



# TSA Newsletter

July 2017

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## *"First the Song"*

### **President's Report**

A Big Hello to all the members of the TSA from myself and the committee.

We welcome two new members to the TSA committee Kalesti Butler and Brendan Nawrocki, Kalesti and Brendan have already helped to sort out our facebook page ([www.facebook.com/tamworthsongwritersassociation](http://www.facebook.com/tamworthsongwritersassociation)) a great way to keep in touch and let you know what's happening etc. so please "like" the page.

2018 will be the 40th year of the TSA and we hope that as many members as possible can get to Tamworth in 2018 to help celebrate our big birthday. We will be hosting a *party* at the Cattleman Motel on Wed, 24th Jan from 2-4 pm (members only) more details to follow PLUS there will be opportunities a plenty to play in Tamworth in 2018 - so watch your emails for news and updates!

This year's *Hats Off in July* was a great success with full houses at the Post Office Hotel and the Longyard Hotel.

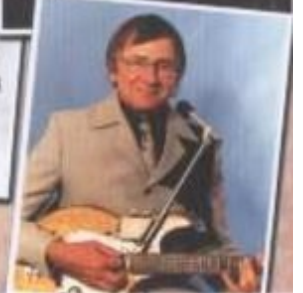
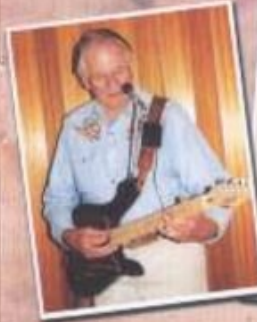
The TSA along with SongsAlive!Australia are hosting the annual song writing workshop in the mountains 2-3- September this year. Apart from some great tuition from Alan Caswell and Roger Corbett it is a great opportunity to network and co-write. We are nearly full so if you are interested book yourself a place now (see inside for more information).

I take this opportunity to Congratulate two of our members, Lorraine Pfizner and Peter Coad, upon receiving an OAM for services to the music industry.

The TSA SONGWRITING contests opened 1st August, so get those songs in! Check [www.tsaonline.com.au](http://www.tsaonline.com.au). (Please note ... the same rules as last year except in the John P. Toomey Youth section where Youth writers can enter other sections of the National Country Song writing contest provided the song has NOT been commercially released. Youth writers can enter commercially released songs in the Youth section).

*Cheers Duncan*

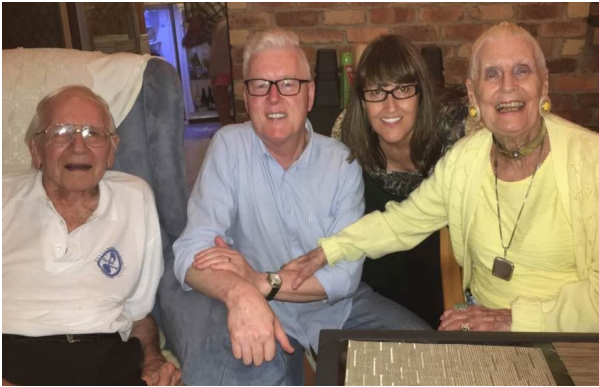
# VALE GEOFF MACK



**Acknowledgment**—Noel Clarke's tribute website to Geoff Mack <http://www.geoffmack.250x.com/pages/geoffmack-6.html>



# VALE GEOFF MACK



Geoff Mack by Roxanne Kiely

## **We say goodbye to our dear friend. The wonderful, the kind and talented Mr Geoff Mack**

I am very lucky to be able to call the late Geoff Mack a very dear friend, whom I will miss very much. I first met Geoff and Tabbi Mack when I joined ALVA, (Australian Ladies Variety Association), in 1986. Then I was asked to join their regular pantomime show as a singer-guitarist/actor. I was quite nervous joining this group of veteran performers, but it didn't take long for me to fit in completely.

I joined a group of talented musicians, magicians, dancers, singers, sight acts. We performed the pantomime for the children d

uring the day then entertained the adults in the evenings. We travelled on a bus from town to town. Geoff drove the bus. In all of the trips I would jump on the bus as quickly as I could so that I could sit up the front next to Geoff. I loved to listen to his stories.

Geoff would tell me these wonderful, unforgettable stories of his days before arriving to Australia, when he worked as an aircraft engineer, and how he and his beautiful Tabbi met.

