



# TSA NEWSLETTER

## February 2024

### *'First The Song'*

### ***In This Edition:***

- \* President's Report
- \* TSA Song Comp finalists & winners
- \* Tamworth CMF 2024 Award & socials pics
- \* Members News -
- \* Michelle Little
- \* Ruby Shay
- \* Andy Penkow
- \* Three Birds & The Truth (Jo Caseley, Beth Lucas, Amber Kenny)
- \* Waiting For Brenda
- \* Mackenzie May
- \* Two Tone Pony
- \* Paul Bonner Jones
- \* Committee News
- Carlyne Morris
- Athol Latham
- \* Other News
- \* Bob Corbett
- \* Blake Dantier & Cass Hopetoun
- \* Shelly Jones Band
- \* Songwriters' Night

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Hi All Members,

The 2024 TCMF for the TSA was a great success and thank you to all the members who performed so well, helped each other and, above all, had a great time.

Congratulations again to all the TSA Competition winners. The awards show was also a great success and a big thank you to the fabulous performers.

Hats Off in Tamworth will be our next event July 19 -21 and there will be another email probably in April asking for interest in performing - we still have to confirm what venues will be hosting TSA Members.

There will be another songwriting workshop in the Blue Mountains, maybe in early September or late August to allow you to put the final touches to your songs for the competition which again will be open on 1st August 2024.

In the meantime you can post your info, releases and events etc on the TSA Facebook page as we do monitor that Facebook page. The page is the one with lots of TSA members faces NOT the one with music staves - that one has been paused. We allow some others to post on the TSA Facebook page and it is quite popular with over approx. 3000 local viewers.

The newly elected 2024 TSA Committee: President Duncan Hill. Vice President: Chris Davies, Secretary: Lorraine Pfitzner, Treasurer: Athol Latham. General Committee: Owen Smith, Craig Lloyd, Phill Doring, Patricia Ricketts, Wendy Wood, Patricia Cruzado (newsletter editor), Brendan McMahon & Carlyne Morris. Judy Smith (comp convenor, life member)

Everyone, best wishes on a great year of Songwriting.

Cheers to you All

Duncan Hill

tamsongwriters@gmail.com



**2024 TSA Songwriters  
Salute Comp  
Finalists &  
Award Winners**



**GARRY KOHELER COMMEMORATIVE AWARD FOR NOVICE  
SONGWRITING**

Go Back - Bruce McKay

Oodelaya - Brad McKenna

**Until Now - Mackenzie Dennis \***

The Brooklyn Bayou Blues - Chris Murphy

That Old Hills Hoist - Owen Smith

**JOHN P TOOMEY COMMEMORATIVE AWARD FOR YOUTH  
SONGWRITING**

**Boy Next Door - Shanleigh Rose Carey \***

Brunette Country Girl - Jake Murdoch

Good luck with Your Love - Shanleigh Rose Carey

Until Now - Mackenzie Dennis

When Will I be Enough - Lucy Beveridge

**LYRICS WRITER AWARD**

**Chasing Rabbits in her Sleep- Terry Bennetts \***

Down the Line - Kevin Pye

King Tide and Midnight - Diana Davis

Murrumbidgee Crossing - Floyd Black

You Know You are In Australia - Kevin Pye

**BRITTON MORRISON COMMEMORATIVE AWARD for GOS-  
PEL and SPIRITUAL SONG**

**Just One Thing - Peter Shurley \***

My Time of Need - Thomas and Tessa Libreri

Sweet Loretta - Alan Gilmour, Shirl Llewellyn

Together Again - Andrew Ryan

**RADIO PRESENTERS AWARD - Finalists**

Allan Caswell, Angus Gill, **Andy Penkow \***

Brendan McMahon, Long and Short of It

**BLUEGRASS SONG AWARD**

Ain't Gonna Cry no More - Mark Rigney

**Lonesome Highway Blues - Virginia Hermel \***

Kissed By a Ghost - Kylie Adams-Collier

Noisy Farm - Donna Fisk

Now and Forever - Steve Sparrow

**COUNTRY BLUES SONG AWARD**

Driving You Home - Andy Penkow, Alan Caswell

Let me Back Home - Craig Pinkney, Bert Giancris-  
tofaro, Paul White, Michael Burn

