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HIGHER GROUND NEWSLETTER – June 2007

Welcome

Welcome to our newsletter for June, 2007. The year is now half over and many of us are looking forward to meeting in Aspen Colorado in October. For some it is an odyssey – a once in a lifetime opportunity to meet other friends of John Denver and hopefully some of the musicians that helped shape John's music.

For those who are attending the events in Aspen, Colorado, look out for Max Moore, John's Australian tour manager and good friend. He will be present in Aspen and is really looking forward to catching up with some 'old friends' as well as meeting new friends. Max loves to have a yarn, so be sure to stop and have a chat with him over the five days he will be in Aspen.

I hope that you enjoy this month's newsletter. There is some quite exciting news for everyone.

Happy [Belated] Birthday

Happy Birthday to Suzie, who celebrated her 10th birthday in April. Sorry it is a late greeting and we really hope that your day was a special one.



Steve Irwin Plaque

Last October, during the John Denver weekend, we planted a tree for Steve Irwin to commemorate his life and his work with the environment and with animals. Sadly, the plaque was stolen. Although there was no real action taken at the time, through hard work and tenacity by one of our members, the Channel 7 Sunrise programme took up the story and interviewed our good friend, Helen, who lives in Boonah. The story was aired at 7am and created a lot of interest from the local community and from other television stations, culminating in a second interview with Helen for the 6pm Channel nine news on the same day. As a result, the council has offered to replace the plaque and to also secure it in a way that will prevent further theft.

This outcome far exceeded our expectations and we extend our thanks to the council for the generous gesture. We would also like to thank Helen for her involvement in these stories. She

did wonderful interviews for both programmes and we really appreciate her generosity of time and energy to bring this issue into the public domain.

We look forward to seeing the new plaque in its rightful place in the future – and we will send through photos when that occurs.

John Howard Prays for Rain

After ten years of drought across most of Australia, with strict water restrictions in place and some areas running out of water, the Prime Minister asked everyone to pray for rain. I am sure that nearly everyone has heeded the call to prayer and subsequently, the weather has broken in a number of areas as La Nina replaces El Nino in the Pacific region. We have been waiting in anticipation for the cooler and wetter weather conditions to hopefully break the drought.

Newcastle and Sydney, NSW were hit hard with storms a couple of weeks ago, resulting in the grounding of a bulk carrier at Nobby's Beach in Newcastle and severe flooding in and around the Newcastle area. We have a quite a few members living in or around Newcastle, some of whom have experienced some water damage to their homes as a result of these storms. We hope that you all are OK and that any damage to your homes is minimal and that you can quickly get back to normal as the waters recede.

The new tourist attraction at Nobby's Beach seems to have eluded refloating attempts



At the same time, Queensland and Victoria have experienced some very heavy downpours, which have been very welcome. As rain depressions moved south from New South Wales, whilst others moved north east, the result was flooding of the Gippsland region of Victoria. This is the same region that was devastated by bushfires in December and January, so the residents there are

now coping with their homes being flooded. It has been a tough 6 months for many of those people and the floods will not recede in parts for some days to come as the rain and swollen rivers have coincided with King tides, which is pushing the water back into the towns.

We have a couple of our members living in Gippsland and we hope that they are OK and that they have avoided major damage to their homes.

The good news is that this weather has dumped billions of litres of water into our catchment areas and I believe that some of the dams have risen by at least one percent, which is good news.

Max's Radio Interview

January 8th, 2007, marked the 50th anniversary of Rock 'n Roll in Australia, when Lee Gordon brought Bill Haley and the Comets, Freddie Bell and the Bellboys, and the Platters out to Australia for the first rock 'n roll concert. The first Australian concert was held in Newcastle, NSW, with the now famous Sydney Stadium concert following soon after. Max was interviewed on radio in January and he spoke about these first concerts as well as discussing other stars he has managed, including John Denver. This was a great interview and we are delighted that Max so freely gives up his time to talk about those years that he spent as a tour manager.

