

# The Story of Tamworth (Continued from May)

Until 1994, **Radio 2TM** undertook the entire promotion of the **Tamworth Country Music Festival** at its own expense, setting up and operating the overall activity as a major sales promotion, supported by numerous major national sponsors such as the **Commonwealth Bank, Wrangler Jeans, Goodyear, Volvo International, Grace Bros, Carlton United and many others.** Until 2005 the **Awards** were sponsored by **Toyota**, the **Festival** by **Telstra** with dozens of other major sponsors involved too. **Jayco** took over the Awards name sponsorship in 2007.

In 1980, the Awards were moved from the "always sold out" **Tamworth Town Hall** into a gigantic circus tent, which seated over **4,000 people.** Immediately with thousands of tickets to sell, the 2TM promotional machine went into top gear and the event leapt to a new plain of activity with Festival attendances zooming up to around **30 to 40,000 visitors.**

Up to the **mid eighties**, the **Awards Festival** continued to consolidate its position as one of the biggest and most successful activities of its type in **Australia.**

The foundation and mainstay of the celebration - the Awards - was staged three times "under the big top" before moving to "the **Jakab Music Factory**" (a huge converted vehicle building factory) in **1983.** This venue was used for only two years after a heavy rain storm in 1984 badly affected acoustics.

For the remainder of the '80s, the Awards moved round a number of smaller venues in the city, able only to cater for a thousand or so people, limiting the audience to little more than an industry gathering and denying access to the many thousands of fans who wanted the chance to see the presentations live, though I should add there was live national TV coverage for several years.

In 1992, unable to attract sponsorship, the Awards organisers changed the format of the gala event by presenting awards at a number of different venues during the 10-day Festival.

## Industry Group Formed

The change, that most agree didn't work, sparked an immediate reaction from the **country music industry** which fought to convince the **Awards** organisers to retain the original "**night of nights**".



Max Ellis

This saw the formation of an industry group led by **Slim Dusty, Joy McKean, John Williamson, Phil Matthews and Max Ellis** and the staging of a huge concert in the **Tamworth Showground** rodeo arena, to protest the change and raise funds for a new industry organisation.

This concert was a mighty success, with more than **4,000 fans jamming into the arena for a star-studded**

**show ...** proving they wanted a gala showcase of their stars and that a major concert could be held in **Tamworth** despite the lack of a proper facility.

The informal country music industry group was formalised into the **Country Music Association of Australia (CMAA)**, which **took over the Awards** presentation from **Radio 2TM** with the staging of the **Country Music Awards of Australia in January 1993.**

The **Tamworth** based CMAA quickly became the driving force in **Australian Country Music**, organising many other Festival events and making a massive contribution to the national promotion of the **Awards and the Tamworth Festival.** **2TM-BAL Marketing** continued its Festival co-ordination until finally handing over to the **Tamworth City Council** in **1994.**

As the Festival grew, Council steadily increased its commitment to **Country Music.** Today it provides a substantial and smooth running infra structure to cater for the tens of thousands of visitors with vast camping areas, as well as organising a national media centre and Festival launch and handling a number of major events.

Acknowledgement to Max Ellis at [www.historyofcountrymusic.com.au](http://www.historyofcountrymusic.com.au)

## 2008 Northern Country Music Association of S.A. Awards Talent Quest Results

### Junior 10 Years and Under

1. Eliza Parker
2. Taylor Pfeiffer
3. Madison Paynter



### Kristal Collins won Songwriter and Female Vocalist 16 Years and Over. Festival Overall Points Winner Nathaniel O'Brien

**Nathaniel** now has his own excellent website on **My Space.** You can listen to his singing and find out what **Nathaniel** has achieved since he began performing.