**Menopause Blues - Dominique Maurice \***

Neon Ceiling - Donna Fisk, Michael Cristiano

Shop 'til I Drop - Shelly Jones, Lester Truer

**The GEOFF MACK COMMEMORATIVE AWARD FOR  
- COMEDY/NOVELTY SONG**

Aint Gonna Do It - Stan Lenz

Don't Give me Halloween - Peter Campbell

Green Grass Blue - Duncan Wood

Menage Au Trois - Paul Owen

**Santa Swapped his Sleigh for a Surfboard - Craig Stewart \***



**2024 TSA Songwriters  
Salute Comp  
Finalists &  
Award Winners \***



**COUNTRY ROCK SONG AWARD**

Emotionless - Craig Woodward  
Little She Knows - Sarah Catania  
On My Own - Aaron D'Arcy  
**This is How I Feel - David Javier \***

**ALT COUNTRY SONG AWARD**

Home Town - Beth Compton  
Let Him Go - Kathleen Grealy, Lincoln Phelps, Amy  
Ryan  
**Oh My Girl - Kelsey Berrington, Patrick Kenny \***  
This Old Truck - Jax Tonic, Ronnie Joudo  
Walking Against the Wind - Amy Ryan

**TEX MORTON AWARD**

An Award presented to a great contributor to Australian  
Country Music— **Connie Kis Anderson \***

**TSA SONGMAKER AWARD**

As voted by the Members of the TSA  
**Troy Cassar-Daly \***  
Special TSA Songmaker Award—**Ken Robertson \***

**BEV DANIEL COMMEMORATIVE AWARD FOR BUSH BAL-  
LAD**

**Kidman's Men – Virginia Coad, Peter Coad \***  
She's Forgotten How to be Australian - Terry Ben-  
netts, Kelly Dixon, Brian Letton  
The Bush Takes Care of It's Own - Matt Scullion  
The Goobragandra Packhorse Man - Brian Stitt  
What's a Bush Ballad - Peter Simpson

**THE ERIC WATSON COMMEMORATIVE AWARD FOR TRADI-  
TIONAL and or COUNTRY BALLAD SONG**

**Back Through my Yesterdays - Ged Hintz**  
Big Old Land Australia - Virginia Hermel  
Defining Moments - Shelly Jones, Lester Truer  
Desert Rose - Terry Bennetts, Keith Lethbridge  
Christina's Waltz - Craig Stewart

**NEW SONGWRITER of the YEAR AWARD**

Boy Next Door - Shanleigh Rose Carey  
**Bushfire - Gavin Mac \***  
Don't Talk to Strangers - LeAnne Weeks  
Home Town - Beth Compton  
Two Way Street - Sari Abbott, Max Jackson

**JOHNNY ASCROFT COMMEMORATIVE AWARD  
for LOCAL HEROES and/or EVENTS SONG of the  
YEAR**

Keep the Flame for Me - Craig Stewart  
Little Country Store - Craig Lloyd, David Carter,  
Merelyn Carter  
Racehorses Whiskey and Prickly Pear - Steve  
Montgomery  
The Goobragandra Packhorse Man - Brian Stitt  
**The Night I Worked with Tex - Lindsay Wadding-  
ton, Allan Caswell \***

**TSA COUNTRY SONG of the YEAR**

**This is How I Feel - David Javier \***





**2024 TSA Songwriters Awards Night pics**

**Moonshiners Bar**



Dominique Maurice



Beth Lucas



Amy Ryan



Jason Freckleton



Craig Lloyd performed at the awards.





**2024 TSA Songwriters Awards Night pics**

**Moonshiners Bar**



Mackenzie Dennis with her award



Peter Coad presents award to Jed Hintz



Matt Scullion



Vicki Hince picking up the award for her Dad, the late Ken Robertson with Lor-raine Pfitzner.



Sue Duchesne presents the award to Shanleigh Rose Carey.



Andy Penkow





## 2024 TSA Songwriters Awards Night pics

**Moonshiners Bar**



Troy Cassar-Daly accepted a TSA Songmaker award from Lorraine Pfitner



An emotional Craig Stewart accepting his first ever award from TSA.