Incredibly, an episode of the late Jack Davey's radio show from that first Sydney concert has survived and it was an absolute thrill to listen to Jack Davey interviewing Freddie Bell and Bill Haley for that show. This is a fantastic piece of music history for Australia – Jack Davey had a wonderful sense of humour and these interviews are relaxed but very informative.

John Denver Weekend 2007

Details are on hold at the moment, as the 2007 celebrations were meant to be held near Newcastle, NSW. We will advise about details of the weekend in the next newsletter

John Denver Weekend 2008

Although we have not decided on a venue as yet, we have made a decision about the 2008 John Denver Weekend. We would like to have a **Christmas for Cowboys** theme, which will give us the opportunity (when did we ever need an excuse?) to sing the wonderful Christmas songs that John wrote. There will be a full traditional Christmas dinner in lieu of the annual BBQ and all will be expected to join in the Christmas spirit.

You have over one year to make plans and to save up for one of the best weekends you will ever have with people who love Christmas and John Denver. As usual, we keep our costs as low

as possible, so please start thinking about the 2008 celebration of John's life.

Tree Planting at Balboa Park

The proposed tree planting at Balboa Park in San Diego, California is still in the pipeline. Eric has been working extremely hard to try to get an organisation with Not-For Profit status (501C3) to lend their names to this project. Once that happens, the cost of planting the tree in John's memory will be able to be planted for a much more reasonable cost of USD\$100.00. If there is anyone out there who can help Eric with this project, please contact me jeffrawley@optusnet.com.au and I will put you in touch with Eric.

Annie's Other Song

Linda has added Annie's Other Song to her webpage. The images, as usual, are fantastic. Thanks Linda.

<http://www.sweetdreamsplace.com/anniesothersong.html>

What's on YouTube?

'Eagles and Horses' is featured in this clip. I am glad that someone has put this song to part of the movie Spirit. This has been done beautifully. Leave a comment if you like it!

http://youtube.com/watch?v=DCSZE_st_i0

Tribute to John from Jennifer Romanowski

Hi, I'm Carole Romanowski's daughter, and I included a tribute to John Denver on my website dedicated to lighthouses. Would you consider printing the link in your next newsletter to share with everyone? The page also features Chris Westfall. The link is:

<http://www.mylighthousebythesea.com/MaritimeMusic.htm>

Under Poetry of the Sea, you can also find poems by Cynthia Gullage, who has written a lot of John Denver poetry as well.

Thanks, and have a great spring! Warmest regards, Jennifer Romanowski

John Adams in North Texas

BLUE TULIP PRESENTS "ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH"

Rarely leaving Colorado, John Adams is the world's greatest John Denver tribute artist and is the culminating event of John Denver Week each October in Aspen, Colorado. After meeting him several times, John Denver himself commented, "He sounds just like me!" For more information, please contact the McKinney Performing Arts Center at 214-544-4630.

Saturday, July 28, 2007 at 8:00 pm



Tickets go on sale **June 4, 2007**. **Tickets: \$20.00 (Balcony sides), \$25.00 (Balcony Center and House), \$50.00 VIP-tickets for after concert party and John Denver display in Gallery**

John Denver's Spanish Fan Club

There will be a meeting and concert featuring Steve Brook on 18th August 2007.

Please contact Rafael Rubio on rafael.rubio@ono.com for further details. I wish you every success with the concert – I have heard that Steve Brook is an excellent musician.

Also this message from Tom of the Spanish Club

Hi everyone! In the news section of my website you can see the information about the IV Meeting of Friends of John Denver, which will take place next summer. We have also uploaded the information about the II Concert-Homage to John Denver which will take place in the theatre of the city. If you are around in August we invite you to have a good time with us. Please contact me for more information. Tom

www.tomhernandez.es
www.johndenverclub.com

New Video Clip – Dutch Site

New clips have been added to the Dutch website by Michiel Ten Brug.
<http://www.higherground.nl/tenbrug/JohnDenver/>

Keep checking the Dutch site each Wednesday, as new ones are put up each week.

