



TSA Newsletter

November 2014

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"First the Song"

An update on the songwriting contests *by Judy Smith ...*

This year's songwriting contests closed on 14th October with excellent numbers of entries in both the National Country Songwriting Contest (unreleased material) and the Salute Awards (released material). Judging for both contests is now well under way with some initial results expected in early December.

Due to the large number of entries and the greater commitment to contests online generally, the TSA has been able to involve a number of new judges to help adjudicate both contests this year. We are very grateful for all judges who volunteer their time during their busy schedules to undertake this time consuming and important task and (in the case of the National contest) also provide some valuable feedback for entrants.

We wish to publically acknowledge and thank all the judges and are seeking permission to make their names public for this purpose.

Some initial results are expected in early December so check out the TSA website www.tsaonline.com.au for further updates!

We received these kind words from one of the judges:

"I have had the pleasure of listening to these wonderful songs over the last couple of weeks and wonder why a good deal of your songs (or you) do not get the recognition or opportunities bestowed upon other artists who get awards bestowed upon them for even singing cover songs. You should all be very proud of the work you have put in and the wonderful music you have put out. Good luck to everyone in the TSA's comp. but, more importantly, good luck in your musical pursuits and careers."

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

Or post to: Tamworth Songwriters Association

PO Box 618

Tamworth NSW 2340

Review of the songwriters workshop held in the mountains earlier this year *by Duncan Hill...*

Set amidst the beauty of the mountains (and free of bushfires this year!) the workshop held in the Victoria & Albert Guest House in Mount Victoria offered attendees a fabulous 2 days and evening. Songwriters got to play songs and have them critiqued by Allan Caswell and Roger Corbett, have dinner and listen to songs performed by Allan and Roger on the Saturday night.

Attendees then got to play some of their songs to fellow songwriters and friends in a relaxed and well catered for dining room.



The workshop commenced at 9am the following morning with sessions provided by Roger Corbett and Allan Caswell. Following both the presentations and Q&A sessions, small groups of songwriters were formed to engage in some co-writing. Sessions included regular visits from both Allan and Roger for assistance and any tips and all resulted in the solid beginnings of some fine new songs!

Everyone got to listen to all the songs and provide feedback and encouragement. It was a great weekend, very well attended within the historic walls of the guesthouse that provided some fine food and facilities.

The TSA and Songsalive! Australia plan to host a similar event next year – so keep an ear out so you don't miss out!



The 2015 TSA Concert and Awards Show – what's happening *by Duncan Hill...*

The TSA Concert & Awards show is set to be another great event at the Longyard. Some excellent performers, presenters, supporting band, tributes and, of course, the Award presentations to our songwriter contestant finalists and winners!

Performers on the night will include a 'surprise' multi-golden guitar artist along with the amazing (X-Factor finalists) **Brothers 3** as well as **Kate Cook, Bec Hance, Viper Creek Band, Jeff Brown, Katheryn Jones, Steve Passfield, Jared Porter, Kristy Cox** and **Taylor Pfeiffer**.

Bound to be an excellent evening starting at 7pm at the Longyard Hotel on Tuesday the 20th January, 2015.

Tickets just \$20.00 will be sold at the door on the night but best to purchase in advance via Oztix and/or the Longyard Hotel bottle shop so you don't miss out!



TSA members performing during the festival *by Lydia Clare*

Hi everyone!

Wow what a great response we have had to performing at the Tamworth festival in 2015. There are over 50 member playing at various locations around town. Would be really good if you have a chance to support a few shows! Many new venues this time such as ***The Hogs Breath Café, the Albert, the Southgate Inn as well as the Locomotive Hotels.*** Many thanks to Liam Benson, Mike Vee & Dallas Entertainment for giving us a go! *(Cont..)*