Virginia and Peter Coad had a great night.



Bill Chambers congratulated Dave Javier after he collected his two TSA awards including Song of the Year.



A perfect finish to a fantastic Awards night. Two Tone Pony won a few more hearts rocking Moonshiners to an appreciative crowd.





**2024 TSA  
Songwriters  
Showcases  
The Oasis**



Left: Fleur Wiber of Sydney.

Centre: LeAnne King with Katie King and Alyson Hawkins.

Right: Sandy Louise of the central coast.



Above: Marcus Cassells & Band of Victoria.



Left: Those Gals with Carolyne Morris, Kerry Walsh & Wendy Wood reunited for a sing at the Oasis; accompanied by the talented house band.





## 2024 TSA Songwriters Showcases



### City Bowlo



Sally Jane of WA



Anne Fraser of SA



Alice Benfer



### Michelle Little

Michelle Little of Sydney played songs from all her albums including the award winning *You Don't Have To Be A Hero* dedicated to her dad, Michael Dennis, formerly of Mendooran. Michelle is playing at the Hartwood festival during Easter with a long line-up of talent, bush poets. Good camping fun!



### Ruby Shay & The Red Horse

Ruby Shay and the Red Horse played an impressive set at the city bowlo, heart wrenching songs about real life including the new release *'When They Call Me'*. Ruby mentioned the back story of growing up in the foster care system which was a difficult time in her life. (more about her music and trip to Melbourne to see the TS concert pg. 20).





**2024 TSA  
Songwriters  
Showcases  
City Bowlo**



Peter Salata



Ben Walker



Geoff Williams



Felicity Dowd



Sarah Cat

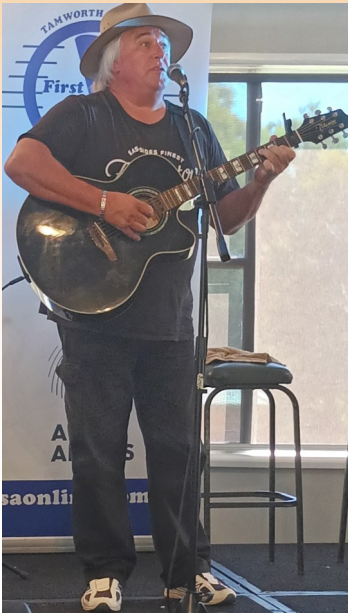


Megan Jane





**2024 TSA  
Songwriters  
Showcases  
City Bowlo**



Ron Osbourne



Amanda Heartsong



Crystal Robins



Above: Michelle Murrell



Garry Jones



Left: Dunc & Sue Band – Angus on bass, Nick and Duncan with guest Ms Tamsin Lancaster



Tex Dawson





**2024 TSA  
Songwriters  
Showcases**



John Wright



Jason Rombouts



Mem Davis



Left: Marcus Cassells and Band at the city bowlo.



Left: CMAA College senior graduates performing in a Writers in the Round. Led by Owen Smith (far right)



# MEMBER NEWS



## ANDY PENKOW

Andy Penkow is on a roll. After taking home a TSA award judged by the Radio Presenters, he's been busy with his current **Bottom Shelf** tour and released a new single with that title this week.

Currently in Toronto, Canada, Andy is certainly going places after a bumper year of awards. Career highlights so far include winner of the Best Male Vocal at the People's Choice awards and Most Popular Balladeer by the Independent Country Music Association, also in 2024.

Last year must feel like a blur after Andy was nominated for a CMAA Golden Guitar award for his song '**Ghostly Gums**' in

Bush Balladeers section. He's collected a swag of other awards over the years and he's putting in the hard yards.

With his unique indie style, this talented singer songwriter hails from Sussex Inlet NSW. While across the other side of the world, Andy's keeping his fans in the loop. To check out where he's playing keep an eye out on his socials and support his music. Here's where you can buy his music

<https://ffm.to/bottomshelf>

One to watch!



# MEMBER NEWS



## THREE BIRDS & THE TRUTH

Three talented singer songwriters in their own right have joined forces, sang up a storm in Tamworth.

