

## Contact Details:

Janette Frawley  
PO Box 8155  
Camberwell North VIC 3124  
Australia  
[higherground\\_australia@yahoo.com.au](mailto:higherground_australia@yahoo.com.au)

Higher Ground Australia



[www.highergroundaustralia.com/](http://www.highergroundaustralia.com/)

Volume 12 – Edition 1

## HIGHER GROUND NEWSLETTER – February 2015

### Welcome

Happy new year to you all and I hope that 2015 proves to be a lucky one for you. We have recently returned from Hawaii and Central America. We travelled through the Panama Canal in January, which was amazing. So too was the music on our ship.

We came across a young Chilean couple who performed nightly on our cruise – Sebastian is a wonderful guitarist, whilst Gabby has a voice like an angel. Oh, they also sing Country Roads! Our newsletter is full of exciting news. It is hard to believe that John Denver's name comes up so frequently in conversation and in the media. Welcome to 2015 and may your year ahead be filled with plenty of great music!

### 2015 JD Tribute Weekend

Our 2015 JD weekend will be held in New South Wales (near Newcastle) on the weekend of 9-11 October. More details to come soon.

### Deepest Condolences

On behalf of us all at HGA, I would like to extend our deepest sympathy to Dianne Dunk, whose dad recently died.

### New Grandparents

Congratulations to Alistair and Carmel Wilson, proud grandparents of a new baby boy, Zac Raymond Wilson, born 17/2/2015.



### Rick Price Returns to Australia

We received this information this week from the 'Room 8' company. Rick Price has a great voice, and many of you would know him from the 1970s when he was a pop star.

From the producers of *The Man in Black: The Johnny Cash Story* and *At Last: The Etta James Story*, Room 8's hit show *The John Denver Story* will be returning to stages around Australia this May/June.

In the mid-1970s, John Denver was arguably America's most celebrated male entertainer. His 1973 Greatest Hits album remained on Billboard

magazine's chart of top album sellers for about three years; in 1975 and 1976, Denver won 4 American Music Awards- honours that measured the sentiments of music buyers rather than industry figures- and of his 24 albums released on the RCA label during his lifetime, 14 were eventually certified gold (sales of 500,000+) and 8 of those sold over a million copies each.

Australian singer Rick Price has returned from his current home in Nashville, USA to tell the John Denver story. Rick's award-winning voice gives true heart and soul to Denver's music, while telling the story of his contradictory life – a life that combined love of the environment, his fellow man and the planet, while at the same time giving into bouts of infidelity, alcoholism and aberrant behaviour.

Rick narrates a gripping story of Denver's passions while giving voice to more than 20 of his greatest hits. He is accompanied by The Colorado Quartet in two hours of superb entertainment. The John Denver Story tour will be heading to Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria, finishing up at the beautiful Athenaeum Theatre in Melbourne. Full dates and venues -

<http://thejohndenverstory.com.au/tickets-and-dates/>



Victorian people, please let me know if you want to be included in a group booking for the 9<sup>th</sup> June in Melbourne.

### Boonah Trees

Rhonda has been caring for our trees in Boonah, taking the time to go up and water them regularly. She has reported that Steve and Harold's tree has not survived. More recently Rhonda contacted me to say that the tree we planted for Max also succumbed to the hot summer. John's tree is still going OK. Rhonda has taken the tags for Steve and Harold's tree home for the time being. Once

the weather cools down, we will replace the trees that have died.

Rhonda's husband, Kevin has also offered to repair John's plaque from 2008, as it needs to be re-glued.

Thanks to Rhonda for taking care of the trees, and for her regular reports. We will organise the replacement trees once the autumn kicks in and the ground cools.

### **Update from Peggy**

Hi Janette and all my friends at Higher Ground J I thought you might like to see these images. If you click on a thumbnail they will come full screen.

I have a professional photographer on board now and he is very good and calm with the birds so I am happy for him to go into the big aviary. My goodness it has been busy. 22 Raptors in care so far this year. Only 2 have had to be euthanased sadly, a Powerful owl with very severe spinal trauma and a Grey Goshawk with tick paralysis.

12 have been released and 8 are in care with 2 little Australian hobbies going tomorrow.

Your help has been a Godsend (Johnsend perhaps!) and despite so desperately wanting to go back to the falcon hospital for more training, it has helped enormously with the costs associated with all these beaks to feed.

A lot is happening, mostly good, but I won't type anymore for now. Just wanted to send my love to you all, let you know that it is all action stations here still, and that John and Max the plants have shot up and seem happy.

