

Contact Details:

Janette Frawley

PO Box 8155

Camberwell North VIC 3124

Australia

jfrawley@highergroundaustralia.com

Higher Ground Australia



www.highergroundaustralia.com/

Volume 4 – Edition 5

HIGHER GROUND NEWSLETTER – May 2007

Welcome

Welcome to our newsletter for May. I do not know where the time is going, but we are almost at the end of May and the year is almost half over!! It has been a busy month for us all.

I hope that all the mums out there had a wonderful day last Sunday for Mothers Day. Here, in Melbourne, we had a fantastic day, blue skies and warm temperatures. I cannot believe that we were wearing T-shirts as Mother Nature put on her best day yet.

Happy Birthday

To Jesse-Belle Denver, all of us at HGA wish you a very happy 18th birthday. We hope you had a nice day and we all wish you much luck and good health in the future.



Happy birthday also to Zac, who celebrates his birthday this coming week. We hope that you have a nice day.

'Shanghai Breezes'

3AW, Alan Pearsall played 'Shanghai Breezes' early this morning. The comment he made about the song was that apart from it being one his favourite John Denver songs, it was very 'radio friendly' and it was a shame it was not played often on the radio.

It was nice to hear one of John's songs being played, but even better to hear a song that is not played on air too often.

JD Weekend 2007– Shoal Bay NSW

We are currently trying to get some firm numbers for the JD weekend that will be held in NSW, near Newcastle from Friday 12th – Sunday 14th October. If you are interested in attending this weekend please contact Melanie on mel_belle_99@yahoo.com. We need to have at least 12 people to make the weekend viable and we know approximately who is coming by the end of May so that we can go ahead and get firm pricing on accommodation. We know that some people have contacted Alistair and Carmel. This

is a great opportunity for NSW people to come along and meet some of our members.

As soon as we have those firm numbers, we will be able to come back with some prices and continue the organisation of the weekend from there. As you can appreciate, these weekends do not 'simply happen'. There is a lot of preparation work involved and we are so very lucky to have a group of people who donate a lot of time to make our weekends very special times. A smaller group is a great opportunity for our shy friends to come forth.

I can honestly say that each year our gatherings have been wonderful experiences for all people involved.

Steve Irwin Plaque

Sadly, the plaque we placed in front of a tree to commemorate the life of Steve Irwin has not been recovered. If anyone sees it advertised on Ebay or other auction sites, please let us know. We would to recover this plaque and return it to its rightful place. Contact us on jefrawley@optusnet.com.au or lmagann@optusnet.com.au

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 20th year of this event. **Look out for other HGA members at the Wintersun Festival this year.**

June 23: Dreamworld, QLD. The massive country music event will be held there. 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 or email johndenverscar@gmail.com

Which Bank? Purchases Music Catalogues

The Commonwealth Bank of Australia's subsidiary Colonial First State has bought a swag of music copyrights from writers ranging from country crooner [I did not write this] John Denver, singer songwriter Ricky Lee Jones to punk rockers the Sex Pistols and The Ramones.

The 25,000 song catalogue acquired from US private equity outfit Dimensional Associates will form the cornerstone of the bank's new media investment fund.

The catalogue includes dimensional Music, which takes in most of the former Dreamworks Publishing titles. It also includes the prestigious Cherry Lane Publishing roster, home to songwriters including Wolfmother, Rufus Wainwright and the Black Eyed Peas... and so on.

The full article was published in Melbourne's Herald Sun on Tuesday, may 15, 2007.

Looking for Space

This wonderful tribute was recently posted on YouTube. **This is a tissue alert!**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Yq9X1CyPfc>

I won't say any more, except that the imagery is wonderful and very cleverly done.

There are some excellent JD videos on YouTube – if you have the time to watch them all! If you do not have the time to watch them all, please try to find Rockytop, where John sings the Dolly Parton hit with Johnny Cash, Roger Miller, and Glen Campbell!

Grandma's Feather Bed

Dawn Publications has announced that the fourth book in the John Denver & Kids picture book series illustrated by Christopher Canyon has been completed and will become available in September, 2007.

http://www.dawnpub.com/shopping_cart/INDEX.CFM?ProductID=130&do=detail



It can be pre-ordered through Amazon for USD\$15.56 for the hardcover and USD\$8.95 for the paperback.

Christopher Canyon has attended the JD events in Aspen over the past few years. If anyone knows whether he will be in Aspen this year to sign his new book, could you please let me know?

jeffrawley@optusnet.com.au

Author's visit to Edgerton teaches many ways to tell a story

(Published Saturday, April 21, 2007 12:54:52 AM CST)

By Stacy Vogel/Gazette Staff

EDGERTON

Fourth-graders generally aren't a big audience for John Denver music.

