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Volume 4 – Edition 1

## HIGHER GROUND NEWSLETTER – Jan/Feb 2007

### Welcome

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2007. I hope that you all had a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I am sorry that this newsletter has taken so long to complete and it is a combined January/February one. Things have been hectic around here lately and I do apologise for getting the newsletter out so late.

For our Asian friends, Chinese New Year starts on the 18<sup>th</sup> February. 2007 is the year of the pig, which is a good one for me, as I was born in the year of the Pig! Famous people who were also born in the Year of the Pig include Lucille Ball, Humphrey Bogart, Thomas Jefferson, Ernest Hemingway, Alfred Hitchcock and Arnold Schwarzenegger. I am in good company, however, I will think twice before calling Arnie a Pig!

We have recently returned from a trip to Asia, including Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand. We have really enjoyed our time away and have learned a lot of history as well as absorbed as much as we could in such a short time. What amazed me was how often you hear either John's songs playing in the background in hotels, lifts, shops and even airports.

### Happy Birthday to You.....

Happy birthday to Maureen, whose birthday was at the end of December 2006. I promise I won't tell anyone how young you are.....

Happy Birthday to Max, who turned 84 on 23<sup>rd</sup> January. Max has been participating in some rather exciting activities lately, but more about those later.

Happy Birthday also to Kathy in America.

Happy Birthday to everyone celebrating their birthdays in January and February.



### Deepest Condolences

To one of our special HGA families on the recent loss of a special member of their family.

And while with silent lifting mind I trod  
The high untrespassed sanctity of space  
Put out my hand and touched the face of God  
(John Gillespie Magee Jr)

### New Members

Over the past couple of months, we have a number of new members, including people from America, Britain and Norway. Welcome to you all and we hope you like being part of our wonderful global JD family. Please do not hesitate to share any of your thoughts and JD experiences with us.

### Alistair will be Tap Dancing.....

Alistair has had knee replacement surgery recently and is ready to start tap dancing. He has spent a few days in hospital, but is now home and in the loving care of Carmel.

Good luck and stay healthy.



### 50 years of Rock 'n Roll in Australia

"I was there the day it happened, the day young Australians welcomed rock 'n' roll into this country with open arms. It was January 1957. Standing in the bleachers of the old Sydney Stadium, I knew that I was witnessing history. Working with my boss Lee Gordon, the promoter of the show and a man who would revolutionise live entertainment in Australia, I had the freedom to roam the stadium and went straight to the back, the perfect spot to soak up the atmosphere. There I could see and hear both the band and the audience. The air was electric.

Bill Haley and his Comets were on stage, surrounded by thousands of teenagers who were, at that very moment, being liberated from the past. They knew that there was no turning back, and so did I.

Just before the performance, as the crowd made its way through the old turnstiles to their assigned seats, you could tell that this was no ordinary

show. The kids had already tasted American-style rebellion in the movie, *Blackboard Jungle*. And the way the patrons were dressed that day, it was obvious that some had already claimed this new music form as their own.

Rock 'n' Roll had not simply arrived in Australia – it had kicked the door down and shattered it. In fact, I thought that some of the doors would be kicked down literally. Under the floor holding the seating was a gloomy dungeon where we gathered after the show started to count the takings, check program sales and so on. When Haley and his Comets ripped into their anthem, 'Rock Around the Clock', the audience started stamping their feet.

They couldn't get up and dance in those days – actually they couldn't even stand up or they'd be thrown out by the gang of security guys patrolling the aisles. Instead, they shouted. And screamed. And stamped. When they stamped in unison, the floor above us started to move up and down, while the naked bulbs conducted their own wild dance. I pictured a few hundred kids landing on top of me!

I began to realise that there were two shows going on above my head: one from Bill and his boys, and one from the audience. It was a turning point for Australian culture, but what was more exciting to me was the fact that I was part of the team that made this magic happen.