Amber Kenny, Beth Lucas and Jo Caseley have their own unique style and their blended harmonies were a joy to listen to, as they shared stories and songs from deep waters.

February 2024 saw Beth Lucas of the Sunshine Coast release her third alt country offering, '*Rearview Mirror*', a story of self-reflection and perseverance. It was recorded and produced by James North, collaborating with US drummer, Travis McNabb. '*Rearview Mirror*' features her signature acoustic guitar layered with emotive harmonies and a sound that is unique with an edgy pop rock feel, comparable to Taylor Swift's early work according to Country Town. Have a listen and be impressed.

[PREMIERE: Beth Lucas - 'Rearview Mirror' | Countrytown | Latest Country Music News and Releases](#)

More music is expected from Beth and a sentimental song '*Around The Table*' is sure to do well too, by the trio!

Amber Kenny's love of music began at Leura in the tranquil Blue Mountains before heading to idyllic Robertson in the Southern Highlands. It's where she calls home on a farm with her family, horses and Maton guitar; living the dream with her music.

A trip to Nashville last year was an experience to remember performing at the iconic Blue Bird Café alongside fellow Aussie friends, organised with the help of Sounds Australia and Dobe Newton.

A late bloomer Amber picked up the guitar a decade ago and started writing songs, releasing the raw and reflective '*Run Dry*' in May last year produced by Nash Chambers. [Run Dry | Amber Kenny \(bandcamp.com\)](#) Prior to that, the self taught singer songwriter, with some help of her musician friends, released her EP *Out In The Open*, produced by Ben Fink. Check out <https://amberkennymusic.bandcamp.com/>

Jo Caseley is an emotive singer/songwriter/multi-instrumentalist who takes her audience on a song journey. She cut her teeth busking the streets of Kings Cross and landed her first gig in a smoky blues bar next to a strip club. It's miles away from today's music scene where her humble, authentic stylings and honest stories are appreciated. The 2023 Senior Graduate of the Academy of Country Music and top 5 Finalist in the TSA Salute Awards recently released her third album *High on Heartstrings* at the Oasis supported by her friends, fans and family. The single *Houseless Never Homeless* was co-written with Bill Chambers a decade ago and released last year ([2291 Houseless Never Homeless - YouTube](#)). So if you have the opportunity to hear any of these amazing artists perform, sit back and enjoy the camaraderie; a mesmerising experience.





# MEMBER NEWS



## WAITING FOR BRENDA

### 2024 TAMWORTH WRAP by Brenda Lee Kelly

What a festival it was for the all originals band of Brenda Lee Kelly who performed at the Fanzone on the Saturday night of the 2024 TCMF festival. The normally six-piece band travelled as a five piece from Brisbane with guitars, dobro, bass and drums. Craig Tobin couldn't make it til Sunday so a big thanks to Nick Hill who filled in on drums for the Fanzone performance and without a rehearsal. Nick did a great job!

Sunday night was at the locals favourite 'The Oasis' hotel. We played there at the last festival and fans returned to see us again with a few more returned for the Tuesday night spot. It was great to meet so many locals and interstate (some from Canada) country music fans who we got to chat with after the shows. Monday and Wednesday nights, we played three sets at the Tamworth City Bowling Club (home of TSA). This is where we got to the opportunity to catch up with fellow TSA members, including on our last night where we had a record number of about 12 on stage, singing along to the last song '**Stella**'. What a blast and memorable moment for us all! It's an original song and yet to be recorded but always a crowd favourite as a singalong at the end of the night.

We even trialled a new song I wrote recently called '**Mystery of Life**' which I hope to record soon with the band (Garry Bain on guitar, Craig Tobin on drums, Peter Cheney on bass, John Harrison on dobro and Luke Mysliwy on fiddle). Once again we will record the new songs from our home recording studio with my partner Damir Katic and I., and the band.

Thanks so much to all the TSA crew who support all of the members. It is a big job rostering 55 acts over the period of the festival so a BIG congratulations to the team who give their time to support all the songwriters (First The Song)!.

See you all in 2025.

