

'That's No How You Make Porridge!'

Is **Aussie Country Music** becoming 'Cool'?

Recently I've heard many people say, 'That's not **Country Music!**' It reminds me of that old 'Australian' saying 'That's no how you make porridge!'

We all know there are consumers of **porridge** who add the **traditional** sprinkle of **salt**, and the alternative preferences stretch to adding **sugar** or a dollop of **honey** or **Golden Syrup**. Yes...It's all to do with 'TASTE'!

You probably like to eat your **porridge hot**; however, many years ago in **Scotland** for example, porridge was poured into a special shallow kitchen drawer and left to cool. It was then sliced and eaten cold over the next few days. Now that's 'COOL'! It's also yuk! But that's only a 'Matter of Opinion'.

The point here is that **Traditional values do change** and the recent discussion on ... What **is...** and what **is not Country Music...** increased my awareness of variations in personal 'Tastes' and 'Matters of Opinion'.

Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, and some individuals express their opinions strongly by **phoning radio stations**. That's fine. However, one of these days someone might even write a 'Letter to the Editor'. Yes 'Miracles do happen!' Now that really would be 'Cool'.

(I do sympathise and empathies with **Prelude Editor Charlie McCracken** and all **Country Music Club Editors** ... **Us poor overworked individuals** need more information and support from club members on wot's happening out there when you visit other **Country Music** events.) Enough of my opinion, lets get to the point!

Country Music exists to be enjoyed by **everyone**... The young, the not so young, the able and the not so able. Race, religion, gender, social standing etc. need not be barriers.

Country singers in **Australia** have long had to battle through **stereotypes**... often categorised as 'Performers for Oldies.' (Quote from: **The Age...** Ouch! Yes that hurts.)

Wouldn't it be great to see a mix of young and old fans of **Country Music** attending our events here in **Australia**?

It's great to see our 'younger generation' **Country Music Artists...** **Beccy Cole, Amos Morris, Gina Jeffreys, Harmony James, Travis Collins, Amber Lawrence, Sara Storer, Felicity Urquhart** etc... they are currently doing well with record sales and air play.

Our young local entertainers **Nathaniel, Tiffney, Talia, Eliza, Sugar and Spice, Candy, Kristal** etc... are all deserving of support and encouragement. They need your assistance to become skilled, talented and successful.

The **Country Music** industry needs young people to

preserve and perpetuate the **Country Music genre**'Cos us old farts won't be around forever!'

By merging, uniting and combining the various sub-divisions of **Country Music** styles, yes... including 'Country pop' and 'Country rock', we would be more likely to attract younger people to our venues; listening to artists, being inspired to play music; to read music, to be motivated by music and... to consider a career in music. Career opportunities (generally) for young people are not as available as they were for us 'Oldies'.

"Country Music is in the process of reinventing itself...." And let's be truthful... It needs to be ... 'Cos the times they are a changing.'

By encouraging **young musicians and followers of Country Music** to attend **Country Music** events, the increased demand for musical instruments, teachers, new styles of clothing, CD's and DVD's etc... would provide more career opportunities for future generations.

So What?..... So... we do care about our youngsters. We want them to enjoy, develop and prosper in the years ahead. **Popular Country Music** provides opportunity and enjoyment.

However, if we sit selfishly moaning and complaining 'cos 'That's not Country!' what will happen to this **The Land of Opportunity?**

Country Music in **Australia** has loads of potential. **Tamworth** is known worldwide for its 'Country Music'. Take advantage of this **Golden Guitar of Opportunity**.

While respecting everyone's opinion, I hope by taking a wider view of **Country Music** in **Australia**, the genre will be allowed to expand, to provide good entertainment, good prospects and friendship. Let us all look at wider horizons for the benefit of **Australia** and its **Country Music**.

To those **Radio Hosts** and **DJ's** who are maybe as old as I am... (If not older.) Let's take a more positive view of the dynamic potential of **Country Music**. The half hearted attempt to inspire young newcomers to participate in **Country Music** is not good enough. Outside of **SACCM** our **Club Newsletters** and **Radio Stations...** there is no effective marketing strategy for **Country Music**. However, well done to **Slim Dusty's** family.

Hopefully you are inspired to send an article to your **Country Music Newsletter Editor** or to phone your **local radio station** to express your views. ... 'Now that's how you make porridge!'

Les Parris Editor and believer in productive free speech
P.S. I have mine with sugar heated in the Microwave...