My life had turned into something I couldn't even have begun to imagine. From a country boy raised in pre-war towns, I'd become a man with a career that would involve travelling the world and meeting the greatest names in show business: Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole, Sammy Davis Jr, the Rolling Stones, Kiss and, of course, John Denver. I've worked with them all, and I am delighted to say that, with many of them, I have made friendships that will last forever."

That concert occurred on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 1957. Exactly 50 years later, on January 8<sup>th</sup> 2007, Max participated in three radio interviews, where he reminisced about the performers that were brought to Australia by Lee Gordon and his experiences managing the international acts and the shows in general. Fifty years in anyone's language is a milestone, but Max is a living legend, and his stories are fabulous. Max will be attending the JD events in Aspen in October and will be delighted to share his JD and other stories with you.

(Excerpt reprinted with permission from Max Moore from his book, *Some Days are Diamonds One Man's Journey through Australian Entertainment*, New Holland Publishers, 2003)

## **Tree Planting in San Diego**

One of our members has been investigating the possibility of planting a tree in John's honour in his city of San Diego. Although confronted with a number of problems, including the request for an extortionate amount of money to plant the tree in Balboa Park, Eric and his wife have steadfastly worked towards getting a tree planted in this beautiful and very public park. Eric has contacted us today to say that the dream of planting a tree in John's name may become a possibility soon. Here is what they wrote to me today:

We are a step closer to planting at Balboa Park near the San Diego Zoo. I have also begun writing a speech and outline for the presentation.

Our best and least expensive way of getting this done is by obtaining a park use event permit through a non profit organization. Does Australia Higher Ground have a non profit or 501C status in the United States? If not, I will obtain the sponsorship of a church.

The theme I am taking is that the best memorial to John's life is to follow the inspiration of doing what each of us can do to make life better for us all. The tree, our redwood, would be a symbol reminding people of that. What church, or churches, would not want to jump into that with both feet?

We are delighted with this turn of events as I would love to think that groups and individuals can work with councils and other bodies to plant a tree that others can enjoy. We are looking forward to hearing more about this venture and we also look forward to seeing some photos when it happens. Thank you to Eric and Ewa.

## **'Thank Goodness for John Denver!'**

As many of you know, we have 'adopted' two special little twin girls, one of whom is an avid John Denver fan. We have been following their achievements since they started school last year and their mum, Judith keeps us up to date with their very busy lives.

Just before Christmas we sent some CDs to the family and we received the following email from Judith:

I love the gift you so thoughtfully choose for us, the John Denver CDs...thank you for being so generous and having such good taste!!!! Glenys is not as committed to John Denver as Tegan is BUT she loved the Christmas one with the Muppets...I put it in the TV. to play through the DVD and she wanted to climb into the television almost. Tegan continues to love John Denver's music. It is played night and day for her. Her favourite is 'Thank God I'm a Country Boy'.....she laughs a lot often when listening to this one song / not sure why.

When the girls went for an afternoon to their respite house to have a practice run John Denver went too!!!!!!

Thanks again for your ongoing support.



Tegan and Glenys are now old enough to spend a night a week in care to give the family some respite. Their first sleep-over was last night and here is part of the email received from the carer today:

Thank goodness for John Denver..lol.

This afternoon about 5 mins after the girls arrived we had the Community Visitors arrive (unannounced as per normal – they regularly check up on facilities. similar to nursing home accreditations) Lauren was here by herself while Pam had gone to get the other children from school and with all the excitement and anxiety Glenys did her nanna. Lauren was racing around looking for the DVD player – kept in the office – getting frantic; finally when John Denver was on peace was restored!!!!

Thanks for passing on the updates on Tegan and Glenys – of course, we are delighted that John's music and soothing voice has such a profound effect on Tegan. Thank God I'm a Country Boy is a great song. It has a great rhythm and it is a song of pure joy. Along with Calypso, it is one of my very favourites.

### **Merchandise**

There are some wonderful video clips on YouTube at the moment. This one is John singing 'The Gift You Are'.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PfAlp8rrfdY>

Thanks to Linda E for passing this along

### **Thanks from the Irwin Family**

We have received a lovely Thank You note from the Irwin family for the book, Sunshine on My Shoulders, which we sent to them late last year, together with photos of the tree we planted in memory of Steve.

