

Contact Details:

Janette Frawley

PO Box 8155

Camberwell North VIC 3124

Australia

jfrawley@highergroundaustralia.com

Higher Ground Australia



www.highergroundaustralia.com/

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HIGHER GROUND NEWSLETTER – September 2006

Welcome

Welcome to our September newsletter. This is the last newsletter before the October events that occur across the world. Australia is reeling from the loss of two well-known people – Steve Irwin and Peter Brock in September.

Goodbye Steve

Steve Irwin passed away on September 3rd after an accident whilst filming a documentary on the Great Barrier Reef. Known and respected across the world as the Crocodile Hunter and as a wildlife warrior, he will be sadly missed by us all. Steve's commitment to wildlife was second-to-none and his unique work will be carried on by his family. Our deepest condolences to Terri, Bindi and Bob and to Steve's family and to all those people who worked with him.

Many JD fans probably picked up on Ray Martin's opening words when he interviewed Terri Irwin, when he mentioned Poems, Prayers and Promises. It was a wonderful interview.

Here are some links to some Steve Irwin Tributes.
<http://www.platsis1.com/InMemory/SteveIrwinMemorialPresentation.pps>

<http://www.platsis1.com/InMemory/crochunter.html>

Farewell Peter

Peter Brock died in a road accident whilst driving in the Targa West Rally on September 8th. He was one of Australia's most well-known and respected motor racing drivers, winning the Bathurst endurance race 9 times – a record that has never been broken. Ironically, it was announced at his funeral that Peter was a 'huge' John Denver fan and Annie's Song was sung at the funeral.

Get Well Soon

Maureen recently had surgery to remove her gall bladder. We hope that she has a quick recovery and that she is well and truly on a roll by the time the John Denver weekend comes along in two weeks....



John Denver Weekend Oct 2006

The John Denver weekend will be held from Friday 13th – Sunday 15th October, 2006. Our numbers are good and we are sure to have a great weekend. We need to have our final numbers by 8th October, at the very latest. We can promise that you will have a great weekend. If you have not already let us know that you are coming, please let either Margaret or me know as soon as possible. marjo@powerup.com.au or jefrawley@optusnet.com.au.

Please contact them as they need a \$15.00 per person deposit to confirm your attendance.

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**

Our preparations are well under way and our annual John Denver weekend promising to be our best yet.

Our friend, Max Moore will be attending again this year. He will regale us with plenty of stories from his years as tour manager for Lee Gordon and Kevin Jacobsen. He also has plenty of stories to tell about his favourite performing artist – John Denver.

What to Bring with you to Boonah!

Here are some reminders of what to bring with you to Boonah.

1. **Your Songbook** (for those who have attended previous JD weekends). A songbook will be issued to new people at no cost, but if you have already got a book and you leave it at home, there will be \$5.00 charge for a new one
2. **A bottle of water** from your tap at home. This water will be symbolically mixed and used to water the trees we plant to commemorate John.
3. **A Gold Coin donation** for the sing-along/silent auction. You are also asked to dress up in your school uniform – or not! If

you do have a school uniform you can dress in, please fee free to do so, it will be a bit of fun.

4. **Money** for the raffle and for the silent auction – please be aware that it is likely that you will spend more than you first intended!

Raffle

Each year we hold a raffle to cover the basic costs of running the weekend. Although we have many generous donations for the weekend, we do have some recurring costs, including the price of the 5 trees we plant, the plaque for John's tree, the protection for the trees (kangaroos tend to love new trees, so wire protection is a necessity), and other miscellaneous costs, which will be itemised on the financial report.

One of the raffle prizes this year is a beautiful original painting of Spirit, the eagle from Birdland, which we sponsored last year. One of our members, Jan Fleming, has painted Spirit, and donated it to higher Ground Australia.



Tickets for the raffle are \$2.00 each or 3 for \$5.00. You have to be in it to win it, and believe me, it is worth winning

Silent Auction Donations

We have a great auction coming up with a wonderful array of items up for grabs. If you have something to donate, please contact me jefrawley@optusnet.com.au with details of your donation and it will be included in the catalogue, which will be sent out prior to the JD weekend. You donations have been very much appreciated and all funds will go to a wonderful cause – the Broadwings Raptor Training and Conservation Centre.

Before we get underway with the weekend, I would like to thanks everyone from the bottom of my heart for the wonderful donations we have received to date.

