

Emily Smith meets Carter and Carter

Gawler Country Music Club Member **Margaret Reid** has developed a network of Country Music acquaintances over the years, while traveling to Country Music events and festivals with her late husband **John**. Hitching up the caravan and packing the guitar had become a regular occurrence. John would play guitar and sing, while Margaret, who has a lovely singing voice, would accompany him with vocals. A true episode of 'On the Road Again.'

Music has become an essential part of living for generations of South Australians, and it's great to see different age groups of Country Music Fans sharing their interest and enthusiasm.

Margaret suggested an article on **Emily Smith**, whom she met at a recent family gathering, might be of interest to our readers.

Local guitarist **Emily Smith** was one of 22 musicians and singers from Australia and New Zealand who were hand-picked to attend the **2012 Australian Academy of Country Music**.

For two weeks at AACM, **Emily** would spend 12 hours each day perfecting her music skills with some of Country Music's greatest stars, including **Kevin Bennett, Troy Casser-Daley and Amber Lawrence**.

The personal development program is staged annually by the **Country Music Association of Australia** in **Tamworth**.

22-year-old Gawler resident **Emily** hopes her experience will help launch her music career. She has already taken stage at the Tamworth Country Music Festival and performed alongside well known singer-songwriters.

Emily has now been playing guitar for almost 15 years, and country music for about a year, but she says;

"Country music is not just great music, it's the festivals the atmosphere, and the opportunities for young artists..."



Super Guitarist **Emily Smith** thanks **Gawler Country Music Club** for their support. A special 'thank you' also goes to **Ensign Energy** who donated funds to assist **Emily** attend the Country Music Academy.

Emily says. 'The experience has been invaluable to my development as an artist, both in a practical sense, as well as gaining industry knowledge on how the industry works; methods of improving my playing; theory knowledge, and methods on song writing. Not only did I learn a lot, but I met some fantastic people, and had the opportunity to work with some of Country Music Australia's best.'

I am pictured alongside 'Carter and Carter.'

Since my time at the Academy I have worked interstate with some of the people I met at the Academy.

Thanks to the support of venues, fans and sponsors I am starting to see some of my dreams come true.

3 Pears

Dwight Yoakam is a global superstar in **country music**. He's sold 25 million albums worldwide and is sure to sell quite a few more with the release of his new album **3 Pears**.



It's **Dwight's** first new album in a few years and he recently took to the road to play some of his new songs to **Australian audiences**.

He was scheduled to appear in Queensland in late November with Australian country legend **Lee Kernaghan**. Unfortunately no shows in Adelaide.

However, See his glittering performance on www.youtube.com/watch?v=yuJCMvqIr7w

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Michael kept nagging about singing to his sister, but kids are never allowed in Intensive Care. Karen decided to take Michael whether they liked it or not.

If he didn't see his sister right then, he may never see her alive. She dressed him in an oversized scrub suit and marched him into ICU. He looked like a walking laundry basket.

The head nurse recognized him as a child and bellowed, 'Get that kid out of here now. No children are allowed!'

The mother instinct rose up strong in Karen, and the usually mild-mannered lady glared steel-eyed right into the head nurse's face, her lips a firm line.

'He is not leaving until he sings to his sister' she stated. Then Karen towed Michael to his sister's bedside.

He gazed at the tiny infant losing the battle to live.

After a moment, he began to sing. In the pure-hearted voice of a 3-year-old, Michael sang:

**'You are my sunshine, my only sunshine,
you make me happy when skies are gray.'**

Instantly the baby girl seemed to respond. The pulse rate began to calm down and become steady.

'Keep on singing, Michael,' encouraged Karen with tears in her eyes.

**'You never know, dear, how much I love you,
please don't take my sunshine away.'**

As Michael sang to his sister, the baby's ragged, strained breathing became as smooth as a kitten's purr...

'Keep on singing, sweetheart.'

**'The other night, dear, as I lay sleeping,
I dreamed I held you in my arms'**

Michael's little sister began to relax as rest, healing rest, seemed to sweep over her.

'Keep on singing, Michael.'

Tears had now conquered the face of the bossy head nurse.

Karen glowed.

**'You are my sunshine, my only sunshine.
Please don't take my sunshine away.'**

The next day... the very next day.... the little girl was well enough to get out of ICU....

She went home two weeks later.

Woman's Day Magazine called it The Miracle of a Brother's Song. The medical staff just called it a miracle.

Stop Press!

Congratulations to Nathaniel O'Brien who has won the **Singer** category of **Adelaide's Next Superstar!**

Nathaniel now heads to the ARIAS and receives a \$20,000 video & recording package!



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Hi Folks
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Well 2012 has almost gone, and the workshop has survived another year. We have had some success with the Music Workshop fundraisers held on the fifth Sunday of the month raising nearly \$700.00 in total, and with the donations by some very nice anonymous people we were able to purchase a PA system, a bass guitar and an electric guitar.
I would like to thank the ladies for organizing the raffles which also helped with the new purchases; I would also like to thank them for all the hard work in the kitchen.
The Gawler Country Music Workshop is now in a position with the equipment makes it easy to have new faces come along and take over the running of the show. Not that anybody currently on the committee involved with the running of the workshop has indicated that they will be giving it away.
Don't forget that there will be no workshop in January, and will start back up on the first Saturday in February.
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Fred Payne
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