### **Arctic National Wildlife Refuge – ANWR**

Last Thursday night at 8.35pm on the ABC (Australia) there was a documentary about the Arctic national Wildlife Refuge. Unfortunately, I only caught the last 15 minutes. I am hoping that someone out there has taped it. If so, could you please email me on [jefrawley@optusnet.com.au](mailto:jefrawley@optusnet.com.au)?

The Alaska, American Child: 'Rise with the Vision' luncheon being held on the 11<sup>th</sup> October in Ashcroft CO has been booked out, but you should be able to purchase the newly re-mastered DVD, American Child will be available for purchase.

The proceeds of this sold out event will be donated to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in John Denver's name.

### **New Video Clip – Dutch Site**

New clips have been added to the Dutch website by Michiel Ten Brug.

<http://home.wanadoo.nl/mtenbrug/denver/>  
Included is a duet with Cheryl Ladd and one of John singing Calypso. Keep checking this site each month for the new clips.

Also Michiel wrote: Also on my site, under "Dutch news" a link to a concert registration of one of the Dutch top singers Jan Smit. I'm not sure if the clip is viewable outside Holland, but you might want to try it. After 40 minutes in this clip (you can go there using the locator on the bottom) Jan Smit tells the audience that everyone has his idols and heroes, and his idol is John Denver. A big picture of John is shown. And he tells that because John passed away, he will not be able make his dream come true to sing a duet with John. So he sings Leaving on a Jetplane on his own....

### **Christmas Like a Lullaby**

Late last year, the singing weatherman Scott Haney performed two of John's songs for a benefit concert. Here is a photo of Scott and his off-sider, Denise, singing Christmas Like a Lullaby.



Thanks to Barb for sending this along.

## **Reflection of Aspen 2006**

My boyfriend Brad went along with me this year and we had a blast! Our photo album is full of photos -- way too many to send in an email, but I picked a few out that you might like. The weather was good for us, very warm several days in a row followed by some cloudy days, but only rain one day. Bitter cold nights, as usual, but no snow for us. The JD events were plentiful, but we only stopped in on a few. We went to the Wheeler on Friday night. Kathy Mattea was there as a bonus and she is a lot of fun to listen to, and apparently she is a huge JD fan. This year they had an orchestra along with JD's old band members so the music was extra wonderful. The show was a bit long, almost 3 hours, but it was good and we enjoyed it.

We didn't go to Windstar, as my friend isn't a member and I couldn't see him paying \$35 to walk around and have some finger food. So instead we went in search of the Snowmass Monastery, and my, it is in a lovely spot! I'm so glad we found it. The Mack, Chris, and Pete show at the Mt. Chalet was very good. Those guys are always entertaining. We dropped in at the lobby for a sing-a-long one night. I sang a few tunes by request and was flattered as always. I handed out quite a few of my CDs.

We drove around a lot and visited places I hadn't seen before. The Grotto was a lovely place. We had a nature walk there for a few hours, and we took a few trips to the "Bells". That's one of my favorite places. Then we went to Ashcroft. We spent a nice afternoon there. Colorado is made for picture taking! We left Aspen on Monday and drove back to Denver at a leisurely pace, stopping along the way where we felt like it. Georgetown is a very cool old town! I love the little Victorian houses. We stayed in downtown Denver at a swanky joint. I had never been to Denver before so we kinda splurged. We ate at a groovy place I had seen on the Food Network called The Denver Diner. I had "duck enchiladas"! They were yummy.

Then Tuesday we went to the airport and had to sit thru a delay due to weather. Seems like we left Aspen just in the nick of time. I think they got 9 in. of snow on that Monday night. Anyway, our plane had to be de-iced before we could leave, which was something new to me. We finally got in the air and before we knew it, we were back in Atlanta and vacation time was over.