Stories about all the many variety shows he and Tabbi performed at together, as well as many tales of the other wonderfully talented artists they had both worked alongside, including the story of how he wrote that famous song "I've Been Everywhere".

One year, my daughter Bianka, who was 15 at the time, joined the show and played Aladdin, the lead role. In every pantomime show we did, Geoff always played the villain, and the little children were scared of him. In real life Geoff was a gentle giant, and he was loved by everyone.

In 1998, Stephen and I invited, his dad, Brian Kiely and Geoff to perform at one of our Songsalive! Song-writer performance nights. Brian Kiely was a talented pianist/singer and parody writer who had written a parody called "I've Had Everything, Nurse" to the melody of Geoff's song "I've been

I've been everywhere". Geoff and Brian were able to compare diseases, as Geoff had also written a medical parody of his own hit, called "I've Had Everything, Doc". Brian and Geoff had met years earlier when they performed in variety shows. So it was very special to have Geoff and Brian perform these two songs on the same night. When Mark Kristian told me about the book he was writing on the "Golden Years of Australian Variety", I immediately suggested that he interview Geoff and Tabbi Mack for his book. In February 2017, Mark visited Geoff and Tabbi in the Gold Coast, where they had been living with their niece, Jan Salmi and her husband Leo, for the past two and half years. I am very pleased that Mark was able to record those precious stories that will now go down in history. The very same stories, I heard all those years ago, travelling on a bus with Geoff and Tabbi. The pantomime shows and the stories and our beautiful friendship will stay with me forever.

## **Geoff Mack – by Stephen Kiely**

Geoff was always very humble and self-effacing about his career, painting it as a series of well-intentioned flukes, blunders and serendipity, and often underplaying his natural talent for bringing people together and drawing their own talents out. Even his introduction to the concept of "show business" came about as a side show to his army efforts during WW2. A natural ham, he enjoyed putting together skits to entertain his fellow soldiers. An officer became aware of these bouts of entertainment and enlisted Geoff as a participant in an Army show that toured in a morale-boosting effort at the time. Included in his repertoire of gags, was a funny parody of the Austrian Corporal, which told me in a conversation just weeks ago, that he eventually performed in a gesture of comedic closure, on the balcony of the Berchtesgaden HQ which Hitler had once occupied. While the performance was only witnessed by one person, the adjutant with whom he was travelling at the time, Geoff assured me that one hundred percent of the audience were entertained by his short parody sketch. And soldiers were the sort of audience he enjoyed entertaining the most. Geoff said that it took a while to get used to the idea of entertaining civilians as a profession, as it didn't hold the same sense of enjoyment that "mucking around" with his soldier mates had brought him. It was his personality and seeming lack of sophistication that would endear Geoff to audiences over the decades following the war.

His humility would shine through, even when relating the story of his most famous musical achievement, the success of “I’ve Been Everywhere”. “It was just a throwaway thing”, he said. “The last song I thought of pulling out of the bag, when I visited my publisher. ‘What else do you have’, he asked, after I’d played just about every song I’d written. “Just this little ‘list song’ I threw together. Nothing really..” But, as soon as he finished singing it, accompanied by guitar, in the publisher’s office, the immediate reply came, “That’s the one. That’s the one.” Geoff’s talent also extended to the world of engineering and mechanics, which was illustrated by his innovative approach to his live performance equipment. Wishing to be able to move freely around the room he was entertaining, while singing and playing guitar, Geoff needed to overcome the one obstacle singing guitarists face, namely, the mic stand doesn’t move around with you. After a bit of applied physics was introduced, Geoff designed and built a small microphone stand, which he attached to the body of his guitar. By use of a special cable, which took the vocal signal, as well as the guitar signal, via the same cable to the PA system, Geoff successfully became a free-moving entertainer. When we visited him last year, Geoff produced the prototype version, which really did look like it was made from war surplus parts. Then he brought out the updated, modern, streamlined version that he’d used when touring with Tabbi, Roxanne and the other members of the troupe. A lot of thought had gone into the design and it looked quite professional. Geoff employed a small-headed mic, which he would sometimes completely envelop with his mouth, so as to produce the weird and wacky sounds which comprised many of his show songs. Roxanne and I felt very honoured and touched when Geoff asked us to take his guitar home with us for safe keeping.

