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HIGHER GROUND NEWSLETTER – November 2016

Welcome

Welcome to our November newsletter. The annual tribute events are over for 2016, but I see that already 2017 preparations are already underway. Some of us from HGA will be making our way to Aspen next year, which will be fun!

HGA John Denver Tribute Weekend 2016

We held our annual tribute weekend in beautiful Cowes, which is on Phillip Island in Victoria. This is famous for the nightly march of the fairy penguins from the water to their nests in the sand dunes. In 1996, the state government established the Phillip Island Nature Park, which includes the Penguin Parade. The park was established as a commercial attraction for the purpose of animal conservation and research. Many of our friends found the time to enjoy watching the penguin parade during their visit to this beautiful place. As usual, we enjoyed a sing-a-long well into Saturday evening.



Our fundraiser raised \$600, which will be donated to 'Higher Ground Australian Raptor Care, Release, and Learning Facility'. This amount will be paid to Peggy McDonald.

Thanks to everyone who purchased raffle tickets for the quilt, which was won by Michelle (Sandy and Colin Horwell's daughter)

The second prize of a mystery box of John Denver-related goodies was won by Lyndsay Patfield.

We donated four books to schools, nominated by our members. These schools are:

Sunshine on my Shoulders (hardback) picture book was donated to Holy Trinity Primary School, Wantirna South, nominated by Robyn Westwood.

Ancient Rhymes (paperback) picture book was donated to Wesley Junior School, nominated by Carolyn Johnson.

Sunshine on my Shoulders (paperback) picture book was donated to Templestowe Primary School, nominated by Jacqueline Pretorius.

John Denver: Man of the World (paperback) non-fiction biography was donated to St. Phillip's Christian School, Cessnock, nominated by Alistair and Carmel Wilson.

Thank you to Melanie Patfield, who donated the extra two books.

Since 2003, we have donated 40 books to schools across Australia.

On Sunday, 16th October, we planted a lemon-scented gum tree on the CYC property. The annual ritual of planting a tree and placing a plaque in front is a solemn occasion. We reflect on the life and legacy of John Denver. We also each bring a bottle of water from our respective homes and together we water the tree after it has been planted.



Thanks to everyone for their assistance prior to and participation during the weekend. It is much appreciated.

Paul Aleman & Renee Armand

Paul, Renee and friends performed at the Franklin Theatre in Franklin, Tennessee on October 15. It was a sell-out concert (and I wish I was there).



(Photo by Robbie Brooks Moore)

There are some lovely videos on YouTube of informal rehearsal sessions, which are worth watching. Here is one of my favourite songs, Fly Away.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f2EzI0aI9FI>

Forever Country

Lauren Cowling September 21, 2016

Getting 30 people to agree to do anything together is a feat in itself, but convincing 30 individual acts (so, actually around 45 people) to agree to sing three songs and appear in a video for the three songs is one magnificent accomplishment.

"Forever Country" is a mash-up of "Take Me Home, Country Roads" by John Denver, "On the Road Again" by Willie Nelson and "I Will Always Love You" by Dolly Parton. The songs were masterfully put together by Shane McAnally, though more than one artists was skeptical it would actually work.

"There's no way these songs are going to work together," Blake Shelton revealed in a behind-the-scenes clip.

The video was directed by Joseph Kahn, and he actually gave McAnally the idea for the mashup. The two shared how it all came together during a recent private viewing of the video, "He proposed the idea of a mashup. We felt pretty strongly about not messing with any of the stories of country music. How do you chop up a country song that tells these stories? Every line matters," McAnally said.

"All the harmonies and chords fit together so well and it actually told a story and had a great emotional payoff," Kahn said after the viewing to a room full of industry insiders which also included Karen Fairchild and Randy Travis. "It was basically a movie he wrote and I had to put visuals to it."

The video was shot over three days in Nashville against a green screen. Reba builds the Ryman Auditorium, Vince Gill and Carrie Underwood take the stage at the CMA Awards and in the end, all 30 artists end up together in a field full of country

music dreams as Dolly Parton sings the last line of her iconic, "I Will Always Love You."

The 50th Annual CMA Awards will be hosted by Brad Paisley and Carrie Underwood and broadcast live from the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Wednesday, Nov. 2(8:00-11:00 PM/ET) on the ABC Television Network.

<http://www.onecountry.com/forever-country-video-2011199353.html>

Now, watch the video!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s9gAXwYZtfk>

HGA Website

I am in the process of creating a new website for Higher Ground Australia. I will let you know when it has been completed.

