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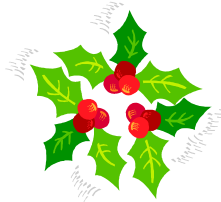
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Higher Ground Australia



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HIGHER GROUND NEWSLETTER – November/December 2006

Welcome

Welcome to our combined November/December newsletter. I am sorry that the newsletter did not go out last month – somehow life got in the way and I have now found myself in mid-December. My deepest apologies to you all. We extend our best wishes to our American friends who celebrated Thanksgiving recently and we hope you all enjoyed your turkey dinner. We are all starting to get busy as we prepare for Christmas and the New Year ahead, so take a few minutes to relax and find out what is happening in the world of John Denver.



I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a very happy Christmas and a safe new year. Our Jewish friends are celebrating Hanukkah between the 15th – 23rd December, and we would like to wish you a very Happy Hanukkah.

New Members

A number of new members have joined us recently. We would like to welcome you all to our little 'family' and we thank you for taking the trouble to make contact through the website. People from all over the world are constantly lending their support to us and we just love to hear from you. What I love most is the way in which people are willing to share their John Denver experiences and also tell us about how they are celebrating John's life.

Some of our newest members are currently trying to get permission to plant a grove of Monterrey Pines in a park in California in John's name. We look forward to hearing about the outcome of this project.

Boonah 2006

We are delighted to tell you all that our donation to Broadwings Raptor Training and Conservation Centre was \$1868.50. This is \$500.00 more than what we had anticipated and we are all delighted with the final figure. Thanks to everyone who donated items to the auction and to those who purchased the items. Without you, we would not have been able to raise this amount of money.

The money has been given to Paul and Robyn from Broadwings and it will be used to sponsor an eagle

named Soren. Most Australians would be familiar with Soren, who is the promotional eagle for Wolf Blass. Wolf Blass is one of the major sponsors of the Ashes Cricket Series, so the eagle will be very prominent on our televisions this summer.



If you would like to download a screensaver of the Wolf Blass Eagle. Click on this link:

<http://www.wolfblass.com.au/brands/wolfblass/advertising/index.asp>

Broadwings Says Thank You

Paul from Broadwings has donated a hand painted water colour of Soren to Higher Ground Australia. This will be raffled during 2007 to raise further funds. The raffle will be drawn in October 2007. Thanks to Paul and Robyn for such a generous gift to us. There will be more information about the raffle early next year

Paul and Robyn have also offered to bring Soren to our next gathering in Queensland, where everyone will have the opportunity to have their photo taken with the eagle. This is a great opportunity for people to get 'up close and personal' with an eagle, which is not an every day occurrence for most of us.

HGA Gathering 2007/2008

A number of us will be travelling to Aspen, CO in October 2007. It appears that accommodation is already in short supply due to the planned events already in the pipeline and I have it on good authority that the Mountain Chalet is booked out and they have quite a lengthy waiting list.

We were lucky to be able to reserve a house for the period we will be in Aspen next year, so Aspen, here we come!!!

For those who are not going to Aspen, there will be a small gathering somewhere 'central' to those people who want to meet up and celebrate John's life. We are currently discussing the possibility of meeting in Canberra. This will be confirmed during 2007.

We have also had some discussions about the gathering for 2008. Currently, we are thinking of returning to Boonah for the third time in October 2008.

We would also like to celebrate our favourite time of the year by conducting a Christmas in October event. This will give us a good excuse for singing John's Christmas songs. So, for all the people who love Christmas, 2008 might be the perfect year for you to join us in Boonah – start saving up your pennies now! There will be more information about the 2007 and 2008 gatherings over the next few months.

Thanks from Moorooka PS.

I received this thanks recently. It is always good to receive feedback from the schools that benefit from receiving a book from HGA.

Dear Janette

I am embarrassed to admit that although I was lucky enough to receive a book from your organisation last year, I neglected to thank you. Our school was nominated by one of our students Suji Bridgestock - which was a very thoughtful gesture on her part and certainly much appreciated by us.

I think the idea of a pictorial representation of John Denver's songs is wonderful and I find it almost impossible to read the text without the song itself echoing through my mind.

Once again thank you for your generous donation.

