The Tamworth Country Music Festival held in Tamworth NSW, is a celebration of Country Music culture and heritage, with numerous concerts and live performances at various venues. The festival lasts for two weeks over Australia Day during late January and during this period Tamworth comes alive, with visitors from worldwide who come to join in the festivities. The festival has many times been counted among the world’s top ten music festivals. The enormous number of visitors during the bash brings significant tourism and economic benefits to the region. Visitor numbers for the 2012 festival were estimated at 50,000.

Fast forward to 2015 - Over 50,000 people, thousands of shows, and an amazing array of sounds and styles lit up Tamworth for ten days of song and fun, in what was one of the best festivals yet.

The festival has many times been counted among the world's top ten music festivals.

Now in its 43rd year, the Toyota Country Music Festival Tamworth is much more than just country music, with a range of different events that appealed to festival-goers young and old.

The Opening Concert kicked off the festival with Kasey Chambers headlining the free concert in Toyota Park. The fireworks went off and the festivities were officially in full swing.

The Roll of Renown acquired two new members, with legends Ray Kernaghan and his son Lee Kernaghan being inducted. Paul Kelly came by with his Merri Souls, playing songs both old and new in front of a sell-out crowd.

The Galaxy of Stars has a new member, with six-time Golden Guitar winner Melinda Schneider being inducted to recognise her outstanding achievements in Country Music.

The Toyota Star Maker competition was as fierce as ever, with an array of talented hopefuls battling it out, with Mickey Pye taking home the grand prize in the 36th annual competition.

Crowds showed up for special performances and signings with fan favourites The McClymonts, Viper Creek Band, and Mustered Courage all taking the stage.

The annual Cavalcade was a spectacular sight as it rolled down Peel St, dazzling crowds with a procession of sights and sounds. Buskers young and old turned out in droves to entertain crowds on Peel St. The Busking Championships were a close fought competition with duo Tia and Jack from Mackay Queensland taking home the grand prize for Country winner. First time entrants Justin Carter and Ashleigh Mannix duo Little Georgia from Sydney and the Gold Coast took home the prize for the Non-Country category.

The Toyota Golden Guitars was a huge success as the stars rolled out to see who would take home the coveted awards. Amber Lawrence was awarded Female Artist of the Year; Album of the Year went to Kasey Chambers, whilst Luke O’Shea took home three Golden Guitars including Heritage Song of the Year, for the third year in a row; APRA Song of the Year; and Male Artist of the Year.

The final day saw Kenny Rogers take the stage as part of his Farewell Down Under tour. The industry legend thrilled crowds playing a string of his best loved hits.

The Closing Concert saw thousands turn out in Toyota Park for a massive final night. Christie Lamb, and the Adam Eckersley Band, formed a massive line-up topped off by surprise headliners McAlister Kemp. The traditional closing fireworks were a hit also; bringing to a close another highly successful Tamworth Country Music Festival.

A man who lived in an apartment thought it might be raining, so he put his hand out the window to check for raindrops. As he did, a glass eye fell into his hand. He stuck his head out the window to look up and see where the eye came from just in time to see a young woman looking down. “Is this yours?” he asked. She said, “Yes, could you bring it up?” and the man agreed. The woman, who turned out to be very attractive, was very thankful and offered the man a drink. Naturally, he agreed. Shortly afterward she said, “I’m about to have dinner. There’s plenty, would you like to join me?” He readily accepted the offer, and both enjoyed a lovely meal. As the evening was drawing to a close the woman said, “I’ve had a marvellous evening. Would you like to stay the night?” The man hesitated, then said, “Do you act like this with every man you meet?” “No,” she replied, “only those who catch my eye.”
Thanks to KFC for your Sponsorship ‘We like it like that!’

March Events

GAWLER COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB INC.

March Events

Entry Fee: Members - $6.00, Non Members - $8.00
Tea and coffee - $1.00 Food and drinks available

Contact Keith Warren for enquiries: 8255 8920

Midnight Special

Sunday March 15th
12 - 4 pm
Gawler Country Music Club
The Grenville Centre.
10 Playford Boulevard
Elizabeth
(Across from the Civic Centre)

with special guest
Tanya Cornish

I can hear the train a comin’...
Get ready to be rockin’ and a rollin’. All aboard!

Entry Fee: Members - $6.00, Non Members - $8.00
Tea and coffee - $1.00 Food and drinks available

Contact Keith Warren for enquiries: 8255 8920

The McClymonts “Forever Begins Tonight” 2015 Tour

They’ll be playing hits spanning their career including “Kick It Up”, “Wrapped Up Good” and “Shotgun”, as well as new tracks “Going Under (Didn’t Have To)”, “Here’s To You & I” and the brand new hit single “Forever Begins Tonight”.

Catch their breathtaking harmonies live and backed by their electric band in a show not to be missed.

March 26 - Middleback Theatre - Whyalla
March 27 - Northern Festival Centre - Port Pirie
March 28 - Old Mill Hotel - Hahndorf

http://www.themcclymonts.net.au/tours/

“They're the best in the world today” (Country Update Magazine – June 2014)

“The girl's sound on stage remains pitch perfect, the stage show vibrant and energetic as ever leaving the audience wanting more.” (Reverb Street Press – July 2014)

“(Here's To You & I) undoubtedly keeps them at the forefront of Australian Country” 4 out of 5 stars (the music.com.au – July 2014)
There is some debate over exactly when and how the Tamworth Country Music Festival actually began. Most observers, including the Country Music Association of Australia, state 1973 as the beginning, when Radio 2TM staged the first Country Music Awards as a part of their long term Country Music Capital promotion which had started in the late '60s. The Country Music Festival was a deliberate part of 2TM's strategy to create a major country music event in Tamworth to support the Awards. Thus once the Awards were stabilised, the organisers started planning and creating other events, spreading the activities back through the week before the major focus. These significant new events included activities such as the Bluegrass Championships, Hands of Fame, The Roll of Renown, The Rodeo, The Buttercup Open House concert, The Mr Juicy Concerts, busking in Peel Street, The Cavalcade, industry seminars and many others events. These events were promoted to highlight Australian Country Music and to draw attention to the climax of the 10 days, the Golden Guitar Awards.

Since the festival's original commencement the following music genres have been performed: Classic country, Bluegrass, Country rock, Folk, Urban country, Alternative country, Rockabilly, Western swing, Rock'n'roll, Yodelling, Rock, Blues, and World music. The festival has diversified in styles of country as the genre country music itself has broadened, additionally other styles of music are played at the festival. Not even torrential rains and floods can stop Tamworth from being one of the best music festivals in the world.
The Country Music Golden Guitar Awards of Australia are held each January during the Tamworth Country Music Festival with The Golden Guitar Awards building the foundation of the Festival. The Awards have been a core event for over 40 years and they represent the pinnacle in Australian Country Music.

It all started in January 1973, radio station 2TM launched the Australasian Country Music Awards. Joy McKean received the first Golden Guitar for “Lights on the Hill”, the song that was made popular by her husband Slim Dusty. To date, over 500 Golden Guitar trophies have been handed out to deserving Country Music artists. Slim Dusty has won a whopping 37 trophies!

The Golden Guitar trophy stands 24cm high and weighs 1.5 kilograms, however it weighs heavily on the hearts of country music artists who have the privilege of winning this award.

“For over 30 years the Golden Guitar Awards have captured the imagination of millions of Australians, forming the foundation for Tamworth’s famous festival and inspiring generations of country music artists and their fans”, says Max Ellis.

2015 Golden Guitar Winners

Congratulations to the Golden Guitar winners of the 43rd Country Music Awards of Australia.

Held on Saturday 24th of January 2015, in the Tamworth Regional Entertainment Centre

- **Album of the Year**: Bittersweet (Kasey Chambers), Producer Nick Didia
- **Alternative Country Album of the Year**: Heart of Sorrow (Lyn Bowtell), Producer Shane Nicholson
- **Male Artist of the Year**: Luke O’Shea (Sing You Up)
- **Female Artist of the Year**: Amber Lawrence (Superheroes)
- **Country Music Capital News Group or Duo of the Year**: The McClymonts (Here’s To You & I)
- **Vocal Collaboration of the Year**: Dean Perrett & Troy Cassar-Daley (My Country My Land)
- **Bush Ballad of the Year**: Bloodwood & Clover (Dean Perrett), Written by Ian Quinn
- **Toyota Heritage Song of the Year**: Three Brothers (The Great War) Performed/Written by Luke O’Shea
- **Instrumental of the Year**: Candle Creek (Mustered Courage)
- **Bluegrass Recording of the Year**: One Heartbreak Away (Kristy Cox)
- **Qantaslink New Talent of the Year**: The Adam Eckersley Band
- **APRA Song of the Year**: Three Brothers (The Great War) Performed and Written by Luke O’Shea
- **Video Clip of the Year**: Canoe (Sara Storer), Directed By Duncan Toombs
- **Single of the Year**: Bittersweet (Kasey Chambers & Bernard Fanning)
- **Sanity Top Selling Australian Album of the Year**: Here’s To You & I (The McClymonts)
- **Top Selling International Album of the Year**: Blue Smoke (Dolly Parton)
The **Toyota Star Maker** competition is Australia’s most prestigious country music talent search. Ten of Australia’s most exciting emerging country music artists competed at the Toyota Star Maker final, which has been the main event on the first Sunday of the iconic Tamworth Country Music Festival since 1979.

Star Maker offers emerging country music talent the opportunity to realise their dreams. It’s helped launch the careers of some of the industry’s biggest names including **Lee Kernaghan**, **Keith Urban**, **James Blundell** and **Beccy Cole**.

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**MEET THE WINNER**

**Mickey Pye - Bathurst NSW**

Mickey Pye is a 26-year-old Australian country artist from the small town of Oberon in NSW. He has toured extensively as a guitarist for some of Australia’s biggest country acts including Beccy Cole, Tania Kernaghan, Travis Collins, and Jayne Denham. After cutting his teeth playing in pub bands throughout the central west, Mickey moved to Sydney after finishing high school where he completed a bachelor of Popular Music and Performance at the JMC Academy. Awarded three consecutive scholarships, Mickey graduated with the academy’s highest regarded award, the Elizabeth Cass Award, recognising the highest achieving student across all courses. After graduating, Mickey moved home to the country where he established Bathurst Academy of Music, a contemporary music school. Mickey first struck the industry’s eye as an artist when he won the Gympie Muster’s Maton Talent Search in 2009 and was a 2010 Toyota Star Maker finalist. Since then, he has played some of the biggest stages in Australia and Canada clocking up over 150 gigs a year. He is a well-respected musician and one of the most exciting young artists coming through the ranks. He returns to Toyota Star Maker with the hope that a win would see a debut album which would launch his solo career.

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**MEET THE GRAND FINALISTS**

- **Dana Hassall**
  Kingsthorpe QLD

- **Gretta Ziller**
  Oakleigh VIC

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**MEET THE FINALISTS**

- **Jonny Taylor**
  WA

- **Jess Holland**
  Mudgee NSW

- **Rachael Fahim**
  Cherrybrook NSW

- **Taylor Moss**
  Cooroibah QLD

- **Sian Evans**
  West End QLD

- **Tommy Contor**
  Gilleston Heights NSW

- **Tyler Hudson**
  Echuca VIC

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In our recent show, we were treated to the debut of Lena & The Mix to the Country Music Club scene. Although Lena & The Mix are more familiar with cabaret and mainstream styles, they did a nice job with many country standards. The audience seemed to respond well to some rock/pop tunes thrown in the mix as well. There were some nice harmonies here and there, plus some ‘musical chairs’ happening throughout the show as they switched instruments; along with George jumping in on the drums to give a hand. Well done George.

Numbers may have been a little down due to the heat, but everyone seemed to be in high spirits. Take a look at these mug shots below. After chatting and joking around with some of you, it is obvious that the music is not the only reason that you come to the shows. It’s a mix of good company, good food and drinks, and good ol’ fashioned fun. And to the ratbags in the audience, I’m keeping my eye on you (wink, wink).