It was a lovely time though. I'd like to go back to Aspen, maybe 2 weeks before the "JD Week", to catch the leaves at their peak. This year they were gone for the most part. The color of Aspens does my heart good, as I just love to see the mountains draped in gold. And the air - holy smokes! No air

is quite so good as Colorado air at 12,000 feet! I hope this gives you an idea of how much fun we had. I'm not sure I'll be able to go to the 10th Anniversary though, but if I do, it will be to try some skiing! I hope all is well in your corner of the world. Continue to Pray for Peace, and surely it will happen one day! Jamie Seabolt

## **From JDMAS**

We are very pleased to advise that in December this year we have, once again, renewed our Sponsorship and Plaque, for the Bird of Prey Rehabilitation Program, at the Healesville Wildlife Sanctuary in Victoria, Australia. (In Loving Memory of John Denver).

Contributors: Staff Members Jacqui Oliver & Mim van Haaster; Johann Egli, and 'JDMAS AUSTRALIA'. 'Zoos Victoria' sent a beautiful poster, a collection of leaflets, and a photo of a magnificent wedge-tailed eagle, as well as the following information:

Staff at 'Zoos Victoria' care for more than 350 species of animals and 1,500 botanical specimens. Many of these species are listed as endangered, some critically.

Your Sponsorship contributes to the ongoing welfare of these animals, and part of your Living Gifts donation supports vital conservation programs [HERE](#) and [OVERSEAS](#).

By supporting these captive breeding, conservation and research programs for endangered species, you are helping wildlife everywhere. **BY SPONSORING AN ANIMAL, YOU HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE....**

Zoos Victoria - Healesville Wildlife Sanctuary, Melbourne Zoo and Werribee Open Range Zoo

Visit Zoos Victoria website: <http://www.zoo.org.au>

To contact the Sponsorship Department, email: [livinggifts@zoo.org.au](mailto:livinggifts@zoo.org.au)

The WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE (*Aquila audax* - meaning 'bold eagle') is Australia's largest bird of prey. The Wedge-tailed eagle is also one of the largest eagles in the world with a wingspan of 2.5 metres. Females are larger than males weighing about 4.5kg on average compared to males at 3.5kg. The Wedge-tailed eagle is found all through mainland Australia and Tasmania and also in Southern New Guinea. It is now a protected species and it is illegal to kill, trap or poison them.

Thanks to all who sent Christmas and New Year Greetings. Wishing you all a very happy New Year,

**PEACE ALWAYS,**

Christine J. Egli, President 'JDMAS AUSTRALIA'

Higher Ground Australia also contributed to the upkeep of the Wedge-tail Eagle at the Healesville Sanctuary in 2003. Two years later, in 2005, the zoo gave permission for some eagles to be shot because they apparently killed some rock wallabies that the zoo was raising in the pouches of other macropod species. We wrote to the Healesville Sanctuary and explained that the eagles were only doing what they do naturally in the wild and that the killing of the eagles was not acceptable. Last year, in 2006, our Bracks Government department of the Environment and Sustainability gave permission for one eagle to be killed as part of their culling programme. One eagle is not going to make one iota of difference to the wildlife on the ground and the granting of permission to kill one eagle was just plain stupid. I wrote and told them as much. Like the Healesville Zoo, our department of the Environment and Sustainability did not bother acknowledging the letters that were written on behalf of Higher Ground Australia.

On a better note, today (26<sup>th</sup> Feb) there was a heart warming story about an eagle rehabilitation programme that is currently taking place at the Beechworth low security prison. Two prisoners are working with wedge-tail eagles to rehabilitate and to eventually return them to the wild. This project has been funded by the Healesville Sanctuary.

### **New DVD**

The following is from Jean, who keeps an eye on the various catalogues and lets us know when new John Denver material becomes available – Thanks Jean

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](http://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 CDs 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

As a follow up to this email, I received another one as follows:

Just to let you know I was disappointed at the new George Burns DVD's, segments with John, because one was from a TV special called "One Man Show". All JD did was walk out on the stage and George kidded around with him to sing a song, but John wouldn't because then it wouldn't be a "one man show". The other segment was George's 90th BDay party, and John did sing "Perhaps Love", but that's all.