Higher Ground Australia Website

Keep checking the website as it changes often. We will also be posting information about the John Denver weekend at Boonah, including directions for getting to Boonah from Brisbane.

John Denver Memorial Peace Cloth

The John Denver Memorial Peace Cloth panel has arrived in Australia and I am most excited to announce to you that the panel we have received to show at the JD weekend at Boonah has just returned from a trip to Little Mulchatna in Alaska. This is the second time a panel of the cloth has come to Australia and I can assure you that this is a significant panel to all who knew how much John loved Alaska. For more information about the peace cloth, please click the link to the site. <http://www.johndenverpeacecloth.com/> For more information about Little Mulchatna please click the link <http://www.littlemulchatna.com/>



Higher Ground Australia will be sending a panel to the John Denver memorial Peace Cloth Committee when we post the panel back to them. I would like to thank the people involved with the Peace Cloth.

Our Friend Tegan

Since finding her feet recently, Tegan has been running around almost non-stop, except when John comes onto the TV. Here is a picture of Tegan watching the Wildlife Concert DVD. Keep up the great work Tegan. Her family are so proud of her achievements and we love the fact that she is such an avid JD fan.



Melanie's Trip to America

Melanie had a wonderful time in America recently and although she did not quite make it to Aspen this time, she did see a lot of wonderful sights during her bus tour between New York and Los Angeles. On the way she saw Yellowstone, the Grand Teton, the Grand Canyon, as well as other national parks and attractions. Her photos of her trip are magnificent. There are photos that would take your breath away as she has successfully captured the beauty of the places she has visited. Needless to say, out of all the wonderful photos that she has sent me to drool over, I have selected this one to show you all. Looks like she has had a ball!



John Denver's Car

John Barry, who recently purchased a car once belonging to John Denver will be bringing the car to Boonah in October. Since purchasing the car, he has done a fair bit of research and has collected quite a few anecdotal bits of information and photos regarding the car. I am sure we will enjoy talking to him about them.

This month's Unique Car's magazine also features an article about the car (see page 50). This is the edition with Peter Brock on the cover and a large feature on the life of Peter.

The Travelling Wilsons

The Wilsons are 'Back Home Again'. They have travelled almost 24,000 kilometres over the past five months, in New South Wales, South Australia, Northern Territory and Western Australia.

We are all waiting to hear about their travels and to see the many photos they have taken. Unfortunately, we will have to wait just two weeks before we can do that. The second last instalment of the poem will be published at the end of this newsletter for all those who have followed their travels through Alistair's poetry.

New Video on the Dutch JD Website

Each month a new clip is presented to the world by the Dutch fan club. Please keep coming back to their site to view the video clips. Thanks to Michiel for getting these on the website and to Netty who lets me know each month.

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

Alaska Slideshow

As many of you know, a group of John Denver fans recently went to Little Mulchatna. Here is a photo presentation of the trip to Little Mulchatna. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5XmJZYhdt1c>

Please beware of the wildlife!



Just a Reminder...

For the Australians who are attending the JD weekend at Boonah, the address is

**The Outlook Training and Resource Centre
Ipswich Boonah Road
Boonah, QLD**

If anyone needs to contact me, my phone number is 0407 417 459. It is easy to find, but if you pass this sign, you have gone too far. The turn off is before you get into the town of Boonah



Have a safe trip

Peace Cloth Event, Aspen, 2006

Join us for an afternoon of Peace! The John Denver Peace Cloth is proud to present our annual concert and silent auction in support of the Peace Cloth.

When: October 13, 2006, 1-5PM

Where: Mountain Chalet Ballroom, Aspen, CO

Special Guests: Chris Collins and Mark Cormican, performing the music of the "Back Home Again" album, Bevan Gardiner, a talented young man from New Zealand, Jack Knight & the 3KR Band, a wonderful singer/songwriter

Presentation of the annual Peace Cloth Vision Award. Other surprises to be announced

As always, special John Denver items will be available for purchase and any donations to the silent auction will be gratefully accepted. Please let us know if you would be interested in volunteering at our event. Tickets are \$20 and may be purchased in advance by emailing Eve Kleinfeld at Eve@Johndenverpeacecloth.com or can be bought at the door on the day of the event

Hope to see you there!

John Adams Concert, Aspen 2006

I would like to let you know that tickets for my 8th Annual tribute to the Live & Music of John Denver, "ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH" on Sunday, October 15, 2006 at the Historic Wheeler Opera House in Aspen, will go on sale on MONDAY, JULY 24, 2006 at 10:00 am.

Call the Historic Wheeler Opera House at +1-970-920-5770 for reservations or order your tickets on-line at www.wheeleroperahouse.com

I am looking forward to seeing you all at my show!

Take Care, JOHN ADAMS

Tribute Concert – Britain, 14-15 July 2006

On July 14 and 16, 2006, Pete Huttlinger, Chris Nole, Mack Bailey, Neil & Gill Sharman and Ray Freeman performed John Denver tribute concerts in Kirkby-in-Cleveland, North Yorkshire. Some photos from this event are available at the following site.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/moonstarjd/sets/72157594204932025/>

Annual Beach Cleanup – Pacific Grove

It's hard to believe that it's July already, and time to gear up for the annual Beach Cleanup and Tribute Weekend in Pacific Grove on **Columbus Day Weekend - October 9, 2006.**

We'll be gathering again at John Denver Beach (the turnout on Ocean View Blvd., between

Acropolis and Asilomar) at 11:00 am for the beach cleanup, followed by a picnic. (We're still deciding if we're going to split up this year and go to Lovers Point Park for lunch, or stay at the beach like we did last year. What are your thoughts?)

Later, starting at 5pm, we'll be at the beach for the Memorial Tribute, with the moment of silence at 5:28pm. We'll be reading the letters from Aspen, Australia and Pacific Grove, and remembering the life, work and music of John Denver.

Dinner will be at Gianni's afterwards, as usual.

As always, if you have any questions, please contact Debra at PixieDmyr@aol.com.

And please feel free to pass this email along to any of your JD friends that you believe haven't gotten onto this email list and may not know about our gathering!

Peace, Love and Understanding -

John Denver: The Legacy Continues...



Volunteers Wanted - Aspen 2006

Volunteers are needed for two very important events in Aspen this year. If you can help, please do not hesitate to contact these people.

John Denver Sanctuary Clean Up

It's been said something like you do what you can do, I'll do what I can do and together we can make a visual difference in the John Denver Sanctuary on Thursday, October 12th beginning at 9:00 a.m. lasting until about 12 noon. I need 15 to 20 people to volunteer for the work detail. I don't have the specifics of the projects that we will be working. I would imagine we will be doing similar tasks as we have in the past. Please email me at Curtis.Griffy@quidant.com so that I can add your name to the list of volunteers.

For more information please click this link:

<http://www.john-denver.org/default.asp?nc=3251&id=6>

Also, don't forget you can make a tax deductible (US Tax payers) donation to help fund plantings to

help dress up Windstar. If you are moved to help out in this way send a cheque to Windstar with a note that these funds are for plants/perennials. Cheques are to be made out to Windstar and posted to

Windstar Foundation
PO Box 656
Snowmass, CO 81654

Windstar open Day

Hello everyone! It's getting closer and closer to our special time in Aspen and I can't wait. I hope that you guys are as excited as I am. It's time, once again, to solicit volunteers to help out at the annual Windstar Celebration on **Sunday, October 15** out at the Windstar Land. You must be a member of Windstar to volunteer that day - and if you're not a member of Windstar yet - you can join! Yay! The more the merrier! Volunteers are needed for several things: setting up, cleaning up, the silent auction, merchandise sales, check in table, refreshment helper, and parking-hand-waving person (oh yes, this is a FUN job)! See... there are lots of things to help out with for a short or long shift! Heck - you can help out all day long if you want to - I will be! We'd love to have you - so come on out. If you can help us out that day - please email Deb Perry at aspeninOctober@wowway.com and she will hook you up! Now, if you don't want to volunteer, but you want to come out to spend the day with us - we want you too! This year, we'll have lots of great music for you as usual, cool things you can bid on at the auction, groovy Windstar merchandise you can buy to take home and show off, the John Denver Peace Cloth, and... drum roll... something new and fun and exciting and challenging all at the same time... a Scavenger Hunt on the Windstar Land... Follow the clues from point to point and learn about Windstar while you're at it! You might even win a prize! This will be held weather permitting, of course.. so keep your fingers crossed for a gorgeous autumn day! Soooooo... please join us on Sunday for a wonderful day filled with memories, music and friends... You'll be glad you did! And so will I!!! Love - Shari APokey1@aol.com Shameless solicitation to follow.....