Check out our website for full colour photos of the shows. If you have any feedback from our shows or other events, please feel free to contact us at our P.O. Address or contact the newsletter editor (Stewart Ray).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 1st</td>
<td>12 - 5 pm</td>
<td>Jim Hermel, Peter Coad and the Coad Sisters - Willaston CM Club - Willaston Clubrooms, Gawler River Rd.</td>
<td>Gawler Country Music Club Inc. - Slovenian Club, 11 LaSalle St. Dudley Park</td>
<td>0403 008 537</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 1st</td>
<td>1:30 - 4:30 pm</td>
<td>Gary Daniel - NCMA Clubrooms, Afford Rd, Port Pirie</td>
<td>8633 2302</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 2nd</td>
<td>8 - 9 pm</td>
<td>Hillibilly Hoot - Linde Reserve. Nelson St, Stepney</td>
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<td>Friday 6th</td>
<td>7 - 11 pm</td>
<td>The Blackhats - Castle Entertainment Centre (British WMC), 11-15 Davis Street, Wingfield</td>
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<td>8347 4090</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 7th</td>
<td>12 - 4.30 pm</td>
<td>Gawler CM Club Workshop</td>
<td>Bring your instruments along to play and learn. Great Music... Great Fun !!!</td>
<td>Entry: $4.00 per person for all attending. BYU Nibbles to share. Anglican Parish Hall. 26 Cowan Street, Gawler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 7th</td>
<td>SECMA South East Country Music Festival (Mount Gambier) - Sat: Cabaret - Jay J Shannon &amp; Winchester, Jan and Graham (Company of Two), Sandie Dodds plus more. Sun: Talent Quest from 9am. Concert 12 noon to 6pm - J. Shannon &amp; Winchester Band, Owen Blindell, Johanna Hemara, Don Costa, Leah Briggs, Cameron Mason, Sandie Dodds, Conrad Winfield and Malcolm Doyle.</td>
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<td>0438 867 745</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 7th - Sunday 8th</td>
<td>Port River Twilight Dinner Dance Cruise on the Dolphin Explorer</td>
<td>Chooka Williams, Guido with the Martin Barton &amp; Fargo Band. Sat SOLD OUT. All profits to Angel Flight.</td>
<td>8376 9445 or 040 210 6447</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 8th</td>
<td>1 - 5 pm</td>
<td>Murray Mac and True Grit - Southern CM Club, Lockleys Bowling Club. 46 Rutland Ave, Lockleys</td>
<td>0408 891 512 or 0385 0014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 8th</td>
<td>11 am - 4 pm</td>
<td>David Pearce - Barossa CM Club. Nuriootpa Bowling Club, Buna Terrace, Nuriootpa</td>
<td>0408 763 326</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 8th</td>
<td>1 - 5 pm</td>
<td>AP's Pals - Grenville Hub, Playford Boulevard, Elizabeth. Entry - Gold coin donation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 9th</td>
<td>8 - 9 pm</td>
<td>Hillibilly Hoot - Linde Reserve. Nelson St, Stepney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 10th</td>
<td>8 pm</td>
<td>Graeme Hugo and Lindsay Waddington - Moonta Town Hall. $18pp Concession $15</td>
<td>8821 3445</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 12th</td>
<td>8 pm</td>
<td>NCMA Annual General Meeting - NCMA Clubrooms, 28 Afford Rd, Port Pirie</td>
<td>8633 2302</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 13th</td>
<td>2 - 3 pm</td>
<td>Billy Dee - Hallett Cove Lutheran Church. Ragamuffin Dve, Hallett Cove</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 14th</td>
<td>11 am - 4.30 pm</td>
<td>Gawler CM Club Open Mike - Everyone is welcome !! We look forward to seeing you on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month. Entry: $4.00 per person for all attending. Tea and coffee are provided. BYU Nibbles to share. Anglican Parish Hall. 26 Cowan Street, Gawler</td>
<td>Fred Payne: 8255 9248 or 0417 851 609</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 15th</td>
<td>1 - 5 pm</td>
<td>St. Patricks Day celebration - Eddie Edwards and Friends, Dean Bird, Big Jim &quot;The Irishman&quot; Railroad CM Club at S.A. Sea Rescue Squadron. Barcoo Road, West Beach.</td>
<td>0413 522 516</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 15th</td>
<td>12 - 4 pm</td>
<td>Midnight Special with guest artist Tania Cornish</td>
<td>Gawler Country Music Club The Grenville Centre. 10 Playford Boulevard, Elizabeth (Across from the Civic Centre)</td>
<td>8255 8920</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 15th</td>
<td>1:30 pm</td>
<td>Billy Dee and Friends with Guest Walk Ups - 'Come as a Guest - Leave as a Friend' Plympton and Glenelg RSL, 464 Marion Rd, Plympton Park.</td>
<td>8352 4046</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 15th</td>
<td>1 - 4 pm</td>
<td>Gary Daniel - The Kersbrook Tavern</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 16th</td>
<td>8 - 9 pm</td>
<td>Hillibilly Hoot - Linde Reserve. Nelson St, Stepney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 20th - Sunday 22nd</td>
<td>Horsham Country Music Festival – Tom Maxwell, The Stetson Family, Bill Gray, Tracey Rains, Johanna Hemara, Brian Letton, Sandie Dodd, Col Perkins, Don Costa, Cynthia Lawrence, Ian Castle and Venessa Waara</td>
<td>03) 5381 1995</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 22nd</td>
<td>11 am - 4 pm</td>
<td>City Cowboys - Murray Bridge CM Club - Imperial Football Club. Johnstone Pk, Murray Bridge</td>
<td>0409 697 747</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 22nd</td>
<td>1 - 5 pm</td>
<td>Gary Daniel’s Tru Country - Kilburn R.S.L. CM Functions, Way Street, Kilburn</td>
<td>8449 4743</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Gawler Country Music Workshop

Bring your instruments along and learn from the experience of others. Have fun playing along with new friends. Come along if you want to sing or play...

