

## Reg Lindsay Moves On

**Reg Lindsay** one of **Australia's Country Music legends** died on the Tuesday 5th August 2008 after a long illness. He was 79. **Reg** had been under 24-hour care at John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle, since 2003.

The **Aussie singer**, whose songs included **Silence on the Line** and **Empty Arms Hotel** became a star of radio in the 1950s. He went on to become a television star with the **Reg Lindsay Country Hour** and the **Reg Lindsay Country Homestead** in the 1960s and '70s.

The country music veteran was one of the great country performers. "He was a lovely, fun-loving guy. He made a big mark on **Australian Country Music**."

**Reg** suffered a cerebral haemorrhage while attending the **Tamworth Country Music Festival in 1995**. This was followed by a heart attack a year later and then several strokes. His first wife, **Heather McKean**, is the sister of **Joy McKean**, widow of **Slim Dusty**. He later married **Ros Winfield**, with whom he shared a property in Cessnock, NSW.

**Reg Lindsay** was born at Waverley in Sydney and spent his first couple of years there. The family then moved to Parkes (NSW) til **Reg** was about 8 years old and then they moved to **Adelaide** where his dad became the **Manager of the Adelaide Baths**.

**Reg** lived in **Adelaide** until he was 20 years old and made the 3 day trip to Sydney by motor bike to compete in the **Tim McNamara Talent Quest** on Radio 2SM which he won.

**Wilf Carter** and **Tex Morton** were some of his favourite artists and he remembered one night in **Temora** when a real live 'cowboy' in full western outfit and hat was singing and yodelling at the pictures during the interval.

While growing up in Adelaide, **Reg** was interested in sports and was a great swimmer, becoming **South Australian Swim Champion at 17** when he won the **Metropolitan State Championship**.

His **Auntie Anne** gave him his first guitar at 15 which **Reg** soon learned to play and during his school holidays **Reg** would stay on friend's sheep stations; there he learned to ride steers, rope horses, shear sheep and became adept at stockwork whilst practising his singing and yodelling.

**Reg** spent a few years doing general bush work out in the country of **South Australia**, jackerooing on stations, windmill work, bore sinking and doing whatever was offered.

**Reg**, and his friend, **Dave Burchell**, began entertaining at small shows and doing some gigs organised by radio man **Bob Fricker**. The two boys auditioned for Australia's Amateur Hour but did not progress to the next round, so **Reg** headed off to work in the bush again but was soon called back to **Adelaide** for a final audition. He travelled 450 kms by bus with his bed roll, drover's jacket and elastic-sided boots to pass the audition and the boys topped the poll on the **Amateur Hour in 1950**.

Shortly after this, **Reg**, accepted a job as a jackeroo on a **Broken Hill** station but while listening to the radio he heard about a huge talent quest being run by **Tim McNamara** on Sydney radio station 2SM with a recording contract as first prize.

He wrote in for an audition, decided to pass up the jackeroo job, and rode an old ex-Army dispatch bike to Sydney to compete. The bike trip to Sydney took three days during which he slept by the bike on the side of the highway. He decided to perform his favourite **Wilf Carter** song, **Streamline Yodel**, and after a preliminary trial **Reg**, won his heat. Some of the artists to compete on the talent quest were **George Payne**, **Shorty Ranger**, **Rick and Thel Carey** and **Kevin King**. The historic final was held at Sydney Town Hall in January 1951 where **Reg took out first prize** and the contract with **Rodeo records**. His first recording with **Rodeo Records** was **Blue Velvet Band** and **Streamline Yodel in 1951**.

Acknowledgement to the Australian Bush Balladeers Association and Dianne Lindsay for sharing the story of one of Australia's true legends of Country Music.

## Ma's Country Kitchen



**Ma** says, 'I didn't think rock cakes were very exciting when I was young, but now I like them. They were my father's favourite and he had them every day for morning and afternoon tea.'

Rock cakes are halfway between a cake and a biscuit and are quick and easy to make. They are especially good when fresh. I have wondered why they are called rock cakes. It must be because they are craggy-looking, rather than rock hard.

Although rock-cake recipes are all similar, the **lemon zest** is the secret ingredient.

Makes 12 large or 16 medium biscuits

250g self-raising flour, sifted  
100g sugar  
1 tsp mixed spice or 1 tsp ground ginger  
grated zest of half a lemon  
100g butter or spread  
1 large free-range egg  
3 tbsps milk or sherry  
100g (1/2 HALF cup) sultanas and/or currants, rinsed

Preheat the oven to 180C (fan forced).  
Cover a large baking tray with baking paper or grease it.  
Place the sifted flour, sugar, spice and lemon zest in a food processor.

Cut the butter or spread into pieces and add to the dry ingredients.

Process until the mixture is like breadcrumbs.

The dough could be made in a bowl and mixed with the fingertips.

Whisk the egg with the milk or sherry.

Pour over the crumbed mixture.

Pulse the ingredients to bring them together into the biscuit dough.

Tip in the fruit and pulse briefly to mix through.

Drop heaped dessertspoons of the mixture on to the prepared tray.

Bake the rock cakes for 15 to 20 minutes, depending on their size and your oven.

They are best eaten fresh.

P.S. Good to hear you enjoyed last month's Christmas Pudding recipe...

## Country Jewels



This jewellery was created and donated by **Kevin & Christine Sherrah**.

The ring is a Sterling Silver Setting an emerald in the centre surrounded by zirconias. The earrings and pendant are sterling silver with an emerald in the centre. They will be raffled as 3 prizes at \$1 per ticket.



**Kevin Sherrah** has been involved in **Country Music** for over 35 years. He has held many positions of office in the **New Zealand Country Music clubs**; being the founder chairman for the **Auckland Country Music Awards** (an amalgamation of 8 clubs). Held positions of judging for the **New Zealand** main awards for which he made the original trophy.

**Kevin** has manufactured specific **Country Music jewellery** for mail order and special artists for many years.

His interest is supported by his family with the singing group '**The Sherrahs**', **Christine Sherrah**, and **Anthony Stewart's** recording studio, **Red Brick Music** and of course the **grandkids**.

**Country Music** is a family institution and passion.

**Thanks Kevin & Christine for your kind support.**

## Wayne's Pesty World

After 10 years of togetherness **Club Members Pamela & Wayne Elliott** have taken the plunge. **Yikes!** They are now engaged. Not wanting to rush into things, they were cautious to admit that some pests are worth having around... But if you have any pests you want rid of... Give **Wayne** a call on **0417 880 612**.



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