

# The Story of Tamworth

(Continued from April)

During the 80's the number of operators and venues involved in the **Tamworth Festival** expanded rapidly ... seemingly every pub, club, restaurant, hall and street corner in the **Country Music Capital** featured some form of live country music through the Festival (the number of individual events is now over **2,500** with every type of music from **Traditional** to **Country Rock**).

Spreading the activity around the city was always one of **2TM's** major policies, and of course the publicity it generated – and still does – was stupendous, ranging from the sublime (such as in-depth articles in **Time Magazine "Australia's Nashville"**) to the ridiculous ("**The Hills are Alive With the Sound of Buzzing Blowflies**") in the **Telegraph**.

From the early days, encouraged by 2TM's annual promotional visits in the capital cities, Press, Radio and TV crews from all the major media flocked to our city and **Tamworth** and the **Golden Guitars** became household names around the nation.

A few years ago the **CMAA** in a survey found that **72% of all adult Australians**, recognised the **Golden Guitar Awards**, a percentage that puts us up there among the major international events and products.

Then there were promotions like **2TM's 1883 Winners Album** and then later the annual **CMAA Winners CD** which has sold some **20,000 to 30,000 copies every year** since the early **90s**.

Also helping to spread **Tamworth's message** are many magazines, directories and more recently the Internet. The **CMAA's** site [www.country.com.au](http://www.country.com.au) generated over **7 million** hits in 2003.

In its formative first decade, the entire **Country Music** promotion was tightly controlled and co-ordinated by **2TM** and later, **BAL Marketing**. All major decisions relating to any aspect of the promotion passed through the organisation. In **1992**, the previous manager (**Max Ellis**) returned to establish and run the **CMAA** and the **Awards** until **2003** providing priceless continuity.

Promotion outside of **Tamworth** has appeared in many forms over the years including syndicated radio programs like **2TM's** original **Eric Scott** compared **National Country Music Jamboree**, Eric's later ABC program, **Nick Erby's Country Radio Network**, **NEN TV's...** '**Must Be Country**' and so on.

Other people like **Bob Kirchner**, **Kate Nugent**, **Barry Harley**, **Kevin Knapp**, **John and Ann Minson**, **Eric Scott**, **Cheryl Brown**, **Cliff and Dee Giles** to name

only a few, have also provided decades of dedication to our **Country Music Capital** and many are still going strong

## AUSTRALIAN Country Music

The **Tamworth Festival** was always been promoted strictly as an event for **AUSTRALIAN COUNTRY MUSIC**, and, while major overseas artists were encouraged to visit, they were **discouraged from performing**.

This was because **2TM** believed its role was to encourage **Australian music**.

As it had relied on the on-going support of **Australian artists** such as **Slim Dusty** to launch the concept, **2TM** felt they had earned the right to top billing at the **Festival** without the **distraction of international stars**.

Obviously this approach worked because the crowds keep coming back to hear **Australian music and Australian artists**.

To be continued in next month's **Gawler Country Music Club's Newsletter**.  
Acknowledgement to **Max Ellis** at [www.historyofcountrymusic.com.au](http://www.historyofcountrymusic.com.au)



Did you know **Slim Dusty** was such an important figure in the history of **Tamworth**?

Do you have memories of **Tamworth**?

Please send your letters to the Editor. I know he will be pleased to hear from you.

Do you have any memorabilia, stories, history, souvenirs etc. regarding **Gawler Country Music Club**? Let's start a feature on '**The Years Gone By!**' Our Newsletter and Website need your input and assistance.