- Guitar/Bass
- Keyboards
- Mandolin
- Drums/Percussion
- Banjo
- Ukulele
- Whatever you fancy...
- Only $4.00 entry
- Tea and Coffee available
- BYO Nibbles

First Saturday of each month
12 noon to 4.30 pm
Anglican Parish Hall 26 Cowan Street Gawler

For further information contact Fred: 0417 851 609
Dave feared that Mabel's hearing was slipping and asked the family Doctor how he could test her for hearing loss without upsetting her. 'Here's what you do,' said the Doctor, 'stand about 40 feet behind her, and speak to her in a normal voice and see if she hears you. If not, go to 30 feet, then 20 feet, and so on until you get a response.' That evening, Mabel is in the kitchen cooking dinner. So at about 40 feet away he asks, 'Honey, what's for dinner?' No response. Dave moves closer to the kitchen, about 30 feet from Mabel and repeats, 'Mabel dear, what's for dinner?' Still no response. Next he moves into the dining room about 20 feet away and asks, 'Honey, what's for dinner?' Again, no response. So, he walks up to the kitchen door, about 10 feet away. 'Honey, what's for dinner?'. Still no response. So he walks right up behind her. 'Mabel, what's for dinner?'. Mabel turns around and yells 'For the FIFTH time Dave, it's chicken you deaf bugga!!'

Dad takes Dave to the Doctor for a check-up. On their way in Mrs Johnson runs out the door screaming. Dad says to the Doctor ‘What’s wrong with Ol’ Mrs Johnson?’. The Doctor replies ‘I just told her she was pregnant.’ Puzzled, Dad asks ‘You do know that she is 73 years old, don’t you?’ ‘Sure.’ said the Doctor, ‘Cured her hiccups though, didn’t it.’

Coming Events

**Murry Mac & True Grit**

**Sunday April 19th 12 - 4 pm**

Gawler Country Music Club
The Grenville Centre. 10 Playford Boulevard. Elizabeth
(Across from the Civic Centre)

with special guest
Norma O’Hara Murphy

*A show not to be missed !!*

Entry Fee: Members - $6.00, Non Members - $8.00
Tea and coffee - $1.00   Food and drinks available

Contact Keith Warren for enquiries: 8255 8920

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**Lameroo Country Music Festival**

1st - 3rd May 2015 At The Lameroo Memorial Hall, S.A.

The Lameroo Country Music Festival was launched in 2010. It is known as one of the most successful and popular festivals in SA.
Pass this on to your friends

Membership Application and Renewal Form

Gawler Country Music Club Inc P.O. Box 285 Elizabeth SA 5112 Ph: (08) 8255 8920

Name: (Please Print)  DOB (Day and month only):

Address:  Suburb/Town:  Post Code:
(Or change of Address)
Tel:  Mobile:  Annual Membership Fee: $10.00  Are you already a Member?  

Yes my Number is  No.....

My Favourite Country Music Artists are: .................................................................

Do you sing or play a musical instrument? ............................................................

I agree to abide by the constitution and rules of the club: Signature .........................Date ..............

Please send this form with your cheque or P.O. (Not Cash) to The Secretary at the above address

Dance Listen Eat ’n’ Sip

Come along and Enjoy

Gawler Country Music Club Inc P.O. Box 285 Elizabeth SA 5112 (Outside)

Gawler Country Music Club Inc. is a non profit organisation dedicated to the development of all styles of Country Music. The activities of the club include regular monthly meetings and shows; providing opportunity and encouragement to amateur artists; producing this newsletter and showing support for all other South Australian Country Music Clubs.

Committee Members
Kevin Vardon, Allen Prov, Veronica Antoniazzi, Helen Payne, Les Parris.

Annual Membership $10.00.

President/Entertainments Officer Keith Warren 8255 8920
Vice President George Dobie 8255 5789
Secretary Helen Warren 8255 8920
Treasurer Louise Vardon 8254 3440
Public Relations Officer Fred Payne 0417 851 609
Newsletter/Web Editor Stewart Ray

Advertising Space is available in this Newsletter.
Costs are: Half A4 Page $20.00.
Quarter A4 Page $10.00.
Eighth A4 Page $5.00 (Business Card Size)

Newsletter Deadline To ensure entry in the next issue please send articles, advertisements etc. to The Editor, Gawler Country Music Club Inc P.O. Box 285 Elizabeth SA 5112 to reach us by the Second Sunday of the month. Additional copies of the Newsletter may be obtained at club functions or by contacting the Secretary on 8255 8920.
Website: www.gawlercountrymusicclub.com.au

Renewals due on April 1st