Love Brenda Lee Kelly (Waiting For Brenda)

PS. If you're in Queensland, Waiting For Brenda is playing on March 30 at Moffat Beach 3pm for the Festuri Festival (Pa and Ma Bendall Surfing competition). We also have a three week residency at the Triffid Beer Garden in April 7, 14 and 21, from 2-5pm. BOTH events are FREE. Keep an eye out for our second Songwriters workshop to be held during 2024 date and venue TBC. See you there!



# MEMBER NEWS



## Mackenzie May

Mackenzie May (Dennis) must be sitting on cloud nine. The 18 year old is soon to release her single 'Little Things' after picking up a TSA Salute award for her song 'Until Now' in the Garry Koheler commemorative award for novice songwriting at this year's awards night.

The 2023 CMAA junior academy graduate and 2023 EKA Country Showdown graduate has been busy singing around the traps. During February, Mackenzie performed weekly at a number of events around Gladstone, Tannum Sands and central QLD. She's also among the massive line-up set to perform at the upcoming Gladstone Country Music Festival in April 6-7.

### GLADSTONE COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL

SATURDAY: 06TH OF APRIL  
SUNDAY: 07TH OF APRIL  
WHERE: GLADSTONE SHOWGROUNDS

 NICK CUNNINGHAM	 BRITTANY ELISE	 EPIC FEMALE BAND	 HAYLEY JENSEN	 LUKE GEIGER	 MAX JACKSON
 JACINTA MAY	 MADDIE CAIL	 KATELANN MAREE	 BETH LUCAS	 MARK LAVENDER	 DJ STEVEN THOMAS
 ABI MUIR	 DENVAH	 INOXIA	 SAND	 MACK GEIGER	 MACKENZIE MAY

SATURDAY TICKET

SCAN ME

SUNDAY TICKET

SCAN ME





# MEMBER NEWS

## TWO TONE PONY



### FAMILY TRADITIONS

(L-R) Glenn Willey, David Kirkpatrick, Ian Rhodes, Graham Puglusi and Greg Richardson on the Fanzone stage 2024 Tamworth.

Two Tone Pony is making waves all around the Aussie country rock music scene. The Newcastle band is building a strong following since it formed in 2018 with an impressive string of releases of late.

There's the heart warming, toe tapping debut 'A Life Well Lived' written in honour of David's mum, prolific songwriter and legend Joy McKean. "One of the special things about recording this song is that my daughter Hannah sings harmony with me," Kirkpatrick beamed proudly. "She was six months pregnant at the time – drove up to the studio, did the song in two takes and then headed off home to pick up her other child! We were all in awe of her!" It set the bar high. 'Stormy Weather' is another catchy tune dedicated to his wife and the strength of their relationship; facing challenges together.

The latest release 'Caroline' is sweet and sentimental with a hint of Eagles harmonies in memory of old steam boats, an old flame, and going home.

"A good sprinkle of country and some home grown blues" Hardy Bay Club stated in supporting the all Australian originals band. Many have long time connections going back to school and university, led by lead singer David Kilpatrick (son of Slim and Joy). The retired doctor is joined by veteran players with fellow songwriter, guitarist Ian Rhodes, bass player Graham Puglusi (Rhythm Method band), Glenn Willey (school mate and university band member, keyboards) and brother in law Greg Richardson, drums.

It was a bumper Tamworth 2024 for the Newcastle collective playing their original Australian easy listening to rocky tunes and well known favourites at the Oasis, Dubbo City Bowling Club, Moonshiners and Fanzone. Well travelled after playing gigs around the central coast to Charleville to Adaminaby, they've taken a few road trips during the past six years. They don't seem to be slowing down.

In addition, in memory of David's mate Mick Donahue, band members Ian, David and Greg got together to play a selection of Two Tone Pony songs. Since Mick's passing from brain cancer, there's now a regular fundraiser for the Cure Brain Cancer Foundation held in a beautiful garden on the Central Coast, NSW. During the opening evening, friends from far and wide played some tunes in honouring Mick and raised much needed funds for a worthy cause. Check out [twotonepony.com](http://twotonepony.com) and socials for more info.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *I was standing at the back of the Moonshiners at the TSA Awards night and a woman was dancing and singing along next to me. She said Two Tone Pony were her favourite band and she followed them to Tamworth to hear them play. Now that's dedication!*





# MEMBER NEWS

## PAUL BONNER JONES

The Longreach Leader, Friday February 23, 2024 p.3



Paul Bonner Jones and Patricia Cruzado, holding daughter Matilda, at the ABC in Rockhampton.



