



TSA Newsletter

July 2015

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“First the Song”

TSA Song Writing Contests Rule Changes.

Well folks, it's that time of year again and the TSA Songwriting comps are about to start. All the competitions are open from 1st August 2015 which is Horse's Birthday so how country can you get!!

Entries are for the Awards presented in 2016 in Tamworth at the Longyard Hotel Tuesday 19th January.

All the rules in full are on the TSA website:

www.tsaonline.com.au.

This year in memory of ANZAC 100 years on we have determined that Anzac themed songs should have their own section.

The songs can be released or unreleased from any date please read the rules.

There are slight changes in the other sections of The Songwriter Salute Awards.

To allow room for the Anzac section we have suspended the Children's Song of the Year for this year. Other rules in the Songwriter Salute Awards clarify eligible songs and writers.

There are no changes in rules to the APRA/AMCOS /TSA New Songwriter of the Year Award and no changes in rules to the National Country Songwriting Competition.

Please take time to read the rules and also enter your songs on line as this saves the TSA in administration time and allocation of songs to judges. **Duncan Hill**

Please send us your news via email to: tamsongwriters@gmail.com
patcruzado28@gmail.com

or post to: Tamworth Songwriters Association
PO Box 618 Tamworth NSW 2340



HATS OFF 2015 REVIEW ... Duncan Hill

Well if you were not there you sure missed a great time. Hats Off starts on a Thursday and runs through to the Sunday night.

Lawrie Minson's Pickin Pen on the Friday night saw a great roll up of TSA members and other writers singing their songs. Lawrie does an excellent job and we support the Pickin Pen by donating a TSA membership to a deserving songwriter some nights.

Once again the TSA were at the Post Office Hotel on the Saturday and this year we went from 10.40am to 5pm just packing up in time for the next event at the Hotel.

John Seers started us off with some great poetry and yarns, applauded by a near full house. John was followed by Carolyne Morris, Duncan Hill. Brothers 3, Kathryn Luxford, Gus Helm, Emma-Jene, Leon Bobako, Wendy Wood, Long and Short of It, Marcus Greene, Becci Nethery, Melissa Robertson, Gordon Steinhart, Kalesti Butler, Paul Bonner-Jones with Patricia Cruzado.

The crowd ebbed and flowed throughout the day but in the main there were ample numbers enjoying the whole day of talent.

Some of our TSA artists had to go to other gigs and there were plenty of them around town. The Festival is increasing in popularity, topline acts, no parking problems, no traffic and no 40 degrees!!

Photographs on the day (above) courtesy of Donna Lowe.

Backing up on Sunday at the Longyard Hotel for three hours of songs were Bruce O'Hara, Melissa Robertson, Becci Nethery, Brothers3 who this time had Alita Fahey singing, Long and Short of It, Wendy Wood, Patricia Cruzado, Paul Bonner-Jones and Kalesti Butler.

The TSA entertained a lunchtime crowd and added to the wonderful easy atmosphere of a winter's day at the Longyard.

Hope to see you all there again next year!!

Editor's Note: Thanks to Duncan for setting up the PA for the TSA showcases on both days! We could see your hard work paid off and thanks to all the songwriters for a great festival!!

TSA Members

*** NEWS ***

BROTHERS 3

2015 has been a great year for Brothers3 so far. They were given the Young Australians of the Year Award for their charity work in the Mudgee region on Australia Day. This set the pace for them doing fundraising events for their special charities such as NOVA (Don't Disability), The Westmead Children's Hospital. The McGrath Foundation, SIDs and Mudgee Lifeskills (a disability employment program which Brothers3 are the ambassadors for).

Brothers3 have also been really busy working and writing in the studio. They have been signed by Warner Music and are very excited about the release of the album in late September. They have also been gigging in their spare time.

With last year's X Factor, the boys had to defer their studies but luckily Sharyn managed to complete his Bachelor of Music this Semester. However, poor Makirum has had to defer again (he only has a trimester left) because of work commitments. Tayzin has his Film and TV Diploma and is battling on part-time to get his B. Film and Media.

The boys have tried to keep their grass roots sound and we will keep you posted with further updates ...
Alita (mum)



www.brothers3.com

EDITOR'S NOTE: It was wonderful to see Brothers3 perform at the Post Office Hotel during Hats Off to a capacity crowd and they were thankful to the TSA for supporting original songs.

Congrats on their signing with Warner; new album soon to be released and amidst it all they manage to study at uni!