TSA Member Showcases at the Festival

Friday 16th January
2pm – 5pm

The Alberts

Long & Short
Becci Nethery
Natalie Baker
Grazy & Ames
Sontya Trahar
Sami

Friday 16th January
3.30pm – 5.30pm

Hogs Breathe

Kalesti Butler
Peter Salata
Wendy Wood
Mark Shay
Maurie Marion

Saturday 17th January
3.30 – 5.30pm

The Hogs Breathe

Justin Standley
Natalie Baker
Peter Salata
Rachel Summerall
Taylor Pfeiffer

Sunday 18th January
2.00 – 5.30pm

The Albert Hotel

Peter Salata
Kylie Castle
Justin Standley
Sarah Head
Rachel Summerall
Dunc'n Sons

Sunday 18th January
3.30- 5.30pm

Hogs Breathe

Emma Jene
Angus Gill
Mark Shay
Allan Lavender
Brenda Lee Kelly

Monday 19th January
2.00 – 5.00pm

The Albert

Bowen & Clare
Daniel Higgins
Gretta Ziller
Dianne Lindsay
Angus Gill
Taylor Pfeiffer

Monday 19th January
3.30 – 5.30

The Hogs Breathe

Kathryn Luxford
Susan Lily
Geoff Williams
Bowen & Clare
Kalesti Butler

Tuesday 20th January
3.30 – 5.30pm

Hogs Breathe

Melissa Robertson
Gretta Ziller
Charlie Adams
Cathy Dobson
Kerrie Garside

Also our new sponsors, *the Post Office Hotel* has TSA members (by invitation) performing everyday from 10-2pm.

It is a great venue with coffee and meals (as well as drinks) too – so come and check it out you never know who you'll see there!

There are heaps of newbies to our showcases and (as you know) always new songs to hear from all.

Check out the performance sessions and venues on this page.

Other news:

Bowen & Clare is launching its new album there on Monday 19th Jan @ 12.30pm

Susan Lily is launching her new album there on Friday 23rd Jan @ 1.20pm.

The TSA is really having a festival within a festival. A great start to the new year!

***** We would really love to know about any Open Mic nights or songwriter nights in your area or festivals that may be interested in a showcase *****

Please email me with the details at artist@tsaonline.com.au.

Till next time.
Lydia x

Wednesday 21st January
12.00 – 3.30

Locomotive Hotel
Amber Joy Poulton
Sarah Head
Matt Henry
Charlie Adams
Susan Lily
Dunc'n Sons

Thursday 22nd January
12.30 – 3.00pm

Southgate Inn
The Long & Short of It
Cassi Hilbers
Matt Henry
Kelly Winning
The Henrys
Bowen & Clare

Thursday 22nd January
3.30 – 5.30pm

Hogs Breathe
Kathryn Luxford
Susan Lily
Geoff Williams
Bowen & Clare
Kalesti Butler

TSA Members

*** NEWS ***

Dianne Lindsay



Great News for Dianne Lindsay, she is a 2015 Golden Guitar Finalist for Bush Ballad of the Year with the song 'Jack Bridle' written by Dianne and husband, Peter Simpson. This is their fourth nomination in a row for Bush Ballad. Additionally the song "Jack Brindle" won at Canberra CM Festival --Nov 2014 Bush Ballad of the Year and Peter won Instrumental of the Year with Lindsay Butler.

Peter and Dianne have organised and are hosting the 'Back To The Bush' Super Ballad Concert in the Toyota Park Wednesday 21st Jan in Tamworth at 7pm in conjunction with Tamworth Regional Council. They believe it could be the biggest bush ballad show ever seen in Tamworth.

Dianne has had a great year nominated for 2015 Bungendore Bush Ballad Awards - Female Vocal and Duo with Peter. 2015 will also see a trip to W.A. in February with shows around Perth and Albany, a tour of Tasmania in March with Ernie Constance presented by radio program 'Good Morning Country'.