I will send a recent newspaper article for your interest.

Also "Australian Raptor Care and Conservation Inc" that I have formed with some others is now underway and has been very well received.

Kindest Regards to everyone

Peggy xx and the birds



<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/jexrtldgyffslgf/AAArOYXAPpdb1a9ZqZI-bBJ1a?dl=0>

### **American Veterans Radio**

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1552277081716576/?ref=22&source=1>

American Veterans Radio is honored to feature the wonderful music of John Denver. Please join Willie From Dillon and his special guest and co

host, Wolfgang Adolf..

Don't forget...Willie has set a goal of 1000 new fans/listeners so tell every JD fan you know!

<https://db.tt/RHjqPtam>

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February

4:00 - 6:00pm Eastern time

3:00 - 5:00pm Central time

2:00 - 4:00pm Mountain time

1:00 - 3:00pm Pacific time

12:00 - 2:00pm Alaskan time

6:00 - 8:00pm Chilean time...

### **PBS Weekly Newsletter**

(Contributed by Kathy Lill)

This article appeared in our PBS weekly newsletter

From the President/CEO of our local PBS station: John Denver and I have history. For whatever reason, his music has been intertwined in chapters of my life and specific songs instantly take me to specific memories and moments. It all began in 1973.

I liked his music as a child and the first official album I'd ever owned I received as a birthday gift. It was John Denver's Greatest Hits, Volume One. I played that thing over and over and over and to this day could probably sing it word for word if given the chance. His music spoke to me and always has.

His voice was magical, the words he penned into song, captivating. I've always enjoyed music with meaning, words with purpose, and songs that carried emotions. John Denver was all of that. He was a genius who sang simple songs that came straight from his heart and touched audiences everywhere.

I remember singing "Sunshine on My Shoulders" to my baby Ryan when he needed a lullaby to fall asleep to, deep in the dark of night after a bottle. Just my sweet little baby and I, the solitude of a song and it never failed to coax him into slumber. I would sing it over and again, long after Ryan had succumbed to sleep, the sound of his gentle breathing against my shoulder.

Another memory; years later, in 2011 I sat alone in a Hospice Room, beside my father's bed, holding his hand and wishing we could have just one more conversation. He was dying and deep in a medicated slumber as I quietly sang "Back Home Again" one of my father's most beloved John Denver songs. Although no words were exchanged as I sang, he tugged against my hand with his, letting me know he heard me. It was the day before his death.

I met John Denver once. My husband and I were vacationing for a few days in Jackson Hole, Wyoming in September of 1996. We found out that John Denver was going to be performing in concert there during our stay, but of course the show was sold out. However, late the night of the concert, as we were enjoying a nightcap in a small pub at Teton Village, John Denver and his small



entourage entered. There were only about three or four small groups at tables around the pub and Denver walked to every table and said hello and shook hands. He then asked the bartender to give everybody what they'd like to drink, on him. Then he and his group took a small corner booth together. He had a wonderful smile and a gentle way about him. It was surreal. Almost to the day, a year later, I would hear that he died in a plane crash, October 1997.

For you who have never been touched by the gift of John Denver's music. I invite you to tune in, March 6th at 7 p.m. for a special program on KPTS, "John Denver Country Boy." His legacy lives on through timeless treasures in song. His music will always hold a special place in my heart. Thanks John, for the memories.

### **John Denver: Country Boy on PBS in March**

February 20, 2015

At the peak of his fame in the 1970s, John Denver was the most popular singer in America. He performed at sold-out concerts, his albums sold more than 100 million copies, his TV specials got top ratings, and he was named poet laureate of his adopted Colorado. Yet this man, who brought happiness to millions, was filled with insecurity, suffered from depression, and was savaged by the music critics. Exploring the private life and public legacy of America's Everyman, this intimate profile includes exclusive accounts from those closest to him, including former wives and managers, his son and brother, the musicians who toured with him for decades and the friends who knew the real John Denver. JOHN DENVER: COUNTRY BOY is part of special programming premiering on PBS stations beginning Saturday, February 28, 2015 (check local listings).

John Denver's legacy continues to flourish with the release of a star-studded tribute album in 2013, to the 2014 RCA/Legacy Recordings release of a four CD box set, All of My Memories: The John Denver Collection, the first truly comprehensive overview of his more than three decades of recording, from 1964 (before his solo career took off) to 1997 (the year of his passing). On the face of it, John Denver was a wholesome country singer who penned pleasant songs with lyrics that some ridiculed for their simplicity. There were extremes to Denver's character -- from the incredible highs reflected in his music to the more private lows with which he grappled. He loved touring and could not live without an audience, yet dreamed of the perfect home and family life that his mobile childhood denied him. He may have written one of the greatest love songs about his first wife Annie, but she filed for divorce on their 15th wedding anniversary.

