

Thanks Rob!

When one meets a person deserving of recognition, it is often the case that they go unnoticed and rarely receive a **thank you** for their good deeds and kind hearts.

There are several people I've met over the years who have made a difference to many people's lives; so now seems as good a time as any to say...Thanks to **Gawler Country Music Club Member Rob Couzens**.

Over the few years I have known **Rob** I have observed how helpful he has been not just to me but to many other people.

I won't go into detail, but lately he introduced me to two local community organisations.

They are both involved in **music**; not necessarily **Country Music**, but they each offer their services to the community, and encourage others to become involved.

The participants are a pleasure to know and the common element is their **love for music**; either singing, playing, or socialising and having a good time.

Rob has direct involvement with these two organisations and here is some information which might be of interest to readers.

Silver Beats

The '**Silver Beats**' is a Community Choir overflowing with everlasting energy, and performing a repertoire of songs ranging from movie soundtracks to rock & roll and pop songs old and new.

Originated by **Alan Hendry**; directed by **Angela Sharp** and **Lisa Lanzi** the **Silver Beats** are an inspiration to anyone who likes music, and who is itching to become involved. If you want to stay young...join the club! I mean...Choir, or join the band of musicians. All members are volunteers and sing and play for pure enjoyment.

Beatniks

Beatnik's Muso Club at **Northern Sound System Elizabeth** is always on the look out for new members.

Come and perform, jam. Make friends, or start a band.

Any type of music and age group is welcome; and it has a non judgemental atmosphere. Come check it out and ask for **Tina**. **Beatniks** meet the **Second Friday** of each month **8pm til late**. Thanks to **Rob**, I plucked up the courage to attend with my saxophone in hand and I had a great time listening and performing with other muso's.

Thanks **Rob Couzens** for introducing me to many interesting and talented people!

Wishing you a speedy recovery from your recent op.

Les Parris

New Silver Haired Beatnik!

New Events

The **Gawler Country Music Workshop** has organized two future **Eastside Country Music Shindig** fundraisers this year at the **Elizabeth RSL Club**.

The events will be held on the **Fifth Sundays** of the month so as not to clash with any other Country Music Club events.

The Dates and Bands are as follows:
Mustang Country: Sunday 29th July ... Walk-Up Artists welcome.

Kindred Spirit: Sunday 30th September ... Walk-Up Artists welcome.

Also **The Elizabeth RSL Club** is independently providing **Country Music** entertainment on the **Second and Fourth Friday Night** of each month. **6.30pm 'til 9.00pm**. Meals are available at reasonable prices.

Just to let you know; I have been asked only to supply the artists for the Friday evenings.

cont.

The Friday night does not have anything to do with the **Gawler Country Music Club** or the **Country Music Workshop**, but will provide an opportunity for some individuals or small groups to perform and gain useful experience.

Fred Payne

Congratulations

Well done **Deidre Reed**. Congratulations on your recent achievements at **Barmera Country Music Festival**. First place in **Songwriting** and Second place in **Female Vocals**.

Kindred Spirit the Band is pleased to have you on board. For full results see page 5.

Medal for J. Mac



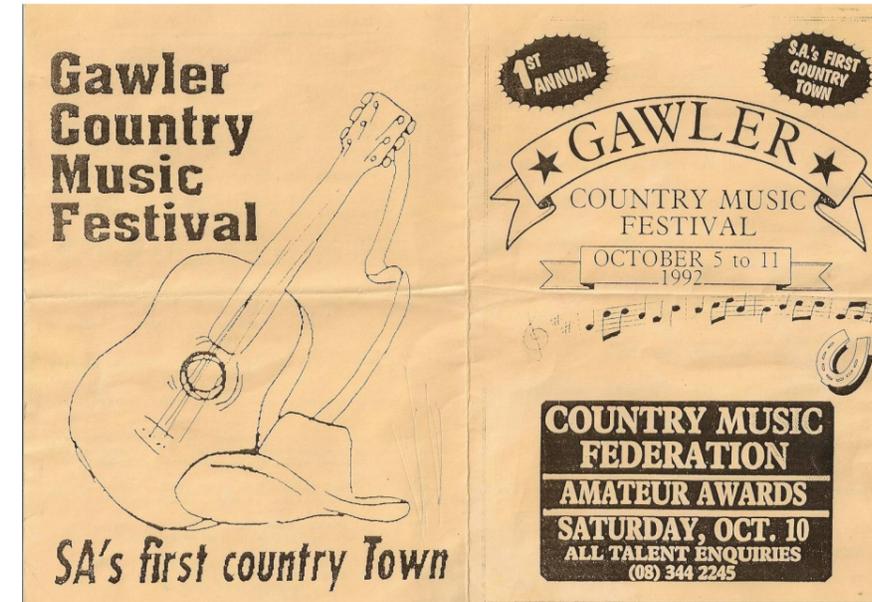
Johnny Mac performed with **Roy Orbison, Johnny Cash** and **Buddy Holly**, but **Johnny** says playing for Australian troops in Vietnam was the highlight of his life.