If you have anything that you'd like to donate to the silent auction that will be held that day.. Please do! Send it to Debbie Murphy at Windstar! She'll be SO happy AND so will the lucky person who wins the bid on YOUR donation that day! Yay!

Symphony in the Valley

We are excited and proud to announce the addition of country star, KATHY MATTEA joining the John Denver band with the "Symphony in the Valley" for the Friday, **October 13, 2006**

performance of the 9th Annual "A Musical Tribute to John Denver" at the Wheeler Opera House in Aspen, CO. We need your immediate help to spread the word to all John Denver fan club family and friends by forwarding the attached announcement email ASAP to your distribution lists and address books. We want to get the message out to as many folks as possible now that Kathy is joining us for the Friday performance while tickets for the Friday show are still available.

More Forthcoming John Denver Events

October 8, 2006 / Pacific Grove, CA - 9th Annual John Denver Beach Clean Up and Memorial Tribute / John Denver Beach / The turnout on Ocean View Blvd. between Acropolis and Asilomar. Clean Up and picnic starting at 11:00am / John Denver Memorial Tribute 5:00pm / Dinner at Gianni's after the Tribute. Debra PixieDmyr@aol.com

October 21, 2006 / Pilot Mountain, NC - 8:00pm "An Evening With Christopher Westfall" - Sawbriar Acoustic Stage, a coffeehouse-styled venue. 111 East Main Street \$10 <http://chriswestfall.com> www.sawbriar.com

October 28, 2006 / Annapolis, MD - 6th Annual "Music From the Mountains" - a tribute to John Denver / The Hard Travelers and friends / Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts 8:00pm Tickets not yet on sale / www.mdhallarts.org <http://www.musicunites.com>

October 28, 2006 - UK - John Denver Tribute Charity Concert by Neil & Gill Sharman / The Gladstone Theatre, Port Sunlight, near Birkenhead, Merseyside, England <http://www.timberwolf-studios.com> neilandgill@timberwolf-studios.com

November 11, 2006 - Vero Beach, FL - "Music From the Mountains" - A Tribute to John Denver / Benefit Concert for Indian River Memorial Hospital / The Wax Lax Center at St. Edwards School / 1895 St. Edward's Drive Tickets: \$150 & \$250 include a reception, dinner, silent and live auctions (772) 567-4311 <http://www.irhf.org> Indian River Hospital Foundation <http://www.musicunites.com/Schedule.htm>

November 11, 2006 UK "Denver Day" - Coventry / Performances by Brad & Kathy Fitch / Info: president@fojd.org.uk <http://www.fojd.org.uk>

November 17, 2006 in Franklin Tennessee there will be a tribute concert called "Desserts and Denver" this concert is sponsored by Williamson Arts. There will be desserts and dessert wines at the concert. For more info go to www.kennydurham.com

December 3-10, 2006 - Richard Hatch's (not the Survivor!) Jammin' Jamaican Adventure Cruise /

From Miami, FL to the Cayman Islands, Jamaica and back. <http://www.richardhatch.com>

December 9, 2006 - UK - Neil & Gill Sharman's annual songs for Christmas Show. The Scout Hall, Chapeltown, Sheffield, South Yorkshire. 3pm
<http://www.timberwolf-studios.com>
neilandgill@timberwolf-studios.com

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.

I am dedicating this month's song to the memory of Steve Irwin, who admired the work of Jacques Cousteau.

Calypso

To sail on a dream
on a crystal clear ocean,
to ride on the crest
of a wild raging storm
To work in the service
of life and living,
in search of the answers
of questions unknown
To be part of the movement
and part of the growing,
part of beginning
to understand,

Aye Calypso the places you've been to,
the things that you've shown us,
the stories you tell
Aye Calypso, I sing to your spirit,
the men who have served you so long and so well

Like the dolphin who guides you,
you bring us beside you
To light up the darkness
and show us the way
For though we are strangers
in your silent world
To live on the land
we must learn from the sea
To be true as the tide
and free as a wind swell
Joyful and loving
in letting it be

Aye Calypso the places you've been to,
the things that you've shown us,
the stories you tell
Aye Calypso, I sing to your spirit,
the men who have served you so long and so well

Aye Calypso the places you've been to,
the things that you've shown us,
the stories you tell
Aye Calypso, I sing to your spirit,
the men who have served you so long and so well

THE TRAVELLING WILSONS

GERALDTON

We had such a nice time at Coronation Bay
And we were both sorry to have to go
But the weathers changing and it's getting cool
So we'll check out where the wildflowers grow

The next place to call into is Dongara
And they have a park right on the beach
And for the first time we've treated ourselves
to an en-suite now everything's within reach

EMUS!!!