But a library full of them-many of them not even born when the folk singer died-sang "Take Me Home, Country Roads" at Edgerton Community Elementary School on Friday morning.

Leading the bunch was children's book illustrator Christopher Canyon. He visited the school Thursday and Friday to talk about his work and the many ways kids and adults can tell stories and express themselves.

Canyon connected with the students on many levels. He spends his time writing stories, drawing pictures and singing songs-typical elementary school pastimes. He bounded in front of his audience, talking a mile a minute in his effort to convey his love of storytelling in any form.

"It's really cool, all the ways we have to share our ideas," he said.

Canyon mainly shares ideas through visual art, but he also incorporates music. For the past five years, he has created books by illustrating lyrics from John Denver songs. He used sketches, photographs and drawings to explain his creative process to the Edgerton students.

The artist travels from his Ohio home to give presentations to schools around the country. He encourages students to appreciate art in all its forms and tries to inspire them to continue their art as they grow up, he said.

"It's just wonderful to kind of initiate the creativity that children innately have," he said.

He also wants to bring Denver's work to a new generation, he said. He told the students that "Take Me Home, Country Roads" was one of the first songs he learned to play on the guitar and his family's favorite song to sing at reunions.

He had his guitar Friday, and the session ended with a rousing rendition of the song.



The students were well prepared for the visit. They had read and talked about Canyon's books in their classrooms and during library time since February, said librarian Patty Wargula, who organized the visit.

Students at Yahara Elementary, where Canyon also stopped, drew pictures imitating the artist's style. Some even learned sign language for "Sunshine On My Shoulders," another Denver song Canyon has illustrated.

The district has brought an author to visit every year for the past decade, funded by parent organizations at both elementary schools, Wargula said. She hopes the visits inspire budding writers.

"You never know when you might have a Hemingway (in your class)," she said.

Canyon had a simpler goal for the students, expressed in the advice he offered as they filed out of the library:

"Keep using your imagination and keep telling your stories," he said.

John Denver Discography

This is from our Italian friend, Luigi.

The John Denver Complete Discography Project has been going under some major upgrades.

Many very rare covers albums are available, there are 18 sections containing flash videos.

I have uploaded the video into YouTube and embed the files onto webpages, so now watching the videos will be easier and even faster.

I would like to remind you all that this is a free project and lives thanks to John Denver's fans submissions from all over the world, so just in case, browsing the videos, you will find out that some cover is missing, if you fell like owning a rare cover and would like to share, please feel free to contact the crew. We can add your JD cover into the New Entries section. Well, play your John Denver favourite CD and take a look at: The John Denver Complete Discography Project http://www.denveredintorni.com/john_denver/

Woody Creek Article

Here is an article about the Woody Creek Tavern, a favourite place for John and one many of us have visited while in Aspen.

Fear not, Hunter's buddies By Al Lewis

Denver Post Staff Columnist

Article Last Updated: 04/29/2007 03:05:26 PM MDT

Hunter S. Thompson's watering hole, Woody Creek Tavern, is about to change hands. The

legendary log-sided lounge, which opened in 1980, is filled with kitsch and memorabilia.

Recent fear and loathing at the Woody Creek Tavern seem largely unnecessary.

The storied watering hole of the late gonzo journalist Hunter S. Thompson is changing hands, but its buyer says nothing else will change.

"The plan is to run it just exactly the way it is," said Kevin Willson, who has owned the Wienerstube Restaurant in Aspen for decades and now has a contract to buy the tavern for an undisclosed price.

"We have not changed the Wienerstube, and that's our guarantee that we are not going to change Woody Creek."

Locals are sceptical. Woody Creek Tavern waitress Dianne Redfern told me a group of employees and regular customers approached actor Johnny Depp and asked him to buy it. "Why wouldn't he want to buy it?" Redfern said. "He knew how important it was to Hunter."

Depp, who portrayed Thompson in the 1998 film "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas," paid \$2.5 million for Thompson's extravagant send-off in 2005.

The ceremony included a 15-story tower resembling Thompson's trademark fist, from which his ashes were launched and exploded into the night sky.

Mary Harris, who has run Woody Creek Tavern with her husband, Shep, since it opened in 1980, declined comment on the pending sale.

"Nothing is firmed up yet," she said.

But Willson said he expects to close in mid-May, and he's not offended about rumors that Depp may intervene.

