

Contact Details:

Janette Frawley

PO Box 8155

Camberwell North VIC 3124

Australia

[jfrawley@highergroundaustralia.com](mailto:jfrawley@highergroundaustralia.com)

Higher Ground Australia



[www.highergroundaustralia.com/](http://www.highergroundaustralia.com/)

Volume 4 – Edition 2

## HIGHER GROUND NEWSLETTER – March 2007

### Welcome

Welcome to our newsletter for March. I am really sorry that it is so very late. I do not know where the time goes these days, but life seems to get busier each year. There is plenty of new information about the activities for October in Aspen, as well as what is happening in Australia in October.

Happy reading.....

### Happy Easter/Passover

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy Easter/Passover. Please drive safely and do not eat too much chocolate!! I think we are all united when we pray for Peace across the world.



### Happy Birthday to you.....

Best wishes for a belated birthday wish for Margaret, who celebrated her birthday in March.

Also Happy Birthday and many happy returns to one of our oldest members, Parke, who celebrated her birthday last week.



### Thank You

We received the following letter from All Saints in Boonah.

**Dear Janette**

**We take this opportunity to thank your organisation for the generous donation late last year of the book "Ancient Rhymes". We were certainly pleased that our school was nominated by Jo Nastasi and subsequently chosen for the donation. We are pleased you enjoyed meeting at 'beautiful Boonah'. Our school librarian has informed me that the book is a special addition to our library. John Denver memory/songs will live on.**

**Once again our thanks to you.**

**Sincerely**

**Tim Lomas**

**Principal.**

### RMH voted Colorado's Second State Song

Denver's Gift to Colorado

**DENVER-A joint Senate-House Resolution will be introduced Monday, March 12, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. naming former Colorado resident John Denver's "Rocky Mountain High" officially as Colorado's co-state song. "Rocky Mountain High" will complement, not replace, "Where the Columbines Grow" as an official state song. The measure to recognize Denver, a resident of Colorado until his death on October 12, 1997, and his song was initiated by Senator Bob Hagedorn (D-Aurora). To commemorate the resolution, "Rocky Mountain High" will be performed on the House floor following the vote.)**

The following report was also very nice...

**Some may consider John Denver's brand of pop music hopelessly old-fashioned, but his adopted home state of Colorado never forgot Denver 's love letter called "Rocky Mountain High." State lawmakers passed a resolution yesterday that made "Rocky Mountain High" the state's second official song. The first song that received the honor is the significantly less known "Where the Columbines Grow." It was adopted as a state song back in 1915.**

Unfortunately, John Denver didn't live to see this honor. He died in a plane crash nearly 10 years ago. However, his brother Ron Deuschendorf was among those who expressed that John Denver would feel very, very honored. This is also the second such honor Denver has received. West Virginia has already adopted "Take Me Home, Country Roads" as its second state song. John Denver may be the only pop musician honored in this way by two states.

**In case you are too young to remember, John Denver collected 8 top 10 pop singles, 4 of them #1's, between 1971 and 1975. He is still one of the top 100 pop artists of all time.**

This is great news for Colorado and for JD fans, and we cannot wait until the time we can join in singing Rocky Mountain High as we drive through the Rockies in October this year.

### **JD October Event in NSW**

The Australian JD weekend will go ahead this year in NSW. Carmel and Alistair have kindly offered to organise the weekend again this year and they have started looking at a few venues in the Newcastle area. Newcastle is easily accessible from most places by air and the fares range from \$69 \$109 one way. Newcastle is serviced by both Virgin Blue and Jetstar airlines. The following is from Carmel.

**Alistair and I have taken it upon ourselves to try to work out something for our John Denver weekend for this year. As you know there are a few members planning their trips to Aspen for the 10th Anniversary so for this year we thought we might just have a relaxed, informal weekend, no auction, but we will go ahead with our tree planting on the Sunday morning.**

We had in mind a really nice caravan park in the Port Stephens area. It is called Shoal Bay Holiday Park, in a beautiful location right on the water. There are a few choices of cabin styles and the park has lots of features. For anyone wanting to fly in it is only 30minutes from Newcastle airport. There is a lot to see and do in the area including dolphin watching cruises, swimming, boating national parks etc. It is a holiday location, plenty to do.

If anyone has any suggestions or is interested in a different location please let me know, at this stage we need to know how many are planning to get together so that we can start to book accommodation. The weekend of 12-13-14th October is the last weekend of the N.S.W. school holidays.

The website is <http://www.beachsideholidays.com.au/shoalbay.phtml>

**If you could all get back to me ASAP it would be appreciated. Thanks and love from Carmel & Alistair [hifis@bigpond.net.au](mailto:hifis@bigpond.net.au)**

Thanks to those people who have already responded to Carmel's email last week. We have some positive numbers so far. As the weekend approaches, Carmel will make contact to let people know about any other details for the weekend.