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

Thur 17.0pm	Open Mike Session with Pete Jenkins and Kristal Collins	Mt Compass Tavern, Mt Compass
Sat 3 12noon to 5pm	Gawler Country Music Workshop Play, Sing, Learn, Jam, Have Fun! 1st Sat every month	Anglican Parish Hall 26 Cowan Street Gawler
Sat 3 & Sun 4	Danny Hooper	Clare Valley Gourmet Festival - Clare Showgrounds
Sat 3 7.0pm	Kristal Collins	Victor Harbor Community Club - Bush Bash
Sat 3 8pm - 12am	Tiffany Stroh & "GoldRush" - Kristal Collins, Chooka Williams plus more	Mt Barker Town Hall Teen Challenge Fundraiser
Sat 3 7.0 - 10.30pm	Bernie & the Bandits 7-10 supper, door prizes and entertainment \$15.	Somerton Bowling Club, King George Av, Somerton Park
Sat 3 8.30pm	The Rustlers	Studio 89, 89 Prospect Road, Prospect
Sun 4 12.30 to 5.0p.m.	Us Blokes Adelaide C.M. Club Inc., 11 LaSalle St,	Slovenian Club Dudley Park
Sun 4 1.0pm to 5pm	DV8's light meals available. \$8 and \$ for country music club members	Blackwood RSL, 1 Brighton Pde, Blackwood
Sun 4 1pm to 4pm	Tracey Rains & Claypan plus guests Nathaniel O'Brien, Cactus Martins and Kristal Collins	Royal Society For the Blind fundraiser - Munno Para Bowling Club Cnr Main North & Curtis Rds
Tue 6 10.45 to 12 noon	Kristal Collins with Pete Jenkins, Kane Jones and Jack Thompson	Governor Hindmarsh Hotel 59 Port Rd, Hindmarsh
Thur 8 9.30pm til late	Pete Jenkins plus Kristal Collins	Woolshed on Hindley 94 Hindley St, Adelaide
Thur 8 from 6.0pm	Warren Johncock's "Cobbers & Co" Band Reunion Dinner & Dance	Alberton Hotel, Port Road, Alberton flyer
Fri 9 6.30 pm	Alison Hams & Mark Tempany	Watersedge Restaurant, Whyalla
9 to 12	Graeme Hugo, Lindsay Butler, Shaza Leigh, Brian Letton, Ernie Constance, Lindsay Waddington, Geoff Sidebottom, Annie Ree, Neville Anderson, Reg Poole, Butler Boys Band and Anita Ree Mulwala Country Music Tour go by Harris Coaches	
Sat 10 8.0pm to 12	Compact Country	British Working Mens Club, Davis St, Wingfield
Sat 10 12.30 to 4.30	Open Mike Country Music Event all welcome Free Entry	Gawler RSL Hall corner of Gosford n Overway Bridge Rds
Sat 10 9.0pm	Acoustic Highway	Louisiana Tavern, Elizabeth
Sun 11 1.0 to 5.0 pm	Murray Mac & True Grit plus guest Dave Prior	Southern CM Club Somerton Bowling Club, Somerton Park
Sun 11 11a.m. to 4.0p.m	Mother's Day Bill Bedford	Barossa C.M. Club Nuriootpa Bowling Club, Nuriootpa
Sun 11 1.30pm to 5pm	Bluegrass Pick 'The Pick in the Pub'	Earl of Aberdeen Hotel, 316 Pulteney St, Adelaide
Tue 13 8.0pm	Adam Brand & Beccy Cole Live in Concert	Broken Hill Entertainment Centre
Wed 14 8.0pm	Adam Brand & Beccy Cole Live in Concert	Keith Mitchell Theatre, Port Pirie
May 14 to 18	Talent Quest, Concert with the Stars, Awards night, Poets Breakfast, Gospel Round Up, Golden Oldies Concert etc	