I'm sure all the other segments will be enjoyable, but I really was hoping they would have had "Two of a Kind" on there. I suppose all those TV specials are owned by the networks, or who knows who has the "rights". Anyway, that's my news. Jean

Thanks Jean – we appreciate the updates.

### **Merchandise**

We have some 2007 calendars, keyrings, notebooks and puzzle books still left. Please contact Lynn if you are interested in any of these items on [lmagann@optusnet.com.au](mailto:lmagann@optusnet.com.au)

### **HGA DVDs**

Lynn has created some wonderful DVDs using images from the last five HGA gatherings. Priced at just \$20.00, these are well worth owning. Please contact Lynn on [lmagann@optusnet.com.au](mailto:lmagann@optusnet.com.au) for further details. All proceeds from the sale of the DVDs will be donated to eagle rehabilitation

### **Higher Ground Australia Website**

The website will be updated over the coming days. Lynn has made some changes to the website so drop in and have a look. This newsletter will be available soon.

### **John Denver Biography**

There is a wonderfully written biography of the life and music of John Denver on the John Denver.org site written by Linda Wolverton. When you get a chance, please use the following link to read this biography (easily the best one on the internet in my opinion!). <http://www.john-denver.org/default.asp?nc=3295&id=444>

### **John Denver Memorial Peace Cloth**

The ladies of the Peace Cloth Committee have sent the following update:

The John Denver Peace Cloth is proud to announce the addition of three new directors to its Board. Welcome, Chris Collins, Hollie Carter and Cassandra Delaney-Denver!

Congratulations to you all – we have supported the peace cloth for some years and we hope to have a long and happy association with you all.

### **Alaska & Me Cruise 2007**

Jim Curry and his wife Annie are presenting a John Denver Tribute Show on the Holland America Lines cruise to Alaska between August 31 and September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007. The following is from Jim:

My wife Anne and I present a "John Denver Tribute Show" on Holland America Ships about 40 weeks out of each year. We put together a special Group Cruise with a Travel Agent to have friends join us on one of or weeks in Alaska. (We are paid by Holland America and do not get any monies from the travel agents to do this but we want to share the experience that we have in Alaska with others) We perform many of John's Alaska Songs in our main concert for the entire ship as well as have Sing-a-longs every other night exclusively for the group. We organize hikes in some of the ports as well. We have arranged to have former band members and tour managers of John's join us and give a special talk with question and answer time. There are possible additions to the special guest list but that will be determined by the number of people that sign up to go on the cruise. We see many people from the UK on the Alaska cruises and thought that we should get the word out about this cruise soon. The Alaska cruises are the most popular destination for cruising and the rooms go fast.

For further information please click this link <http://www.john-denver.org/default.asp?nc=6294&id=507>

### **Aspen in October**

TENTH ANNUAL CELEBRATION, OCTOBER 10-15, 2007

Wednesday, October 10

- "Friends With You - A Tribute to John Denver" Concert featuring Mark Cormican, Chris Collins and the Friends With You Band, will be held at the Aspen Community Church on Wednesday, October 10, 2007 at 7:30 P.M. Admission is \$10. Contact Sharon at [alaskanchild@msn.com](mailto:alaskanchild@msn.com) for more information.

Thursday October 11

- "Alaska: America's Child" -- Rise With The Vision! **THIS EVENT IS SOLD OUT!!** Contact for waiting list. Join us for a unique and special event at the Pine Creek Cookhouse in Ashcroft (Aspen) CO. The Emmy Award Winning producer and photographer, John Wilcox, was the executive producer for this John Denver special filmed in