Paul Bonner Jones with Loretta Lynn who he met at her ranch outside Nashville in 2010. Paul is the only Australian to have a private interview with her prior to her passing last year.

# Worth the wait as song hits airwaves

Two Longreach locals may not know their song is now famous, with a new country song having sprouted from a songwriting workshop held in Longreach a decade ago.

'Back to the Outback' was partially written at the arts centre with Longreach locals Lachlan Rich and Ron Beezley attending the session who unwittingly became co-writers.

"They are not aware it's been recorded so it should be a pleasant surprise for them," former Longreach-Winton teacher Patricia Cruzado said.

Ms Cruzado facilitated the workshop alongside Paul Bonner Jones.

"I remember some had to leave early and a verse and chorus were written towards the end of the session."

As recorded in the Longreach Leader in 27 September, 2013, Mr Beezley had been working out past Winton before driving three hours to make the concert on the Saturday and the workshop the next day.

Sung by Paul Bonner Jones, the song has been picked up by John Nutting of Australian Country Radio and Tamworth Songwriters on Capital Country Radio.

"They both responded within a day so it should be on the airways soon," Ms Cruzado said.

It was recorded and produced by Pixie Jenkins, John Williamson's fiddle player, at his Tamworth home.

Multi-instrumentalist Lawrie Minson, also of Tamworth, played a few instruments on the track including banjo and dobro.

Patricia Cruzado's father is the late Pete Cruzado, a famous Filipino singer during



Songwriting group 10 years ago - Lachlan Rich (front left), seated next to facilitator Paul Bonner Jones (Gold Coast). Ron Beezley is to the right and Patricia Cruzado is seated second from the right holding daughter Matilda Bonner.

the late 50s and 60s, called Asia's King of love songs. He performed for movie stars including Kirk Douglas, Paul Newman and Judy Garland, with the latter singing Over The Rainbow with him at the President Hotel, Hong Kong in 1964.

"My father always encouraged me to continue songwriting which has mainly been a hobby for about 20 years," Ms Cruzado said.

"It's taken me a long time to be comfortable singing and playing guitar in front of people."

Ms Cruzado said she is hoping to return to the outback herself during the September holidays for a songwriting workshop and a show.

Back to the Outback will be uploaded on iTunes and Spotify in the near future.

Four decades have past since the Gold Coast singer songwriter Paul Bonner Jones started his musical career. As an apprentice coach painter, he learnt how to play guitar from his old mentors at the Eveleigh carriage works.

Eventually, he swapped his paint brush for a microphone and played five nights a week in pubs and clubs around Sydney, central coast and the Snowy Mountains in the 1980s with guitarist Glenn Steed, now of Newcastle.

In 1983, the Doyalson RSL booked three acts and at the end of the night they played a set together with Paul as lead singer, Glenn on guitar, Rod (guitar/banjo) & Geoff, (bass) McCormack Brothers and pianist Wayne Sinclair forming the band for the night. - "A super jam" Paul said. After a wedding gig on the Gold Coast in the late 80s, Paul decided to move north, bought a

(cont.) house on the water at Tumbulgum where he raised his family. He ran Jonesy's jam nites in Coolangatta for over 10 years and had a residency at the Hard Rock Café Surfers. He also played support act to comedian Phyllis Diller at Twin Towns.

In around 2007 Paul travelled to Nashville for the music festival and volunteered for the 'grassroots' Songwriters Festival with co-organiser Cornelius 'Popcorn' Robertson. Paul assisted with 'sound, signs & songs'.

There he met Jason Wilburn who he helped build the Surefire Music stage and they have been buddies ever since. "Songwriters built the festival," Paul said. "So we played on the stages we built in front of the signs we made."

It was Jason's mother Arvemina Wilburn who made a call to her friend and country legend Loretta Lynn. Ms Lynn invited Mrs Wilburn and songwriters Meaghan Owens (Milwaukee US) and Paul to meet her personally and attend her show at her Hurricane Mills ranch.