Catch Another Butterfly – Video Clip

An oldie but a goodie on yet another video site. Enjoy.

http://www.videocodezone.com/videos/j/john_denver/catch_another_butterfly.html

Tribute to John

Please follow this link. I think a lot of you will really enjoy this tribute to John.

<http://scoop.epluribusmedia.org/story/2007/6/18/142533/792>

This is lovely – plenty of quotes and images.

John's Influence on author of a book

One of our friends in the USA, Jennifer, tells us about a book she has found that includes the author's feelings about the influence that John had on his life. Excerpts from the book can be accessed from the following page on the US Amazon site: http://www.amazon.com/Living-Uncommon-Life-Essential-Extraordinary/dp/1571745262/ref=si3_rdr_bb_product/102-7728415-8797725 and the book can be

bought from there or from the UK Amazon site at this page: <http://tinyurl.com/ypflvv>

Here is Jennifer's message: I wanted to tell you about a book that I recently heard about that came out Oct 2006. It is called "Living An Uncommon Life: Essential Lessons from 21 Extraordinary People" by John St. Augustine with a forward by Catherine Crier. I haven't read the book yet (just some excerpts) but the author knew John and spoke at the original Windstar Choices Symposiums. In the book he speaks about the influence he had on his life. I saw the book on www.amazon.com. That is where I read the excerpts. If you pull up the book you can search inside and in the search box type in John Denver and it will show you everywhere he is mentioned. You might want to check it out and pass the information along to others who might be interested.

John Denver – An Appreciation

This is a wonderful article.

http://www.madisonavenuejournal.com/2007/05/10/john_denver_an_appreciation/index.php

The JD Pot Luck Remembrance Day Picnic

To be held in upstate NY. The webpage for the picnic is:

<http://www.geocities.com/darceyfarrow/JohnDenverPicnic.html>

The 8th Annual John Denver Potluck Picnic Remembrance Day is to be held in upstate NY on: **Saturday, August 11, 2007**....PLEASE let me know if you are planning to come and what your shared item or dish will be.....Map directions available at: <http://www.expediamaps.com>

****Place: Saratoga Spa State Park , 19 Roosevelt Ct. Saratoga Springs , NY 12866 Time: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.****

\$6.00 fee to get into the park.

....We will be in the family picnic area near a bridge not far from the playground.

....This is simply a day to relax, talk and enjoy the music of Sr. JD, which will be played throughout the day, [with the use of CDs and cassettes.]

....This is a family event; so children are welcome.

....BRING whatever is needed for each family or person coming, which would include such things as cups, plates, silverware, drinks, blankets, lawn chairs as well as anything you feel you will need for a day at a park. PLEASE bring a potluck dish or item able to feed 8 or more people. PLEASE bring 1 garbage bag as this is a carry in/carry out place.

....We will again be trading swaps [Share with a Pal], which are small hand-crafted items, placed in a baggie and marked inside with an ID tag -- name, e-mail, date and where from. These can be traded with anyone there to keep as a remembrance of the day. (In the past people have



made candles, bookmarks, sachets, postcards, fun business cards and God's eyes.) [Swaps are optional.]

....Food items coming to the picnic: (so far) chicken [roasted at the park], large tossed salad, soda -- cola, mt. dew, rootbeer, juice [cranapplegrapeberry]

....I will also be bringing some paper plates, bowls, cups and silverware, the past picnics photo album, the slambook, catch mitts, badminton and croquet. Peace, Darcey

JD Plaque Dedication – Pacific Grove

The JD Plaque Dedication in Pacific Grove, next to Monterey, CA, will be held on **Sunday**

September 23. People interested in coming to the plaque dedication, should get hotel/motel rooms as soon as possible (but my suggestion is to just reserve now, don't pay) because that weekend, is the Monterey Jazz Festival's 50th anniversary weekend and thousands will be in town. Almost all hotels/motels double or triple their prices around here on special events weekends. Many hotels at this point, do not have many rooms left (I just called around).