It’s now a treasured item at our place, and a beautiful memory of Geoff’s mechanical prowess, innovative thinking and desire to get close to his audience. I knew about Geoff many years before I met him, due to the fact that my father, Brian Kiely, being an entertainer and parody writer, had taken it upon himself to write a parody of Geoff’s song, targeting ailments, and naming it, “I’ve Had Everything, Nurse”. As a boy, I thought Dad had written the song, not having heard the original hit, so was surprised to hear Lucky Starr’s hit one day on the radio, but not as surprised as when I found out that Geoff had written his own parody of his hit, which he called, “I’ve Had Everything, Doc”. Brian and Geoff had a few laughs comparing diseases in their respective “lists”. While he became physically debilitated in his later years, Geoff’s keen mind never let him down. Up until a couple of days prior to passing, he was still regaling us with anecdotes about his travels on the road, stars he’d worked with and met, and of course, the wonderful journeys he shared with his beautiful wife, Tabbi. A true gentleman, a real friend and great ambassador for his country, Geoff will be greatly missed by his family, friends and fans.

**Duncan’s footnote;** Roxanne and Steve were able to inform Geoff just days before he died that the TSA would name an Award after him and Songs Alive Australia would also name Awards in his honour— a true pioneer of international acceptance of Australian Songwriting

By [edward morris](#) 7/25/2017 Geoff Mack, composer of the tongue-twisting and widely recorded “I’ve Been Everywhere,” died Thursday (July 20) in his native Australia at the age of 94. Mack, whose real name was Albert Geoffrey McElhinney, was born Dec. 20, 1922 in a suburb of Melbourne. Although he wrote other songs, his crown jewel was “I’ve Been Everywhere.” Primarily a dizzyingly fast recitation of place names, it was first a hit for Australian singer Lucky Starr in early 1962. Later that year, Canadian-American country singer Hank Snow released it with the Australian place names replaced by American ones. His version went to No. 1 on the country charts and stayed there for two weeks. It also reached No. 68 on the pop charts. Lynn Anderson took the song to No. 16 in 1970. Other artists who recorded the standard include Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson (with Snow), Kacey Musgraves, Asleep at the Wheel and the Statler Brothers. The song has also been customized for place names in New Zealand, Canada, Germany, Great Britain, Finland and elsewhere. Mack began performing for his fellow troops in World War II and continued in Japan with the occupying forces after the war. He later performed throughout England and Germany before returning to a long musical career in Australia.

**EDITOR’S NOTE.** I spoke to Geoff a few years ago and he said he used a couple of maps (QLD and NSW) to write the song and it took about half an hour. He said he couldn’t believe it became so big. The song was recorded by 130 artists. What an incredible life and journey. At a TSA AGM some years ago Geoff told me he gave the go ahead for the US version on the proviso that he write it and was sent the maps. What a legend!! He was a true singer/songwriter who lived a colourful life. He was also a proud Tamworth Songwriters Association member and it’s fitting that a commemorative award be named after him at next year’s TSA awards in Tamworth. Thinking of Tabbi Mack, Jan & Leo Salmi & family. Always in our hearts, RIP



**edward morris**

Edward Morris is a veteran of country music journalism. He lives in Nashville, Tennessee, and is a frequent contributor to CMT.com.

# VALE CORAL DAISY

VALE Coral Dasey, a songwriter and poet Coral was 77 when she passed away quite suddenly. Coral was originally from Inverell and ended her days in Redfern in Sydney. Coral would be most remembered outside the TSA for her award-winning song *The Warrumbungle Mare* which won her and Reg Poole Golden Guitars for the Heritage Award in 1981. Coral published works of poetry are *A Tale of The Never Never* published in 1976 in Australian Bush Verse : and *The Clearing Sale*, published in the Bronze Swagman Book of Bush Verse in 1981, and *The First Encounter* published in The Bronze Swagman Award Celebrating 40 Years of Bush Verse in 2011. Coral also released an album – *Listen To A Country Song* – recorded at CM Studio, Dubbo, which included five of her own songs – *Buddy Williams At The Opera House*, *Country Jamboree*, *Echoes In The wind*, *One Man Girl* and *Vietnam Lullaby* – the album included tracks by Johnny Ashcroft, Henry Kendall, Eric Watson and her father George Dasey. Coral was on the first committee of the Tamworth Songwriters Association alongside Joy McKean, Diane Hawking, Nev Nicholls, Eric Watson, Ian Betteridge and Rocky Page. Inside the TSA Coral was a dedicated member and attended every AGM that I (Duncan Hill) can remember. Coral's focus at the AGM's was always to consider the reason the TSA was founded and that was to honour the art of songwriting and those that created the songs. Coral always asked for and supported opportunities for the songwriters. Having been with the TSA since the start she accepted the changes in country music and insisted we keep our traditional base whilst embracing the widening genre that country music is now. It is dedicated AGM attendees like Coral that help committees focus on what the TSA is.