April 2008 Gigs Acknowledgement to Ian Fisk & SACCM Gig Guide

Wed 2... 6.30pm to 9	Jay J Shannon Duo 1st Wed every month	Blackwood RSL, 1 Brighton Pde, Blackwood door open at 6pm	BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL 8278 6253
Thur 3... 9.30pm til late	Brendan Beleski	Woolshed on Hindley 94 Hindley St	8231 3023
Fri 4... 8.0pm \$10 per head	Camille Te Nanu & Stuie French	Northern Country Music Association , Afford Road, Port Pirie	8633 4417
Fri 4 7.00 pm	Ian List and The Sidekicks plus special guest Rodger Bird on Clarinet	Blacksmith Inn/Hotel One Tree Hill	8280 7231
Sat 5th 12noon to 5pm 1st Sat every month	Gawler Country Music Workshop Play, Sing, Learn, Jam, Have Fun! Anglican Parish Hall 26 Cowan Street Gawler		Brian Moore 8252 6642
Sat 5 Sun 6	Nathaniel O'Brien & Tracey Rains plus more Taylor Pfeiffer (on Apr 6th 12pm & 3.0pm)	Laura Folk Fair Laura	8663 2221
Sat 5 from 7.30 - 10.30pm	Midnight Special Clubroom open at 6.00 pm supper, door prizes and entertainment \$15p.p.	Somerton Bowling Club , King George Av, Somerton Park	bookings 8296 8849
Sun 6 12.30 to 5.0 p.m.	Camille Te Nanu & Stuie French with John Mathewson Band	Adelaide C.M. Club Inc. , 11 LaSalle St, Slovenian Club Dudley Park	8365 6315
Sun 6... 8pm	Camille Te Nanu & Stuie French	Oakbank Hotel, Oakbank	8388-4267
Thur 10 9.30pm til late	Brendan Beleski	Woolshed on Hindley 94 Hindley St, Adelaide	8231 3023
Fri 11... 6.30 pm	Alison Hams & Mark Tempany	Watersedge Restaurant, Whyalla	1800 355 218 or 08 8645 8877
Sat 12... 8pm- 11.30pm	Phil King	Enfield RSL 1 Fitzgerald Ave, Enfield, SA	8262 3302
Sat 12	Danny Hooper	Balaklava Golf Club - Balaklava	
Sat 12	Dave Prior	Port Augusta	
Sat 12 8.0pm to 12	Heartland	British Working Mens Club, Davis St, Wingfield	8347-4090
Sun 13 11.0a.m. to 4.0p.m	Heartland	Barossa C.M. Club Nuriootpa Bowling Club, Buna Terrace, Nuriootpa	8523 1957
Sun 13 1.0 to 5.0 pm	Marvane & Co	Southern CM Club Somerton Bowling Club , King George Av, Somerton Park	8381 7622
Sun 13... 10.30 am - 6.30pm	Graeme Hugo plus Tiffney Stroh & "No Worries" plus others poster	Gawler Gourmet and Heritage Festival, Cafe Nova, Gawler	0419 201 745 or jacqproductions@netspace.net.au
Thur 179.30pm til late	Brendan Beleski	Woolshed on Hindley 94 Hindley St	8231 3023
Fri 18 to Sun 20	Lee Kernaghan "2008 Australian of the Year", The Songbirds (Beccy Cole, Gina Jeffreys & Sara Storer), James Blundell, The McClymonts, Dianna Corcoran and Shea Fisher	Rock the Mount and Remarkable Ute Muster Melrose, SA Take a Harris Coach	Harris Coaches 1300 659 993
Fri 18... 8.30pm - Late	Jessie Che Band	Brecknock Hotel, King William St	8231 5467
Sun 20th 12noon to 4.0pm	'Graeme Hugo' with Bernie & the Bandits Gawler Country Music Club Munno Para Bowling Club Cnr Main North & Curtis Rds		8255 8920
Sun 20... 2.0 to 6.0 pm	Kristal Collins, Chooka Williams & Guido Davis	Railroad Country Music Club (Morphett Vale Function Centre)	8382 5611
Sun 20 2pm to 6.30pm	Mystic Blue	Millicent Community Club Millicent	
Sun 20 4pm to 8pm	Key Country	Cumberland Hotel, 76 The Causeway, Glanville	8449-6694
Thur 24 9.30pm til late	Brendan Beleski	Woolshed on Hindley 94 Hindley St, Adelaide	8231 3023
April 24 to 27	featuring Troy Cassar-Daly, Wolverines, Lee Forster, Fine Form and Wilbur Klein Take a Harris Coach ring 1300 659 993	Top of the Gulf Country Music Festival 2008 Truck Muster Talent Quest, Buskers competition, Workshops etc Port Augusta and Disticts CM Club	0400 789 819
Sun 27 11.0 to 4.0pm	Bernie & the Bandits	Murray Bridge C.M. Club Imperial Football Club Johnstone Pk	08 8535 4317