Hats off to their mum Alita who is a driving force behind their success.

TSA Members

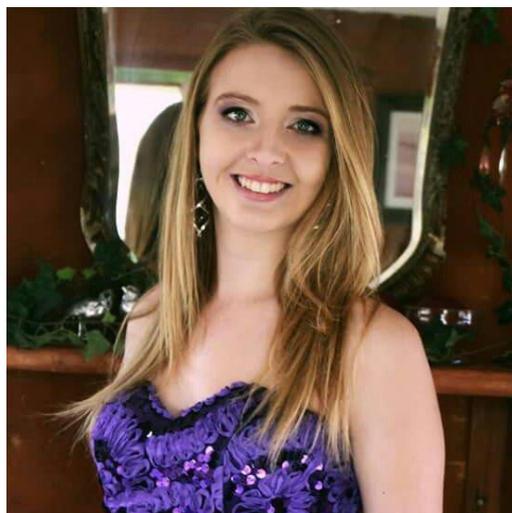
*** NEWS ***

SAMI COOKE

SAMI is a hard working young singer/songwriter/ entertainer who is making a permanent name for herself in the Australian music industry. With the release of her debut album 'SAMI - Every Passing Minute', she has performed over 100 shows across the eastern side of Australia in 10 months during 2014. She did it again this year performing over 100 shows in 2015. "I really love to travel so the best thing about touring is not only doing a job that I love but seeing Australia and next year, going overseas," she said.

Classically trained, SAMI is known for her vocal ability and her influences include Delta Goodrem, Celine Dion, Freddy Mercury, Carrie Underwood and Martina McBride. This has helped when performing up to four shows a week.

Not long after completing her HSC SAMI hit the road running. "She finished her HSC then turned 18," mum Janelle said of the combined 18th birthday and CD launch with 230 people from as far as Darwin and QLD attending. "The next weekend was the start of her touring and she got to open for Bill Chambers which was awesome for her." From her tours, SAMI has gained invaluable experience being in front of an audience. A few new tunes and a new album is also in the pipeline. "I have a few new original songs which I have taken to the Tru Sound Studios," she said.



"Every chance I get I've been putting down tracks for my new album."

One of the highlight awards from her first album 'Every Passing Minute' was when she came 10th in Australia for her anti-bullying song called 'Still Searching' in the ASA awards. "I am definitely very proud of its recognition."

Big things are happening for 2016, starting with SAMI heading to NZ in March for a promotional tour. A six week Canadian tour is being organised for June-July. And when she returns home she'll be back on the road touring.

Editor's Note: I met SAMI a few years ago performing at an Australian Songwriter's showcase in Tamworth. It's great to see a go-getter like her making her mark in the music scene in Australia and abroad. Hard work pays off. Go SAMI!! And another driving force, her mum Janelle!!

TSA Members

*** NEWS ***

PETER CHRISTIE

Peter Christie (and his band) received the nominations in the Gospel Fan Fair Awards in the USA. Well, we managed to win 2 of the awards!! We won awards for Horizon Group and Favourite Band. Already these have opened numerous doors in the USA – my first single “My Father’s House” has jumped into the top 20 on the Christian Voice Chart (the main chart for Country Gospel in the USA) and I am about to release the follow up single. It was very exciting to go across for the Fan Fair and awards and a great opportunity to perform. The Australian Country Gospel went over really well and fans and other artists were very complimentary about the songs

BLUE MOUNTAINS SONGWRITER’S WORKSHOP

The TSA have again joined forces with Songsalive! Australia to present the Songwriters' “Workshop in the Mountains” at Mount Victoria with Allan Caswell and Roger Corbett on Aug 8 & 9, 2015. This will be the third year of what has proven to be an excellent workshop where you can hone your craft and meet up with a great group of like-minded people.

There will be a co-writing session with attendees and opportunities to connect with two of Australia's best songwriters and coaches.



themselves, which was great. Anyway, thank you for posting the “vote for me” article in the March newsletter – every vote helped ... Blessings

Peter Christie

Both the TSA and Songsalive! Australia have songwriting competitions coming up, so what better way to find ways to polish up your songs! There are also options for Saturday critique sessions, dinner followed by performance showcases. The Sunday workshop starts at 9.30am - 5pm (including lunch and morning tea). For more information go to www.tsaonline.com.au. You can also email the TSA at: tamsongwriters@gmail.com OR go to www.songsaliveaustralia.org.au roxannekiely@songsaliveaustralia.org.au Hope to see you there!

TSA Members

*** NEWS ***

JADE HOLLAND

Jade Holland, “straight talkin” country girl from North Queensland is set to tour with her soon to be released album called Leather and Les Paul.

It’s named directly after a very personal track on the album captivated both her and the woman who wrote it, Tamworth’s Jane Robertson. The song was written about Jade after the two met and collaborated.

“After being in the studio with Sean (Sean Rudd, Golden Guitar-nominated producer) and listening to the album back, it was very clear that Jane’s song was the standout,” Jade said.

“Both Jane and the song are amazing, so by the end of production the title just fit like an old pair of cowboy boots,” she said. “It was the perfect choice.” Both recordings will be available for pre-order shortly through Maven Records/Sony Music Australia. Keep up with Jade via her website and social media pages. Confirmed tour dates – more to come! **July 30, 2015** – Townsville Album Preview – The Avenues Tavern – Free show (Jade only) ... **August 1,** – Alligator Creek Album Preview – Melville’s Farm – Tickets at gate from 11am **October 17, 2015** – Rooty Hill RSL Album Launch – Sydney NSW – Tickets from www.rootyhillrsl.com.au .. Jade will be joined by the rockin Jay Seeney band for the Aug and Oct shows!



Editor’s Note .. I saw Jade perform some years back on GC and she’s a hard worker going places with her contemporary songs. It was great to see Janey Robertson on a co-write. All the best Jade!!

TAMWORTH ROUNDUP

By Carolynne Morris

Sad to hear of the passing of Joe McManamon of Manila. He organised many Tamworth on Parade shows around the state and beyond. He will be sadly missed by the country fraternity.

Congrats to Deanna Rose, formerly of Tamworth now living in Newcastle. She made it into the first Battle round on The Voice selected by Ricky Martin. YAY!

Aleyce Simmonds jam nite is held at the Oxley Bowling Club on the last Tuesday of the month, 7pm

Lawrie Minson’s Songwriters’ nights @ Pickin Pen, last Wednesday of the month, 7pm

Ashleigh Dallas has a new album in the pipeline produced by her family. More details in next issue!

US Songwriting

*** NEWS ***

INTERNATIONAL SONGWRITING COMPETITION (ISC) ANNOUNCES 2015 JUDGES

July 20, 2015 - Called "*the* songwriting competition to take note of" by the prestigious *New York Times*," the International Songwriting Competition (ISC) today announced its esteemed panel of judges for the 2015 competition. The panel includes many iconic, high-profile recording artists, as well as Presidents and CEOs from Atlantic, Epic, Elektra, Sony Music Latin, Warner Bros., Tommy Boy, Wind-Up, Alligator, Concord Music Group, and more.

Designed to nurture the musical talent of songwriters on all levels and promote excellence in the art of songwriting, ISC offers the opportunity for songwriters to have their music heard by some of the most influential decision-makers in the industry.

ISC gives away more than \$150,000 in cash and prizes (shared among 68 winners) including an overall Grand Prize consisting of \$25,000 (US) cash and \$30,000 in merchandise and services. In addition to prizes, winners gain recognition, press, kudos, and more career opportunities. Open to both amateur and professional songwriters, ISC offers 22 categories to enter, representing all genres of popular music. More information on entering ISC go to: <http://www.songwritingcompetition.com>.

Last year's ISC Grand Prize winner, Australian singer/songwriter Vance Joy, was honoured for his memorable hit song, "Riptide, which launched his career. He is currently on a six-month tour supporting Taylor Swift set to tour down under.

The 2015 judges includes: Kesha; Tom Waits; Bill Withers; American Authors; Lorde; Pat Metheny; Sara Evans; Bastille; Casting Crowns; Keb Mo; Avicii; Boyz II Men; Bill Withers; Keane; Hardwell; Robben Ford; Danilo Perez; Moby; Jon Secada; Daddy Yankee; Afro Celt Sound System; Anthony Hamilton; Gerald Casale (Devo); Sean Paul; Justin Townes Earle; Hawk Nelson; Jean-Luc Ponty; Shakey Graves; Darryl McDaniels (Run D.M.C.); Chayanne; Joy Williams; Matt Maher; Art Alexakis (Everclear); Far East Movement; Femi Kuti and many more. Contact Candace cavery@songwritingcompetition.com for more information!



KLUB JUMPERS 40Z MUSIC/ YOUR MUSIC OUTLOUD IN THE USA SONG COMP 2015

Win A Full Recording Package & Radio Promotion Campaign in the US With Top US Billboard Charting Producers The "KlubJumpers" (Produced songs for: Madonna, Mariah Carey, Britney Spears, Ricky Martin, Nelly Furtado, Enrique Iglesias, Black Eyed Peas, Jason Derulo. Song placements in US commercials, TV sitcoms & Movies such as Covergirl, Subaru, Charlie's Angels & "Saving Hope" just to name a few.) Plus an all expenses paid return trip to LA & "Live" industry gig Runner Up Prize A "Songwriting Mentoring/Coaching Package" with Hollywood/Celebrity/ Songwriter/Mentor & Coach, "Alan Roy Scott" (Songs written for: Celine Dion, Cher, Journey, Notorious BIG, Gloria Estefan, Cyndi Lauper, Ray Charles, "Top Gun," "First Wives Club," "Coming To America," "Fame," "Sons Of Anarchy," etc.) Founder of Music Bridges, & Coach/Teacher/Mentor at Songu.com, Musician's Institute, Taxi, TSSLA, UCLA Extension ..

For details contact
<http://www.klubjumpersmusic.com/>

Words from our TSA Treasurer

ATHOL LATHAM

Paying By Direct Deposit

Whilst paying your membership by direct deposit can make it easy for you, it can create a major headache for the treasurer if you do not identify yourself on the deposit.

In early July two members renewed, but unfortunately they did not identify themselves so it is impossible to update their membership details so at this stage they are still unfinancial and as they also wanted a subscription to Capital News they will not be getting that either. Unless they identify themselves so their financial status can be updated to being paid then thank you for your anonymous donation.

Athol Latham

TSA Membership and Treasurer

1953awl@gmail.com

Are You Looking to Get Airplay?

Athol Latham plays Australian country artists on his night time program, Monday to Thursday from 7 to 11 pm on Tamworth 88.9fm (the station stream on www.tamworth889fm.com.au). He is particularly interested in promoting independent artists and talking to them on air. ATHOL LATHAM 02 67613428

P. O. Box 7192, New England Mail Centre, NSW, 2348

Some useful *things*

SONGWRITING WORKSHOP IN JANUARY?

If anyone is interested in attending a Songwriters workshop during the January festival please tell us. We're trying to organise one with a US songwriter /producer and one with Paul Bonner Jones. Please contact Patricia Cruzado patcruzado28@gmail.com if you're interested. Cost will include refreshments but will only happen if there is interest!!

TSA Members getting airplay on 88.9fm Tamworth

Athol Latham presents "Athol's Aussie Country" on **88.9fm** from Tamworth on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 7-11pm. If you would like Athol to promote your records he is happy to do so. To get an interview or promo please contact Athol on 02 6761 3428 or email 1953awl@gmail.com.

SILVER KAT MUSIC CHECKLIST

The following items represent a comprehensive listing of song characteristics provided by Janet Fisher of Goodnightkiss Music. They may not apply to all forms of music. However, the majority will apply to most country, pop/rock and adult type songs. Feel free to download this list for future reference.

The first line or two should hook the listener into wanting to hear what comes next.

People will be able to hum the melody after hearing it a few times.

The lyric is conversational. No forced rhymes, no convoluted phrases or sentences.

Today, you do not need to have perfect (care, bear) type rhymes. Meaning is more important.

The listener will know the title of the song once he/she has heard it through. This is the place where many songs fall down. I've seen songs where the title is never mentioned in the lyric, or it is a pick up phrase, rather than a strong line.

The lyric and the melody belong together. It's called prosody. Happy lyrics/ happy melody.

The words and music flow naturally. No forcing more lyrics into what sings easily, no stretching out lyrics to fill in lack of ideas.

The song has a timeless feel about it. Try to avoid dating your material with references to events and people who may be obscure next year. Though, contemporary references do sometimes appear in country songs. How many of you know all the names and places in Billy Joel's "We Didn't Start the Fire?"

Songs should be built around a universal theme, idea or feeling. You want as many people as possible to relate to the material.

The song should be self - contained. No explanation or mind reading is necessary to understand the story. If you have to say "What I mean by this, is then you need to rewrite the song.

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NOTICE FROM THE EDITOR

Many thanks to those who contributed to this issue. All effort has been made to ensure the information is accurate and true. If you have any news to share, please send it to us.

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