Ms Lynn's sound engineer Billy Hamilton, the other Songwriters Festival co-organiser recorded Paul singing two songs of the late Bob Hicks "the tear jerker" while at the ranch.

Sadly, Popcorn passed away this week and is remembered by those he worked alongside. "Popcorn was instrumental in bringing songwriters together and giving them a stage to perform in Nashville," Paul said in honouring his long-time friend. Paul also organised spots for Australian Songwriters on Music Row in 2009-2010 with Wendy Wood, Sal & Al Aurisch, Lee J Collier, PC & John Scholten among them. Editor's Note: *PBJ restored 104 yo boat last year and needed an operation on his hand due to carpal tunnel. He's on the mend! Keep going & sing!*



# Committee NEWS

## Carolynne Morris



Long time TSA committee Carolynne Morris of Tamworth ventured on a trip of a lifetime. She was handed a ticket on a Rhine River Christmas market cruise travelling from Switzerland, Germany to Amsterdam, stopping at numerous markets along

way. A generous life-long friend gave it to me as a gift for Christmas” she said of the mind blowing, magical, misty, mystical holiday at the end of 2023.

Carolynne joined the TSA committee about 20 years ago, the former newsletter editor when Bev and Ron Daniel were at the helm.

She was also a member of the trio Those Gals which performed around Tamworth and surrounds (2001-2012) with four albums under their belts. It has since been Two Gals.

They were semi finalists in the debut Australia’s Got Talent with judges Red Symons, Dannii Minogue and Tom Burlinson.

The trio made it to the final five of the John Laws Rising Stars radio show which was won by Anthony Snape of Gunnedah.

Carolynne has an eclectic songwriting style from traditional style Americana, as well as a catalogue of Australian songs which she hasn’t recorded yet. “I was raised in the outback Australia and moved many times,” she said. “That’s plenty of fodder for songwriting.

“I love the city and country and have influences of everything and everyone,” she said of Loretta Lynn, Dolly Parton, James Taylor, Carole King and Vince Gill to name a few of her favourites.

“I began planning my solo album in 2015 but haven’t decided which direction to take,” she said.

### Editor’s Note: Go for it, Carolynne!

you encounter a problem and your payment won’t go through then, if possible, use the bank details on the reminder email and make a direct bank deposit. If you do make a direct deposit then make sure your name is on the deposit reference so I can update our records.

**Radio program**—If you have material then I would like to play it in my program. The best way to get material to me is to attach an mp3 copy of the song in an email to: 1953awl@gmail.com . I record my Capital Country Radio program at home on a Sunday and its aired on the Tuesday evening 9pm, Thursday 11am and Saturday morning 6am. Stay tuned!

Cheers

Athol



\*\*\*\*\*

Treasurer Athol Latham and vice President Chris Davies at the Tamworth city bowling club.

**Membership**—When renewing your membership could you please make sure that all your contact details are correct, especially emails and bank references. Also, it makes it difficult to keep membership details up to date if the person making your membership payment is not you use a different name to what is on the membership database.

I know there have been problems with Paypal.





# OTHER NEWS

By Bob Corbett—FB post (excerpt)

(Australia needs a Music Revolution)

Dear music industry friends, the following thought piece is for you. Grab a cuppa and relax; it's a long read.

In the ever-evolving landscape of the Australian music scene, a disconcerting pattern runs in a loop: the champions of progress and growth, the advocates who tirelessly work towards a brighter future, find themselves unjustly persecuted when things go south. It is a paradoxical plight that hampers the very individuals striving to cultivate positive change.

The truth is, these advocates are often the unsung heroes, working behind the scenes to dismantle barriers and create pathways for the next generation of musicians and culture makers. Grassroots programs, fuelled by passion and dedication, dot the landscape, providing invaluable support and mentorship. Initiatives like the Indigenous Music and Media Awards, APRA Professional Development Awards, The Contemporary Music Touring Program, and the Australian Women in Music Awards are just a few examples of the efforts being made to nurture talent and foster inclusivity.

