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Higher Ground Australia



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Volume 4 – Edition 4

## HIGHER GROUND NEWSLETTER – April 2007

### Welcome

Welcome to our newsletter for April. It has been busy so far this year with plenty happening for everyone.

For the Australians travelling to America this year, NOW is the time to change your Aussie dollars to USD. The current (wholesale) rate is 83.3c. With some luck the exchange rate will be favourable for some time to come.

Our thoughts go out to all those people in America who are still experiencing snow and heavy rainfall. I know you think it is a nuisance, but with each shower of rain you receive, think of us in Australia, who are waiting for a good soaking. Despite the announcement that El Nino has passed and that La Nina is on her way, we are still waiting for the promised rain. Meanwhile, have fun as you read this month's news from Higher Ground Australia.

### Happy Birthday

All of us at Higher Ground Australia wish Alistair a very happy birthday for 17<sup>th</sup> April. We hope that your day brought you plenty of Sunshine on your Shoulders.....



### Congratulations

Congratulations to Chris (Lynn Magann's son) and his new fiancée, Kylie.

We pass on all our love and very best wishes to you both for a very happy marriage.



### Anzac Day – 25<sup>th</sup> April

Anzac Day is Australia's most important national occasion. It marks the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australia and New Zealand forces during the first world war. The 25 April commemorates the day in which the troops first landed in Gallipoli, Turkey.



Commemorative services are held at dawn, the time of the original landing. Later in the day, returned servicemen and their families take part in marches, which occur in most cities and towns across Australia.

***They shall grow not old, as we that are left  
grow old;  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years  
condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the  
morning  
We will remember them.***

### Very Unpleasant News

It is with much sadness and a certain amount of anger that I must report to you that the plaque that we placed in front of a tree we planted to celebrate the life of Steve Irwin has been taken from the site in Boonah.

We are currently trying to find out more details, but this is a difficult task as it was planted on council property and can be accessed by everyone. Last year, three pieces of sandstone were donated to us because the people who usually sell it to us liked Steve Irwin. The other two plaques for John and for Meryl were untouched.



Thanks to Vickie and family for alerting us to the disappearance of the plaque. Hopefully it we will be able to recover it soon. Please let me know if you happen to see it on Ebay or other auction sites – with or without the stone.

[jefrawley@optusnet.com.au](mailto:jefrawley@optusnet.com.au) or  
[lmagann@optusnet.com.au](mailto:lmagann@optusnet.com.au)

## **JD Weekend Event in NSW**

If anyone is interested in the John Denver event in NSW this year, please let Alistair and Carmel know on [hifis@bigpond.net.au](mailto:hifis@bigpond.net.au).

The weekend will be from Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October until Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October. Once we have some confirmed numbers, we can let you know about the approximate costs for the weekend.

Alistair, Carmel and Max went out for a day trip to Shoal Bay last week and they said that the area was magnificent and a great place for a JD weekend.

For those people who have always wanted to join us, but have not quite taken that first step, this is a great opportunity to meet new people, who are set to become life-long friends.

In 2001, when we had our very first gathering in the Grampians, Victoria, we did not quite know what to expect, but many of us have become great friends. Carmel, Alistair and Melanie, who were all at our first gathering will be there in NSW this year.

## **Congratulations**

Congratulations to JDMAS Australia on their 32<sup>nd</sup> anniversary as the official club for John Denver in Australia.

## **JD on 3AW**

Each Friday and Saturday night there is a show called Blast from the Past, which is a programme hosted by Billy Pinnell and Alan Pearsall. For each show, they select a 'theme' and listeners call in and request a song from the past that fits the theme of the night.

Two weeks ago was a 'Boats and Ships' theme. A woman called in and requested that they play Calypso by John Denver. Billy then said – I want to tell you about John Denver. I could not stand him, I did not like 'Annie's Song' and I hated 'Take Me Home Country Roads'.

"Then I was taken kicking and screaming to one of his concerts in Melbourne. When I came out of the concert, my opinion of John Denver had completely changed. He was a true entertainer in all respects and his concert was brilliant".

He then went on to talk about the story behind Calypso and then played it. After the song was played, Billy then went on to say that Calypso was one of his favourites.

You can listen to the shows through the internet at this site. You do need a login if you want to send email to any of the hosts.

[http://www.mytalk.com.au/NewDesign/Pages/S\\_Talk\\_3AW.aspx](http://www.mytalk.com.au/NewDesign/Pages/S_Talk_3AW.aspx)

## **John Denver's Car on display**

I have some tentative dates for when John Denver's Car will be on show here in Australia.

June 9 – 11: Coolangatta QLD Wintersun Festival. This is the 20<sup>th</sup> year of this event.

June 23: Dreamworld, QLD. The massive country music event will be held there.

[www.stampedefestival.com.au](http://www.stampedefestival.com.au) There will be space set aside for the display of the car.