Here's a list of Tamworth 2015 festival gigs:

17th - **MEMORIES TRAIL SHOW** Abba Homestead 7-10pm

18th - **LBS OPEN DAY** 10am

19th - **TSA Showcase** 3.30pm Albert Hotel

21st - **BACK TO THE BUSH CONCERT** Toyota Park 7-9pm Free

22nd - **DAUGHTERS OF COUNTRY SHOW** with Anne Kirkpatrick, Peter Simpson, Sandra Lindsay, James Arneman Abba Homestead 9am-12pm

23rd - **SOUTHSIDE UNITING CHURCH** 10am-12.30pm with Keith Jameson, Alisha Smith, Peter Simpson, Caitlyn Jane.

23rd - **TRIBUTE SHOW** Abba Homestead 1pm

Glenn Naylor



Glenn won in Tamworth/ January 2014 The Songwriter's Salute Awards CHILDRENS SONG OF THE YEAR. and was also on the shortlist in the ASA.

Glenn's co-writer Chris performs but she herself is not a performing artist..... too old she says !!. Glenn will be attending the TSA Concert and Awards Show this year (counting herself lucky to get flights and accommodation)

Glenn is a fine example of many TSA members who write but do not perform. So if you are one of those catch up with Glenn at the TSA Awards and find out how she does it.

Some background:

In 2008, as a first time entrant into any competition, I had three entries in the Australian Songwriters Assoc. songwriting contest (ASA). I secured Top 25 in the ASA songwriting contest Lyrics category, (one came in at number ten "so once I picked myself up off the floor, I decided that I should find a co-writer, and fortunately for me, I stumbled across Chris Wilson in Melbourne. We have been working together ever since. Chris and I have been delighted to make the shortlist each year in the ASA contest, seven categories, one year.

We were honoured to receive a 'Certificate of Commendation' for fine writing skills from the ASA. In January this year we were blown away to win 'The Songwriter's Salute Award' in Tamworth for Children's Song Of The Year.

On a personal note, my day to day life is extremely busy. My husband is a T.P.I. (totally permanently incapacitated) war veteran, for whom I have cared for many years. We have raised our beautiful grandson from a tiny baby. He is my inspiration, especially for the Aussie kid's songs. (cont..)

I started writing to 'escape' the busy-ness of my days, and I wanted to do something creative and satisfying for myself, but it backfired and I became busier, but I have loved the ride and have enjoyed every moment. I became so passionate that I started writing prolifically and, subsequently, this turned my life upside down in a great way.

It has been surreal to have experienced the many wonderful things that have happened over the last few years: traveling to places I may otherwise not have gone to and meeting great artists and other people in the music business.

Chris and I have written many songs in different genres and all have been very well received in Australia and in the U.S. I went to Nashville three years ago to do several radio interviews in various parts of the U.S. but I ended up doing them all from Nashville.

Then Chris and I went back a couple of years ago because Robert Venable had chosen one of our songs to be produced by him.

The moral of this story is, you are never too old to create no matter what your circumstances are and I must say great things can happen."

Then one morning I opened an email from Mike Pinder (Moody Blues) and I almost fell off my chair. Mike said that he loved all of our songs and made the comment "I expect to see your name in lights one day." What a blast, I was over the moon! We have some great mates in the U.S now. Gary Allen in Nashville has become a very good friend.

Also, we have been working with Gene Foley of www.foleyentertainment.com. Gene is a highly respected music executive. He is known in the U.S. as the man with the golden ear. He too loves our songs, awesome! Gene met us for lunch in New York and he is an absolute delight. We are still working with him. We found all the Americans to be warm and welcoming.

Chris is a very talented musician who plays many instruments. I am lucky to work with an artist who has so much talent and experience in the music industry.

We work well together and respect the others view and I hope this collaboration continues for a long time. I have slowed down writing this year due to commitments. The moral of this story is, you are never too old to create no matter what your circumstances are and I must say great things can happen."

FROM THE EDITOR:

Glen your story is inspirational, you have obviously valued the 'journey' and seized opportunities with vigour and a positive attitude. Despite the challenges (both personally and in the music industry) you persevere doing what you love – creating songs. We have to congratulate you as a songwriter for both your success and your remarkable journey. We look forward to seeing you at the Awards night in January!