The BBC actually gave Denver his first television break with a primetime six-part series in 1973. In Britain, he learned to feel at home in front of a

camera and his music took off. It became the soundtrack of a generation, when ideals of the 'good life' and living off the land spurred families to move to the countryside. To his British fans and millions of others around the world, the appeal of his music was its accessibility, but critics dismissed him as "contrived and controlled Americana," "Mr. Clean" and "Plastic Pollyanna" -- just a few of the epithets that stung him.

A complex man who wrote uncomplicated songs, Denver was often at odds with the saccharine image presented to the world. In this new documentary, viewers re-discover a lost musical icon of the 70s and the enduring power of his music.

Participants featured in the program include:

Annie Denver - John's first wife.

Zak Deutschendorf - John's son.

Cassandra Delaney Denver - John's second wife; they divorced in the early 90s.

Jerry Weintraub - The movie mogul was a close friend and Denver's manager from 1970 to 1984.

Ron Deutschendorf - John's younger brother, who was drafted to Vietnam as John sang protest songs at a peace rally in Washington.

Tom Crum - close friend and co-founder of Windstar Foundation.

Jean Michel Cousteau - friend and son of one of John's eco-heroes, Jacques Cousteau.

James Burton - musician who toured with John and had also played with Elvis.

Hal Thau - Denver's long-term finance manager.

Connie Reeder - longtime friend.

Milt Okun - renowned producer who gave John his first break when he auditioned as Chad Mitchell's replacement in the Chad Mitchell Trio.

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Chad Mitchell's replacement in the Chad Mitchell Trio.

Mike Kobluk - sang with John in the Mitchell Trio.

Paul Prestopino - musician in the Mitchell Trio.

Taffy Nivert - co-wrote "Country Roads" with John and her husband Bill Danoff.

Peter Yarrow - member of the trio Peter, Paul and Mary who had enormous success with John's song "Leaving on a Jet Plane."

Stanley Dorfman - produced the John Denver BBC 1973 series.

G. Brown - Colorado music journalist.

PBS special programming invites viewers to experience the worlds of science, history, nature and public affairs; hear diverse viewpoints; and take front-row seats to world-class drama and performances. Viewer contributions are an important source of funding, making PBS programs possible. PBS and public television stations offer all Americans from every walk of life the opportunity to explore new ideas and new worlds through television and online content.



<http://www.broadwayworld.com/bwwtv/article/John-Denver-Country-Boy-on-PBS-in-March-20150220-page2>

Please also read the newspaper article that has been attached to the email with this newsletter. Peggy has done some wonderful work with the money we have donated and we thank her for the regular updates.

### **The Aspen Times**

#### **Man wants to turn former John Denver home into peace retreat**

Rick Carroll 20/1/2015

When Willie Hoeffers visited the home that John Denver built outside Aspen, "I could sense that his spirit was there," he told listeners of his radio show.

Hoeffers was with two potential buyers who were shown the estate, located in the exclusive Starwood subdivision, by Aspen broker Carol Dopkin. The property is listed for \$10.75 million and has been on the market since the summer. The asking price is fairly in line with Aspen-area real estate. And, like most people, it's out of line with Hoeffers' price range.

But he has a vision for its future use, and his inspiration hails from the singer-songwriter who built one of the first homes in Starwood in the early 1970s, at the height of Denver's fame. Denver was an advocate for world peace, environmental issues and other causes.

"This would be an ideal place for global peace talks," Hoeffers said. "I would call it the Global Retreat for Peace."

"I'm looking for people who are willing to invest in peace, nothing more, nothing less."

Hoeffers envisions the property, which consists of a six-bedroom main home and a five-bedroom guesthouse on separately deeded lots with their own driveways, as a place where "presidents, heads of state, whoever is in the position to negotiate these things," would gather.

A Dillon resident, Hoeffers hosts a weekly show on American Veterans Radio. On Jan. 11, [he told listeners](#) of his visit to Denver's home and how he's starting a campaign to raise funds to acquire the property.

"I'm looking for people who are willing to invest in peace. Nothing more, nothing less," he said. "And I'm looking for investors who are willing to take that step."

