

## If Wishes Were Horses Doug Ashdown

Recently listening to radio the song **If Wishes Were Horses** by **Doug Ashdown** was playing, and because of its clever lyrics, it is presented here just for you.

Just after midnight, on Spencer Street station,  
I'd missed the last train; he sat down, beside me,  
His eyes, bright, with fever,  
Too many nights, in the rain.  
I rolled him, a smoke, he took it and spoke,  
In a voice, aged by winter's wine,  
He said, "Son, when you're older,  
Cold nights, get colder,  
Alone, on the shoulder's, of time".

"Cit-y's no place,  
For old dro-vers", he cried,  
"The dam-per is wrapped,  
And the rent's, way too high,  
I'd love to see, The Al-ice,  
Once more 'fore I die,  
If wish-es, were hors-es,  
Old dro-vers, would ride".

He worked, walked & wandered,  
From Cairns to Coonamble,  
Since leavin' The Alice behind,  
To follow a lady, there's always a lady,  
In the midst, of an old drover's mind,  
His words took me rovin', from shearin' to drovin'  
Battlin' the wets & the dries,  
Two-up, & tent fights, tall tales on hot nights,  
Australia, looked, right through his eyes.

"City's no place, for old drovers, to ride,  
You can't, boil, the billy,  
And there's, no place, to hide,  
I'd love to see, The Alice, once more 'fore I die,  
If wishes were horses, old drovers, would ride".

I watched while his soul,  
Slipped away from his body,  
And the years, seemed to melt, from his face,  
And I whispered a prayer, he was headed for Alice,  
Back, in the saddle, again.

City's **no place** for old drovers to die,  
They should be in the bush,  
Where there their spirits can fly,  
And meet their last sunset,  
'neath the red desert sky,  
If wishes were horses, old drivers would ride,

*Old drovers would ride....*



**Doug Ashdown**

Douglas Wesley Ashdown was born 1942 in Adelaide, South Australia; at the age of 17 he travelled to England to play in a rock band. In 1961 he was back in Adelaide and played guitar alongside **Bobby Bright** as vocalist in **The Bowmen**. By 1965, as a solo singer-songwriter, he released his first album, **This Is Doug Ashdown**. His 1960s popular singles were "**Something Strange**" in 1968, and in 1969, "**Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin On**" (cover of the Jerry Lee Lewis' hit).<sup>[2]</sup>

In 1970, he signed with the independent label, **Sweet Peach**, and issued "**The Saddest Song of All**" in August which peaked at No. 53 on the Australian *Go-Set* Singles Chart. The song was written by **Ashdown** and **Jim Stewart**, who became his long-term producer and co-writer. The associated album, **The Age of Mouse**, was the first double LP album of original material released by an Australian. Ashdown and Stewart relocated to the United States, living in Nashville.

In 1977, his album, '**Trees**' won the *TV Week*, an Australian television entertainment magazine, King of Pop Award for 'Best Album Cover'.

**Gawler Country Music Club gives credit and recognition to Doug Ashdown, another talented writer and performer from South Australia.**

## The CMAA Country Music Awards of Australia and Golden Guitar trophies will be awarded on Saturday January 25<sup>th</sup> 2014 in Tamworth. Australia's Country Music Capital.

Below is a list of finalists for the 2014 CMAA Country Music Awards of Australia:

### ALBUM OF THE YEAR

**Beautiful Noise** - Lee Kernaghan, produced by Garth Porter

**Fuse** - Keith Urban, produced by Keith Urban & various (Dan Huff, Butch Walker, Zach Crowell, Stargate for 45th & 3rd Music, Mike Elizondo, Nathan Champman, Jay Joyce, Ross Copperman)

**If I Want To** - Jasmine Rae, produced by Luke Wooten

**Lovegrass** - Sara Storer, produced by Matt Fell

**The Great Country Songbook** - Troy Cassar-Daley & Adam Harvey, produced by Troy Cassar-Daley & Adam Harvey

### MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

**Keith Urban** - Little Bit Of Everything

**Lee Kernaghan** - Flying With The King

**Luke Austen** - Let's Just Go With It

**Doug Bruce** - Thank God I'm A Cowboy

**Russell Morris** - Squizzy

### FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR

**Aleyce Simmonds** - Believe

**Ashleigh Dallas** - Me

**Dianna Corcoran** - Therapy

**Jasmine Rae** - If I Want To

**Sara Storer** - Lovegrass

For the following nominees go to **country-1**  
[www.country.com.au/news/](http://www.country.com.au/news/)

- ALTERNATIVE COUNTRY ALBUM OF THE YEAR
- GROUP OR DUO OF THE YEAR
- VOCAL COLLABORATION OF THE YEAR
- BUSH BALLAD OF THE YEAR
- APRA SONG OF THE YEAR
- SINGLE OF THE YEAR
- SANITY AUSTRALIAN TOP SELLING ALBUM OF THE YEAR

The Award presentation is accompanied by a star-studded gala concert featuring the cream of Australian country music performing alongside some of our newest rising stars.

**The 42nd CMAA Country Music Awards of Australia will be staged on Saturday, 25th January, 2014 at the Tamworth Regional Entertainment & Conference Centre (TRECC). Tickets are on sale now through [www.tcmf.com.au](http://www.tcmf.com.au) or (02) 67675300.**