"That's what makes Woody Creek Tavern what it is. These stories. People just make them up," Willson said.

Woody Creek Tavern is a log-sided hovel surrounded on three sides by a ramshackle trailer park.

When I stepped inside last week, I felt nearly assaulted by its clutter of kitsch and memorabilia. Snapshots, postcards, Western art, license plates, a longhorn steer skull, a buffalo head, and a mounted marlin plaster the wood-panelled walls.

Twinkling strings of patio lights and a disco ball hang from its old metal-clad ceiling. The carpet bears the rich pattern of - what else? - leopard skin.

Woody Creek's celebrity clientele has been just as eclectic as its décor.



Besides Thompson, the late "60 Minutes" reporter Ed Bradley, the late folk singer John Denver, television star Don Johnson, singer John Oates and songwriter Jimmy Ibbotson of the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band are memorialized on the walls.

Former Enron chief Ken Lay ate one of his last meals at Woody Creek. The tavern even sponsored a legal defense fund for him just before his trial last year. It was a jar on top of the bar.

Besides small change, patrons donated whatever else was in their pockets: condoms, toothpicks, rubber bands, screws, dog biscuits, a pacifier, a firearm cartridge, a toy figurine with broken legs.

Others wrote IOUs.

"He came in and got it" shortly before he died of a heart attack last summer, Redfern said. "He was polite about it."

The fare at Woody Creek - soups, salads, burgers, vegetarian tacos, steaks, fish - is as good as tavern food gets. Often, there are hundreds of people lined up to eat. Many ride up the Rio Grande trail from nearby Aspen on rented bicycles.

Between locals, celebrities and tourists, there have been hidden tensions.

"Hunter and I used to have raging arguments about who was to blame for the 'destruction' of the tavern," said Gaylord Guenin, an Aspen author who once managed the tavern and has hung out there since the day it opened. "In other words, who invited all the tourists in?"

Guenin once sold hats and T-shirts to promote the place, and the iconic Thompson naturally attracted fans.

One day, Thompson - who often drank in the tavern toting firearms - decided to run some tourists out by lighting a smoke bomb in the bathroom. He then shot photos as people streamed out the front door. "I'm not certain he did it for fun," Guenin said. "He might have been making a point ... about all these rent-a-bike people."

Thompson was subsequently banned until he posted a note on the tavern wall promising to never again light another smoke bomb in the bathroom.

Alan McNeilly, who has lived next door for the past 18 years, is among those concerned about a change of ownership.

"This is where I entertain," he said, sipping a beer in a swivelling wooden captain's chair beside the bar.

McNeilly is also memorialized on the tavern's wall. It's an article and photo from The Aspen Times

from last April when McNeilly drove his SUV into the Main Street Bakery and Café on a Tuesday morning. Nobody was hurt.

McNeilly said he blacked out for a moment while in the midst of a coughing fit. His friends still rib him about it.

"Why don't you take that down?" I asked McNeilly.

"I live here. I'm not afraid of it. Mary (the owner) put it up there. She even asked me to sign it."

Like other regulars, McNeilly says he is sceptical about any new owner.

"Everybody who buys a restaurant is going to change something," he said. "Nobody leaves everything alone."

He swilled his beer as an epiphany hit:

"Hey, maybe they'll lower the prices. That would be a wonderful change."

Al Lewis' column appears Sundays, Tuesdays and Fridays. Respond to Lewis at denverpostbloghouse.com/lewis, 303-954-1967 or alewis@denverpost.com.



JD Music in Catalogues

This is from Jean Kendle, who keeps us up to date with the latest music catalogues and whether John's music is being adequately covered.

Just thought I'd let you know, from the catalogs I get in the mail, John's music is still there. Somebody at the Reader's Digest organization must like him, because in their new Spring Catalog they have:

"John Denver: The Collection," which is 2 hours of music, 3 CD's, at \$40, and I won't list the songs, but there are a number of "different" ones than the collection they put out in 1998, called "Best and Greatest Performances".

Then they also have "From Sea To Shining Sea", a musical tour across the country, a 75 song salute to the U.S. They only list a few songs in the booklet, but John is on the cover along with 7 other artists, and I would bet his song would be



R.M.H.! (I don't know why he never recorded "America The Dream Goes On".)

They also list "Time In A Bottle" from a while ago,(which is "Bring Back the '70's), and I know some of John's songs were in that collection too. They also advertised "Sweet Memories of the '60's" with his song "Jet Plane" in it.