Hoeffers said he was moved when he visited Denver's home, one that includes a studio where he recorded some of his music.

"I could just picture John or Annie (Denver's ex-wife) and the kids there. ... It was the thrill of my life," he told listeners.

Dopkin said she likes the idea, but no offers have been made for the property, which is prohibited from being used for commercial purposes.

Hoeffers said that's not his intention, and the location would strictly serve as a venue for discussions about peace.

"A tourist attraction would never work," said Hoeffers, a bass player who has participated in concerts dedicated to Denver's memory. Hoeffers said Denver was the reason he moved to Colorado. "It's ideal for what I want to do, a great place for background talks, people meeting, whatever it is to bring peace around the world. And I want everybody to understand I'm trying to preserve the property."

Dopkin, who was a friend of Denver's, said, "He just wants to make it a private retreat for people who want to make the world a better place."

Survivors of Denver sold the estate in February 1999 to New York-based entity DBZ Trust. The main home sold for \$2.38 million and the guesthouse brought in \$1.3 million.

Dopkin said the current owners spend about two weeks a year there and no longer desire to own it. "They love the property and they've maintained it beautifully and very respectfully," said Dopkin, who also created a [YouTube video](#) about the estate.

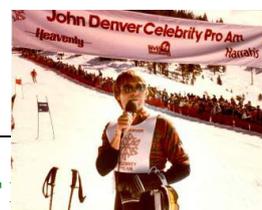
Starwood originally wasn't a private neighborhood, but the throngs of fans who wanted to get a glimpse of Denver's home prompted the entertainer to turn it into a gated community. Denver died in 1997 after an aircraft he was piloting crashed into Monterey Bay near Pacific Grove, California. He was 53.

The [John Denver Sanctuary](#) is located by the Rio Grande Park on the banks of the Roaring Fork River in Aspen, and other efforts have been made to memorialize him, including a woman's movement to name one of [Mount Sopris' peaks](#) after Denver. The effort, which gained a mix of criticism and support, fizzled after the organizer failed to send the petition and application to the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.



### **The Roots of Racing Series: The Power of Celebrity**

Michael Sinnott Colorado Ski & Snowboard Museum January 16, 2015



This winter, Vail and Beaver Creek are hosting the FIS Alpine World Ski Championships for a third

time. The Colorado Ski & Snowboard Museum has opened its ski racing archives to tell stories that connect the dots between today's spectacular made-for-TV competitions and their humble beginnings. This series will feature many of the significant milestones, instigated here in Colorado by individuals now enshrined in the Hall of Fame, which helped shape skiing and international racing. When you are in Vail Village, stop by the museum for a trip through skiing's past. For more information, go to [www.skimuseum.net](http://www.skimuseum.net).

When Bob Beattie founded World Pro Skiing, the men's professional ski racing tour (1969-1981), he was passionate about making ski racing a major spectator sport. From his history running the U.S. Ski Team, and as a commentator for ABC Sports, Beattie knew that the route to broader fan following for skiing required television. To procure more TV coverage, Beattie elevated the entertainment quotient via the "Pro Format" of head-to-head racing, and later added Hollywood celebrities to bring pizzazz and attention to World Pro Skiing.

By the mid 1970s, The World Pro Ski Tour was going strong. It had sponsors, national television exposure and an international field of superstars. When the tour stopped at Bear Valley, California, Beattie brought along celebrities to compete in fun Pro-Am races as a prelude to the prize money competition.

The concept was simple: Bring in big name celebrities to race with the pros in a made-for-television event. Crowds would show up, and tune in, to watch their favorite Hollywood actress or football star acting on a foreign stage with unpredictable antics and outcomes. The celebrities were teamed up with pros, who enjoyed the new-found publicity and fans. Immediately following the Pro-Am was the pro race for cash. Of course, the promise of A-list musicians and actors, combined with the media coverage facilitated the securing of sponsors to help fund greater prize money.

The most successful of all celebrity ski events was Beattie's collaboration with fellow Aspenite John Denver. Working with Denver's organization, in further partnership with Harrah's Hotel and Casino at South Lake Tahoe, the John Denver Celebrity Pro-Am tournaments were organized by Beattie's World Wide Ski Corporation for 10 years, part of an NBC Sports special that blended entertainment with ski competition, promoting the sport and its personalities in ways that would expand fan following.

Star-studded events

The John Denver Celebrity Ski Classics became the premier event at Lake Tahoe each winter. Harrah's would fly in their high rollers to mingle with the racers and celebrities. John Denver would entertain in the hotel theater the week of

the races, capped off with a private show for those involved in the event.