The next day we found a scenic drive
We could take down the coastal way
Some of the wildflowers are out, and an emu at the side of
the road,
Oh! We're having a good day

Just then the emu's mate came scurrying across the road
Right into the path of the lumbago, oh no
I hit the brakes as hard as I could
But the bird was on a mission of collision and I had
nowhere to go

It impacted hard and went under a wheel
And I slowly brought the lumbago to a halt
We were both shaken up and got out to check the
damage
It was an accident and no-one's fault

The bird had flown into the scrub
And was nowhere to be found
I'll bet it was sore and sorry for itself
As it headed for safer ground

We were lucky that we could still drive it
But the engine we won't push
And when it comes to having
A bird on the road, I'd rather two in the bush

We stopped that night at Jurien Bay
And I had a closer inspection under the bonnet
I found that two blades of the fan were gone
And the radiator was floating about with no clamps on it

So I reported it to the insurance company
And the Mercedes people found us a reputable repair
shop
The problem was the shop's in Perth and it's 250kms
away
So we drove down steady with hardly a stop

Through wildflowers and wind farms
The drive was colourful and nice
But we both had one eye looking out for another crazy
emu
In case it happened twice

PERTH

West Point Star in Perth will fix our lumbago
And David is the man to see
He inspected the damage and worked out a quote
And said we could still drive it but carefully

After we'd seen to the lumbago
We went to a shopping centre so Carmel could get her fix
And I went to the Tab for about an hour
And unfortunately came away with nix

The following day David secured our radiator
And gave us a fan off another truck he had in the
workshop
So we can continue on our holiday
Without any worries and now we won't have to stop

BUNBURY

Back in the sixties in the town of Bunbury
A lady interacted with a dolphin and it's calf, Mrs Smith
was her name
And so many years later pods of dolphins
Still come into the bay and you can swim with them if
you're game

There's a famous wooden jetty at Busselton
Almost two kilometres long with an underwater
observatory at the end of the line
It's been blown apart by cyclones
And almost burnt down but the townsfolk
Have rallied to restore it every time

It was built in the early nineteenth century
To load sandalwood onto ships that were bound for
faraway places
It stretches right out into Geographe Bay
And a train can take to out to save your legs and red faces

Sadly for us it was pouring rain
The observatory was closed and not a sign of the train
So we looked around in the shop
And read about the history then continued travelling south
again

The insurance company wants to have the Lumbago
assessed
And then it can be repaired properly for the road
But it meant we would have to return to Perth
Just when we were back in holiday mode

But all is not lost for our friends
Don and Di are at the park in Perth where we want to stay
So we'll catch up with them have a beer or two
And a BBQ to fill in the end of the day
All the inspections of the Lumbago are done
We've crossed all the tee's and dotted the /s

SOUTHWARD BOUND AGAIN

So once again we can head down south
But the bad weathers on the rise
It seems to stay sunny for an hour or two
And then there's a shower of rain
I guess we have to expect it at this time of the year
But were not likely to be back again

So we'll stay high and dry at a park for a day or two
And hope that the weather will improve
And we've been told that there could be whales at
Augusta
So that will be our next move

Sure enough the weather got better
And we pressed on down the scenic coastal drive
Past capes and lighthouses and beaches
With rips and rocks where only the best surfer can survive

Cape Leeuwin is where the two oceans meet
On the most south western point of the land
And the tallest lighthouse in the country
Divides the seas from it's rocky position above the sand

You can do a tour and it takes an hour
And you have to climb all the way to the top
There's only 270 steps spiralling up inside
And you definitely require a halfway stop

You can walk around the balcony
When you get there and enjoy a wonderful view
But then you have to return all the way back down
And that can take it out of you too

There's a scenic drive through a National Park
And only five kilometres of gravel to take
And fortunately for us the wildflowers were bloomin nice
It was a great decision to make

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Alistair and Carmel are back home again, safe and sound
after a wonderful trip across the centre and west of
Australia.