Suggestions: An old motel, not good looking, is Borg's, (831-375-2406) on the bay where Pacific Grove and Monterey meet is the only one I could find who does NOT raise their price for that weekend. They have no more rooms left with 2 beds. One double or queen bed Rooms on the Bay side are \$135 or \$145 per night, and ones facing the back with no good view, are \$99 per night, one of the best deals in the area. It's a very short walk there to beautiful Lover's Point and just steps across the Ocean View Blvd to the bay.

Next to the Butterfly Sanctuary in PG, (monarchs come the first week in October) is the Butterfly Trees Inn (831-372-0503) and they have a few rooms left: \$159 per night. They have a big room in the middle and people with instruments MIGHT be able to jam there, if they are reasonable quiet after 10. The Holiday Inn Express just up from Cannery Row in Monterey (831-372-1800) is \$288 Sat; \$166 Sun. The Holiday Inn Express in Seaside, (831-394-5335) is on the Monterey border and next to a small river with a neat curved wooden bridge over it, etc, not too far from the bay; that is \$179 per night. Marina often has the best prices with newer motels in the area, and is not far from the Bay. The Holiday Inn Express in Marina (10 miles north; 831-884-2500) is \$139 per night. Also in Marina, is the Comfort Inn (831-883-4000) and the prices for Fri, Sat, Sun are \$219, \$219, and \$99. Within walking distance of the beach and bay is Marina's Quality Inn (831-384-1800) at Fri/Sat/Sun \$159, \$159 & \$119; and the Best Western (831-883-0300) at F/S/S at \$159, \$159 and \$99. If you come, please ask about Sunday night prices, (dedication is at 12 noon Sunday) as THOSE prices may well be normal

Monterey-area prices, as well as the days FOLLOWING the Jazz Festival. I hope this info will be helpful to those coming, and I wish I could help more. Judy T in Monterey, wishing you good luck! Thanks Judy – this information is invaluable.

Pete, Chris and Mollie Concert 29th September **TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE!!!**

Come and join us on **Saturday evening, September 29, 2007 at 7:30 pm** for what promises to be a brilliant concert, featuring Vocalist Mollie Weaver, guitarist Pete Huttlinger and pianist Chris Nole! Weaver, Huttlinger and Nole recently brought their collective style to an enthusiastic full house at the world renowned Carnegie Hall in March of 2007 and will come together once again this September for an intimate concert at The Little Theater at Hunterdon Central Regional High School on Rt 31 in Flemington, NJ.

Rarely do three artists with very different musical histories fit together so impeccably. Here are three artists, multiple talents, and exponential ways Mollie Weaver, Pete Huttlinger and Chris Nole come together in perfect fashion to grace the stage with powerful vocals, exquisite instrumentation and sophisticated style. This is a show you won't want to miss!

New York Resident Mollie Weaver cuts her talent across multiple genres from pop and country to classical, opera, standards and musical theater- a style she calls symphonic folk. Her four-octave angelic voice gives her the versatility and freedom to explore ALL extensions of music. Mollie has lent her voice to national television network programs including shows on MTV, Oxygen, and Fox. Recently Weaver has been working with NYC cartoonist Ben Katchor and singer/songwriter Mark Mulcahy on an avant-garde opera.

Guitarist/Composer Pete Huttlinger is considered one of the world's finest fingerstyle guitarists. *Dirty Linen* magazine labeled him "...a powerhouse guitarist." So powerful in fact, Huttlinger won the title of National Fingerstyle Champion at the prestigious Walnut Valley Festival in 2000. Pete is an Emmy-nominated composer, with his music being used for programming on PBS and ESPN. Huttlinger has recorded and toured with numerous artists including the legendary John Denver and country superstar LeAnn Rimes.