A party at Bill Harrah's Lake Tahoe Villa was always a highlight event, inevitably ending with a sing-along around the piano with the likes of Stephen Stills or Mickey Gilley at the keyboard, singing along with Toni Tenille, Christopher Cross and Steve Miller. Of course, John Denver and Barbara Mandrell would join in a chorus or more. It was a festive ski event like no other.

At the race site, there were party tents full of prime rib, oysters and endless desserts. It was a gala of grand proportions, and ski racing was the belle of the ball. Of course, this type of public party obviously needed to be more than just fun; it also helped raise money for charity through auctions and sponsorships.

After the celebrities had their turn skiing, the pros immediately took to the course for World Pro Skiing action. There were legions of fans, palpable excitement and prize money on the line. Now was the time for the pros to shine.

From their televisions, America watched these rugged athletes laugh side-by-side with Hollywood elite, and then impress out on the slopes. The transitive power of celebrity proved true, and America had a few new darlings. WPS grew with the exposure, as Americans tuned in throughout the winter to continue following their new ski racing super heroes. Sponsors were excited, racers were earning money and fan numbers were growing. Beattie had struck gold once again. Beattie's dream grew each year and continued growing after the WPS had run its course. Such was the popularity of the John Denver Ski Classic that it ran for a full six years after Beattie folded up his pro tour. By then, many of his old racers were household names, acting as both celebrity and professional hosts for the Classic. Among those celebrities who regularly attended from 1978 to 1988 were an A-list of musicians, actors and athletes including Tanya Tucker, Steve Miller, Stephen Stills, Barbara Mandrell, Sonny Bono, Christopher Cross, Cliff Robertson, Gregory Peck, Clint Eastwood, Timothy Hutton, George Hamilton, Kristy McNichol, Susan St. John, Morgan Fairchild, Tony Curtis, Sugar Ray Leonard, Lynn Swann, Dwight Clark, Craig Morton, Cheryl Teigs, Jay Leno, Steve Martin, Bruce Jenner, Ed Podolak and Jerry Weintraub.

<http://www.vaildaily.com/news/14659323-113/the-roots-of-racing-series-the-power-of-celebrity>

### **Flying For Me**

THE SPACE SHUTTLE: FLYING FOR ME is a celebration of 30 years of NASA achievements with the space shuttle program. The program highlights memorable shuttle missions such as the return of Senator John Glenn to space and the construction of the International Space Station, while exploring the growing diversity among the astronaut corps and space industry personnel. It



also features HD footage from NASA, interviews with shuttle astronauts, and a stirring musical soundtrack.

Check your local PBS stations for the schedules.

<http://video.rmpbs.org/video/2365326109/>

### **The John Denver Collection by Rockmount**

ROCKMOUNT was asked by the John Denver Estate to develop a special shirt collection to celebrate his music and cultural legacy. John holds a special place in American culture, especially the Rocky Mountain West. In his honor we are remaking a number of designs he wore in floral prints, denim and embroidery. The shirts are a special limited edition. Rockmount is pleased to introduce the new John Denver Collection in light of the brand's long standing and strong relationship with the music world

No. JD-1 is fine 100% cotton floral print, as soft as you can imagine. It features our signature sawtooth pockets & Diamond snaps, relax fit.

Made in USA

<http://www.rockmount.com/product.aspx?zpid=1536>

### **Pause, Reflect, Enjoy**

Carolyn Sackariason Aspen Daily News 29/6/2014

*John Denver's vision and the city's ecological goals merge with the near completion of an expanded sanctuary*

The vision and legacy of John Denver's passion for Aspen and the environment is coming together in Rio Grande Park, which after decades of work has been transformed into an oasis of natural beauty.

The city of Aspen earlier this month opened another section of the park as part of a \$2.5 million project that's twofold: paying homage to the late Denver and diverting polluted stormwater runoff from the Roaring Fork River.

The "Child's Play" area has just been completed and features a sandy beach and still water for children to play in, located on the northwest section of the park. And a flower-lined path leading to a larger garden also just opened. Perhaps not as noticeable, but more important in the eyes of many who have envisioned a place for reflection and solitude, are 35 new engravings on stones throughout the extended John Denver Sanctuary.

Quotes from the likes of Mary Oliver, Leonardo Di Vinci, Ralph Emerson, Albert Schweitzer, Herbert Bayer, and Joe Henry — who was Denver's friend and songwriting collaborator — all are now etched in stone along a series of paths and water features throughout the sanctuary.