For more information please use this link:

[www.johndenverscar.tk](http://www.johndenverscar.tk) or email [johndenverscar@gmail.com](mailto:johndenverscar@gmail.com)

## **Tree Planting in San Diego - Update**

I have received some good news from Eric and Ewa in regard to their efforts to have a tree planted for John Denver at Biloba Park, San Diego. Things are progressing well for this project and they have a tree – a Monterey Pine and the blessings of the park manager. The usual tree-planting fee of \$500.00 has been waived and all that is now required is a park use permit to plant the tree. A park use permit is a major expense and can be made lower by getting the support of a not-for-profit organisation to sponsor this project. There need not be any monetary outlay for this project as there have been some donations pledged to get this event under way. If anyone out there has a not-for-profit organisation or the relevant not-for-profit status, please let me know and I will put you in touch with Eric.

[jeffrawley@optusnet.com.au](mailto:jeffrawley@optusnet.com.au)

## **Aspen in October**

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

For further information about any of these events, please contact the person in charge for that event directly.

## **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 the Irish concert, where he sings Annie's Song and The Banks of My Own Lovely Lee. He sings a verse of Annie's Song in Gaelic but check out the redhead – We Love You JARN! He is helped along by Brendan Grace for the second song.

## **Rocky Mountain High - John Denver Tribute Show**

Imax Lil Opry Theater - Branson, MO

Branson, Missouri has a new John Denver show. It's at the IMAX Entertainment Complex on Shepherd of the Hills Expressway. It stars James Garrett, the former guitarist and vocalist for the two-time Grammy award-winning group "The Kendalls." They are best known for their mega hit "Heaven's Just A Sin Away."

This review of the show was found on the internet..."There is a new show at the Imax Lil Opry Theater. It is Rocky Mountain High - John Denver Tribute Show. The Mrs & I went to this Friday night at 8:00pm. This is the best new show I have attended in awhile. James Garrett is the feature singer/guitarist. He does the John Denver tribute part. He does not 'imitate' John, but does a fantastic job with John's songs. James was with the Kendalls until 3 years ago. He is joined by Randy Plummer on the bass. Rick joins in on fiddle and other instruments. If you are a John Denver fan, do not miss this show. They also add a few gospel songs for the thumpers. Being in this theater gives just the right intimate setting. The 3 guys really have a fun time bringing you the show. It is a must see."

## **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.

## **What's On?**

### **Celebrating the Music of John Denver**

**May 2, 2007** - Pacific Grove, CA - Ellen Stapenhorst - House concert 7:30pm \$12 \*  
<http://www.ellenstapenhorst.com>  
Judy Therrien (831) 373-7780 or  
[jht@spamarrest.com](mailto:jht@spamarrest.com)

**May 4-5, 2007 \* UK** \* Pete Huttlinger, Mack Bailey & Chris Nole in a 2-night special John Denver Tribute / Tickets: Check or cash to Jackie Freeman, Feet First, 53 High St., Stokesley, North Yorks, TS9 5AD include SAE. Venue is Kirkby Church Hall, Kirkby in Cleveland, North Yorkshire (Near Stokesley) Info: 01642 713575 or 714061

### **Saturday May 12**

Tickets are still available for the **Friends With You** concert in Atlanta, featuring Chris Collins, Mark Cormican, Paul Swanton and Kevin Delmolino.

This is a fundraising concert for Spirit of a Child Foundation to send kids to Windstar's EARTHCamp.

**When:** Saturday, May 12, 7:30pm

**Where:** UU Metro Atlanta North Church, Roswell, GA (northern suburban Atlanta)

**Cost:** \$20.00

Tickets and questions: email [friendswithyou44@aol.com](mailto:friendswithyou44@aol.com) or call Hollie at 678-576-029.

More information: [www.spiritofachild.org](http://www.spiritofachild.org)  
[www.friendswithyouband.com](http://www.friendswithyouband.com) [www.myspace.com/friendswithyouband](http://www.myspace.com/friendswithyouband)

**May 25, 2007** - Londonderry, NH - "Friends With You: A John Denver Tribute" 8:00pm Chris Collins, Mark Cormican, Kevin Delmolino and Paul Swanton will perform many of Denver's tunes as well as their own compositions. \$15  
Tupelo Music Hall

<http://www.tupelohall.com> 888-688-7356  
Info: Richard [info@nhfjd.org](mailto:info@nhfjd.org)

### **August 11, 2007**

Spirit Connection's 4th annual John Denver tribute at Raystown Lake featuring Chris Westfall, the Friends With You Band, and others, will be held Sat. August 11 from 6-10 p.m. at the Seven Points Amphitheatre.

For more information, visit

<http://geocities.com/spiritwscconnections/> or  
[http://raystown.nab.usace.army.mil/WhatsHappening/calendar\\_of\\_events.htm](http://raystown.nab.usace.army.mil/WhatsHappening/calendar_of_events.htm) and scroll down to August 12

email [spiritwscconnections@yahoo.com](mailto:spiritwscconnections@yahoo.com) or call the Seven Points Visitor's Bureau at 1-888-RAYSTOWN.