	Artists include Deniese Morrison, Audbrey & Martin, Tracy Killeen, Marceau Camille, Megan Laurie, Bob Magor, Murray Mac & True Grit, Brendan Beleski, Miller Band, Sherrah Family, Trish Wilson, Dianne Lindsay, Bill Bedford, Peter Simpson, Midnight Mountain Blue Band, Maryanne & Co, Cross Country, Colin Kerly, Donna Star, Cactus Martens, David Croser, Phil King & many more 25th anniversary! Country Rock, Traditional Songwriting, Bush Poets, Country Gospel, Folk, Rock n'Roll Northern Country Music Assoc Inc. in conjunction with Southern Flinders (live) Music Festival Port Pirie	
Thur 15 9.30pm til late	Pete Jenkins with Kristal Collins	Woolshed on Hindley 94 Hindley St, Adelaide
Thur 15 8.0pm	Adam Brand & Beccy Cole	Governor Hindmarsh Hotel 59 Port Rd, Hindmarsh
Fri 16 8.0pm	Adam Brand & Beccy Cole Live in Concert	Settlers Hotel - Mildura
Fri 16 8.0 to 12.0 pm	Impact	Morphett Vale Function Centre. Southern Dis. Workingmans Club,
Sat 17 11am-3pm	Jay J Shannon and Winchester	Keith Michelle Theatre Pt Pirie
Sat 17 from 7.0pm	Danny Hooper with James Blundell plus Charlie McCracken and the Heartland Band	Presented by The Angaston, CFS Group, Fund Raising Committee Tanunda Oval
Sat 1 8.0pm	Adam Brand & Beccy Cole	Pretoria Hotel - Mannum
Sun 18 12noon to 4.0pm	Reg Poole & Owen Blundell Two of Australia's Best Country Music Artists	Gawler Country Music Club Munno Para Bowling Club Cnr Main North & Curtis Rds
Sun 18 2.0 to 6.0 pm	Carole Sturtzel	Railroad Country Music Club (Morphett Vale Function Centre)
Sun 18 2 pm - 6.30	Reaction Band	Millicent Community Club
Fri 23 6.30 pm	Alison Hams & Mark Tempany	Watersedge Restaurant, Whyalla
Sat 24 7.0pm to 10pm	Sandra and Crosswinds	Somerton Bowling Club, King George Av, Somerton Park
Sat 24 12.30 to 4.30	Open Mike Country Music Event all welcome Free Entry	Gawler RSL Hall corner of Gosford and Overway Bridge Rds
Sun 25 11.0 to 4.0pm	Sandra and Crosswinds Guest Artist Krystal Collins	Murray Bridge C.M. Club Imperial Football Club Murray Bridge
Sun 25 1.00 5.00pm	Country Plusbring your own Nibbles	Kilburn R.S.L. Country Music Functions, Way Street
Sun 25 1.30pm	Bluegrass Pick 'Prospect Jam'	Prospect RSL club, Willcox Ave, Prospect
May 25 to June 1	The Darlings (NZ) • Bill Chambers and The Flood (Aus) Guest artists: • Jenny Blackadder (NZ) • Camille Te Nahu and Stu French (Aus) • Steve Passfield (Aus) and Marion Burns (NZ) • Charley Groth (USA) • 2007 TTEOY Winner Kylie Austin	
Fri 30	Dave Prior	Maggies Place, Orroroo
Fri 30 8.30pm o12.30am	The Jessie Che Band	Brecknock Hotel, King William St, Adelaide
May 31 - June 9	Troy Cassar-Dally and band, Feral Swing Catz, Camille Te Nahu & Stue French, Michelle Rose, Trev Warner plus Murray Mack, Royden Donohue, Meagan Laurie, Alison Hams & Mark Tempany (June 6 to 8), Tiffany Stroh, Bill Bedford, Dave Prior, Bob Magor, Cross Country plus many more tbaSouth Australian Country Music Festival & Awards, Riverland SA	
Sat 31 8.0pm to 12	Creole cowboyZ	British Working Mens Club, Davis St, Wingfield
Sat 31 8.0pm	Dave Prior and John O'Dea	Rising Sun Hotel, Auburn
Sat 31 8.30pm to late	The Cowtippers It's a Gemini Birthday Party!	Brecknock Hotel, King William St
Sat 31.0 pm	Acoustic Highway	Prince Albert Hotel, Gawler