The country music legend toured Vietnam twice, in 1969 and 1971. "We did three shows a day for Australian and American troops," he recalls.

The **Novar Gardens** resident, 79, was recently recognised in the **Queen's Birthday Honours** with the **Medal of the Order of Australia for Services to Country Music**.

After a stint entertaining overseas, **Mac** returning from Canada to **Adelaide** in 1960. He worked in sales before releasing his big hit, **Pink Champagne** and **A Room of Roses** two years later.

Johnny Mac was inducted into the **Tamworth "Hands of Fame"** in 1978, and is the official **Patron of Country Music SA**.



Moving With The Times

Country Music Festivals and Talent quests have been on the go for some time now and reading about the success of artists and their achievements is an inspiration. However, there have been recent comments on the dwindling participation and attendance at **Country Music Festivals and Talent Quests**.

OK there may not be an overwhelming rush to enter each contest or a huge rush from eager audiences to provide essential encouragement; but are we so negative about the future of Country Music that we consider throwing in the towel? ... Never!

County Music is traditionally and historically about struggle, hardship and difficult times. That's why we look to the future, not just with hope, but with determination, with motivation and with the will to succeed.

In the mid 20th century (yes when we were young...cough!) **live music** was more prolific and more popular than nowadays. Opportunities existed for bands to play live gigs many times each week. Unfortunately modern technology has changed all of that. The opportunity for artists to play regular **live gigs** is fading.

The focus is now on recording.

However, we **can** bring back the **SOCIAL** element of music. We **can** share in the pleasure of **live gigs**, and experience the atmosphere and **KINDRED SPIRIT** of **LIVE COUNTRY MUSIC**.

New ideas, new initiatives, a novel approach, new incentives, effective marketing and creating a demand for something innovative and exciting.

Let's give **Country Music** a shake up! I'm no youngster either, but I just love to create opportunity for young people, and sharing in their success. Let's open up our hearts to the fact that **Country Music** needs a boost. Nothing earth-shattering will happen overnight. It may take years to reach the time when **Country Music** becomes the **Pop Music** it once was.

I listen to **country music** on radio regularly. The young and not so young artists of today are excellent with new material and a fresh approach! Perhaps there are a few obstacles preventing them from achieving greater success?

There are so many new recording artists these days that releasing a new track is not such a **BIG DEAL** as it once was, and many artists nowadays produce their own CD's using their personal home recording studios.

As a result there is an over-whelming abundance of competition which, in some respects, is somewhat counterproductive.

Also! Why travel miles to listen to music at a festival when we can listen in comfort at home on our iPad, or super dooper woofers and annoy our neighbours with the sound turned up full blast.

It's been said before. 'The times area changing'

Maybe the definition of **Country Music** needs to be updated? Maybe '**Country**' needs to be redefined?

Our first **Gawler Country Music Festival** held in 1992 (depicted above) is a reminder that for the past 20 years **Country Music** has attempted to live up to its reputation as a '**Country**' experience.

Gawler the '**Country Town**' of **1992**; has now become a suburb of **Adelaide**, with new dwellings, new shopping centres and a growing population. What was once a '**Country**' **Town** is now growing into an urban metropolis with a growing economy.

Change and **moving with the times** is what makes **Gawler** the popular town it is today.

It is my opinion that **Country Music in South Australia** also needs to **move with the times** and involve proactive young people. Young musicians, young organisers, young managers, new music and new sponsors. Let's all move with the times and **adapt** and **assist** the changes to take place. We each have a role to play in shaping the future. **Country Music is Our Music!**

Article written by Les Parris
Graphic provided by Keith Warren Gawler CMClub Inc.

Note: These are the personal views of the Author and not necessarily the views of others. Happy to accept your supporting and contradictory comments.