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Higher Ground Australia



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## HIGHER GROUND NEWSLETTER - July 2006

### Welcome

Welcome to our July newsletter. We have now reached the beginning of the second half of the year - scary thought. I hope you enjoy the newsletter this month - don't forget that we love to receive submissions from you, so please let me know if you want to share some JD News.

### Happy Birthday Carolyn

From all of us at HGA, we would like to wish Carolyn a very Happy Birthday.



### Congratulations

Lynn is now a grandmother of a brand new baby boy called Connor. On behalf of us all at HGA, congratulations to Grandma Lynn, Grandpa Colin and to Connor's parents, Michelle and Chris. Lynn says...

**I am now a grandma. I would like you all to meet my little man Connor Christopher, born 19/06/06, at 12.32 pm, weight 7lb 3 oz, length 20 inches. Yes he is already listening to JD!**



We are all looking forward to meeting our brand new JD fan.

### My Wonderful Day

Parke has been an avid fan of John's for many years. She recently had a wonderful surprise visit and she has been good enough to share her story with us all

Dear friends, I am one humble and grateful person today. Two John Denver fans, who believe in his philosophy of life, traveled 300 miles from Newport News, to play a private concert for me. I felt like a queen. Mark Williamson, a Real Estate Appraiser and Ed Stowers, a government translator, read one of my emails to the John Denver Web Site, and asked if I would like to have them pay me a visit and sing for me. Of course my answer was "Yes". They arrived here yesterday about 2PM and stayed until 8PM. Also came Laura Bollinger and her husband Danny from North Carolina. They run an animal reserve for sick and injured animals, birds and even snakes. Laura has the "Friends of John Denver" web page in North Carolina. She also plays guitar and sings beautifully. The rafters rang in the Bogle house with the lovely songs of my dear John Denver. A reporter, Jack Martin, came from our local paper. He admitted that he also was a John Denver fan. I am anxious to read what he writes in the paper. My nephew, Danny Bogle, who also plays guitar and sings, came and played with them. George's niece and her husband, Kate and Steve Gordon, came from Blacksburg. What does one think of people who will drive 5 hours for one old women? Personally, I think they are swell people and are the epitome of "the John Denver Spirit". Janeth fixed a big pot of beef stew, a lot of finger food and a beautiful cake. They all seemed to enjoy it. Wish you all could have been here. We took some wonderful pictures, which I shall treasure always. Love to you all, from one humble grateful old lady, Parke Bogle.



## **John Denver Weekend Oct 2006**

The John Denver weekend will be held from Friday 13<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2006. It will be held at Boonah in SE Queensland, just one hour from Brisbane.

We will be staying at the Outlook Christian Outreach Centre on the Ipswich/Boonah Road. It is easy to find and we will include a map in a future newsletter.

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 29<sup>th</sup> September.

Margaret and Maureen have been busy starting the organisation of the catering for the weekend. Now is the time to pop your **NON-REFUNDABLE** \$15 deposit into an envelope and send to Margaret.

As you can imagine, the organisation of an event such as this is not easy and a number of people are involved with organising the accommodation, purchase of the food and managing the different activities over the weekend.

Please email Margaret on [marjo@powerup.com.au](mailto:marjo@powerup.com.au) to get mailing details or email me [jfrawley@telstra.com](mailto:jfrawley@telstra.com) for any further information.

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**

## **Annual Silent Auction Donation**

All proceeds from our annual silent auction will be donated to **Broadwings Raptor Training and Conservation Centre**. Broadwings is situated in Nerang, Queensland.

## **Silent Auction Donations**

The silent auction donations have been good so far. Please keep an eye out for those JD related items when you are visiting local markets and OP shops. Your donation will be much appreciated and the **Broadwings Raptor Training and Conservation Centre** will benefit. We have had a number of pledges for goods for the silent auction. If you have any items to donate for the auction, please let me know. We ask for 'John Denver' related goods such as CDs videos, DVDs, posters, books, LPs etc. We thank all

those who have donated to our annual auction and we look forward to another successful year.

