

It's All Over Now...

The Rolling Stones 1964 R&B track title 'It's All Over Now' sums up the 42nd Tamworth Country Music Festival held late January 2014. It may all be over but memories, achievements and experiences live on.



The prestigious **Golden Guitar** trophies were awarded to LEE KERNAGHAN and SARA STORER.

LEE KERNAGHAN scored **MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR, CMC VIDEO CLIP OF THE YEAR, SINGLE OF THE YEAR** and the **SANITY TOP SELLING AUSTRALIAN ALBUM OF THE YEAR** adding another **four trophies** to his already impressive collection.

Kernaghan's award winning song 'Flying with the King', a tribute to SLIM DUSTY was part of the night's theme.

LUKE O'SHEA and DREW McALISTER collected awards for the recording of 'Lady Of the Land', a tribute to Slim's Dusty's wife, Joy McKeen.

SARA STORER's return was awarded with **three Golden Guitars**. Taking out the coveted **ALBUM OF THE YEAR** award was the icing on the country cake that also included **FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR** and **VOCAL COLLABORATION OF THE YEAR** with John Williamson.

Whilst PETE DENAHY kept the crowd entertained, he had to leave his post to collect his **Golden Guitar for INSTRUMENTAL OF THE YEAR**.

First time **Golden Guitar** winner ASHLEIGH DALLAS was awarded **BEST NEW TALENT**. A Tamworth local and third generation country music artist who was **discovered** by KASEY CHAMBERS secured the trophy with the audience showing their full support.

A special highlight of the night was the presentation of **THE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD** to TED EGAN. With a career spanning over forty years, Egan has recorded **thirty albums, written ten books and presented on thirteen episodes of the hour long documentary 'This Land Australia**. Along with the **Golden Guitar** trophy, Egan's contribution to the industry was recognised with a rendition of his song **Drover's Boy**.

Performances on the night included **THE WOLFE BROTHERS, LEE KERNAGHAN, KAYLEE BELL, KAYLENS RAIN, ASHLEIGH DALLAS, JASMINE RAE, PETE DENAHY, MUSTERED COURAGE, SARA STORER, LACHLAN BRYAN & THE WILDES, LUKE O'SHEA and THE ADAM ECKERSLEY BAND**.

2014 Tamworth Awards:

- **ALBUM OF THE YEAR:** Lovegrass - Sara Storer, produced by Matt Fell
- **ALTERNATIVE COUNTRY ALBUM OF THE YEAR:** Black Coffee - Lachlan Bryan and The Wildes, produced by Lachlan Bryan, Mat Duniam, Shaun Ryan and Rod McCormack
- **MALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR:** Lee Kernaghan - Flying With The King
- **FEMALE ARTIST OF THE YEAR:** Sara Storer - Lovegrass
- **GROUP OR DUO OF THE YEAR:** O'Shea - Thank You Angels
- **VOCAL COLLABORATION OF THE YEAR:** Pozie - Sara Storer & John Williamson
- **TOYOTA HERITAGE SONG OF THE YEAR:** Lady of the Land - written by Luke O'Shea & Drew McAlister, recorded by Luke O'Shea
- **BUSH BALLAD OF THE YEAR:** I Love Australia - written by Keith Jamieson, recorded by Jeff Brown
- **INSTRUMENTAL OF THE YEAR:** Cotton Eyed Joe - Pete Denahy
- **QANTASLINK NEW TALENT OF THE YEAR:** Ashleigh Dallas - Me
- **APRA SONG OF THE YEAR:** Lady of the Land - written by Luke O'Shea & Drew McAlister, recorded by Luke O'Shea
- **CMC VIDEO CLIP OF THE YEAR:** Flying With The King - Lee Kernaghan, directed by Duncan Toombs
- **SINGLE OF THE YEAR:** Flying With The King - Lee Kernaghan
- **TOP SELLING INTERNATIONAL ALBUM OF THE YEAR:** Red - Taylor Swift (Universal Music)
- **SANITY TOP SELLING AUSTRALIAN ALBUM OF THE YEAR:** Beautiful Noise - Lee Kernaghan (ABC Music)
- **LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:** Ted Egan

The 42nd CMAA Country Music Awards of Australia were staged on Saturday 25 January 2014 at the Tamworth Regional Entertainment & Conference Centre (TRECC). #GGawards!

Bush Balladeer's Gold Country Music Pigeonhole



Australian country music **Golden Guitar** awards, included Central Queensland singer songwriter **Keith Jamieson** proving that **persistence and experience** in the industry does pay off with Keith taking out the **Bush Ballad of the Year** with the track 'I Love Australia' sung by **Jeff Brown**.

Dale and Brothers3

Dale Duncan and Brothers3 topped the winners list at the Australian Country Music People's Choice Awards.

Dale won **Best Song** for his *Miracle Girl*, which he recorded as a duet with **Johanna Hemara**, and **Best Bush Ballad** for his recording of *Heart Of Australia*, written by **Billy Wye, Shaza Leigh and Dale**.

Brothers3 again won **Best Group**, an award they seem to have a strong grip on, and also their first **Best Album** gong with *Let It Drift*.



Dianne Lindsay won her second **Best Female Vocal** award

while **Graham Rodger** took home his third **Best Male Vocal** award. Our South Australian multi award-winning new talent **Nathaniel O'Brien** was presented with **Most Promising Future Star**.

Troy Cassar-Daley and Adam Harvey won **Best Vocal Event** for their duet recording of the Slim Dusty classic *Lights On The Hill*.

Is it time for new faces?

I can't help having a giggle to myself when I see anything written in connection with Country Music in South Australia. The same faces, the same people, the same theme and the same old song. There seems to be a constant repetition of the words 'Talent Quest', 'Awards', and 'Champions' along with the repetitive and reverberating names of the same artists echoing throughout the media.

For example some Country Music publications and Facebook page continually show photographs of familiar faces; people holding up certificates to show they have yet again won a place in a **Talent Quest** somewhere, sometime...and often to the exclusion of many other artists worthy of recognition.

It seems that the Country Music industry in South Australia has an obsessive mentality based on winning trophies and awards rather than providing support and much needed all-embracing encouragement.

The County Music Gig Guide produced by **Ian Fisk** is worthy of praise and recognition, however, yet again, repetition seems to dominate (no fault of Ian) ... It is the same old bands again and again. Admittedly the entertainment is generally of good quality, but isn't it time Country Music introduced some sparkle into its organising and promotion of events?

What is apparent, is **Talent Quests** continually attract relatively small numbers and the same competing artists. Talent Quest events also tend to attract very few members of the public. Most followers of the events are the artists themselves along with friends and family.

Australia believes in giving each other a **fair go** and providing **equal opportunity... However**, for many years now it has been observed that some prominent County Music figures have an obsession with Talent Quests.

One can understand parents encouraging and supporting **their own** talented, enthusiastic children. However, when an official organisation publicly promotes family members **to the exclusion of others**, it makes one wonder what the future holds in store for developing country music generally.

Isn't it about time we featured a **non-competitive** event across the state in an effort to provide opportunity and awareness of the new and undiscovered talent we have here in South Australia?

Solo artists and bands have been pigeon-holed into a situation where Tamworth is the only avenue for gaining nation wide recognition, and even then, it is the already successful artists who gain the limelight and limited benefits of publicity via the **Golden Guitar Awards**.

What's lacking in Country Music in SA?

Is it a lack of effective management? A lack of interest? A need for clubs to work more closely together? Or is it a lack of **initiative**? What do you think?

Follow the introduction of new and developing artists on the front page of this monthly newsletter.