Tom Becker

The Fall for Asheville Getaway weekend will feature Tom Becker's Back Home Again show. Details are on Tom's website.

<http://www.johndenvertribute.net/>

Chris Bannister

Chris Bannister has a full listing of his forthcoming John Denver tribute concerts on his website;

Nov 19 *The Music of John Denver* at Huntingdon Hall. See Chris' website for details and ticket sales.

<http://www.chrisbannistermusic.com/events/>

Ted Vigil

Ted has a full schedule well into next year. Check his website for more information about his concerts. www.tedvigil.com

Chris Westfall

5/11/2016 at 7:30pm Monterey Bay! Join me as I return to the Monterey Bay area for a very special house concert. Judy's home overlooks the bay! Thanks to Charlie and Judy Therrien for hosting this splendid event! My set list will include a wide variety of tunes! "Blue Water World.....oceans and oceans." Donation: \$15. Appetizers welcome, but not expected. Contact Judy: jhtherrien@icloud.com 1-831-373-7780. 12 Dunecrest Ave. Monterey, CA 93940.

10/12/2016 7:30pm Merry Christmas

Doylestown! "Sounds of the Season!" Christmas songs....carols...originals! And...."Mary, Did You Know?" A truly festive evening of song at my musical home away from home! Should I play the restored grand piano??? YES!!!! Tickets for this special show: \$10. Contact:

kurthhoner@msn.com 186 E. Court St. Doylestown, PA 18901.

Chebeck out Chris' website for his forthcoming Christmas concerts throughout December.

http://www.chriswestfall.com/in_concert.html

Jim Curry

Jim Curry Presents *The Timeless Music of John Denver*

<http://www.jimcurrymusic.com/>



Check out Jim's website for his current shows. You may wish to sign up for Jim's newsletter though the website.

<http://myemail.constantcontact.com/Jim-Curry---November-News-and-Concerts-.html?soid=1104525466960&aid=x-9sl5IWfdk>

Brad Fitch

November 26, 2016 – Colorado Christmas

Estes Park, CO. For more information and tickets www.cowboybrad.com

John Adams

December 9, 2016 - A Rocky Mountain Christmas at Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, Palmer Lake, CO. Tickets and more information www.trilakesarts.org

Aspen 2017

There is a lot of excitement as people are already booking their stays in Aspen for the period of 9/10/2017 to 16/10/2017. Accommodation is being snapped up, as concerts and other activities are already being organised. There will be tribute concerts at the Wheeler Opera House in 2017. If you have never seen this iconic theatre, now is the time! I will be there in 2017, and I look forward to seeing many of you in Aspen. If you are thinking of travelling to Aspen, please get your accommodation booked as quickly as possible as the hotels are filling up fast.

Accommodation:

The Mountain Chalet has been fully booked for 2017, so if you are interested in going to Aspen in 2017, now is the time to book your alternate accommodation.

The Limelight Hotel has released its special price for the 2017 John Denver week. Some deals are up to 30% off the regular October price.

Molly Gibson Lodge is taking bookings right now, but they may be selling fast.

For other available accommodation, check out www.booking.com to get an idea of prices of accommodation during the period of 9/10/2017 – 16/10/2017 (some of which would make one's hair curl).

Mark Cormican has locked in his concert for 11th October, 2017.

All of My Memories (October 12, 2017). The history of our Aspen in October times will be presented in an historic stroll down Memory Lane of the events from 1997 to 2017. Photos, film clips, and stories will be shared of the friendships, meet-and-greets, marriages, deaths, concerts, music, campfires, sing-a-longs, book signings, hikes, speakers, clean-ups, parties, hay rides, and many other events and people that helped make our annual gatherings so special. In addition, an overview of the past 20 years will be captured in a professional photo book and given to participants of this event. The photo books can be picked up at the All of My Memories event, planned for the beautiful Community Room at the Aspen Library. Tickets will be approximately \$25 – \$35, depending on the final cost of the photo book

printing, and will be in the form of a bookmark for the photo album. Tickets will go on sale in mid-Spring and are limited to approximately 200 people total, or about 100 at each presentation, due to room capacity. Therefore, two back-to-back times are scheduled (11 a.m. and 1 p.m.). This event has been in the planning stages for 2 years and will be WONDERFUL ! More information will come later.

The Wheeler Opera House has advised that the 20th Anniversary Tribute to John Denver will be on the 12th, 13th, and 14th October. More information and ticket information will be available soon.

