difference"

www.chriswestfall.com

* Dan McCormick "Eagle Wind"

* Ellen Stapenhorst "All My Skies"

www.ellenstapenhorst.com

* Jim Aycock "I Will Always Hear You"

www.jimayaycock.net

* Julie McClain "All Too Soon"

* Lori Carlson "You Are The Eagle"

* Mack Bailey "Just Because"

www.mackbailey.com

* Mark Cormican "One Fine Autumn Day"

www.markcormicanmusic.com

* Melaine Trondson "For John"

* Patricia Buser "October Aspens"

* Paul Swanton "Echoes"

* Rene Wingelaar "From Afar"

www.nickels-and-dimes.com/home.htm

* Ron Rich "A Thread Of Hope"

www.cabinsong.com

* Steve Brook "Henry John" & Shooting Star"

www.stevebrook.com (* Shirley Pestana -- accompanies Steve on "Shooting Star".)

Also performing during Aspen In October in past years;

Brad & Kathy Fitch www.cowboybrad.com

Frank DeLaMarre www.frankdelamarre.com

Jim & Ann Curry www.jimcurrymusic.com

Jim Connor

John Adams

Judy Lunn www.judylunn.com

Kyle Vincent "Siera" www.kylevincent.com

Roy Rivers "Windstar" www.royrivers.com

Russel Gay

Tim Durnan www.timdurnan.com

And many that I can't remember.

Over the years I have come to love Chris Collins, Mark Cormican, Paul Swanton, Mack Bailey and John Adams who are there every year performing John's music, and sharing their new song that remind us of John. Each year they work to support "John Denver's Windstar Foundation". Last year, as a young man from the Netherlands performed during the "New Friends To find" concert, I found tears streaming down my face and my heart filled with joy as his voice added a depth of emotion to the beautiful poetry of his songs that I thought I would never hear again. His CD's are rich with his love for the land, song with a mix of fantastic arrangements, and lyrics that speak to my heart the way I thought only John's could ever do. Sample his music at www.nickels-and-dimes.com/home.htm The samples are some of his most up-beat songs, with quite a bit of harmony. I personally like his softer ones, where

the quality of his voice reminds me of John. To me his voice has the quality of a cross between John and Glen Yarbrough and adds an emotional impact to lyrics that are so much like the song wrote or chose to sing that his CD are mixed with my records tapes and CD of John.

Thanks Dennis – something to look forward to next year. I will be at the head of the queue to purchase this DVD.

Saving Fuel & the Environment

As fuel costs increase, we should be looking at ways in which we can try to save fuel. This should in turn, have a positive impact on the environment.

Accelerate gently

Avoid high revs. Automatic transmissions will shift up more quickly and smoothly if you ease back slightly on the accelerator once the car is moving. To maintain low revs in manual cars, you should change up through the gears as soon as the car is comfortable with the next higher gear. Don't rev the car unnecessarily.

Flow smoothly with the traffic

Be aware of traffic conditions ahead so you can anticipate the next stop and avoid unnecessary acceleration and braking. Driving a good distance from the car in front means you can see what is happening ahead and you don't have to brake every time they do. As well as saving fuel, smoother driving is safer.

Avoid excessive speeds

High speeds result in high fuel consumption. Where it is safe to do so, cruising slightly below the speed limit will save you fuel. Travelling at 100km/h instead of 110km/h can reduce fuel consumption by 10%.

Avoid lengthy idling

Turn off your engine when stopped for an extended period and not in traffic. By having the engine switched off, even for a short period, you will save more fuel than is lost from the burst of fuel involved in restarting the engine. The net increased wear and tear from this practice is negligible. Most cars do not need to be 'warmed up' prior to driving off. After starting the engine, move off as soon as it is safe to.

Avoid congested traffic and driving more than necessary

The best way to reduce fuel consumption is to reduce the amount of driving you do. Consider combining trips, car pooling or using other modes of transport. Replacing short trips with walking or cycling is particularly good as cars are least efficient and most polluting when the engine is

cold at the start of trips. Stop-start driving is very fuel inefficient, so plan your travel to avoid driving in congested traffic.

Keep your car well maintained

If your vehicle is running correctly, it will use less fuel and be more reliable. Have it serviced in accordance with the owner's manual (usually every six months or 10,000km, whichever comes first) and regularly check oil, coolant and other fluid levels. Watch out for any changes in the way the car handles or sounds as these changes could indicate a problem that needs fixing. A smoky exhaust means the engine needs checking. Keep a record of your fuel consumption as increasing fuel consumption can also be a sign of a problem.

Keep tyres properly inflated

Inflate your vehicle's tyres to the higher end of the manufacturer's recommended range of tyre pressures and make sure your wheels are properly aligned. Looking after your tyres will not only reduce your fuel consumption it will also extend tyre life and improve handling.

Use the air conditioner sparingly

Air conditioners can increase fuel consumption by between 5 and 10%, particularly on very hot days. However, at higher speeds, use of air conditioning is better for fuel consumption than an open window. Leaking air conditioner gases can contribute to the greenhouse problem. To keep the air conditioner operating properly and avoid leaks, you may need to use it regularly throughout the year for a short period as well as having it regularly serviced. Check the owner's manual.

Minimise wind resistance

Remove roof racks and other attachments when they are not being used. Additional parts on the exterior of a vehicle such as roof racks or sun visors, or having the window open when travelling at higher speeds, increases wind resistance and fuel consumption.

Remove unnecessary weight from the car

Remove unnecessary items from the boot. The more weight a vehicle carries the more fuel it uses, particularly in urban driving.

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.

This is for Anzac Day 25th April, 2006, in memory of all victims of war and conflict
in the world

The Peace Poem

John Denver

There's a name for war and killing
There's a name for giving in
When you know another answer
For me the name is sin

But there's still time to turn around
And make all hatred cease
And give another name to living
And we could call it PEACE.

And peace would be the road we walk
Each step of the way
And peace would be the way we work
And peace the way we play

And in all we see that's different
And in all the things we know
Peace would be the way we look
And peace the way we grow

There's a name for separation
There's a name for first and last
When it's all of us or nothing
For me the name is past

But there still is time to turn around
And make all hatred cease
And give a name to all the future
And we could call it PEACE

And if peace is what we pray for
And peace is what we give
Then peace will be the way we are
And peace the way we live

Yes there still is time to turn around
And make all hatred cease
Let's give another name to living
And we can call it PEACE