## **Annual Raffle**

We will be finalising the raffle over the next few weeks. Once finalised, we will be able to let you know what the prizes will be for 2006. As usual, the tickets will be \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00.

The proceeds from the raffle is used to pay for our out of pocket expenses, such as the trees, plaque and the stone on which the plaque is mounted, tree protection and any other incidental expenses that may arise.

## **Higher Ground Australia Website**

We have added some new pages to the website recently. The pages outline John's influence on people here in Australia. There are some very interesting stories and anecdotes that you might like to read.

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

## **The Travelling Wilsons**

Carmel and Alistair reluctantly left Darwin and have hit Broome, where Carmel had a ride on a camel. If anyone saw Coxy's Big Break last Sunday will get a feeling of déjà vu when they read the next chapter of Alistair's poem. Alistair has sent me the latest verses to his Epic poem, which can be found at the end of this newsletter.

## **Skyrockets in Flight...**

Who can ever forget the song, **Afternoon Delight** written by Bill Danoff and Taffy Nivert (and co-writers of Take me Home Country Roads)?

Well now you can plant one. Treloar Roses have released a new rose called Afternoon Delight, and it is stunning.



## **Whales in Port Fairy & Warnambool**

On the heels of Japan's losing bid to recommence commercial whaling, it was lovely to see that a female humpback and her calf were spotted splashing around the Port Fairy region. These whales are sharing the waters with two southern right whales, who migrated to our coastline a couple of months ago. The sighting of a humpback whale in these waters is rare and the last time it happened was about 10 years ago., The whales are expected to continue their migration along the coast towards New South Wales, where the waters are warmer.



## **National Tree Planting Day – 30<sup>th</sup> July**

This is a reminder that the annual Planet Ark National Tree Planting Day will be held on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2006. This initiative has been responsible for the planting of millions of trees in areas that need revegetation. Coles Supermarkets do sell trays of four native plants that you can plant in your garden on National Tree Day. However, please be aware that some trees sold in these packs may not be suitable for YOUR local area. Also, the quality of these trees are quite dubious as they tend to be sitting in the supermarket for some weeks without proper care.

The best place to get advice about the best trees for your area is your local nursery. Trained staff will be able to also advise you about the best trees/plants for your garden, based on the climate, soil type and the distance from the house (in some cases, trees can damage pipes, concrete and brickwork).

Organised tree planting groups are in your local areas and are listed in your local newspaper or on the Planet Ark website. It is a great way to get out in the fresh air, getting exercise and meeting new people in your local area.

<http://www.planetark.com/campaignspage.cfm/newsid/15/newsDate/3/story.htm>

**Car owners need to plant 17 trees every year to counter the greenhouse emissions of their cars.**

## **Plastic Bag Tax**

According to our premier, Mr Steve (Tax) Bracks, Victoria will introduce a ten cent levy on all plastic bags supplied by stores by 2009. Although a huge undertaking by the government, stores and residents, it is possible to reduce the number of bags significantly. The campaign to reduce plastic bags has been in action for a number of years, with the introduction of the [green] reusable shopping bags. However, one does have to ask

whether the plastic bags are the BIGGEST environmental problem, or is it merely yet another way to fine people.

I honestly believe that if we are to reduce waste in our landfill, we need to not only focus on plastic bags, but to pinpoint the largest polluters and work on reducing the usage of those items.

According to Ian Kiernan, of the Clean Up campaigns, the biggest problems in our streets and waterways are cigarette butts and plastic drink bottles, as well as plastic bags.

So far the drink companies are resisting the deposit system, believing that the additional deposit amount would reduce sales. These companies have enormous influence over state governments, so our environment is compromised over the general wheeling and dealing of big business and government. Although the bottles are recyclable and should be put out for kerbside collection, I think other initiatives could be adopted.

## **Dutch Fan Club – new video clips?**

There is a new clip on the Dutch JD fan club site. This month's song is *Durango Mountain Caballero*. Follow the link to listen to this lovely song.