Facebook: There is a new Facebook page for the 20th anniversary tribute week in Aspen in 2017.

https://www.facebook.com/JohnDenver20/?hc_ref=PAGE_S_TIMELINE&fref=nf Check it out often to see what events are listed over the course of the next few months

Keep checking for the events planned for Aspen in October this year. The events thus far can be found at;

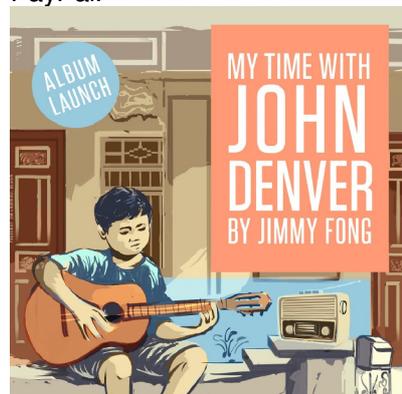
<http://www.johndenvercelebration.com/events>
<https://www.facebook.com/AspenInOctober/>

MTWJD CDs available for sale

<http://hgavic.wix.com/hgavic>

We are selling Jimmy Fong's CDs through the HGA website.

Please check out Jimmy's story and photos, including his personal photos of the time he met and performed with John Denver in Malaysia in 1994. We have included some sample tracks for you to listen to. CDs are AUD\$25.00 each, including postage and handling. The CDs are also available to US purchasers. For our Canadian, British, and European customers, please email me on hga.vic@gmail.com for details. Transactions are securely handled by PayPal.



American Veterans Radio

TUNE IN: www.avradio.org

iPhone - <http://apple.co/1bxUvTh>

Google Play - <http://bit.ly/1E5iUvz>

TuneIn Radio - bit.ly/1EhuOqo

American Veterans Radio is honored to feature the wonderful music of John Denver. Please join Willie From Dillon 4:00 pm ET. The next show will be on 12th November (Mountain time) (13th November Australia)

Time Zone Chart:

4 - 6pm Eastern time

3 - 5pm Central time

2 - 4pm Mountain time

1 - 3pm Pacific time

12noon - 2pm Alaskan time

5 - 7pm Chilean time

9 - 11pm UK time

10 - 12Mid European time

Next Morning

5 - 7am Japan time

6 - 8am Melbourne, Sydney, Australia time

8 - 10am New Zealand time

If you need to convert any other time click this link:

<http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/converter.html>

Here is the link to the radio player:

http://apps.streamlicensing.com/player-popup.php?sid=160&stream_id=4961

Here is the link to the tunein player:

<http://tunein.com/radio/American-Veterans-Radio-s215261/>

Here is the link to the chat picture:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10209479768371794&set=gm.270061436669054&type=3>

If you can make it to the chat that is wonderful. If you only have time to listen in that is very good too. The beauty of being an ONLINE concert, is that people can listen in from anywhere, enjoying the music of John Denver.

Some material included in this newsletter has been derived from the public domain, such as the internet and printed media. Articles and reviews are the opinion of the individual writer and as long as the content is of a reasonable nature and it is appropriate, it will be included. Organisations mentioned or featured in this newsletter are included to educate and inform people of their role and purpose. HGA does not profit from including the names of any organisation in this newsletter.

This newsletter is only emailed to those people who have individually contacted HGA and expressed a wish to receive it. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you no longer wish to receive the HGA newsletter.



Fly Away

(John Denver)

All of her days have gone soft and cloudy, all of her dreams have gone dry.

All of her nights have gone sad and shady, She's getting ready to fly.

Fly away, fly away, fly away.

Life in the city can make you crazy for sounds of the sand and the sea.

Life in a high-rise can make you hungry for things that you can't even see.

Fly away, fly away, fly away.

In this whole world there's nobody as lonely as she,

there's nowhere to go and there's nowhere that she'd rather be.

She's looking for lovers and children playing, she's looking for signs of the spring.

She listens for laughter and sounds of dancing, she listens for any old thing.

Fly away, fly away, fly away .

In this whole world there's nobody as lonely as she,

there's nowhere to go and there's nowhere that she'd rather be.

All of her days have gone soft and cloudy, all of her dreams have gone dry.

All of her nights have gone sad and shady, She's getting ready to fly.

Fly away, fly away, fly away, fly away.

Where are my days, where are my nights? Where is the Spring? I wanna fly, I wanna fly:

