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Membership Application and Renewal Form

Gawler Country Music Club Inc P.O. Box 1132 Gawler SA 5118 Ph: (08) 8255 8920

Name: (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_ DOB (Day and month only): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Suburb/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Membership Fee: \$10.00 Are you already a Member?  Yes my Number is  No

My Favourite Country Music Artists are:.....

Do you sing or play a musical instrument?.....

I agree to abide by the constitution and rules of the club: Signature.....Date.....

Please send this form with your cheque or P.O. (Not Cash) to The Secretary at the above address

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Dance Listen Eat 'n' Sip



Come along and Enjoy

**Gawler Country Music Club Inc. PO Box 1132 Gawler SA 5118 (Outside)**

Gawler Country Music Club Inc. is a non profit organisation dedicated to the development of all styles of Country Music. The activities of the club include regular monthly meetings and shows; providing opportunity and encouragement to amateur artists; producing this newsletter and showing support for all other South Australian Country Music Clubs.

- |   |           |
|---|-----------|
| President/Entertainments Officer Keith Warren | 8255 8920 |
| Vice President George Dobie                   | 8255 5789 |
| Secretary Helen Warren                        | 8255 8920 |
| Treasurer Barry Warren                        | 8252 0600 |
| Public Relations Officer Fred Payne           |           |
| Newsletter/Web Editor Les Parris              |           |

**Committee Members**  
Yvonne McGregor,  
Keven McGregor, Kay Dobie, Louise Vardon, Kevin Vardon.  
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP \$10.00.

**ADVERTISING SPACE** is available in this Newsletter.  
Costs are: Half A4 Page \$20.00.  
Quarter A4 Page \$10.00.  
Eighth A4 Page \$5.00 (Business Card Size)

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** To ensure entry in the next issue please send articles, advertisements etc. to **The Editor, PO Box 1132, Gawler SA 5118** to reach us by the **Second Sunday of the month**. Additional copies of the Newsletter may be obtained at club functions or by contacting the Secretary on 8255 8920.

**Website:**  
[www.gawlercountrymusicclub.com.au](http://www.gawlercountrymusicclub.com.au)

RENEWALS DUE ON APRIL 1<sup>st</sup>



# Gawler Country Music Club

Newsletter of the  
Gawler Country Music Club Inc  
April 2009  
No:191

## 'Lovesick Blues'

On a warm summer night in June 1949 while his first number one record was spilling out of radios around the world; a frail young man going by the name of **Hank Williams**, walked onto stage in **Nashville** for his **Grand Ole Opry** debut.

By 1953... literally worn out at twenty-nine years of age, **Hank Williams** was gone...but he had given **Country Music** much of its standard repertoire and a legend so enduring that he is today, still the model for countless singers and songwriters.

Born in Alabama on September 17th, 1923, **Hiriam (Hank)** was the second child of Lon and Lillie Williams. Lon was hospitalized during most of **Hank's** early life, leaving the boy's upbringing to his strong-willed mother.

Small and fragile from the beginning (and afflicted with spina bifida), **Hank** may well have been attracted to music as an alternative to sports.

After leaving school **Hank** began his music career in earnest. He had made his first radio appearance in late 1936, and would soon become one of the station's most popular performers. He also worked in beer joints and regional shows with his band, **The Drifting Cowboys**.

By the early 40s, **Hank** was one of the biggest draws in the region, and had come to the attention of several **Nashville** music business leaders. But his reputation as a singer was marred by his reputation for drinking and unreliability.

In 1943 **Hank** met **Audrey Mae Sheppard**, an Alabama country girl with a two-year old daughter. **Audrey** learned to play stand-up bass so she could play in the band and she became acting manager.

They were married in December, 1944.

**Hank** recorded four songs for the **Sterling** label. And In March 1947 **Hank** signed with **MGM**.

"**Move It On Over**" was his first **MGM** release and his first "Billboard" chart entry. He charted again in April, 1948 with "**Honky Tonkin**".

His popularity was higher than ever, but more often than not, **Hank** would show up drunk (if at all) for live appearances, and was increasingly difficult for even his best friends to be around.

Many gave up in frustration. **Audrey** filed for divorce in late April.

With the big-time nearly in his grasp, **Hank Williams** was bottoming out. His records were falling flat.

Acknowledgement to [www.hankwilliams.com/](http://www.hankwilliams.com/)



## Hank Williams

However, '**Lovesick Blues**' a previously published song (Tin Pan Alley 1922) was released by **Hank** in February 1949. Miraculously it was a **Number One Hit** and by early May "**Lovesick Blues**" became popular beyond precedent.

Suddenly; **Hank Williams** was big time... Big enough for **Grand Ole Opry**.

With his marriage to **Audrey** in decline...**Hank's** songs ran in parallel with his real-life... "**You're Gonna Change (Or I'm Gonna Leave)**", "**Why Don't You Love Me**" and "**Cold, Cold Heart**".

After a divorce, and wracked with back pain, **Hank** was dependent on alcohol...often missing performances... or too drunk to appear on stage.

In his final weeks, he spun hopelessly out of control. **Hank** passed away on **January 1, 1953**.

In the final few years of his short life, **Hank** had left his mark on **Country Music**.

Three of **Hank's** recordings reached the top of the charts in the year following his death.

By 1954... his earthy voice silenced... this fragile young man from Alabama had become a **Country Music Legend**.