Alaska in the 1970's. He is producing a newly remastered DVD version of this film, which will be premiered at this event. In addition, Mr. Wilcox will share personal photos taken during the filming, tell us some fun stories about that adventure and his long-time friendship with John Denver, and be available to talk with him. Music will be provided by Chris Collins, Mark Cormican, Paul Swanton and Kevin Delmolino. The Pine Creek Cookhouse is famous for its cuisine and spectacular setting. The event will include a special buffet lunch, the music, time to watch (and purchase) the new DVD, and spend time with Mr. Wilcox. This luncheon event is from 11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. It's a benefit to support saving the fragile Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) in Alaska, a project that was very near to John Denver's heart. Tickets are \$35 by advance reservation. Please contact: [Suzanne](#) or [Jennifer](#) for more details and reservation information. Tickets are already selling quickly, and space is limited. Please contact us as soon as you can so you can so that we can reserve a space for you!

- **Meet and Greet** John Denver Sanctuary, 3:30 p.m. See who's arrived and get acquainted...or re-acquainted! Contact: [Deb Perry](#)

- **Worship on the Mountain** John Denver Sanctuary, 4 p.m., Christian non-denominational service officiated by Pastor Keith Perry. Contact: [Deb Perry](#)

- **"A Musical Tribute to John Denver"** M.U.S.E. will be producing the 10th Annual concert at the historic Wheeler Opera House in Aspen, CO on Thursday-Saturday, October 11-13, 2007 (three nights). All of the usual "gang" returns, many former band members, songwriters and colleagues of John Denver's will be performing again this year! All proceeds from this year's event will again benefit the work of Challenge Aspen for the physically and mentally challenged.

Friday, October 12

- **Assisted Living Center Sing Along** Meet at Wagner Park at 9:00 for practice, then assemble at the Pitkin County Assisted Living Center at 11:45 to sing. Contact [Shari](#).

- **Peace Cloth Concert** Featuring Chris Collins, Mark Cormican, Jeff Pine, Derek Arambaru, Chris Wesfall, and Ellen Stapenhorst with guest performers Paul Swanton and Kevin Delmolino. This performer list may be subject to change. 1:00 PM - Mountain Chalet Ballroom, Aspen, Colorado - \$20. Peace Cloth Concert Contact [Eve](#).

- **10th Annual John Denver Campfire** 5:30 p.m. Join us on the Windstar Land at the campfire circle for a very special 10th Annual Campfire with music, friends and fun. Contact [Harold Simpson](#) for details.

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Saturday, October 13

- **Let This Be A Voice** Concert/lunch/auction at the Mt. Chalet from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. with registration beginning at 9 a.m.. We are beginning earlier and ending earlier this year so that people can attend Mark and Sharon's wedding. Friends With You band and an invitation will be extended as always to Mack Bailey, Pete Huttlinger and Chris Nole along with Jim Salestrom, and Chris Westfall. We are currently taking donations for the return of Bevan Gardiner, that incredible young man from New Zealand as well as for Jeff Schendell, the new owner of Little Mulchatna along with his son Zak. I am also looking into having someone come to talk about ANWR (Artic National Wildlife Refuge) in Alaska. Our charity will once again be the Aspen Camp School For The Deaf and if anyone is interested in donating something for the auction, please let us know. The cost will be \$25 for the lunch/concert/auction and \$15 for just the auction/concert. As always, our incredible caterer, Connie Young will provide our lunch. We will also need volunteers, so if you are interested, let me know: [Mary](#). Send your check/money order payable to [Pam Beasley](#) and send it to her along with a self-addressed envelope to: 721 Ravencroft Dr./Garland, TX 75043. Deadline for reservations is September 20, 2007.

- **Carr-Cormican Wedding** John Denver Sanctuary. Time: 3:30 p.m. General Reception following in the Mt. Chalet Ballroom (around 4 p.m. or so). Private Reception at 7 p.m. in the Mt. Chalet - 5th Floor Mountain Room

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Sunday, October 14

- **Coming Home... A Windstar Celebration** 10:00 til 4:00 on the Windstar Land. Details to be announced later. Contact [Shari](#).

