

My Bucket List

All of my life I have loved cars! In fact I believe I have owned more than 70 from when I bought my first car when I was 16. It was a black 1938 Ford V8. From 1956 when I was 18 years old, I began in the Taxi industry so always had to maintain cars to the desired standard set by the Taxi Board - that was my excuse for constantly getting another vehicle!

Over the years, some of the cars I have owned (and wish I still had some of them!) are: 1926 Essex, 1928 Buick, 1926 Whippet, 1937 Dodge, 1940 Ford, 1942 Ford, 1948 Chevrolet, 1953 Ford, 1958 Ford, 1960? Simca la Rounde, 1969 Fiat 850 sedan, 1970 850 sports coupe plus most models of numerous Falcons and Holdens to the 1980's.

As the years passed, I found that I was living pretty well day to day without much purpose as to where I was heading until I met **Barbara** in 1998. We found we had a lot of common interests such as our love of the outback, country music, interstate and overseas travel, 4X4 driving etc. so enjoyed sharing many happy times which also included belonging to Probus and a walking group and keeping in touch with friends and relations. In all, a very busy but quite rewarding lifestyle!



However, I discovered that LIFE had some unexpected surprises in store for me. I have always been aware about having regular health checks that are recommended by the health system, so was rather shocked when, in October 2008 my Urologist suggested I have a biopsy on my Prostate. It detected that I had cancer in the prostate gland and it was

also outside of the gland which ruled out having an operation.

So in November 2008 I began six weeks of hormone therapy to shrink the cancer before I was able to have 37 sessions of radiotherapy - five days a week for just over 7 weeks, finishing at the end of February 2009. It was all very tiring but necessary and as the days passed, I did a lot of soul searching and

thinking. I came to the conclusion that I was so much luckier than some men in similar circumstances, to have been given the chance to do something about the problem before the cancer spread to other organs of my body. I also realised just how thin and precious that thread of life is.

I decided to make a **Bucket List** of things I would like to do before my time on earth was up! (Some people may relate to the film of that name.) One wish high on my agenda was to work on old engines to help restore and keep them going. I have wonderful memories of when I used to visit my Grandparents at **Kimba** during school holidays all those years ago. I was allowed to help when there were problems with tractor and other machinery engines, so I learned a lot and enjoyed the success of hearing them fire up! So I joined the **Gawler Machinery Restorers Club** which meets at the **Roseworthy Campus** each Wednesday to maintain, mend and repair old farm machinery that belongs to the Museum there. We chaps have a great camaraderie and feel pretty chuffed when we hear an old engine come to life, sometimes after many hours of working on it.

Another top of the list was to own an old car again. I didn't mind which make or model so long as it was driven by an engine without a computer!

At the beginning of March 2009, I was lucky to find for sale at Macclesfield, a 1962 Wolseley 15/60. I fell in love at first sight!!!

It was shiny black with red upholstery and I thought it looked really grand. A trailer load of spare parts went with the car, but luckily I never had to use any of them.

So **Barbara and I** joined the **Gawler Veteran, Vintage and Classic Vehicle Club** and have really enjoyed every outing we have been on. The club is well run with monthly meetings and journals to keep us up to date with past and up-coming events. The members are friendly and the runs we have attended are always interesting and well organised by different members. We go on as many as possible through the week and on weekends and have had great times on three interstate June long-weekend trips.

I have since sold the Wolseley to a chap who lives in Barmera and I now own a 1975 Jaguar XJ6L. I seem to spend a lot of time under the bonnet or in the boot and trying to get all the switches to work, but that is half of the fun of owning an old car!

Two of the top priorities on my **Bucket List** are now being realised and enjoyed. I am working my way through the list (adding some more as I go) and am determined to enjoy every one and every day as it comes!

I consider myself to be a **Cancer Survivor** and strongly recommend that all men over 50 have an annual PSA blood test plus the digital examination. My PSA was normal so the cancer would not have been detected early without the 'finger' test and I may not have been here to write this!

I feel my life is more interesting and fulfilling after having to face what might have been!

Ron Stephens.

April 2012

Thanks for an interesting read **Ron**.

We'll see you and Barbara at the club soon.



Just a Thought From Bill Northcott!

Could you speak up?

Three old guys, all hard of hearing, were playing golf one sunny spring morning.

One says to another, "Windy, isn't it?"

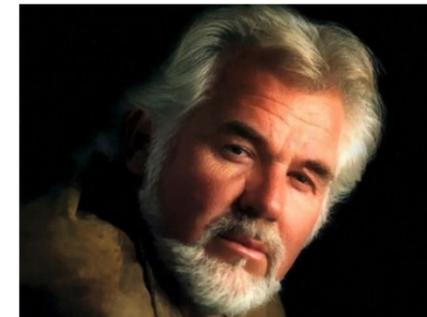
"No," the second man answers, "it's Thursday."

The third guy, listening in, pipes up,

"So am I! Let's grab a beer."

2012 Gympie Artists

Kenny Rogers, Beccy Cole, Lee Kernaghan, Canada's Corb Lund, Shannon Noll, and John Williamson have been announced as headline acts for this year's Optus Gympie Music Muster.



Joining the headline artists will be acts including **The Black Sorrows, The Bobkatz, Doug Bruce & The Tailgaters, Travis Collins, 2012 Toyota Star Maker Bob Corbett, Jayne Denham, Jetty Road, Gemma Luxton, McAlister Kemp, O'Shea, Jasmine Rae and The Sunny Cowgirls.**

Last year's Muster Talent Quest winner **Seleen McAlister** will also feature and more artists are yet to be announced as organisers are still in the process of confirming a number of major acts, rising stars and celebrated songwriters to join in the 2012 celebration.

Muster organisers say they expect more than 60,000 people to attend the Amamoor Creek State Forest site near Gympie between **Thursday August 23 and Sunday the 26th.**

Cry Baby Cry is **Angela Easson's** first single from her debut EP. Directed by **Duncan Toombs.**

Download your copy of **Cry Baby Cry** from iTunes or www.angelaeasson.com

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Lovely Person.

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'We Like it Like That!'

GAWLER COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB INC.

Munno Para Bowling and Community Club

'Saturday' 14th July
7.30pm 'til 11pm



Anthony Stewart & Band
Rock'n & Roll'n
with Craig Giles

\$10.00 B Y O supper

'Sunday' 15th July
12noon to 4.0pm

Bernie & The Bandits
with Special Guest
Craig Giles

