

The Story of Tamworth (Continued from June)

TREC

In 1998, The Awards were staged for the first time in the giant new Tamworth Regional Entertainment Centre or TREC. The TREC was launched with a spectacular CMAA-organised, Toyota Country Music Concert of the Century in September 1997; just weeks after the finishing touches had been put to the new building.

Although the Don Willis Indoor Arena at the Tamworth Showground had been used successfully by the CMAA for five years (1993-98), the TREC offered a permanent home for the Country Music Awards each January as well as providing a large, first-class multi-purpose venue for dozens of other events and activities staged in the city all year-round.

In fact after 20 years of campaigning TREC was initiated by a group of Tamworth and country music-involved businesses and individuals who underwrote the idea with a commitment of eight hundred thousand dollars to Tamworth City Council. Substantial support also came from the public, the country music industry and State and Federal Governments.

Festival continues to grow

The Awards and Festival have continued to grow. An estimated 70 to 80 thousand locals and visitors take part in the celebrations. Some visitors come for two weeks at a time, straining accommodation but enriching the city both financially and culturally. Scores of individual organisers and venue operators, all running and promoting their own events and activities with their own sponsors, share with the community of Tamworth, the responsibility of creating the actual Festival itself.

Since 1973, Tamworth's reputation as Australia's Country Music Capital has consolidated, to the point now where it is seen as more than just a city... and more than country music alone.

Tamworth and country music combine to become a unique identity, an experience, known, regarded and respected nationally and internationally.

A few years ago the Melbourne Age nominated Tamworth as among the world's top 10 music Festivals.

The Festival now runs officially for 11 days, though informally it runs all month (and before, with some keen fans arriving with their caravans before Christmas!).

Innovative activities are always at the forefront. Line dancing was a significant growth sector through the '90s with strong media attention focusing on the annual "longest line dance" record attempts (which usually succeed).

Bush poetry is another area of strong new interest, with the Australian Bush Laureate Awards since 1996, being a significant focal point for the "bards from the bush".

Based on Tamworth's recognised country music status, the Australian Country Music Foundation was established in Tamworth in 1991 to build a national archive and resource centre to preserve the heritage of Australian Country Music.

Acknowledgement to Max Ellis at www.historyofcountrymusic.com.au

Troy Cassar Daley CMA's Global Award Winner



Australian Country Music artist Troy Cassar-Daley was presented with the 2008 CMA Global Country Artist Award. The award recognizes outstanding achievement by an artist who has furthered Country Music's popularity and brought attention to the genre in their country.

Cassar-Daley is no stranger to success. His first single, released in 1994, reached No. 1 on the Australian Country Music Charts. His debut album Beyond the Dancing was released the following year. It won Best Country Record from the Australia Recording Industry Association. Troy has placed 14 No. 1 hits on the Country Music Tracks Top 30.

Having sold more than 250,000 albums, Cassar-Daley is one of Australia's most awarded singer/songwriters.

He is the reigning Male Artist of the Year for the Country Music Association of Australia. He has been awarded 13 Golden Guitar Awards and was named Entertainer of the Year five times. www.troycassardaley.com.au/

Report by Katie Shands

July 2008 Gigs Acknowledgement to Ian Fisk & SACCM Gig Guide

9.30pm till late	Brendan Beleski	Woolshed on Hindley Adelaide	8231 3023
Fri 4...8.30pm to late	The Cowtippers	Brecknock Hotel, King William St	8231 5467
Sat 5 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 7.0-10.30pm	Murray-Mac and True Grit Clubroom open at 6.00pm CANCELLED	Somerton-Bowling Club,	bookings-8296-8849
Sat 5... 9.0pm	Acoustic Highway	Louisiana Tavern, Elizabeth	
Sun 6...12.30 to 5.0 p.m.	Heartland with special guest Rachel Richards 2008 Bush Balladeer Star Quest winner	Adelaide C.M. Club Inc., 11 LaSalle St, Slovenian Club Dudley Park	8365 6315
Sun 6...1.0 to 5.0pm	Midnight Special light meals available. \$8 and \$5 Entry for any country music club member	Blackwood RSL, 1 Brighton Pde, Blackwood	8278 6253
Fri 11 every other Friday evening	Terry & Julie Sutherland	Mount Gambier Community RSL, 16 Sturt Street, Mt Gambier	(08) 8725 8181
Sat 12...12.30 to 4.30 Free Entry	Open Mike Country Music Event all welcome	Gawler RSL Hall on the corner of Gosford and Overway Bridge Rds	Contact: Pam Griffin 8523 1921
Sun 13...11.0a.m. to 4.0p.m.	Lee Brocky & Outback Overdrive plus Tom Maxwell plus AGM	Barossa C.M. Club Nuriootpa Bowling Club, Buna Terrace, Nuriootpa	8523 1957
Sun 13...1.0 to 5.0 pm	Tracey Rains & Claypan plus guest artist Nathaniel O'Brien	Southern CM Club Somerton Bowling Club, King George Av, Somerton Park	8381 7622
Sun 13 1.30pm to 5pm	Bluegrass Pick 'The Pick in the Pub'	Earl of Aberdeen Hotel, 316 Pulteney St, Adelaide	
Sat 19	Details on SACCM Website	SACCM Champion of Champions Slovenian Club, 11 LaSalle St, Dudley Park	
Sat 19...8pm - midnight	Bernie & the Bandits	Mannum Club, Mannum	
Sun 20...12noon to 4.0pm	Heartland Gawler Country Music Club Munno Para Bowling Club Cnr Main North & Curtis Rds		8255 8920
Sun 20...2.0 to 6.0 pm	Sandra Humphries	Railroad Country Music Club (Morpheh Vale Function Centre)	8382 5611
Fri 25...6.30 pm	Alison Hams & Mark Tempany	Watersedge Restaurant, Whyalla	1800 355 2180 or 08 8645 8877
Sat 26...12.30 to 4.30 Free Entry	Open Mike Country Music Event all welcome	Gawler RSL Hall on the corner of Gosford and Overway Bridge Rds	Contact: Pam Griffin 8523 1921
Sun 27...1.00 pm to 5.00pm	Creole CowboyZ bring your own nibbles	Kilburn R.S.L. Country Music Functions, Way Street	8349 6694
Sun 27...11.0 to 4.0pm	Murray Mac & True Grit	Murray Bridge C.M. Club Imperial Football Club	08 8535 4317
Sun 27...1pm to 5pm	Bernie & Bandits free sausage sizzle from 12noon to 1pm	Adelaide Airport Sports and Social Club, Adelaide Airport Bowling Clubrooms, 6 James Schoefield Drive (Western side of IKEA)	8234 4158 entry \$5.00



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