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

A big thanks to Netty, who keeps me up to date with what is happening in The Netherlands.

## **Story about the Shuttle Launch**

TITUSVILLE, Fla. - What better way to celebrate the nation's birthday than by watching a launch into space? That's why Mark Smith, 39, loaded his family into their green Chevrolet Venture van at 3:30 p.m. Monday and drove through the night from Baton Rouge, La. They left Interstate 95 at about 6 a.m. Tuesday and watched the sun rise over the Atlantic.

Five hours later, the family waited near a pier on the Indian River off U.S. Highway 1 in Titusville. The boys - Preston, 9, and Austin, 11 - were antsy, and their 5-year-old sister Braegh was a little quiet. The trio wandered with their father down the pier, scoping out the view for their first shuttle launch.

"I think it might look like a giant star going up in the air," Preston said of Discovery. Mark Smith smiled. "On the Fourth of July, if you're going to take the kids to see a rocket, this is the rocket to see," he said.

The kids romped, casting fishing lines into the water, eating snow cones and waiting out the afternoon. Around them, multi-coloured umbrellas popped open as people settled into lawn chairs. Voices echoed from radios, reassuring the

gathering crowd - already disappointed by two scrubbed weekend launches - that the puffy white clouds in the blue sky were no threat to the lift-off.

At the end of the pier, Tom Kasbarian and his 8-year-old son Luke patiently eyed the tiny silhouette of the launch pad. "I've seen it once," Kasbarian, of Jacksonville, said of the twilight lift-off he witnessed. "It's like the sunrise."

He listened to John Denver's song, "Flying for Me," a tribute to the 1986 Challenger explosion on his iPod as the minutes ticked closer to the day's 2:38 p.m. launch window.

Down the dock, 16-year-old Katie Segura sat with her stepfather, Allan Horton, 57. "I think it's cool because since it's the Fourth of July and stuff, everyone is going to see fireworks," said Segura, of DeBary. "This is the biggest around."

David Gondreau, 44, of Tampa, echoed her sentiment a few minutes later: "Happy birthday to us."

At 2 p.m., the Smiths gathered together and made their way through the crush of people on the pier - past Gondreau, past Segura and Horton. The Smiths kneeled at the end of the dock behind Kasbarian and his family.

"Where's the countdown? Count now," Preston excitedly demanded. "I've been waiting for this all day - since yesterday; since I first heard of it."

Kasbarian glanced over his shoulder, delight on his face. "It's my second time," he confided in Preston. "It's my son's first time."

Just after 2:38 p.m. the crowd gasped in unison. The rocket flashed orange, leaving a puffy cloud trail in its wake. Sound boomed across the water, then the vibrations. The Smiths watched, faces raised to the sky, fingers pointing. Around them cameras flashed and others clapped and whispered "Wow, wow, wow."

"Guys, you see that?" Preston asked. "It's making clouds." His mom, Darlene Smith, 32, sighed. "God, it's awesome," she said.

By 2:40, the crowd had finished its oohing and ahhing. Snacks were repacked in coolers and cars were loaded up for a bumper-to-bumper drive down U.S. 1. As the Smiths wandered toward their van, they exclaimed about the launch, made plans to find a hotel in Orlando and maybe visit SeaWorld. "I want to ride that when I grow up," Preston declared. "I felt it. I was shaking ... I would ride a bike all the way here just to see that - I mean walk."

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## What is Happening in the JD World?

Wheeler Tickets will be on sale from tomorrow (24<sup>th</sup> July)

Tickets are available at the Wheeler Opera House on **Monday, July 24, 2006 at 10:00 A.M. (MST)**. Tickets can be purchased directly from the Wheeler on-line via credit card at [www.wheeleroperahouse.com](http://www.wheeleroperahouse.com) or by calling 970-920-5770. Tickets are priced as follows: **\$75, \$45 and Special \$125 VIP tickets**. VIP tickets include a post-concert reception with band members!!! All proceeds benefit Challenge Aspen. These concerts are a co-production of The M.U.S.E. Foundation, KO Productions and Karmen Dopslaff and the Expect A Miracle Now Foundation and have raised over \$1,150,000 since the event's inception to benefit the work of Challenge Aspen for the physically and mentally challenged. We encourage you to log on to The M.U.S.E. Foundation's website, [www.musicunites.com](http://www.musicunites.com) for more information on this event and other concerts across the country.