Pianist/Singer/Songwriter Chris Nole is no stranger to musical diversity. With influences from some of the world's greatest blues, jazz, boogie, barrelhouse, and gospel performers, Nole has been inspired by every great talent he has ever worked with. An accomplished session musician, producer and recording artist, Nole has performed and recorded with some of the biggest celebrities in the music industry including country super star Faith Hill, legendary singer/songwriter John



Denver and country rocker Travis Tritt. Tickets are Now on Sale for \$30.00 each and may be purchased by mailing a check or money order (made out to Cindy Donaldson) to: Cindy Donaldson 281 Fairview Ave. Long Valley, NJ 07853 (Please enclose a self- addressed stamped envelope) Please call or email Cindy at 908-619-1738 or cjd1002@aol.com with any questions. All seats are \$30.00 each and Best Available Seats will be filled on a first come first serve basis. All ticket purchasers will receive directions to the theater in the envelope with their tickets. Please forward this email to anyone whom you think might be interested in this terrific evening of music! Thank you for helping us to spread the word. It is a rare and wonderful opportunity for us to be able to attend a concert with talent such as this all under one roof! For more information about the artists, please visit their websites at:

www.chrisnole.com; www.petehuttlinger.com
www.mollieweaver.com

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.

James Burton and Jim Curry

Two shows not to be missed!!! Awesome lineup in Aspen:

<http://www.spotlightheroes.com/ASPEN>

Gonna be some great music at the Harris Concert Hall on **October 13th.**

Hard to top that lineup - be there or miss out!

You're just gonna love it. THANKS JD FANS!!!



Wheeler Concert Tickets went 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 went 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.

Chris Westfall in Concert – Aspen 14th October

October 14, Sunday; in Aspen, in the downstairs Mt. Chalet Ballroom, 8pm: 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. (\$15 each donation) For tickets: Please send a Self-Addressed- Stamped-Envelope to "Tickets, CRW concert to Judy Therrien, 12 Dunecrest Avenue, Monterey, CA 93940". For more information: jht@spamarrest.com. For interesting info about Chris, see www.chriswestfall.com

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>

John Denver CDs

It is great to see that John Denver's music is still available in most of the music stores. Our JB Hi Fi has a good range of CDs at the moment. I actually picked up one called John Denver in Colorado USA 1992. Released in Malaysia, this is a live concert, but I am not sure which concert it is due to the lack of liner notes. A new 'Collection' CD is also available for about \$6.00 in Kmart and JB Hi Fi. This one includes the song, 'The Weight'.

Jean in America also says that the Reader's Digest has a collection of 75 songs, called 'This is My Song'. John's Annie's Song has been included. We are not too partial to ordering from the Reader's Digest due to their rather aggressive marketing techniques, but I am sure that your local CD retailer should be able to order this on your behalf.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qP1Xr1p4A50>

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.





Catch another Butterfly

Do you remember days
Not so very long ago
When the world was run by
People twice your size
And the days were full of laughter

And the nights were full of stars
And when you grew tired you
Could close your eyes
Yes the stars were there for wishin'
And the wind was there for kites
And the morning sun was
There for rise and shine
And even in the sniffles
Kept you home from school in bed
You couldn't hardly
Stay there after nine

And I wonder if the
Smell of mornings faded
What happened to the robin's
Song that sparkled in the sky
Where's all the water gone
That tumbled down the stream
Will I ever catch another butterfly

Do you remember campouts
Right in your own backyard
Wondering how airplanes could fly
And the hours spent just playing
With a funny rock you found
With crystal specks as
Blue as all the sky

Now I watch my son
He's playing with his toys
He's happy and I
Give him all I can
But I can't help feeling
Just a lime inside
When to hear him say
He wants to be a man