**August 18, 2007** \* Estes Park, CO \* Fourth Annual Estes Park John Denver Tribute Concert / Estes Park Fair Grounds /Fiddlin' Foresters 5:30pm / Brad and Kathy Fitch and the TropiCowboy Band 7:00pm \$15 in advance \$20 at the door Children 10 and under free  
<http://www.cowboybrad.com>

**August 18, 2007** - Peterborough, NH \* Annual New Hampshire Friends of John Denver barbecue / Cleanup at 1:00pm followed by barbecue at McDowell Lake Richard [info@nhfjd.org](mailto:info@nhfjd.org)  
<http://www.nhfjd.org>

**August 31, 2007** - Vancouver, WA \* Jim Curry's "Alaska and Me Cruise - 2007" \* Join Jim and his guests (original JD band members and tour managers) on Holland America Line's Volendam sailing August 31, 2007 from Vancouver north to Anchorage, Alaska. [debbie@odonnelltravel.com](mailto:debbie@odonnelltravel.com) (800) 274-2453 / <http://www.odonnelltravel.com>  
<http://www.john-denver.org/default.asp?nc=35868&id=507>

**September 1, 2007** \* Fort Collins, CO / Brad and Kathy Fitch and the TropiCowboy Band 7:00pm

Fort Collins Senior Center, 1200 Raintree Drive  
near the intersection of Drake and Shields. \$15  
(970) 221-6645 <http://www.cowboybrad.com>

**September 22, 2007** - Carmel, CO \* Chris Collins  
and Mark Cormican will present a concert  
honoring John Denver through his music / UU  
Church of the Monterey Peninsula, 490 Aquajito  
Road 7:30pm \$15 Send SASE to Tickets, JD  
Weekend Concert, Judy Therrien, 12 Dunecrest  
Avenue, Monterey, CA 93940

**September 22, 2007** - UK - Concert by Neil & Gill  
Sharman plus Special Guest "10 Years On -  
Remembering John Denver" at the Wheatsheaf  
Co-Operative Theatre, Wyken, Coventry  
<http://www.timnberwolf-studios.com>

## FROM THE SONGS HE SINGS

by Emily M. Parris

**In the middle of the night**

**When I'm pondering things**

**Words come to me**

**From the songs he sings**

**For there never was a man**

**Who brought so much**

**To all the people**

**He came to touch**

**So much love and wisdom**

**From his beautiful spirit**

**So much pure love**

**To all who would hear it**

**And often I find**

**Inspiration is there**

**In words from the man**

**With the soft blonde hair**

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 Box

This month, I have included the words of 'The Box' to commemorate all of our returned servicemen and women in the past, present and future, who have done a great job in defending our country – Lest we Forget

Once upon a time in the land of Hush-a-bye,  
around about the wondrous days of Yore,  
I came across a sort of box,  
bound up with chains  
and locked with locks  
and labelled,  
'Kindly do not touch,  
it's War'.

The creed was issued round about,  
all with a flourish and a shout  
and a gayly coloured mascot  
tripping lightly on before.  
'Don't fiddle with this deadly box  
or break the chains or  
pick the locks  
and please,  
don't ever play about with war'.

Well, the children understood,  
children happen to be good.  
and they were just as good  
around the time of Yore.  
They didn't try to pick the locks or  
break into that deadly box.  
They never tried to play about with war.

Mommies didn't either,  
sisters, aunts,  
grannies neither  
Cause they were quiet,  
and sweet and pretty  
in those wondrous days of Yore.  
Well, very much the same as now,  
not the ones to blame somehow  
for opening up that deadly box of War.

But someone did!  
Someone battered in the lid  
and spilled the insides out across the floor.  
A sort of bouncy, bumpy ball  
made up of guns and flags and all  
the tears and horror and the death

that goes with war.

It bounced right out  
and went bashing all about  
and bumping into  
everything in store  
and what was sad and most unfair  
is that it didn't  
really seem to care much  
who it bumped  
or why or what or for.

It bumped the children mainly  
and I'll tell you this quite plainly  
it bumped some everyday  
and more and more  
and leaves them dead and burned and dying,  
thousands of them sick and crying  
cause when it bumps  
it's really very sore.

Now there's a way to stop the ball  
it isn't difficult at all.  
All it takes is wisdom  
I'm absolutely sure  
that we could get it back  
into the box  
and bind the chains  
and lock the locks  
but no one seems  
to want to save the children anymore.

Well that's the way it all appears,  
cause it's been bouncing round  
for years and years  
in spite of all the wisdom  
wizzed since those  
wondrous days of Yore  
and the time they came across the box  
bound up with chains  
and locked with locks  
and labelled  
'Kindly do not touch,  
it's War'.