Also, check out this website, which promotes this event. <http://www.gnaweb.net/jdtribute06.htm>

## **August 12, 2006**

This is a personal invitation to all of you to attend a free and outstanding John Denver summer musical festival to be held Saturday August 12th 2006 at the beautiful Seven Points Amphitheater in Hesston, Pennsylvania. "The Third Annual Rocky Mountain High in the Alleghenies" is presented by the Windstar Spirit Connection on the grounds of the Army Corps of Engineers federal park in a family fun atmosphere at Raystown Lake. The fan favourite performers feature truly wonderful guys who really "get" JD's music and what it means. They are gathering from all over the East Coast so you simply MUST try to make it!!!

**Tim Dabbs** is from Johnstown, Pennsylvania. He is a riveting performer with a unique baritone that will give you shivers whether hearing his own compositions or JD classics like Wild Montana Skies. Tim has four CDs; his latest is "Tim Dabbs Live!"

**Kevin Delmolino** - Maryland's performer used to be in a heavy metal band called Strut.

**Mark Cormican** is a Kentucky singer/songwriter who has delighted everyone at dozens of JD tribute events. Mark's vibrato tenor makes him a fun & engaging entertainer you won't want to miss!! He has five albums out and his latest is "Live at the Music Cafe."

**Paul Swanton** - outstanding guitarist and

singer/songwriter Paul hails from Massachusetts. Paul's "My Time to Fly" CD is a favourite of mine!

**Christopher Westfall** presents original pieces as well as familiar songs on both piano and guitar-entertaining enthusiastic and ever-growing audiences in a variety of large and small venues. With every song, Chris possesses the magical ability to hold the audience in his gentle grasp. Chris has three albums out and his latest is "I'm Coming Home."

The event takes place during the Perseides meteor shower, which is the inspiration for Rocky Mountain High. While there, be sure to check for the fire raining in the sky!!! The group jam at the end is the best part!

Free admission! Donations accepted. Bring your own dinner in a cooler and settle down in your lawn chairs for a hot summer night of warm music!!!! For more information... send an email to [Spiritwsconnections@yahoo.com](mailto:Spiritwsconnections@yahoo.com)

**Driving Directions** to Raystown Lake **Baltimore, MD:** Rt. 70 West to Breezewood, Rt. 30 West to Rt. 26 North to Raystown Lake. **Harrisburg:** Take Rt. 22/522 West to Huntingdon, Rt. 26 South to Raystown Lake. **Philadelphia:** PA Turnpike to Breezewood Exit, Rt. 30 West to Rt. 26 South North to Raystown Lake. **Pittsburgh:** Route 22 East to Huntingdon, then Rt. 26 South to Raystown Lake. **State College:** From I-80, R t. 26 South, through State College, through Huntingdon, to Raystown Lake. **Washington, DC:** Rt. 270 North to Frederick, then Rt. 70 West to Breezewood. Rt. 30 West to Rt. 26 North to Raystown Lake. Then watch for Lake Access signs (brown park signs) for specific lake areas, particularly the Visitor's Center & the 7 Points Amphitheater. Hotel Information: (Comfort Inn is all booked already) Days Inn-Huntingdon/Raystown Lake (814) 643-3934 Rt. 22 @ 4th Street Huntingdon, PA 16652

You can also click onto the site of Raystown Lake Visitor's Center by visiting <http://raystown.nab.usace.army.mil/> or call the Seven Points Visitor's Bureau at 1-888-Raystown Their site says: "The mountains will resound with the beautiful music of artist and environmentalist John Denver. Bands from across the country will convene at the amphitheater and the mountains will resound with the music of this beloved artist. A celebration to remember!" For more information:

Chris: <http://www.chriswestfall.com/index.cfm>

Mark: <http://www.markcormicanmusic.com/>  
Raystown:  
[http://raystown.nab.usace.army.mil/WhatsHappening/calendar\\_of\\_events.htm](http://raystown.nab.usace.army.mil/WhatsHappening/calendar_of_events.htm)

Spirit:  
<http://www.geocities.com/spiritwsconnections/>

Tim: <http://www.hhstudios.com/>

## **Roy Rivers/Dolly Parton**

Roy Rivers has been nominated for "Song of the Year", and "Vocal Collaboration of the Year" for his version of "Thank God, I'm A Country Boy" by the European Country Music Association. Dolly Parton sings with him on the song which is the title cut on his album of the same name.

<http://www.royrivers.com>

## **A Nightingala to Remember**

**by Roger Baumgarten**

OK. I confess. I was predisposed to enjoy "Nightingala 2006: A Musical Tribute to John Denver", a June 17<sup>th</sup> fund-raiser for the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing in Baltimore. First, I've been a John Denver addict for 30 years, having attended eight concerts over twenty years (1976, 1978 at Madison Square Garden, 1980, 1982 in Providence, RI, 1981 at the then Brendan Byrne Arena in New Jersey Meadowlands, 1984 at Radio City Music Hall, 1990-front row!-in Hershey, PA, and December 1996 Christmas concert in Washington with the National Symphony). Second, my step-mom-in-law was on the planning committee for Nightingala. So I just HAD to be there! But my anticipation wasn't worry-free. Would hearing John Denver's music performed by others bring back great memories of concerts past? Would the musicians try "too hard" to duplicate John and, in the process, fall short? Or would they so overwhelm his music with their own "far out" interpretations that I wouldn't recognize what I was hearing? Happily, my worries were completely unfounded, and I offer this simple advice to my fellow John Denver junkies. If the MUSE Foundation schedules a JD tribute concert in your area, buy your tickets today. Buy them yesterday. But buy them, listen, and enjoy. The performers were old-timers John Sommers, Jim Horn, and Bill Danoff and "next generation" John Denver colleagues Chris Nole, Mack Bailey, Jim Salestrom, and Mollie Weaver. Add the musical and production contributions of the MUSE foundation's Kenn Roberts and Larry Kushner, and the rich sound of the Columbia Orchestra. All combined their considerable talents into an evening that was as satisfying as any John Denver concert I attended. They remained true to the "core" sound and emotion of John Denver's songs while providing their unique-but-respectful-and immensely talented-interpretations. The song selections were outstanding, combining the famous favourites with the less-than-commercially successful songs that were among my favourites.

I Want To Live (JD singing over video produced by Johns Hopkins School of Nursing) Columbia Orchestra played "Overture", Back Home Again Fly Away, Shanghai Breezes, Annie's Song, Wish You Were Here (Postcard From Paris), Afternoon Delight (performed by Bill Danoff, of course!)

Guess He'd Rather Be in Colorado, I Want to Live Perhaps Love, Down Home Time - A Chris Nole Tribute to JD, Calypso, Whispering Jesse, Sunshine On My Shoulders, In the Grand Way, I'd Rather Be A Cowboy, Matthew, Poems, Prayers & Promises, Potter's Wheel, Flying For Me, Wings That Fly Us Home, Eagles and Horses, Thank God I'm A Country Boy (led by John Sommers on the fiddle, of course!), Take Me Home, Country Roads, Rocky Mountain High (encore)

Go to [www.musicunites.com](http://www.musicunites.com) check out the schedule and buy your tickets to an upcoming JD tribute concert. It's that good. Finally, looking beyond the music...if you attend a MUSE Foundation benefit concert, you'll be doing good, too! Nightingala raised over \$300,000 for the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing. Now THAT is far out!

Roger Baumgarten  
[rogerbaumgarten@yahoo.com](mailto:rogerbaumgarten@yahoo.com)

### **From Jean**

Chad Lowe played the role of John Denver in the telemovie Take Me Home.

