

News & Views From Our Committee and Club Members

This page is now devoted to information provided by **Committee and Club Members**

The Berri Bash

One day, **Fred**, the ever hard working organiser of the **Gawler Country Music Workshop** was presented with a vision and proceeded to act on this vision of an **Acoustic Workshop** to be held away from our usual venue at the **St. George's Anglican Parish hall in Cowan St., Gawler** where we hold our normal monthly workshop... which begins at Midday 'til 5pm, on the first Saturday every month.

And it came to pass that **Fred** decided to hold the acoustic workshop somewhere remote... no not on the moon... but a little closer in **Berri**; and wisely, **Fred** booked the venue last year in order to keep the cost down in an off peak time and sufficient numbers of people were interested.

By booking 3 cottages at the "Berri River Bush Cottages" we were able to house 13 people quite comfortably for the 2 nights.

Attending were **Fred** (Coordinator), Grace & George, James and Raya, Clive, John, Bob, Nannette, Dookie, Les, Carol & myself.

Friday evening (after a lovely bar-b-q cooked by **Fred** and **Clive**) we all gathered in one of the cottages for a jam session, to kick the weekend off, although basically country music was played, the Beatles (thanks James) and a couple of other genre of songs snuck in there as well. Even a jazz number or two from yours truly...hehe...what a jam it was too. People who normally would not even dream of singing at the workshop were merrily rendering songs here and there (their talents for the vocals have been exposed and noted, so watch out ladies...).

Amidst all the coffee and of course light beers flowing (we have to keep clear heads now) a few harmonies came out of the blue which made this happy harmonist ecstatic, and the numbers performed in first class fashion... The odd joke came into being and not a dry eye in the joint from the laughing which also added to the conviviality of the night...

Next morning after brekky and obligatory reading of newspapers, we actually started to do some real work...this work comprised of a harmonica workshop co taught by **Bob Couzens** and myself to be sure...and that was fun and I think I learnt more than the students...I hadn't taught a harmonica class for so long my written notes were half eaten my the moths over the years. It is great fun teaching harmonica where all the students have a mouth organ in C, a different key to the one I was playing but the principle is there.

After this fun session we all broke off for a couple of hours for lunch and a walk around, some of us popped into Berri shops for a quick look around.

The afternoon post lunch, was a dynamics workshop

where we dwelled on light and shade in the volume...i.e. When the vocalist is singing the verse, the volume of the instruments to decrease

1. So you can hear the verse,
2. You don't drown out the vocalist and
3. The light and shade of that process makes each section of the song stand out...then there is the chorus where you beef up the sound a little to emphasise it.

Another facet of this guitar w/shop was the idea that Les brought up, also included in the dynamics, he noticed there was about 7 guitars playing the same strum...by varying the strum of each player, after playing the song a couple of times, made for a great variety in the song itself and more pleasant again....

Now that the guitar workshop was completed, it was down to the serious matter of James & I cooking the barbeque outside our cottage...with the abundance of meat of all types left over from Friday. Then in the middle of all the cooking **Carol** took over from me. **Dookie** and I tickled the ivories, provided dinner music on her electronic keyboard.

(Yes I did say it was an acoustic weekend, but...oh well...)...with anything from jazz standards, evergreens and country numbers, once again adding to the ambience of the evening

Later on, with wood donated by the owners of the property, a campfire was held with **Fred, Clive, James, Les, John and yep, yours truly** again, on guitars, with Dookie on **piano accordion**, enjoying a sing song with the rest of the workshop participants.

It did become a bit chilly later, campfire dying out, so once again it was indoors to our cottage where yet another workshop /jam was enjoyed, providing once again a training ground for us shy musicians and vocalists...this finishing nigh on midnight..We decided to call it quits for the evening and get some **ZZZZZZZZZZ**'s before the morning's decamping procedures...

After meeting at 10am that morning, we all gathered for a photo session, and goodbyes, then **Carol & I** had to depart in order to pick **Dad** up at Adelaide airport by 3pm on his return flight from Sydney, while the others went out for lunch...

And it came to pass, a great weekend workshop enjoyed by one and all...

Thanks **Fred** for the idea, the organising of it and by doing so, providing fun for all...

And thanks to my Dad for the trust he gave me in borrowing his car for the weekend.

Your ever shy reporter, **See Pic on page 4**

Brian Moore



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Just a Thought From Bill Northcott!



A polar bear walks into Gawler Country Music Club and says to bartender Larry,

"I'll have a Rum....."

.....

..... and coke."

Larry asks, "What's with the big pause?"

The bear responds, "I dunno....."

I've always had them."

☺ He He!



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