"They are woven in from people who were embedded in the notion of mind, body and spirit," said Jeff Woods, manager of the city's parks and recreation department.

The quotes were chosen by a group of people: Woods; Annie Denver, the musician and

environmentalist's former wife; local environmental naturalist Rebecca Weiss; Pitkin County head librarian Kathy Chandler; and Steve Cronin, the city's landscape designer.

The group spent months carefully selecting and fact-checking each quote before it was etched into boulders that meander throughout the park. The engraving took place the first week of June.

"They were well chosen and meant for different things," said Annie Denver. "It's been a wonderful coming together."

This fall, inspiring quotes compiled from local elementary students will be engraved in the Child's Play area.

Funding for the engravings came from the John Denver Aspen Glo Fund, a nonprofit that was created in John Denver's name.

"This is one of the projects that is near and dear to Annie," Woods said.

She said she visits the park often — walking from her home on the Rio Grande Trail — to take in all that it offers.

"I'm really moved by it; it came together so beautifully," Annie Denver said. "It's a place to pause, reflect, enjoy, and take delight in wandering around."

### **A 'sacred place'**

Before Denver passed away in a 1997 plane crash, Aspen City Council members at the time realized that what was then a field of weeds could be so much more. They classified it as a "specially designated area," characterizing it as "sacred."

"Council thought of this place as a place for contemplation," Woods said.

City officials created a master plan that involved a stormwater diversion component with an aesthetically pleasing surrounding. It eventually evolved, with the help of Annie Denver after John's death.

In 1998, she and city officials collaborated on what the park should look like and represent. "I really didn't have a clue about what we were going to do here," Woods said, adding that it started to become more clear as the collaboration continued. "Today, it reflects what [John Denver] brought to Aspen and what Aspen brought to him."

That includes appreciation for natural beauty, solitude, ecological restoration and more.

"John loved giving and making the world a better place," Annie Denver said. "[The park] reflects John's real concern for the environment," and his love of Aspen.

That dedication was first unveiled in 2000, with the completion of the original John Denver Sanctuary along the banks of the Roaring Fork River on the park's northeast side.

City officials have built off of that with new permanent bathrooms complete with composting toilets, as well as additional trails, wetlands and gardens.



"This place is the place people are writing about on Trip Advisor," noted Scott Chism, the city's planning and construction operations manager for the parks department.

He added that the new quotes on the stones complete the experience.

"It was part of the story that was missing, so we added a new layer," Chism said.

Annie Denver and Woods both said they appreciated the teamwork that went into the project, which was all done in-house by the city's landscape team, led by Luis Contreras, who has been the foreman since the original sanctuary was built 14 years ago.

More than \$150,000 has been contributed from outside sources for the entire project, including Aspen Glo, Roaring Fork Conservancy, Theatre Aspen, Pitkin County's Healthy Rivers and Streams Board and the Community Office for Resource Efficiency.

#### **Coming out clean on the other end**

While the area has become a beautiful garden, it's also taking tons of debris out of the river. In 2011, the larger project that included the stormwater work and an expansion of the sanctuary began. It's expected to be completed this fall when the final phase along Mill Street is done. That work entails putting systems in place to divert untreated stormwater runoff that currently travels down North Mill Street directly into the Roaring Fork River. A vault will be installed under North Mill Street that will feed into a water course running down the hill along the park's western edge that will filter trash and debris.

Woods said the entire project was done in conjunction with Theatre Aspen's renovation of its tent, which is situated in the middle of the sanctuary. The nonprofit replaced its aged tent, built a new lobby and coordinated with the city of Aspen on the beautification project of the riverside area.

"This is about the environment, song and stormwater," Woods said. "It's taking an engineer's idea and going with it."

Just down the Rio Grande Trail from the new restrooms, the city has installed a pump house and pump and irrigation system that allows the ballfield grass to be irrigated using raw water from a series of creeks and ponds near the Theatre Aspen tent. Pumping water a short distance uphill means the city has stopped using millions of gallons of treated water that once was used each summer to keep the grass green.

A major component of the Rio Grande project is an off-shoot of a larger effort by the city over the last decade to build a series of vaults and wetlands that cleanse and filter water that comes off of streets and buildings during a storm and the spring runoff season. The first major project toward this effort was the Jennie Adair Wetlands, completed in 2007, where ditches and pipes

capture water from the West End and send it into a "mechanical separator" vault that filters out trash and other debris. The water then runs through a series of ponds and wetlands planted with native vegetation and grasses before entering the Roaring Fork River much cleaner than if it was left untreated.