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE HURT MARRIAGE TO LOWE.** Hillary Swank, who is divorcing actor Chad Lowe, says his "substance abuse problem" was partly responsible for the breakup of their marriage.

"I knew something was happening, but I didn't know what, she said. When I found out, it was such a shock because I never thought he'd keep something from me. And yet, on another level it was a confirmation of something I was feeling that was keeping us from being completely solid. She says he is "sober now". She said that problem did not directly cause their split, but it certainly didn't help them. "I would say we grew apart". She initiated the divorce, but it ended up being mutual. They had married in 1997 and had no children."

Thanks to Jean who has passed this on.

### **Aspen 2007**

All the travel agents are currently advertising their Alaska cruise season for 2007. They also offer free slide nights to see what Alaska has to offer. Although the tours are expensive from Australia, it might be worth looking at what the internet has to offer if anyone is thinking of incorporating a cruise to Alaska with their trip to Aspen.

This month's lyrics are for all those planning on taking a trip to Alaska in the near future.

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 newsletter is only emailed to those people who have individually contacted HGA and expressed a wish to receive it. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you no longer wish to receive the HGA newsletter.

## **Alaska and Me**

When I was a child and I lived in the city,  
I dreamed of Alaska so far away.  
And I dreamed I was flying over mountains and glaciers,  
Somehow I knew that I'd live there one day.

Well it took me some growin', and a fair bit of schoolin',  
And a little bit of trouble to get on the move.  
And I felt like a loser but I turned out the winner,  
When I came to Alaska the land that I love.

*Here's to Alaska, here's to the people,  
Here's to the wild and here's to the free.  
Here's to my life in a chosen country,  
Here's to Alaska and me.*

I was born in a cabin on little Mulchatna,  
Raised in hard times but I had a good life.  
From the first time I flew with my father a singin',  
I knew that I'd wind up a bush pilot's wife.

We sleep near the sound of a slow running river  
And wake up most mornings to a drizzling rain.  
And we face every day like the first or the last one  
With nothing to lose and heaven to gain.

*Here's to Alaska...*

Oh, for a fire on a cold winter's night  
And once more to gaze at the great northern lights  
For all of the beauty my children will see  
Here's to Alaska and me.

*Here's to Alaska...*

## THE TRAVELLING WILSONS

### DARWIN

Our electric fry pan had been on the blink  
And finally packed it in  
And to be without it for more than a day or so  
Would be a mortal sin

So we bought another one,  
Carmel can try it out tonight while it's all brand new  
And I can settle back,  
Take and it easy and pack away the barbecue

It certainly is a wonderful lifestyle  
But you have to be more careful than you think  
For I'm not sure if it's the air or the water up here  
But our clothes have began to shrink!

Now we're not gamblers by any means  
But the Casino was beckoning us to come on in  
So we invested our \$6.00 and pulled out with thirty  
And happily came out with a win

In 1974 Cyclone Tracey hit the city of Darwin  
Right on Christmas day  
It was storm and tempest at its worst  
And it flattened everything in it's way

The Darwin Museum has a remarkable display  
Of the devastation that was left behind  
And explains how the city has been rebuilt  
To protect against anything else of that kind

A visit to Litchfield National Park  
Took up the best part of our day  
Large termite mounds and spectacular waterfalls  
Were all there on display

We're having a couple of days at the caravan park  
Recharging the batteries and just chilling out!  
Swimming in the pool a few drinks  
With some new friends and generally lazing about

The weathers great, there's no need to leave,  
So we've booked in for another weeks stay  
There are still some things that we are yet to see,  
But there's no hurry for that "we'll get there one-day",

At a crocodile farm there were more than a thousand  
snappers all vying for a place in the sunshine  
All destined to be handbags shoes and belts,  
I'm glad it's their lot and not mine!

We've seen a few sunsets since we've been here  
But none nicer than at the Sailing Club last night  
As the sun went down we dined  
Beneath the palm trees and admired the beautiful sight

At the Military Museum on East Point reserve  
All the memorabilia is there to see  
We learned how Darwin was bombed  
For over sixteen months in 1942 and 43

The Japanese air raids met with little resistance  
And did maximum damage to the town  
Many lives were lost on land and sea,  
Luckily the end of the war came around

We haven't felt like overdoing it  
So we've been taking it easy while it's hot  
But when we left to post a parcel  
Someone else helped themselves to our spot

They humbly apologised because we had it marked out,  
but they were all set up for a spell  
But it worked out well for us anyway,  
Our new spot had space for the lumbago and a beer  
garden as well

I didn't want to miss seeing the Socceroos play Japan But  
it was pretty late when the game begun  
I nearly went to bed, but I'm glad I sat it out  
For the Aussies beat them three goals to one

And on Monday it's Brazil they play  
But it's an early 1.30 AM game  
I could probably watch it on replay  
But it won't be quite the same

Our little grandchildren keep asking, "when will nanny and  
poppy be finished their big holiday"?  
We've sent them a video so they remember what we look  
like and talk on the phone but we still miss them  
both every day

Carmel is putting together a photograph album  
Of all the places we've seen  
It's a bit of a chore but we do have the time,  
We just need to remember where we've been

One thing you seem to be able to do with ease  
Is meet nice people who soon become friends  
We've all been having drinks around 5.00pm  
"Just bring a chair" we don't care who attends

Jim and Ellen have been here for a while  
So I've named them the Mayor and Mayoress  
Don and Dianne are from Belmont NSW  
And like us all, are here to relax and de-stress

Jim is a retired electrician  
Who's been trying hard to land that "bloomin' big fish"  
And Ellen still looks after the elderly folk,  
And prefers a vegetarian dish

Dianne cares for animals that are hurt  
And then returns them to the wild where they belong  
And Don still surfs on his long Malibu board,  
And he knows nearly every Jimmy Buffet song

We'll be sorry to leave them  
But it would be nice to still stay in touch  
And find out how they are now and then,  
And exchange some stories and such

So we'll give them a card where we can be found,  
Either at home or away  
And hope that perhaps we will hear from them all,  
when the travelling is over someday

Sometimes we'll just drive along a road to see how far we can take the Lumbago and there's been a few times we've stayed

One such road was the one that took us to the other side of Darwin Harbour called Mandurah, it was the best decision we "never" made

For only \$20.00 we had a spot overlooking the beach and a room for power a shower and the loo all thrown in the fare

It was too good to refuse, we couldn't believe our luck, And it was the kind of place we'd hoped to find somewhere

So we set up the Lumbago next to a frangipani tree, Put out the table and chairs and opened a bottle of wine No need to cook tonight, meals are served next door, And barramundi's on the menu so there we will dine

It certainly wasn't a flash pub, a bit run down to say the least

But it was the "Pearl of Darwin" for Carmel and I The entire city lit up as the sun went down And all of the stars came out so bright in the night sky

The Territory Wildlife Park is a very big place Over 400 hectares to see in different zones Fortunately they have shuttles running every 20 minutes to take you around, Makes it easy on the old bones

They have the best aquarium we have ever seen Animals and birds from all over the state We were anxious to see the "free flight of birds" and a wedge tail eagle would be great

They are trained to fly in for food in front of a crowd, But still have the freedom of the skies After the show you can have a photo taken beside them And look a wedge tail in the eyes

#### KAKADU

We thought that a cruise on the Mary River Would be an ideal way to see nature at it's best There are a few trips to choose from But this one looked so much better than the rest

We had promised ourselves not to take the lumbago On any gravel road that was too rough We had 18 kilometres of unsealed road to get to the boat, It wasn't too bad, and the lumbago was "too tough"

When we arrived there was no one in sight, And the tour left in an hour, what would we do? As a last resort we tried the mobile phone and we couldn't believe our luck we managed to get through

We booked our tour and they told us to wait, So everyone should arrive soon I trust She was right, it wasn't too long, And sixteen tourists and a couple of guides arrived in a massive cloud of dust

Our guide's name was Jay and he explained all about the birds, plants and fish and he knew where to find them all It went for two hours down the billabong and back, the wetlands were abundant with life after the wet season's rainfall

The Japanese tourists had never seen a Lumbago so big And asked if they could take a peek inside They filed in and out and then took a group picture, Carmel and I smiled with pride

It was Saturday night at Coinda Resort Park So we dined out and were entertained by a guy and his guitar Next morning we were off on the famous Yellow Waters tour, It was ok, but the Mary River one was better by far

The Socceroos loss to Italy was a sad result To have to consider The Italians were beaten all over the field And the Aussies could easily have been the winner

A poor decision in the last minute And Italy came away with the game But the Socceroos can hold their head up high And the others hang theirs in shame

#### THE KIMBERLEY

We drove back down to Katherine and put the feet up, We're heading for Broome and through the Kimberley we'll go At the WA border they check for fruit and veggies, And we're not going to get caught again you know!

"I'll cook and mash the veggies, Then do the tomato and onion" Carmel said And then she stewed all the apples we had left And hid the honey jar under the bed!

When we hit the border we said we had "nothing to declare" But they still wanted to look inside They thoroughly checked all the drawers and the fridge "As if we had something to hide?"

Now we are in Western Australia at Argyle Lake Park, And "you know I don't like to boast" But today we are taking a sunset cruise on the lake And "the honey's so nice on the toast"

There is something about the Kimberly That already is so good to receive The reds of the stone against the green of the trees You just have to see to believe

We stopped at Kununurra and were amazed At all the produce they grow in the fields Lake Argyle fills the dam and the "water is free" So everything grows in big yields

But the prices don't reflect the abundance of food, For things are not cheap at all We checked out some farms for a bargain or two And ended up at Coles in the mall

*To get into El Questro on the Gibb River Road  
We will have to take a tour to see it all  
They want an arm and a leg just to go have a look,  
But there's a spectacular waterfall*

*And Hot Springs as well in a natural pool  
And the barra and beef for lunch make it worth the price  
Then a cruise down the Chamberlain Gorge,  
With champagne and fruit really made it nice*

*The trip was so rough, we were in an old coaster bus.  
And it rattled the teeth in my head  
"The road's pretty good" the driver boasted,  
But I think they left the grader in the shed!*

*We had an easy tea we were both dead beat  
And during the night Carmel got crook  
She was no better by morning,  
So off to the hospital to let the doctor have a look*

*It was one of those 24 hour bugs that you get;  
She needed tablets fluids and rest  
So Carmel slept for most of the day  
And I gave the fluids my best*

*It is quite true that in marriage you should share  
everything,  
So Carmel kindly gave me the 24hour bug too!  
And I was really crook with pains in the gut,  
And I spent all night on the loo!*

*So we extended another night, that will make it five,  
But only because we were ill  
Mind you Kununurra's a nice little town  
But really we'd both had our fill*

*We are both still a bit weak but we'll start to head on,  
We're looking forward to the ocean and beach  
On our way we called into Wyndam where they ship  
Out meat to neighbouring countries within reach*

*Theirs a great lookout there where five rivers join into one  
Then flows a hundred-kilometres to the Timor Sea  
And by chance we met up with Don and Dianne  
Our friends from Darwin; it wasn't luck it was meant to be*

*So we all had some lunch by the water,  
Then we said goodbye for the second time  
They will be heading the same way as us,  
I'm sure we'll meet again sometime*

*We were driving along the "Savannah Way"  
Under an early Kimberly moon  
And just as the sun was about to set  
We found a roadhouse in a place called Doon Doon*

*The management was obviously prepared to go all out  
To attract the tourists passing through  
A power site was only \$14.00 a night  
And the amenities were not only clean but new*

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Alistair and Carmel are on their way to the pearling town of Broome in Western Australia. We are looking forward to hearing about more of their adventures next month!