Connie Kis Anderson



Another busy year for our Connie Kis, she has an album launch for the new album

Connie Kis Naked "Under the Radar" (released Nov 7, 2014) CD Launch celebrations to be held in Tamworth at the IBIS Hotel Function Centre Jan 22, 6.00 pm – 8.00pm.

Special Guest will be Johanna Hemara.

The First Single from the album (called 'On The Other Side of Midnight') reached #4 on the Australian Country Tracks Top 40 last week (Nov 7).

Connie's Gig Schedule Dec 2014/Jan 2015:

Dec 5 – 7pm – Bullsbrook RSL
Dec 12 – 1.30pm – St John of God Hospice
Dec 13 – 7pm – Footprints Day Centre, Murdoch
Jan 11 – 7pm – Country Music Assoc. of Vic
Jan 17 – 12pm – Courthouse Hotel (rear stage)
Jan 19 – 11.30am – Toyota Fanzone
Jan 19 -4pm – Family Hotel (Honky Tonk bar)
(cont..)

Jan 20 – 11am – Dag Sheep Station
Jan 21 – 10.30am – Big Golden Guitar
Jan 21 – 1.30pm – Ibis Styles
Jan 22 – 6pm – Ibis Styles (Function Centre)

Kathryn Luxford



Katherine first came to our attention at the Hats Off festival July 2014. She is a young talent and we look forward to watching her develop into a fine artist.

During 2014 Kathryn performed at Tamworth in January where she made finals at CCMA talent quest, semi finals song writing. She also finished runner up in the Mount Franklin Talent quest.

This year:

In **March** Kathryn attended the Oakey Music Rush where she partnered with Laura Veasey to take out the Junior Duet section of the Talent Quest.

In **July** it was back to Tamworth for CCMA and TSA showcases.

September it was off to Gloucester for their Music Muster & Talent Quest. Here Kathryn won in the Juvenile Vocal section.

October it was Inverell's Got Talent where Kathryn again met with success taking out the Junior Section. Following on from Inverell was Glen Innes' Mountain of Music where Kathryn was the overall Juvenile winner.

She is currently recording her first CD!

Also, during August and September Kathryn's song "Radio" recorded but not released acoustic version became one of the most requested songs on local community radio station 2CBD.

FROM THE EDITOR:

Well done Kathryn! Working hard and reaping rewards for your fine efforts. You can catch Kathryn in Tamworth 2015 refer to the gig guide and we wish her all success at this early stage of her career. As a member of the TSA Kathryn has the opportunity to perform at all our TSA showcase venues so come along and support Kathryn and other developing artists like her.

Melissa Robertson



Melissa has been working hard with appearances at Woodstock Festival 22nd November and other regional music festivals including Canberra Country Music festival.

Melissa recently launched her new EP, My Heart's On Fire at Tastebuds @ Cowra 30 November.

Melissa's dates for Tamworth 2015 are:

Jan 17 – from 5pm - RB sellars HQ Stage

Jan 18 – from 11am - Frog & Toad - The Songwriter's Showcase With Melissa Robertson and Friends' -

Jan 19 – 9am - RB Sellars HQ Stage

Jan 20 – 3.30pm - Hogs Breath upstairs

Jan 21 – 12.30 - The Post office Hotel

Melissa's song "I love My Country Boy" was a finalist this year in The ASA competition's Top 30 of the Country section.

Becci Nethery



Album Launch Date; Sunday, 18th January 2015, 12.00pm at Lindsey Butler Studios

Album Release Information, Becci Netherys debut CD "Livin' In a Love Song" is available for purchase at <http://www.beccinethery.com>

Awards won this year: Becci won the opportunity to perform at the Gympie Muster this year as part of the Queensland Champion of Champions Showcase, Becci also placed first (with "I Wrote This One For You") (Cont...)

and second (with "Walk Away") for the songwriting section at the Pioneer Valley Country Music Festival. She also placed first (with "I Wrote This One For You") in the junior Song Writing Section and third (with "Walk Away") for the Best Overall Songwriting section at the ACMA Country Music Festival.