The "Rediscover Music" catalog still has a half page of John's things. "Collector's Choice "catalog has in their "Top 40": "The Essential John Denver" 2 CD set of 36 songs for \$19.95, and this was what our PBS (Public Broadcasting TV System), offered the last time they showed the JD Remembered DVD show. They also list 3 "Chad Mitchell Trio" CD's: "Singing Our Mind/Reflecting", "The Slightly Irreverent Mitchell Trio/ Typical American Boys", and "That's The Way It's Gonna Be/Violets Of Dawn".

I'm just happy to see that his music must bring good sales for them, which means many people are still interested in it.

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 John's performance at the German show, Wetten Dass. This is a great clip.

Peace Cloth Event

From Inner Peace to Outer Space

So much more than just a concert. This year we will be featuring some of the finest performers in Aspen. The intention of our event this year will be to focus on how we can create a peaceful environment by starting with ourselves and working outward. Our performers will be using the music of John Denver to emphasize the difference that each one of us can make.

We will be entertained and enlightened by some great performers who are carrying on Johns music and message in their own ways. Jeff Pine has performed on many national stages and will be sharing what he has learned, through his participation with successful environmental groups, about how a healthy natural environment effects peace. Ellen Stapenhorst will share her music and some of what she has learned from Tom Crum through her close participation as an instructor for Akai Works. Denny Brooks, former John Denver band member will present some of his music and few stories. Two time Kerrville New Folk finalist, Derek Arambaru will join us to share his passion for Johns's music and message. Mark Cormican will also be joining us to sing a few songs and talk about Plant It 2020. Chris Westfall will close out the show with some

poignant songs by John Denver. Chris Collins, award winning radio show host on KPFT Houston and producer of the Windstar radio PSA's, will emcee the show and perform some special John Denver songs.

Please join us for an afternoon that promises to entertain and reconnect you to the power of John Denver's music.

Where: Mountain Chalet Ballroom, Aspen, CO

When: Friday, October 12, 2007

Time: 12:30 PM

Price: \$20

For tickets and more information, email

Eve@Johndenverpeacecloth.com.

Additionally, please email Eve if you have auction items to donate or would like to volunteer.

Wheeler Concert Tickets on Sale June 1st

Hello fans of John Denver,

The 10th Annual Musical Tribute to John Denver will take place at The Wheeler Opera House in Aspen Colorado this year on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday October 11th, 12th and 13th.

Tickets go on sale Friday June 1st @ 10:00am Mountain time. You can purchase you tickets on line @ <http://www.wheeleroperahouse.com/> or call the Wheeler @ 970.920.5770.

For additional information go to <http://www.challengeaspen.com/special-events.cfm>

Please forward this to everyone you think would be interested.

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>

Inscribed Bricks

Higher Ground Australia would like to donate an inscribed brick to be placed on the walkway around 'Spirit', located at the Windstar Land Conservancy. The bricks can be ordered by donating a minimum of USD\$100, which is about AUD\$122.00. Please contact me if you would like to make a small contribution to this project. We would also like you to help us with the inscription. We are able to include three lines, with 18 characters per line for the brick. All orders received by August 1st will arrive in time to be placed in the walkway prior to October 12, 2007. Anyone wishing to contribute money and ideas for the inscription, please first email me jefrawley@optusnet.com.au. All contributions, no matter how small, will help.



Shanghai Breezes

It's funny how you sound as if you're right next door
when you're really half a world away
I just can't seem to find the words I'm looking for
to say the things that I want to say
I can't remember when I felt so close to you
it's almost more than I can bear
And though I seem a half a million miles from you
you are in my heart and living there

And the moon and the stars are the same ones you see
it's the same old sun up in the sky
And your voice in my ear is like heaven to me
like the breezes here in old Shanghai

There are lovers who walk hand in hand in the park
and lovers who walk all alone
There are lovers who lie unafraid in the dark
and lovers who long for home
Oh, I couldn't leave you even if I wanted to
you're in my dreams and always near
And especially when I sing the songs I wrote for you
you're in my heart and living there

And the moon and the stars are the same ones you see
it's the same old sun up in the sky
And your face in my dreams is like heaven to me
like the breezes here in old Shanghai

Shanghai breezes cool and clearing
evening's sweet caress
Shanghai breezes soft and gentle
remind me of your tenderness

And the moon and the stars are the same ones you see
it's the same old sun up in the sky
And your love in my life is like heaven to me
like the breezes here in old Shanghai

And the moon and the stars are the same ones you see
it's the same old sun up in the sky
And your love in my life is like heaven to me
like the breezes here in old Shanghai
Just like the breezes here in old Shanghai

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.