Regards

Sally Boyd

Teacher-Librarian

Moorooka State Primary School

Tribute CD

Stephen R Cheney is a long-time JD fan, but more than that, he is one of Australia's great country voices. I recently received a JD tribute CD from Stephen Cheney, who has been presenting a John Denver tribute show for some years now. This CD is great and would make a great gift for anyone who enjoys country music. Stephen usually lets us know where he is presenting the John Denver Tribute Show, so please watch out for him in your town. Here is his link. Stephen has also generously has offered to come along to one of our gatherings in the future to perform and to meet us all. If you would like to know more about Stephen, here is a link to his website:
<http://www.gslmarketing.com.au/page6.html>

Merry Christmas Aspen!

This CD is a reissue of the original album of the Christmastime collaborations between John and the Aspen vocal groups, including the Aspen Community Chorus and Orchestra, the Aspen Children's Christmas Choir and the Snowmass Dickens Carollers.

This CD is a delight and I have finally found out the origin of the song 'The Heart of Man's a Palace', which John sings on this album. If YOU want to know all about this CD, click the link:
<http://www.paxtonmusic.com/home.html>

They ship to Australia and the service is fantastic. I have received my CD and it is lovely to listen to, especially the songs that John sings. When you turn the CD over to read the song list, please don't be put off by the first song, And the **Gory** of the

Lord, - there is nothing gory about that song, in fact it is rather glorious!

Batemans Bay by Lumbago

Alistair and Carmel 'disappeared' recently and finally emerged with a bunch of photos from a little trip they took, which included Bateman's Bay. They decided to quickly visit our eagle, Spirit, which is located at Birdland. Spirit cannot be rehabilitated due to major damage to one wing, but she lives a lovely life at Birdland and we have been lucky enough to be able to sponsor her last year with the money we raised with the silent auction. Here is a picture of the sign they put up on the cage.



Alistair and Carmel have also checked up on our trees that we planted at Old Mogo Town, which are still looking good!.



Stories of John

I received this story from Richelle, WA, USA. Hope you enjoy it!

"When I met JD on the street in the early 80's in Spokane, I think he sensed I was unhappy with an obligated college education major to get a music teaching degree (I wanted to be a lawyer, Dad didn't like that idea either)--it wasn't going well for me. I was chaining myself to the violin, and that isn't the right thing to pass on to others. He was very perceptive about that, sensing what I needed (sensing the hunger in me for liberation) reading subtly between the lines. I remember he began speaking the words to the song "Sweet Surrender", letting me fill in the words when he

gave me the cue. Lost and alone on some forgotten highway is just where I was.

He also told me about HIS "jam", that RCA had dropped his contract. He was broken hearted. He had just gotten back from New York where he saw "some strange woman who wears her underwear outside her clothing", and he just couldn't BELIEVE that the recording industry was providing the public with something THEY said it needed, like that. I think he was referring to Madonna, whom I later learned about. Around that same time she was just beginning her career. I agree. I cannot believe they pushed John aside to put her on the table for the public.

He told me the reason he wanted to continue performing despite his bind, and it was very impressive. He told me "I've played all over the world, and over time I made an important observation that is very universal in all the people I've seen as I stare out and look back into their faces. They all have a kind of deep hunger inside of them. I feel that what I have can fill that hunger. I want to be able to fill that hunger".

Steve Kern in Australia

Steve Kern maybe coming out to Australia next year. If anyone is interested in looking at Steve's site, the link is below. We all look forward to seeing him if he is able to come out to Australia.

Just thought I would drop you a line and let you know I am attempting to create a JD Tour in Australia and New Zealand in 2207.

You can find out a little about me at my website <http://JohnDenverTribute.com>

Perhaps you may have a few contacts that may be interested in having some music. Plus I write my own and the George Burns Tribute partner is considering coming along as well.

Peace & Harmony, Steve Kern

News from Aspen

This year two teenagers from New Zealand arrived in Aspen, fully armed with a barf bag on which they had written a tribute song to John. They had earned their fares to America by holding a number of tribute concerts round New Zealand and by all accounts impressed many people in Aspen with their song called 'Spirit'. I also have it on good authority that there are going to be some effort to help bring these two talented lads back to Aspen for the 2007 celebration of John's life.

If anyone out there knows how we can contact the boys, please let me know as I would love to get permission to share their lyrics with everyone.

The following link will take you to see some photos of Aspen in October.
<http://www.ncfriendsofjd.com/AspenOctober20063.html>

Thanks to all the thoughtful people who have shared these lovely images with us all.

Nature Conservancy

David Thomas has donated one of the largest gifts to conservation in Australia's history. His \$10million gift

and challenge to Australians to match his gift has been recently launched. This is the largest gift ever to be given outside of the United States and it is a serious effort to save Australia's most at-risk habitats. Please check out the website for more information about this project.

<http://www.nature.org/wherewework/asiapacific/australia/news/news2162.html>

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

The United Nations Environment Programme is launching a worldwide tree planting campaign. Under the *Plant for the Planet: Billion Tree Campaign*, people, communities, business and industry, civil society organizations and governments will be encouraged to enter tree planting pledges on this website with the objective of planting at least one billion trees worldwide during 2007. As 2007 is the 10th anniversary of John's death, please make an effort to plant some trees in his name through the UNEP. HGA have pledged our trees for 2007. Over 121,000 trees have already been pledged. If you would like to help please click the link: <http://www.unep.org/billiontreecampaign/index.asp>

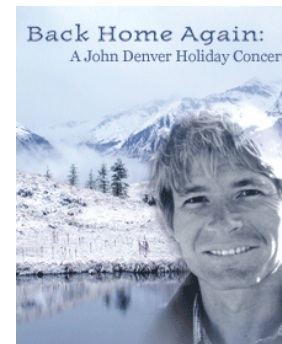
Australian Rainforest Foundation

The Australian Rainforest Foundation is a non-profit organisation dedicated to the preservation and protection of rainforests. If you would like to know more or to help the ARF continue their work, please click this link: <http://www.arf.net.au/>

John Denver Holiday Concert

The Rubicon Theatre in Ventura California is currently presenting Back Home Again – A John Denver Holiday Concert. There is still time to see this production if you live close by Ventura. Click on the link for ticket information.

<http://www.rubicontheatre.org/06denver.php>



If there is anybody out there who has seen this concert and would like to share the experience with us, please feel free to contact me at jefrawley@optusnet.com.au

American Dollar Coin

We have been using the dollar and two dollar coins for some years now and commemorative ones are launched each year in Australia, but the question is Whose Image would make Americans use a Dollar coin? You might be surprised at the list of contenders. http://www.finance-weblog.com/50226711/whose_image_would_make_americans_use_a_dollar_coin.php

Dutch Clip

Each month Michiel includes a new video clip on the Dutch website.

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

You will love this month's CMT interview. Add this link to your Favorites list and you will be able to access the clips each month.

John Denver on YouTube

There are many video clips on YouTube. Enter John Denver into the search and you should be able to access these videos. If you wish to download them, you will need to download some software. Although I have not tried this myself, this link has come from a reliable source: <http://www.softpedia.com/get/Internet/Download-Managers/VDownloader.shtml>

Spanish Site

The following is from Tom Hernandez from the Spanish fan club:

Hi my friends, taking into account that you are great supporters of John Denver. We thought you would like to know what we organized to pay tribute to John this year.

I have just put all the information on my web page. There are also pictures of the John Denver's friends meeting III that is as always organized by the John Denver Spanish Club.

This year the meeting took place in the city of Eyne (France). It is a place located in the heart of the Pyrenees Mountains , surrounded by nature and fantastic landscapes.

In addition to this, Steve Brook, Vicente Solivelles and I paid a tribute concert to John in Puigcerda, a place very close to Eyne.

The concert had a great success, the concert hall was crowded and the followers of John Denver music had a very good time there.

We played 27 songs. Most of them were John's and some others of our own.

Some of these songs were adapted to Spanish and we made a fantastic design using video and music.

You can see all the concert in small pieces on my web page

http://www.tomhernandez.es/presentation_eng.htm .

You can find all this in NEWS or clicking directly in J.Denver club. You can also find information about this on the club web page <http://www.johndenverclub.com/> and on the webpage

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

Obviously, the quality of the videos is not the best but I think it is enough to show what we do in Spain to remember John and his band.

The III meeting DVD and the concert will be soon available in case any of you would be interested in getting it. If you are interested , please contact me and we'll see how we can get it there.

Finally, I would like to tell you that next year the meeting will be organized in Ciudad Rodrigo. It is a medieval

city. You can get all the information and pictures about the city on my web.

We expect to organize another tribute concert with more Spanish and foreigners artists , trips, and activities. Would you like to come?. We would love to have any of you here.

Thanks for your time

Tom Hernández

From Jean Kendle

In a new Catalog "Yestervideo" -They list a new DVD: George Burns: The TV Specials. Among the shows are: James Stewart, John Carson, Bob Hope, Loretta Lynn, JOHN DENVER, and Ann Margaret, (and so many more). B&W/Color, approx. 7 hrs. 30 min., on 4 DVD's. #P72277 for \$39.98.

I just tried to get on their website www.yestervideo.com/126 - but when I kept putting in the title, it kept telling me it couldn't "find" it. ???

They have a mailing address of "Yestervideo, P.O. Box 638, Holmes, PA 19043-0638 and no phone number is shown.

Also, in the latest "Heartland" catalog, besides the same JD music and Christmas CD's they've shown for several times now, there is also a "Christmas With The Stars" 3 CD set, EMRDC697562, on sale for \$49.95 -- here's the strange thing: The song they have from John is "Tenderly Calling"! I don't quite see how that qualifies for a Christmas Song, even tho it is one of my very favorites. (Heartland has been known to make mistakes in their song lists, tho.) There are 60 songs in this set.

I keep checking all the catalogs I get, and never see "A Christmas Gift" as an old movie put out on DVD. I wonder why? Jean

Good question Jean – I would like to see a copy of The Christmas Gift without distortions. The only copy I have is woeful and almost impossible to watch.

JD Commemorative Stamp

This has been received from Carole:

I've recently learned that a commemorative stamp as a tribute under consideration for John Denver in the US requires only 5 years since the person's demise instead of the original 10. So below is a letter I'm sending to you and other JD newsletters for inclusion. I'm asking you if you could ask your readers to support this group effort project by copying, signing and/or submitting their own letter to the Stamp Advisory Committee (address in the letter) requesting the stamp. The Committee welcomes not only US citizens' requests but also those from the international community to further encourage the stamp's success.

DATE

USPS Stamp Development

Attn: Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee

1735 N Lynn St. Ste 5013

Arlington, VA 22209-6432

Dear Sir or Madam:

Please consider issuing a commemorative stamp honouring the singer-songwriter John Denver (born in Roswell, NM on 12/31/43; died Monterey Bay, CA 10/12/97). He was a great American environmentalist, conservationist, and humanitarian who strived endlessly to create peace, end hunger, save our natural resources, protect wildlife, and support the US Citizen in Space Program. His music and message is known worldwide, plus he was one of the top 5 recording artists in music history.

Many dedications in John's honour through tributes, concerts, books, newsletters and websites created and contributed to by his millions of fans and followers are still in existence today, 9 years after his tragic demise.

John Denver is embedded in our American culture, and his message and legacy still live on - and will forever.

Thank you for your consideration for this deserving and worthy pursuit.

Sincerely,

NAME (Signature)

ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBER

E-MAIL ADDRESS

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.

The Heart of Man's a Palace

(Yarrow, Henry)

Oh the magi were the prophets
And they wandered through the desert
They saw the star above them
And they knew they'd find their way
Through the valley of the shadow
With the hope of human kindness
They were strengthened by the vision
Of a new and brighter day.

[Chorus:]

And the wisemen spoke of peace on earth,
Of harmony and struggle
Know you now a cycle's gone and a new one is revealed.
In the weaving of your fingers
In the whisper of a love that's born again
In the weaving of your fingers
In a promise that we made that never ends.

Well now each man is a pilgrim,
Yes, we all must make the journey
And it seems that time is telling us to be all that we can
To help lift up the fallen, we must sow the seeds of goodness
The torch is passed among us now to light the way of man.

For the heart of man's a palace
And his dreams are as the sunlight
They burn away the darkness, as they warm the freezing cold
As an eagle flying higher, as a river through the canyon
The diamond star shines down upon, a pathway to the soul

[Chorus 2x]

In a promise that we made that never ends.
In a promise that we made that never ends.