Awards Nominated for: Becci is nominated in the Vanda and Young Songwriting Competition.

Other Information: Becci will be attending her 3rd Tamworth Festival in 2015, she is so excited to be launching her debut CD "Livin' In a Love Song" which was recorded this year in Tamworth with Tamworth based producer Greg Williams.

List of Dates: Friday, 16 January, 2.30pm Albert Hotel Marquee TSA performance. Sunday, 18 January, 10.30am Fanzone Stage, Sunday 18th January 12.00pm CD Launch LBS Studio, Sunday 18th January, 2.00pm Capitol Theatre Gospel Choir (Carter and Carter), Monday, 19 January, 3.30pm Hog's Breath Cafe TSA performance, Monday 19, January 6.00pm RB Sellars HQ Stage, Tamworth Country Music Festival performance, Tuesday, 20 Jan 1.00pm Southgate Inn, Young Stars of Country 2012 Academy Reunion Concert. Wednesday, 21 Jan 1.00pm Southgate Inn, Young Stars of Country 2012 Academy Reunion Concert. Saturday 24 January, 10.45am Post Office Hotel, TSA performance.

FROM THE EDITOR:

Well done Becci – you are well on the way! Please support our young artists (such as Becci) by catching them at their gigs and events.

Tamworth Songwriters Association

SONGMAKER AWARD!!

The TSA Songmaker Award is a prestigious and important one.

Each year **TSA members** vote a songwriter (who they feel has made a lasting and important contribution to Australian songwriting) into a permanent position on the TSA Songmaker Tribute that is set in the grounds of the Golden Guitar shaped Tourist Information Centre.

Names on the wall include: Stan Coster, Joy McKean, Slim Dusty, John Williamson, Allan Caswell, Geoff Mack, Ernie Constance, the Schneider Sisters and many more wonderful contributors!

Nominees for this year are:

Tony Brooks	Barry Forrester
Colin Buchanan	Pat Drummond
Greg Champion	Graham Rodger
Ian Quinn	

All TSA members are urged to make their vote by placing 1st 2nd 3rd 4th and 5th next to their chosen songwriters.

Please go to the **Notices/ Songmaker** page on the www.tsaonline.com.au website for more information about each of the nominees.

Alternatively send your nominations to **Lorraine Pfitzner** (Secretary) by the 24th December 2014 via email: lorijoy@tpg.com.au or by post: **PO Box 618 Tamworth**

Some useful links and things

Inside Songwriting?

Check out Karl Brodie's Inside Songwriting on his website www.insidesongwriting.com



Karl Brodie's website provides many useful links and podcasts about songwriting.

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. During the 2015 festival (or any other time you happen to be in Tamworth) 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.

TSA Matters...

Calling volunteers to help with the TSA's Float for the 2015 Cavilcade!!



This year's theme is *"Its Country Music And so much more"* and the TSA is preparing float for the cavalcade down Peel Street. **Wendy Wood** is co-ordinating this and would love to hear from any volunteers able to help prepare the float. Please contact Wendy on 0401 079 363

NOTICE OF TSA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The TSA Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 21st January 2015 in the St Andrew Room of the Uniting Church Hall – Marius Street, Tamworth at 9.00am.

Nominations for Office Bearers and Committee Members are to be submitted to the Secretary, Lorraine Pfitzner at PO Box 618, Tamworth NSW 2340.

Please go to the www.tsaonline.com.au site under **Notices / Notice of AGM** to view and download full details regarding positions to be filled etc. and the form to be completed with nominations etc. Nomination forms must be submitted by the 24th December 2014.



Your TSA committee wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas and look forward to seeing you in Tamworth in 2015. We all hope the new year brings no your best songwriting and a wonderful and musical year!

Cheers
Duncan Hill, President