- **Hay Ride with Chris Collins and Friends** SOLD OUT at T Lazy 7 Ranch on Maroon Creek Rd, 1st ride at 11 a.m., 2nd ride 1 p.m., 3rd ride 3 p.m. Times are subject to slight change. Each ride lasts one hour. Required Dress; Dress appropriately for variable conditions. Cost; \$25. Contact [Hollie Carter](#) for waiting list reservations. Please join us for an day of laughter and music in the beautiful Maroon Creek Wilderness area. The Hay Ride will take us up some of the most scenic trails in the Aspen area. Join the members of the Friends With You Band, Kevin Delmolino, Paul Swanton, Mark Cormican and Chris Collins for an afternoon of laughter and music. This will be a no profit event. We have scheduled this Hay Ride to spend time with our old friends and look forward to making some new ones. In the event of bad weather you will receive a full refund. Bring your best singing voice and some good jokes. Remember to dress warm because the weather can change quickly.

- **Chris Westfall Concert** Mt. Chalet Ballroom, 8 pm: Christopher Westfall presents A JOHN DENVER MUSICAL RETROSPECTIVE, featuring John Denver's music through the years. This special concert will include the rare and very rare JD gems. Christopher has been performing since he was 15 years old for fans of John Denver and has moved so many with that fire behind his strong pure unique voice. Tickets for the Sunday night concert are \$15 each (open seating) and can be ordered by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to "Tickets, CRW concert c/o Judy Therrien, 12 Dunecrest Avenue, Monterey, CA 93940." For more info: [jht@spamarrest.com](mailto:jht@spamarrest.com)

- **Blue Tulip Music Presents: John Adams and Friends** "Rocky Mountain High" Historic Wheeler Opera House. Aspen, Colorado. Show starts: 7:00 pm (time subject to change) Tickets \$20.00 and \$35.00 (On sale July 2, 2007) at the Wheeler Box Office (970) 920-5770. or on-line [www.wheeleroperahouse.com](http://www.wheeleroperahouse.com). The best celebration of John Denver's Music you will hear. This show has performed in England, Holland, Belgium, and Germany and throughout the United States. This will be the 9th time at the Historic Wheeler Opera House in Aspen, Colorado. Join us on a magical journey that will bring you back in time to once again enjoy your favorite John Denver songs. Rocky Mountain High, Annie's Song, Leaving on A Jet Plane, Country Roads, and many others have never sounded more like John Denver than John Adams. Even John Denver himself after performing with John Adams said, "He sounds exactly like me". Join us in a celebration of the live and music of a Rocky Mountain Legend: JOHN DENVER. Band members this year will be: Guido Bos (piano and keyboards), Tom Paxton (Bass), Diane Ireland (Flute), Rusty Speigle (Drums and Percussion),

Dave Harding (Lead guitar), Randy Utterback (Fiddle, Mandolin, Dobro), and maybe 1 or 2 surprises.....

Monday, October 15

- **Dreux's Aspen Photowalk Returns to Celebrate 10 Years** Meet at Noon at historic town of Ashcroft (bring sack lunch). Photowalk will begin at 1 p.m.-3:30 p.m. All physical levels welcome. This is a FREE event! Expert photography tips from Dreux DeMack who did photowalks in the first 4 years of Aspen In October. Prizes for various skills. All skill levels welcome. Contact: [Dreux](#) More Details to Come.

- **It's Goodbye Again** 5 p.m., Wagner Park on Durant Ave. (Ball field across from Mountain Chalet). Don't just leave! Come and bid farewell, reflect on the past few days, and look to the future. Bring Kleenexes & cameras! Contact: [Deb Perry](#)

Other Aspen in October Information

- Click here for [directions to John Denver Grove on Aspen Mountain](#)

- If you would like to be included on a chart for use only by those attending Aspen in October events, send the following information to [Deb Perry](#):  
First and Last Name, Your email address, City & State or Country, Dates you will be in Aspen, Where you are staying, How you are getting to Aspen (car, plane, etc.), Whether you would like to carpool and/or share a room. Deb will add this information to an online chart so that others can access it and get in touch with you if they would like. Once you have sent her the information, she will contact you and give you the password to access this chart.

- There is also an e-mail discussion list, [aspeninOctober@yahoogroups.com](mailto:aspeninOctober@yahoogroups.com), to talk about events, lodging, etc. for those going to Aspen in October. You may subscribe by sending an e-mail to [aspeninOctober-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:aspeninOctober-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

- Another e-mail discussion list, [aspeninOctoberchat@yahoogroups.com](mailto:aspeninOctoberchat@yahoogroups.com), is available for those who are going to Aspen in October and want to just visit and get to know each other. Join by sending an e-mail to [aspeninOctoberchat-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:aspeninOctoberchat-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

## Clean Up Australia Day

Yes, it is THAT time of the year again and Clean Up Australia Day falls on Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2007. The founder of this exercise, Ian Kiernan, is a person who has rolled up his sleeves and has set an example to the rest of us. He has certainly made a difference to Australia and also to the rest of the world with his many 'Clean Up' projects across the world.

There are two other projects worth considering this year – they are: World Environment Day on June 5<sup>th</sup> and Plant for the Planet – The Billion Tree Campaign.

*"When we plant trees, we plant the seeds of peace and seeds of hope"*  
-- Wangari Maathai

## Australia's Drought

Many parts of Australia are severely drought-stricken at the moment. The last time I can remember a drought of this severity in the city of Melbourne, was about 1969. I believe that in the last 38 years, our politicians should have learnt a lesson and done something more to preserve the precious commodity called water. By May 1<sup>st</sup>, we will not be permitted to water our gardens with a hose. It has been a struggle to keep our garden alive this year. We are primarily using grey water in our large garden, and although we have set up a hose system that uses the water from our washing machine, thus 'saving' my 'bucket back', we simply need good and steady rain. We need to use our resources better and we need to conserve what we have for the 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.

## Dear John

By Eric Visconti

Did you know?  
How you came into my life as I was a child,  
Opening your heart through the most honest smile,  
I first saw you there,  
Singing for children with a frog and a bear,  
You fully shared your love of life without care,  
Even as my parents would fight,  
In the cold grip of night I was not scared,  
For you, my friend, were there.  
Johnny, did you know?

There were times when my ears forgot your music,  
Yet my heart stored all of your words in secret,  
Safely inside and one with me,  
I could feel it in the wind atop the mountains,  
Or while spellbound by the splendor of the sea,  
My soul could see the stars and be among them,  
With awe I could hold and admire a bee,  
All of this carried me through the darkness,  
For you became a part of me.  
Johnny, did you know?

That one day you would fall from the sky,  
Landing safely beyond heaven's stars?  
Safely held by angels' arms?  
Have they told you what they see?  
Of the lovely family always beside me?  
My soul mate is inspired,  
Never tired,  
While on the wings of your words,  
My little girl with a smile,  
Sings your songs in dearest style,  
You were heaven sent,  
You taught us that with open eyes,  
We can live in constant, joyful amazement,  
For such is the beauty of life,  
Johnny, Now you know.

## The Gift You Are

Imagine a month of Sundays, each one a cloudy day  
Imagine the moment the sun came shining through  
Imagine that ray of sunshine as you

Remember your darkest hour, with dawn still far away  
Remember the way that you longed for morning's light  
And think of yourself as a candle in the night

Make believe this is the first day; everything all brand new  
Make believe that the sun is your own lucky star  
And then understand the kind of gift you are

The gift you are, like the very first breath of spring  
The gift you are, all the joy that love can bring  
The gift you are, all of our dreams come true  
The gift you are, the gift of you

You are the promise of all the ages;  
You are the Prodigal Son  
You are the vision of prophets and sages  
You are the only one

Dream of a bright tomorrow,  
Know that your dream will come true  
Carry your dream in a sparkling crystal jar  
Then you will know the kind of gift you are

The gift you are, like the very first breath of spring  
The gift you are, all the joy that love can bring  
The gift you are, all of our dreams come true  
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