

What Country Music Artists are Paid?

Musicians and events organisers are fully aware that playing music locally does not pay well. They/we tend to perform as a hobby. However, in a recent **South Australian** publication **Country Music Clubs** have been described as **not paying a fair price** to bands and artists.

This is in reference to a quote from the publication... **'If you pay peanuts you get monkeys'**.

To use such a quote suggesting that our **Country Music Clubs** in **South Australia** are hiring bands who are 'substandard' or less than capable of putting on a good show, is insulting; and demonstrates total disrespect towards our very capable, experienced and popular artists.

It is unfortunate that sometimes the venues in which our **Country Music Bands** and **Artists** appear, often don't attract enough paying guests to cover costs. On the other hand, the **Volunteer Members in Country Music Clubs** who donate their time, effort, gifts and monies to support their clubs will no doubt take this comment on **Peanuts** as a slap in the face for the input they have provided over many years, when financial support from other sources has been limited or non-existent.

A representative of Country Music in SA says **'I haven't seen any change in Club attitude to paying a fair price...'**

Does this representative have the magic solution, the **'Midas Touch'** to enable Clubs to pay our artists higher rates?

It is ironic that the organisation that this person currently represents also relies on volunteers, donations, sponsorship and bands playing free or for reduced rates to support them in fundraising.

When it comes to paying bands and artists a fair price it would be good if critics would 'Practice what you preach'.

Suggestions that **'Some bands are not getting a fair go'** imply that there is maybe some kind of conspiracy behind the scenes. The reality is that if a band or artist is likely to pull in a bigger paying audience, the clubs will possibly pay more in the hope that they at least cover costs.

We make no secret of our views. A strong organisational structure with a history of business success in the music industry would be a dream come true for the **Country Music** industry.'

We look forward to the day when **Country Music** in South Australia attracts an extensive audience and becomes main-stream entertainment on radio, TV and in live venues.

As much as **we would all love to see bands being paid more**, the economic relationship between supply and demand is what determines the level of payment that is fair, possible and realistic. Businesses who continually run at a loss don't survive unless they are propped up by government funding or private investors.

We don't need a lesson in economics or accountancy... If long term financial income is less than outgoing the result is generally... Shutdown!

At a practical level... increasing Club entrance fees may reduce the number of paying customers visiting our clubs; in effect lessening income, ultimately resulting again in failure.

Is it fair and business-like for responsible organisations to criticise the clubs who support Country Music in South Australia, and who are surviving quite well under their own steam with the hard work and support of their **Committees and Club Members?**

Those commenting on our clubs need to take stock, and perhaps practice what they preach.



It is the Community Spirit of our local musicians... who generally don't play to earn big bucks; they play because they love the music; They enjoy playing and performing at live shows.

Their reward is in seeing people having a good time, and then receiving a little **thank you** after each gig. However there are exceptions to the rule.

True... What is not obvious to all is the hours of practice, the cost of instruments and equipment. But hey! No-one is forcing musicians to **'Play for peanuts!'**

We at country music clubs fully support the suggestion that bands and artists deserve a better deal financially; however, it is a fact that artists generally are not well paid unless they attract big crowds, are extremely talented, willing to travel internationally, and have an entrepreneurial management team.

If you know a 'Richard Branson' please invite him along to our Country Music Clubs in South Australia.

P.S. All comments above are intended to draw attention to facts. No offence is intended to any individual or any organisation.

However; When profound statements are made which have implications concerning supporters of **Country Music** it may be time for some serious changes in attitude.

Note: This is an adapted version of a communication previously forwarded to the South Australian Country Music for publication in their Prelude. No response or acknowledgement was received.



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'We Like it Like That!'**

GAWLER COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB INC.

Sunday July 20th

12 til 4.00pm

**The Sherrah's
plus Guest**



Gardening God's Way

Plant Three Rows Of Peas:
Peace of mind, Peace of heart, Peace of soul.

Plant Four Rows Of Squash:
Squash gossip, Squash indifference, Squash grumbling, Squash selfishness

Plant Four Rows Of Lettuce:
Lettuce be Faithful, Lettuce be Kind, Lettuce be obedient, lettuce really love one another

No Garden Without Turnups:
Turnup For Meetings, Turnup For Service, Turnup to help one another.

Water Freely:
With Patience and Cultivate with Love.
There is much fruit in your garden, because you reap what you sow.

To Conclude Our Garden We Must Have Thyme:
Thyme for GOD, Thyme for study, Thyme for prayer, Thyme for each other.

Margaret Reid

**Get ready for your
August AGM**

SPECIAL POEM

**A row of bottles on my shelf
Caused me to analyze myself.
One yellow pill I have to pop
Goes to my heart so it won't stop.
A little white one that I take
Goes to my hands so they won't shake.
The blue ones that I use a lot
Tell me I'm happy when I'm not.
The purple pill goes to my brain
And tells me that I have no pain.
The capsules tell me not to wheeze
Or cough or choke or even sneeze...
The red ones, smallest of them all
Go to my blood so I won't fall.
The orange ones, very big and bright
Prevent my leg cramps in the night.
Such an array of brilliant pills
Helping to cure all kinds of ills.
But what I'd really like to know.....**

Is what tells each one where to go!

PONDERISMS

I used to eat a lot of natural foods until I learned that most people die of natural causes.

Gardening Rule: When weeding, the best way to make sure you are removing a weed and not a valuable plant is to pull on it. If it comes out of the ground easily, it is a valuable plant.

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a replacement.

Never take life seriously. Nobody gets out alive anyway.

There are two kinds of pedestrians: the quick and the dead.

Life is sexually transmitted.

Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.

Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in hospitals dying of nothing.

Have you noticed since everyone has a phone camera these days no one talks about seeing UFOs like they used to?