To cover costs of the tree and plaque/stone, we will hopefully be holding a raffle. If anyone has any ideas for a raffle prize, or if they have something to donate to a raffle, please contact Carmel.

### **Aspen in October**

As you may be aware, Aspen is going to be a busy place this coming October. For people who have not already booked their accommodation, please start thinking about it. Linda has sent through the following information. Please note that although the Mountain Chalet is booked out for the JD event period, and the Limelite is being reconstructed, there are a number of other properties still available.

**Check out these two websites for their great information! These hotels belong to a consortium of 'smaller, reasonable' hotels that include the Mountain Chalet and the Limelite (currently being rebuilt and not available). These two sites list rental information about the hotels, condos, and bed and breakfast places, as well as many connecting links that will provide tons of information that anyone can use who plans to visit Aspen.**

The first URL is for the listing of lodgings: <http://www.stayaspensnowmass.com/plan.spe.c.gems.php>

The second URL is an interactive 'map' that shows the location of each hotel... and when you scroll across the star, the name of the hotel appears with its address. If you 'click' on the star, it will take you to that hotel's site:

<http://www.stayaspensnowmass.com/mapframe.php?mode=all&aspenorsnowmass=1>

Many of the hotels' online sites have 'appeared' to be 'full'... but in actuality, they have not been set-up to take reservations as of yet. So it's best to CALL [or email] that hotel and check on their rates and reservations. Hope to see many of you in Aspen this year! Linda W

Also, here is the link for all the activities in Aspen in October: <http://www.john-denver.org/default.asp?nc=196&id=6>

## **Colorado in October**

Many people who are visiting Colorado for the first time in October may be wondering what else is there to do in Colorado either before or after Aspen. Also if there are places to avoid or you would like to report on the best routes/roads to travel. If anyone out there has any suggestions of places to see and things to do, please send your suggestions to [jefrawley@optusnet.com.au](mailto:jefrawley@optusnet.com.au).

## **New Video Clip – Dutch Site**

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

<http://www.higherground.nl/tenbrug/JohnDenver/>

This month's clip is from one of the BBC shows from 1973.

For those people who check the Dutch site frequently, please note that the location has recently changed, so you might want to update your 'Favorites'.

## **Little Mulchatna 2007**

I understand that there is another trip to Little Mulchatna being offered again this year. There are photos on the Little Mulchatna website from last year's trip for those people who are interested. <http://www.littlemulchatna.com/>

This is from Pam

**You recall that last year, Jeff Schendel, the new owner of the Little Mulchatna Lodge, offered a special deal to John Denver fans for a dream trip to this special place that John loved so much. He has contacted me offering this opportunity again. This offer is coming at a later date than last year and the time for the trip is a couple of months earlier..... meaning that a decision to take advantage of this offer must come quickly. Here are the particulars regarding timing and costs.**

**The week offered is Monday, June 18 to Friday, June 22. This is a special week because it will put you there on the longest day of the year.... literally the day that the sun doesn't set.**

**Costs will up a little from last year. Again Jeff is offering the time at the lodge for only the cost of fuel for the generators. That will be \$125 per person this year. The cost of the airfare from Anchorage to LML will include the following. The charter from Anchorage to Port Alsworth will be \$400 per person with a 50 lb. limit for gear. (Last year the nine of us had a total of about 200 extra pounds as a cost of 80 cents per pound. This is paid on the spot before boarding the plane.) The trip from Port Alsworth to LML is by float plane. The float planes cost \$500 per plane. Last year the nine of us needed 3 which cost us about \$167 per**

**person. Jeff said we should allow about \$100 per person for food, but we (with Connie Young's great planning) managed to only spend about \$60 per person. The deal with Jeff is that those making the trip bring in the food and prepare, cook, and clean up. This requires that all folks are willing to work together sharing the responsibilities. We also included Jeff and his son in our meals.**

**Decisions about making this trip need to be made quickly. All folks will be responsible for their own transportation to Anchorage. You will need to be in Anchorage at least the night before the 18th. Spaces on planes to Anchorage fill up quickly this time of the year. For reference, I checked on availability from Dallas for those days and there is already little space available. Hotel space in Anchorage also fills up quickly during this time.**

**Anyone wanting to make this trip would have to be able to come up with the money for the airfares from Anchorage to LML and the fuel costs very soon so that Jeff can make charter reservations and plan for the fuel needs.**

**If you are SERIOUSLY interested in making this dream trip, let me know ASAP. E-mail me at [firendsky@mac.com](mailto:firendsky@mac.com). The number of folks who can make this trip would be at least 4 but no more than 9. Having first given this information to folks who wanted to go last year, I have two couples who have responded. So there is space left for a maximum of 5.... providing all are willing to share a room and at least two a bed. One cabin has two large beds and two bunk beds (one would have to be able to climb a ladder to get to the top bunk). The other cabin (John's) has two large beds.**

**Pam**

## **The John Denver Memorial/Pacific Grove**

This article includes further information about the proposed memorial to be established at Pacific Grove, California. Although the article states that the ceremony to unveil the memorial is proposed for the 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2007, the actual date is 23 September, 2007.

<http://www.carmelpinecone.com/070309-6.html>

Also another story on this site. (ctrl + click)

[John Denver's crash site could get memorial](#)

## **The Deutschendorf Immigrants**

The following article appeared in the Wichita Eagle recently. Thanks to Kathy for passing it along

### **Effort targets state's German Russians**

BY BECCY TANNER The Wichita Eagle

**Dave Deutschendorf remembers all too well the stories his father would tell the family about his life in Russia .**

**"From what I hear it was nothing to be going along the road and find a headless body," Deutschendorf said.**

**That's why Henry John Deutschendorf immigrated with a cousin from Russia in 1913. He was only 18 and homesteaded in Oklahoma.**

**He was part of a mass immigration of Volga Germans who left Russia at the turn of the 20th century.**

**Now, an international organization representing descendants of those people is seeking help from the public to locate those immigrants' relatives.**

**Jerry Siebert, president of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia , estimates there are more than 100,000 survivors of Europe's "other World War II holocaust" and their descendants are living in the United States .**

**Between 1874 and 1884, more than 15,000 Volga Germans came to the United States from Russia . Of those, more than 5,000 came to Kansas , establishing Catholic communities in Rush and Ellis counties and Mennonite communities in Harvey and Marion counties.**

#### **A different life**

**Among one of the most famous descendants of the Deutschendorf family was singer John Denver, whose real name was Henry John Deutschendorf Jr. and whose songs immortalized Kansas and a rural way of life.**

**Dave Deutschendorf -- John Denver's uncle -- lived in Newton for years until he retired a few years ago in Colorado Springs . He says the legacy his father brought to America is embedded in the family history.**

**"We are so extremely grateful he came to the United States and that we are not living in Russia ," Deutschendorf said.**

**Indeed, from 1929 to 1933, those German Russians who stayed in Russia went through horrible atrocities under the dictatorship of Josef Stalin, Siebert said.**

**Many were chased from their homes and had their belongings, property and stock confiscated. Many were shot dead or shipped off to work in concentration camps.**

**The labor camps continued until the 1970s.**

#### **Learning the history**

**Some of the descendants of those survivors are expected to gather in Hays from June 10 to 17 to learn more about their family history.**

**Deutschendorf plans to attend.**

**So does Siebert, now of Berkeley , Calif. He expects many of the participants to be aging baby boomers.**

**"I didn't get started in researching my family history until 10 years ago when I went to Russia ," Siebert said. "My family said, 'You should go to your father's village.' And I said 'What do you mean? We're German, not Russian.' And that's when I found out what my ancestry was about. A lot of the first generation didn't want to talk about it."**

**The original "German Russians" were attracted to Russia as early as the 17th century by Catherine the Great to farm and live peacefully. But at the turn of the 20th century, many were forced to leave in order to continue their religious beliefs, which were predominantly Mennonite and Catholic.**

**Those who left often went to Germany or continued on to America where they lived in settlements and contributed to an agrarian way of life. In Kansas , those Volga Germans contributed to the wheat industry. In Colorado , it was the sugar beet industry, and in California , the fruit industry.**

**The early Volga German settlers left their mark on Kansas in many ways, some by chiseling limestone from the prairie and using the 700- to 800-pound posts to build barbed-wire fences to mark off fields and homesteads; others by growing vast fields of wheat.**

**In Kansas , there are seven chapters of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia ; the Golden Wheat Chapter is in Wichita .**

**The individual chapters can help with research and the national organization has village coordinators and a Web site where people can find out what villages their ancestors lived in.**

**"We are one of the best-kept secrets in the United States ," says Dennis Zitterkopf of the Golden Wheat Chapter. "Our target market is anyone with an interest in their ancestry, people who think they are German."**

## National Australia Remembers Freedom Wall

As we are approaching ANZAC day on the 25<sup>th</sup> April, it is a good time to honour those people who fought in the wars. The Australian Remembers Freedom Wall in Canberra includes plaques honouring many of our servicemen and women. Max Moore recently went to see the plaques placed there for him.



We still hope for peace in the near future.

## 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.

## From Ursula Noble

I received a lovely email from Ursula and family, who are currently living in Tasmania.

### **Hi from the Noble's in Tassie**

**I hope everyone is well. We are doing much better after our stressful year in 2006.**

**Just before Christmas Dave applied for and got a temporary job in Hobart. We have just made a big move to Tasmania for about 12 months so we probably won't fly back to NSW this year. I feel like I'm on holidays everyday here, it's stunning. Very peaceful.**

**We're living in Franklin, 40 minutes from Hobart, right on the Huon River (see picture attached - view from our front verandah.)**

**I wish all the JD Family a wonderful time in Aspen.**

Apparently, I will see a few mountain peaks topped with snow here this year on the Hartz Mountains. (Near the Tahune Air Walk)

<http://www.discovertasmania.com.au/home/index.cfm?siteid=297&display=product&productid=10875> Amanda and Scott go to school at Geeveston which is about 20k from the mountains I think. We've been warned by locals to prepare for the cold!

Actually for the past 2 weeks I have been wearing a jacket which only got a bit of a workout in Mittagong in the middle of winter. Its about 10°C in the house at moment and will reach about 17°C tops today. I prefer this to the heat anyday! But ask me again when the pipes freeze in winter.

Anyway, love to all. Have a great year and we'll see where the universe places us in 2008.

If anyone is travelling to Hobart we'd love to see you. We are renting a huge house until 12 August. After that not sure. We're learning to live by the seat of our pants!

Happy Easter to All.

Love & Peace from

Ursula, Dave & Family



## 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>

### **Earth Hour**

Earth Hour occurred on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2007. It was an initiative to cut greenhouse gas emissions during a one hour period.

Sydney embraced the concept, with the Harbour Bridge and the Opera House as well as many skyscrapers turned off the lights for one hour.

We could all participate in 'Earth Hour' on a regular basis by switching off all appliances at the wall (probably with the exception of the fridge and freezer) for a period of one hour. It would be interesting to see how much money the individual could save in a billing cycle if they switched off for one hour on a weekly basis.

Doing this once a week could also encourage families to take a walk to a park and enjoy each others company whilst doing something positive for the environment.

For more information about this, click this link:

<http://earthhour.smh.com.au/>

### **Byte Back**

Byte Back is a free service for people in Victoria, Australia who want to get rid of old computer equipment and peripherals safely. This service, run by the Boroondara Council, includes the disassembly of the various parts that will be sent on to other recycling and disposal plants. These machine parts do not end up in landfill, but are recycled responsibly. The website includes lists of what can and cannot be accepted at this recycling station. Perhaps those who do not live in Victoria could use the website to lobby their councils for a similar service. Any way that we can encourage people to dispose of these items responsibly is worth the effort. For more information about this service (open 7 days a week) click the following link.

<http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/www/html/2045-byteback.asp>

### **Detox Your Home**

There are many old and unwanted household products lying around most houses, especially in garages and sheds. If you wish to dispose of these responsibly, councils around Melbourne run free Detox Your Home Collections on a regular basis. The following link gives you the timetable for the collections for 2007

<http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/www/html/2057-detox-your-home-timetable.asp>

The following link gives you the information you need to dispose of specific chemicals around Victoria.

<http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au/www/html/1462-alternative-options-for-disposal.asp>

People in other states should check the internet to see where they can dispose of any unwanted materials around your home.

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.

## Rocky Mountain High

This month's lyrics have been included to honour the acceptance of Rocky Mountain High as the second state song of Colorado

He was born in the summer of his twenty seventh year  
coming home to a place he'd never been before.  
He left yesterday behind him, you might say he was born again  
might say he found a key for ev'ry door.

When he first came to the mountains his life was far away  
on the road and hangin' by a song.  
But the strings already broken and he doesn't really care  
it keeps changin' fast and it don't last for long.

But the Colorado Rocky Mountain high, I've seen it rainin' fire in the sky  
the shadow from the starlight is softer than a lullabye

Rocky Mountain high, Colorado. Rocky Mountain high, Colorado

He climbed Cathedral Mountains he saw silver clouds below  
he saw ev'rything as far as you can see.  
And they say that he got crazy once and he tried to touch the sun  
and he lost a friend but he kept his memory.

Now he walks in quiet solitude the forest and the streams  
seeking grace in ev'ry step he takes.  
His sight has turned in side himself to try and understand  
the serenity of a clear blue mountain lake.

And the Colorado Rocky Mountain high, I've seen it rainin' fire in the sky  
talk to God and listen to the casual reply,

Rocky Mountain high, Colorado. Rocky Mountain high, Colorado

Now his life is full of wonder but his heart still knows some fear  
of a simple thing he cannot comprehend.  
Why they try to tear the mountains down to bring in a couple more  
more people more scars upon the land.

And the Colorado Mountain high, I've seen it rainin' fire in the sky  
I know he'd be a poorer man if he never saw an eagle fly.

Rocky Mountain high,

It's a Colorado Mountain high, I've seen it rainin' fire in the sky  
friends around the campfire and ev'rybody's high

Rocky Mountain high, Colorado, Rocky Mountain high, Colorado  
Rocky Mountain high, Colorado, Rocky Mountain high, Colorado