The Rio Grande project includes similar components, treating water that runs from the eastern sections of town. When completed, a large portion of the runoff from the central part of the commercial core that goes into the river carrying all the dirt and chemicals it picked up as it traveled across Aspen's impermeable surfaces will be diverted.

Work currently underway — which is expected to be complete this fall — will see a vault installed under North Mill Street that will feed into a water course running down the hill along the park's western edge. Water currently runs through another series of streams and ponds above the Theatre Aspen tent before reaching the river. Woods noted that the original project envisioned before Annie Denver got involved, which had a price tag of \$5 million, incorporated mostly concrete in the stormwater diversion plan. Instead, to keep a natural aesthetic, boulders were strategically placed, creating a step-down system of pools and terraces of clean water.

"It's a narrow corridor so that's why we chose this aesthetic; it's Hunter Creek-esque," Woods said. "This is my favorite project; I love what we are doing here."

From the beginning of the park to its end at the Roaring Fork, stormwater is cleaned and returned to its natural state.

At water's edge, a sitting area is being carved out, where people can watch the flow of the river or reflect in private.

Woods said city officials drew inspiration from the Betty Ford Garden in Vail and built off of that to create a destination with an ecological theme.

"It's a beautiful garden but truthfully it is about stormwater," Woods said. "You can follow the journey of the water from the storm pipes to its natural form to the river."

"This is the whole story, this is where it ends."

#### **The 'Curry Cruise'**

The Currys join The Chad Mitchell Trio on their Farewell Cruise – Panama Canal and the Caribbean

#### **March 6 through March 16**

A John Denver Cruise AND a Chad Mitchell Cruise!

Join Jim and Anne Curry, Diane Ireland and the current members of the Chad Mitchell Trio (Chad Mitchell, Mike Kobluk and Ron Greenstein) on this very special cruise.



We will be board our beautiful Holland America Vista ship on March 6, and headed for the man-made marvel, the Panama Canal.

Our journey will include stops at Half Moon Cay (Bahamas), Oranjestad (Aruba), Willemstad (Curacao), Colon (Panama) and Puerto Limon (Costa Rica).

During the cruise, there will be private concerts from both the Chad Mitchell Trio and Jim, Anne and Diane.

This is the Chad Mitchell Trio's final, farewell cruise. Cabins are limited, so reserve yours right away!

More info:

[http://www.travelingtroubadour.com/CMT-Curry\\_2015\\_PanamaCanal.htm](http://www.travelingtroubadour.com/CMT-Curry_2015_PanamaCanal.htm)

Please check out Jim and Anne's website for their forthcoming concerts around America.

<http://www.jimcurrymusic.com/john-denver-tribute-concert/>

Pssst -I see that the Currys are appearing in Ontario, Canada on August 16.

### **Chris Collins and Boulder Canyon**

Here is Chris Collins concert schedule for 2015:

Please contact Chris at

[www.bouldercanyonband.com](http://www.bouldercanyonband.com) for more details about the concerts, new shows and events, tickets sales, the latest news, and for booking information

Month	Day	Location/Venue
March	14	Chris Collins in Concert, Alamosa, CO
March	21	Community Concert Hall, Durango, CO <a href="#">Tickets</a>
March	27	The Paramount Theatre, Middletown, NY <a href="#">Tickets</a>
March	28	The Strand Theatre, Zelienople, PA <a href="#">Tickets</a>
April	24	Chevalier Theatre, Medford, MA
April	25	The Stadium Theatre, Woonsocket, RI <a href="#">Tickets</a>
June	13	Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, Antonito, CO
June	26	The Egyptian Theatre, Park City, UT <a href="#">Tickets</a>
June	27	The Egyptian Theatre, Park City, UT <a href="#">Tickets</a>
July	10	The SteamPlant Event Center, Salida, CO
July	25	Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad, Antonito, CO
Sep	5	Seven Points Amphitheater, Raystown Lake, PA
Oct	8-11	Aspen, CO
Nov	6	The Mishler Theatre, Altoona, PA

Month	Day	Location/Venue
Nov	14	The Norwood Theatre, Norwood, MA

<http://airportjournals.com/barron-hilton-the-flying-innkeeper/>

### **Flying For Me II**

I recently received a wonderful article from a good friend and avid John Denver fan. Congratulations, Linda, this is a great honour.