**EDITOR'S NOTE.** It was sad to hear of the sudden passing of Coral Daisy who I recall accepting an award during the TSA presentations night some years ago. RIP Coral. Sincere condolences to her family. If anyone would like to send in a tribute for Coral for the next issue please email [tamsongwriters@gmail.com](mailto:tamsongwriters@gmail.com)



Kalesti Butler will support Female Artist of the Year Sara Storer at the upcoming Gemfest to be held at the Allan King Memorial Park, Anakie QLD on Sunday August 13.

Keppel Coast Arts is taking Sara Storer on the road to 12 towns around QLD, and collaborating with around 400 locals who will rehearse and perform as part of the show.

## GEMFEST 2017

Local solo talents have also been found in each town. They will have the opportunity to have a one on one workshop with Sara, and also sing a duet with her as part of the show.

On the Gemfields, the duet will be sung by Charles Hatte. Another local to get involved is country music performer Kalesti Butler who will perform as Sara's support act to kick the show off.

Her performance will be followed by country artist Brad Butcher, playing songs from his new album, 'from the bottom of a well'.

QUniversity's Legend & the Locals is all about supporting local talent, providing a space for people to dream, and the support in the moment that they step onto the stage.

The performance at Gemfest kicks off at 11am - 2:30pm. For more information and to follow the tour, head to [www.legendandthelocals.com.au](http://www.legendandthelocals.com.au) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/legendandthelocals](https://www.facebook.com/legendandthelocals) This project is supported by the Queensland Government through Arts Queensland, and the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal with the Tim Fairfax Family Foundation.



## 2017 TAMWORTH HATS OFF IN JULY

\*\*\* *PHOTOS* \*\*\*



**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**—Thanks to Bob McGann and Kalesti for organising these photos at Hats Off 2017. Taken from the TSA's FB page.



## 2017 TAMWORTH HATS OFF IN JULY

\*\*\* *PHOTOS* \*\*\*



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### **TSA SONGWRITER SESSIONS**

**Cattleman's Motel,  
Tamworth**

**last Wednesday of the  
month, 7pm**

**Grab a meal and enjoy  
the show. Contact Wen-  
dy Wood for details.**



Dianne Lindsay and Peter Simpson performing at a TSA show during 2017 TCMF

## TSA MEMBERS

### \*\*\* NEWS \*\*\*



#### TSA Members Performance News

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Hello everyone! 2017 has proven so far to be another fast paced year! It felt we just got over the Tamworth Jan festival and we were organising Hat's Off.

But before that we managed to fit in the Blue Water Country Music Festival at Port Stephens NSW And what a fantastic weekend that was!

It's been about 3 years since the TSA last performed there and the venue had undergone some renovations which saw us performing on a new verandah space at the Seabreeze Hotel in Anna Bay

We had both a Sat & Sun Songwriter Session featuring Dr Taos, Arna Georgia, Marcus Greene, Ian Wilkinson Sophia Chesworth, Jim Williams, Gordon Station, Luke Schweizer and Chelsea Berman

I'm sure everyone would agree it was a great atmosphere and we look forward to holding shows there again in 2018.

Special thanks to Gordon & Arna for helping out with the MC'ing and PA on the Sunday!

What I love about these events is making the connections with our fellow songwriters and the diversity within our membership. As Duncan (the Pres) said about this years Hat's Off sessions, the comradery with each other is awesome!

Again we held a Songwriter Sessions on the Saturday at the Post Office Hotel featuring John Seers, Ian Wilkinson, Kalesti Butler, Dene Burton, Kate & Aly King, Tony Kennelly, Melissa Robertson, Paul Crowder, Ian Burns, The Shelly Jones Band, Jim Williams, Gordon Station, The Jackson Fisher Band

Becci Nethery, Duncan Hill and Luke Schweizer, Thanks to Kalesti, Becci and Duncan for hosting the day.

On the Sunday we held, what's become an annual event entitled the TSA 'First The Song Sessions', over lunch at The Longyard Hotel. It's three one hour sessions with three songwriters on stage together performing one at a time as they tell the story behind their songs.

This year we had another top line-up with The Weeping Willows, Paul Crowder and Melissa Robertson, Kalesti Butler, The Jackson Fisher Band and Luke Schweitzer and Jim Williams, Arna Georgia and Ian Burns.