See [www.saccm.com/](http://www.saccm.com/) for full **Port Pirie** results

## June 2008 Gigs Acknowledgement to Ian Fisk & SACCM Gig Guide

Sun 1...12.30 to 5.0 p.m.	Country Plus	Adelaide C.M. Club Inc., 11 LaSalle St, Slovenian Club Dudley Park
Sun 1...1.00pm	Dave Prior and John O'Dea	Howards Vinyard, Adelaide
Sun 1... 1.0 to 5.0pm	Good Company light meals available. \$8 and \$5 Entry for any country music club member	Blackwood RSL, 1 Brighton Pde, Blackwood
Sun 1...4pm to 8pm	Key Country	Cumberland Hotel 76 The Causeway, Glanville
Sun 1...1.0 pm	Acoustic Highway	Blacksmith Inn, One Tree Hill
Sun 1...2pm to 6pm	Twyce Daily	Sandy Creek Hotel
Thur 5...9.30pm til late	Brendan Beleski	Woolshed on Hindley 94 Hindley St, Adelaide
Fri 6...from 7pm	Jay J Shannon and Winchester	Cobdogla Club, Cobdogla
<b>Sat 7</b> <b>This Month Times</b> <b>11am to 3pm</b> <b>1st Sat every month</b>	<b>Gawler Country Music Workshop</b> <b>Play, Sing, Learn, Jam, Have Fun!</b>	<b>Anglican Parish Hall</b> <b>26 Cowan Street Gawler</b>
Sat 7...1.30-6.30pm	Tiffney Stroh & 'GoldRush'	Barmera Hotel Front bar Barmera
Sat 7...7.0 - 10.30pm	Tracey Rains and Claypan Clubroom open at 6.00 pm supper, door prizes and entertainment \$10p.p.	Somerton Bowling Club, King George Av, Somerton Park
Sun 8...11.0a.m. to 4.0p.m.	Phoenix	Barossa C.M. Club Nuriootpa Bowling Club, Buna Terrace, Nuriootpa
Sun 8...1.0 to 5.0 pm	Country Plus	Southern CM Club Somerton Bowling Club, King George Av, Somerton Park
Sun 8...1.30pm to 5pm	Bluegrass Pick 'The Pick in the Pub'	Earl of Aberdeen Hotel, 316 Pulteney St, Adelaide
Sun 8...2pm-6pm	Tiffney Stroh & 'GoldRush'	Barmera Hotel - Alfresco
Sun 8...5 -9pm	Pete Jenkins Band with Kristal Collins	McLaren Vale Hotel 208 Main Rd, McLaren Vale Sea and Vines Festival.
Thur 12...9.30pm til late	Brendan Beleski	Woolshed on Hindley 94 Hindley St, Adelaide
Fri 13...6.30 pm	Alison Hams & Mark Tempany	Watersedge Restaurant, Whyalla
Fri 13...every 2nd Fri evening	Terry & Julie Sutherland	Mount Gambier Community RSL, 16 Sturt Street, Mt Gambier
Sat 14...8.0pm - 1.0am	Night of Country & Rock & Roll Bernie & the Bandits with Jim Hermel	Kilburn R.S.L. Way Street (off Churchill Rd, behind Albion Hotel), Kilburn flyer(450k)
Sat 14	Compact Country Duo	Don Arturo's Restaurant, 589 Brighton Rd, Brighton
Sat 14...12.30 to 4.30	Open Mike Country Music Event all welcome Free Entry	Gawler RSL Hall on the corner of Gosford and Overway Bridge Rds
<b>Sun 15</b> <b>12noon to 4.0pm</b>	<b>Country Plus</b>	<b>Gawler Country Music Club Munno Para Bowling Club Cnr Main North &amp; Curtis Rds</b>
Sun 15...2.0 to 6.0 pm	Midnight Special Flyer	Railroad Country Music Club (Morphett Vale Function Centre) Southern Dis. Workingmans Club, Epstein Drive, Morphett Vale
Thur 19...9.30pm til late	Brendan Beleski	Woolshed on Hindley 94 Hindley St, Adelaide
Fri 20...7.0 pm	Acoustic Highway	Blacksmith Inn, One Tree Hill
Fri 20...6.30 pm	Alison Hams & Mark Tempany	Watersedge Restaurant, Whyalla
Sat 21...8pm - 12am	Graeme Hugo, Tiffney Stroh & "GoldRush"special guests - Kristal Collins, Dave Verrall, Chooka Williams	'Country in the Hills' Mt Barker Town Hall Proceeds to aid Teen Challenge Mt Barker flyer
Sun 22...11.0 to 4.0pm	Jay J Shannon and Winchester	Murray Bridge C.M. Club Imperial Football Club Murray Bridge
Sun 22...1.00 pm to 5.00pm	Tumbling Dice bring your own Nibbles	Kilburn R.S.L. Country Music Functions, Way Street(off Churchill Rd, behind Albion Hotel), Kilburn
Sun 22...2 - 4pm	'Two Blues' (Tracey Rains and Nathaniel O'Brien)	Weeroona Hotel, 4 John Terrace Wallaroo - for the Wallaroo Social Club
Thur 26...9.30pm til late	Brendan Beleski	Woolshed on Hindley 94 Hindley St, Adelaide
Sat 28...8.0pm	The Rustlers	Gaslight Tavern 36 Chief Street, Brompton
Sat 28...12.30 to 4.30	Open Mike Country Music Event all welcome Free Entry	Gawler RSL Hall on the corner of Gosford and Overway Bridge Rds
Sun 29...1.0 to 5.0pm	Cross Country	Kilburn R.S.L. Country Music Functions, Way Street(off Churchill Rd,
Sun 29...12noon to 6.0pm	Tom Maxwell, Sarge Warner, Charlie McCracken, Doug Bruce, Norm Price, Darin Warner, Just Passin', Cowtippers, Kevin Sporer and Sandra & Crosswind Band	Country Music for CANCER All Proceeds to the Hansen Centre CASADIO PARK, (Indoor Venue) Bay Road, Gambier flyer
Sun 29...3.30pm	The Rustlers	Cumberland Hotel 76 Causeway Road, Glanville
Sun 29...1.30pm	Bluegrass Pick 'Prospect Jam'	Prospect RSL club, Willcox Ave, Prospect
Sun 29...1pm to 5pm	Tracey Rains and Claypan free sausage sizzle from 12noon to 1pm	Adelaide Airport Sports and Social Club, Adelaide Airport Bowling Clubrooms, 6 James Schofield Drive (Western side of IKEA)