<http://blogs.owu.edu/connect2/nasa-selects-ohio-wesleyan-professors-research-conducted-international-space-station/>

### **NASA Selects Ohio Wesleyan Professor's Research to be Conducted on International Space Station**

Cole Hatcher – February 11, 2015

NASA Selects Ohio Wesleyan Professor's Research to Be Conducted on International Space Station

by Cole Hatcher • February 11, 2015

DELAWARE, Ohio – Chris Wolverton's research is about to blast off. And the Ohio Wesleyan University botany-microbiology professor is over the moon at the news.

NASA announced this week that Wolverton, Ph.D., is one of a handful of scientists chosen in this latest round of funding to have research conducted on the International Space Station. Wolverton's work examines how plants sense and respond to gravity.

In announcing the news, Marshall Porterfield, director of the Washington, D.C.-based NASA Division of Space Life and Physical Sciences, stated: "We selected these investigations expecting them to provide new knowledge that will lay a foundation other researchers and engineers can build upon. These studies will not only help us create countermeasures to the problems inherent in microgravity, but we also expect them to translate into new biological tools and applications on Earth."

According to NASA, the research will help the agency to develop "the resources and measures necessary to ensure astronauts remain healthy as we venture beyond low-Earth orbit and head out to study an asteroid and eventually Mars."

Wolverton, who joined the Ohio Wesleyan faculty in 2002, said he and his student-researchers are excited to be working with the International Space Station on the project "Characterizing Plant Gravity Perception Systems."

"Plants are always taking in messages from their surroundings in order to grow better," said Wolverton, who has collaborated with dozens of Ohio Wesleyan undergraduate students on his botany research. "One of the messages plants use to decide which way to grow is gravity.

"My students and I have been working on understanding how plants decode this message for many years, and we're at a point where we need to eliminate the normal gravity message to



be able to take the next step in our understanding,” he continued.

“The things we have found have direct applications not only to future space exploration, but also to improving crops, to be able to breed plants that are more drought-tolerant or better at collecting nutrients from the soil,” Wolverton said. “This is because plants use similar growth responses to many different kinds of messages.” Read more about Scot Chris Wolverton’s work on his teaching and research blog, [Gravitropic](#). Read the complete NASA announcement, “[New Research Headed to Station Helping NASA Explore the Universe.](#)”

<http://www.nasa.gov/content/new-research-headed-to-station-helping-nasa-explore-the-universe/#.VOxSgXyUerh>

### **Port Fairy Folk Festival March 6-9, 2015**

If any of you are going to attend the Port Fairy Folk Festival in Victoria this year, look out for us – we will be there!

Suzette Herft, who does a wonderful tribute to Joan Baez will be back with a new show. She will also be singing the songs of Emmylou Harris, and we are looking forward to catching up with her.

### **Flying for Me!**

- Dedicated to the thirtieth anniversary of the Space Shuttle programme.
- Dedicated to the memories of those lives lost in the Challenger disaster.
- Dedicated to Chris Wolverton and his research project selected for inclusion on the International Space Station.
- Dedicated to the wonderful work that Peggy does with the raptors and their rehabilitation.

**THEY ARE FLYING FOR ME.....**



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.



## Flying for Me

*Well I guess that you probably know by now I was one who wanted to fly  
I wanted to ride on that arrow of fire right up into Heaven  
And I wanted to go for every man  
Every child, every mother of children  
I wanted to carry the dreams of all people right up to the stars  
And I prayed that I'd find an answer there Or maybe I would find a song  
Giving a voice to all of the hearts that cannot be heard  
And for all of the ones who live in fear And all of those who stand apart  
My being there would bring us a little step closer together*

*They were flying for me  
They were flying for everyone  
They were trying to see  
A brighter day for each and everyone  
They gave us their light  
They gave us their spirit and all they could be  
They were flying for me  
They were flying for me*

*And I wanted to wish upon the milky way  
And dance upon a falling star  
I wanted to give myself and free myself, and join myself with it all  
Given the chance to dream, it can be done The promise of tomorrow is real  
Children of spaceship earth, the future belongs to us all*

*She was flying for me  
She was flying for everyone  
She was trying to see  
A brighter day for each and everyone  
She gave us her light  
She gave us her spirit and all she can be  
She was flying for me*

*They were flying for me  
They were flying for everyone  
They were trying to see  
A brighter day for each and everyone  
They gave us their light  
They gave us their spirit and all they could be  
They were flying for me  
They were flying for me  
They were flying for me  
They were flying for me*