I have a few feelers out for other festivals and you'll be hearing from me as they pop up.

I'll be taking applications for the January Tamworth festival real soon so keep an eye out for the link to the spreadsheet. In the mean time figure out when you will be in Tamworth and what days and times you have free. It is a must if you are applying that you keep me in the loop of any dates that you get the gigs for because its an awful lot of work to do to balance a show with the right artists just to find out that you can no longer do it. Also don't apply if you're likely to accept a better opportunity that gets offered. Most people promote their times and so changes aren't usually an option.

Also with these things don't apply for a festival if you haven't looked into how far away it is from your location!

Anyone down in Victoria interested in performing as part of the fringe festival for Bonnie Doon Music Festival in Feb (date to be confirmed) please email me. [artist@tsaonline.com.au](mailto:artist@tsaonline.com.au)

Until then keep writing and performing your songs!

Till Next time

Lydia x



## TSA MEMBERS

### \*\*\* NEWS \*\*\*



#### MOLLY MILLINGTON

Rising star Molly Millington is on her way to stardom . Molly won the 2017 TodaysCountry94one Brand New Star contest only a few days ago (July 28).

“Just want to say a huge thanks to the station and everyone involved in the comp,” she wrote on Facebook. “Team Molly’ are so grateful. You’ve no idea how helpful the prize will be. Thank you Central Coast Leagues Club (where it was held).” Molly seemed taken by surprise when she won the competition (pictured right).

Amazingly Molly will be celebrating her 17th birthday on August 4. The budding songwriter is passionate about storytelling through her songwriting and connecting with people of all ages.

“Molly is a people watcher so a lot of what she writes is observation, not necessarily her personal experience,” Molly’s manager Maryanne said. “Though there is some of that in there.” she laughed.

The Central Coast lass loves to perform her original songs from busking at the local markets to bigger stages when she gets the chance.

That opportunity came at the 2017 Tamworth Country Music Festival when she joined nine standout performers selected from over 400 buskers to perform in front of 2000 people in the Buskers comp final.

Molly recently released her first EP ‘Cool Like You’ recorded late last year with Shane Nicolson and produced by Trent Crawford. I love these songs, radio friendly and contemporary.

Molly admits her music is a fusion of “country, folk and a little quirky pop”.

When listening to the five country pop songs on her website you can’t help but be impressed with her fresh sound and youthful lyrics. Check them out (<http://www.mollymillington.com.au/#1501287001976-8db931e2-062b>)

We’re sure to hear more from Molly who is also the 2017 Fretfest songwriting competition winner. Pete Murray and Kate Miller-Heidke are previous Fretfest winners. Congratulations Molly! By *Patricia Cruzado* (editor)



#### EDITOR’S NOTE:

**It was a breath of fresh air to listen to this talented Australian singer songwriter, sure to win fans world-wide with her contemporary sound. Hoping we can hear Molly on stage at next year’s TCMF. Go Team Molly!!**

## TSA MEMBERS

### \*\*\* NEWS \*\*\*



#### BRENDAN NAWROCKI

He's a larrikin, painter in a previous life, singer songwriter by night and afternoons; wherever he can perform on the open road.

You won't find this singer songwriter too far away from his guitar with a debut album titled *Together With My Guitar*. Although he was proudly born and raised in south east QLD, Brendan now calls Tamworth, the country music capital, home.

He discovered his passion for playing guitar at quite a young age and around that same time he was introduced to John Williamson. "It's where my love of country music all started," he said.

Turning the clock forward Brendan played the covers gig scene for a number of years until he had written, what he thought was, a great bunch of songs and took them into the recording studio. His debut album was born, produced by Kevin Bennett (The Flood), and it continues to receive great reviews from listeners he said.

Brendan is graduate of the 2015 CMAA Academy of country music and he took the advice from his great friend and mentor, the late Karl Broadie, and started "showing up", attending the Dag Songwriters retreat three years running and was a regular at Karl Broadie's all famous weekly Tuesday night Bunker songwriter sessions in Sydney and everywhere in between. He led the first and final songs at the "Concert for Karl" at the Dag sheep station where he sang Broadies

song *These Are The Best Days*, otherwise known as "the fishing rod song" accompanied on stage by Graeme Connors, Shane Nicholson, Aleyce Simmonds and Katie Brianna to name a few.

Brendan recently opened a run of shows for Luke O'Shea and Aleyce Simmonds. Another proud moment was being fortunate enough to sing Paul Kelly's part in the "I Wish I Was A Train" duet with Troy Cassar Daley, both being great influences to him as an artist.

Over the years, Brendan has been quite busy writing new material and is currently recording his long-awaited second album. The first single *Push Me Higher Daddy* produced by Glen Hannah and Kevin Bennett is soon to be released, with his second album in the pipeline.

You can catch Brendan, who is currently out and about on **The Open Road Tour** and is proud to be sharing his stories and songs with his audience. "I can't wait to see you on out on the open road!" he said. For gigs contact Brendan [0418985592](tel:0418985592)

Po box 912 Tamworth NSW 2340

[Brendan.nawrocki@bigpond.com](mailto:Brendan.nawrocki@bigpond.com)



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Brendan is a hard working man and difficult to track down. You'll find him gigging around the traps, including at the monthly TSA Songwriting sessions at the Cattleman's on the last Wednesday of the month. It's great to have Brendan on board of the TSA committee! He's picture above, second from the right at the Cattleman's show during Hats Off 2017



## ***Songsalive! Australia & Tamworth Songwriters Assoc.***



### **"Workshop in the Mountains 2017"**

with award winning songwriters, **Allan Caswell** and **Roger Corbett**

**When: Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2017**

**Where: Victoria & Albert Guesthouse**

19 Station Street, Mount Victoria, Blue Mountains - <http://www.victoria-albert.com.au>

**Why:** Because we care and want to give songwriters of all ages the opportunity to attend a hands on and friendly workshop coached by experts in the business at an affordable price.

- **Cost:** \$140.00 per attendee and includes the following:

**Saturday critiquing session 12noon-3pm followed by workshop 3-6pm  
with Allan Caswell and Roger Corbett.**

- Performance opportunity Saturday night 2<sup>nd</sup> September
- Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept. 9.30-5.00 The workshop continues followed by co-writing group sessions and performances

Price includes morning tea and lunch on Sunday.

Rooms are available at the Victoria & Albert on Saturday night at specially discounted rates, with a cooked breakfast included.

Please call Roxanne or Duncan if you want to book a room, we need to know in advance.

This will be a **two day special event** where you will have the opportunity to be coached by two of the best songwriters in the country.

You too can be part of the musical atmosphere; we are planning a performance night on the Saturday evening, PA and amps provided. Allan and Roger will be singing a song or two...so come on up! It's sure to be a lot of fun.

To find out more about the not-for profit organisations hosting this event visit:

Tamworth Songwriters Assoc. at [www.tsaonline.com.au](http://www.tsaonline.com.au)

Songsalive! Australia at [www.songsaliveaustralia.org.au](http://www.songsaliveaustralia.org.au)





## Songwriting Workshop In The Mountains

**September 2-3, 2017**



### Allan Caswell **Multi-award winning songwriter**

In 2016 when Allan Caswell won his seventh Golden Guitar in Tamworth (with Manfred Vijars) for Traditional Bush Ballad of the Year it marked 36 years since his first Golden Guitar in 1980. In the years in between Allan has experienced the highs and lows of a very successful and hugely varied career ... His song "On the Inside" (the theme for the television "Prisoner") reached No. 1 in Australia and New Zealand, No. 3 in England and made the Country Charts in the USA (his own version was a top 20 country hit in Europe in 2004) At last count, Caswell had well over 900 songs published and over 500 recordings of his songs released world-wide by artists of the calibre of Cilla Black, The Irish Rovers, Patti Page, Slim Dusty, James Blundell and The Living End.



### Roger Corbett -**The Bushwackers**

Multi-award-winning songwriter Roger Corbett is a multi Golden Guitar winning, highly successful songwriter and Australian music producer, with numerous successful chart songs to his credit. His songwriting credits include "The Fire Within" the theme song for the opening of the Sydney 2000 Paralympics Games, "Bridge of Love", it was a hit song for the 1994 International Year Of The Family and hundreds of other recorded songs with artists from every genre. From his Blue Mountains recording studio Roger predominately works with Independent artists in the singer-songwriter folk, pop, rock, country, gospel and children's music genres. Roger is a member and the manager of the legendary Bushwackers Band. The Bushwackers, now in their 45th year and with over 20 studio albums behind them, continue to tour the country and release new songs.

**To secure your place please call Roxanne: 0411 465 332 or Duncan: 0409 718 391**



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