I support these initiatives one hundred percent. These examples are all giant leaps in the right direction. However, what the Australian music scene craves is a revolution - a seismic shift that dismantles the existing structures and paves the way for a future where local artists are not confined by walls, but instead, stand as household names, cultural icons shaping the nation's identity. The revolution begins with dismantling the paradigms that favour international influences over homegrown talent. The Australian music business must embrace a bold, unapologetic commitment to supporting local artists in both live performances and recorded ventures. It means challenging the status quo, breaking free from the grip of global record companies, and empowering local labels and artists to thrive.

This revolution demands a reimagining of the education system, ensuring that music and arts programs receive the attention and resources they deserve from an early age. It calls for increased investment in local venues, creating hubs for creativity and collaboration that serve as breeding grounds for the next wave of Australian musical talent. (*Editor: Not just TV shows ie. Australian Idol*)

The heartbeat of a thriving music scene is intricately tied to the venues that nurture a new generation. However, the current landscape is marred by the disappearance of these crucial spaces. As more venues shut their doors, succumbing to the relentless wave of gentrification, we grapple with a loss that transcends the physical structures. Gentrification replaces vibrant music venues with apartment buildings, setting the stage for conflicts between residents and the music community. Noise complaints and protest groups add discord to a once harmonious relationship between urban life and artistic expression. Striking a balance between real estate development and sustaining the live music industry demands a re-evaluation of priorities. The challenge lies in fostering a city environment where live music thrives alongside urban development.

Australians have long prided themselves on their thriving live music scene. Yet, as the cost of living tightens its grip and financial pressures become a burden, the once accessible joy of attending live events is slipping away from the grasp of many. It is disheartening having to weigh the value of a week's hard-earned pay against the soaring ticket prices of major events. The challenges facing the live music industry extend beyond ticket prices, as highlighted in a recent article I read that shed light on the notion that declining attendance at festivals and concerts might be attributed to the quality of acts on offer. With the pandemic casting a shadow over the formative years of a generation, young people who experienced the final years of school in isolation may now prefer intimate gatherings with friends over larger events. The shift towards home-centric entertainment, fuelled by streaming services and gaming, presents another layer of complexity. As all-encompassing home entertainment becomes the norm, the allure of venturing out for live music faces a formidable competition. Also, the rise of AI threatens to impact the future of the music industry.

In the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges within the music industry, numerous instances stand as testament to triumphs against adversity, highlighting resilience of the human spirit. The rise of independent music labels challenged the dominance of major record labels. Indie artists and labels fought against industry norms, embracing alternative distribution methods, and achieving success on their terms. As we contemplate the legacy we leave for the next generation, it's crucial to ask ourselves: what voice do we want them to hear? Do we want them to absorb a narrative where champions of progress, those endeavouring to cultivate positive change, are incessantly persecuted and torn down when faced with adversity or when they fail at attempting something new in the name of progress?



# OTHER NEWS



This powerhouse couple Cass Hopetoun and Blake Dantier on the Tamworth stage, juggling parenthood and performances.

Blake blew everyone away with some new tunes performed at the TSA Awards night at Moonshiners. *Put An X in It* is one to watch!

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With 22 top 10 hits (including 11 #1 hits) the Shelly Jones Band didn't stop after the Tamworth Festival. In February they played at the Nambucca Country Music Club.

On February 1, their song 'Three Grey Hairs' reached #1 on the Country Songs top 40 Australian Airplay chart.

During Feb and March they've hit the road running playing several shows in Victoria and SA.

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Central Coast artist **Ruby Shay** was all dressed up, looking swish for the Tay Tay concert in Melbourne on Feb 18.

A long drive for the original artist who took some well earned time off after Tamworth. The alt country/Americana has regular gigs, playing at the Long Jetty Hotel with karaoke/open mics adding to her versatility.

Her first release, in October last year, is the impressive rocky 'Sinner' featuring The Red Horse.

'Her second single 'When They Call Me' also features her band The Red Horse



(Bob Corbett, continued)

Do we aspire for the next generation to inherit a narrative that champions resilience, collaboration, and unwavering support? Our actions today shape the environment into which they'll step, and it's essential to foster a culture that empowers and propels forward. Let our voice be one that resonates with unity, understanding, and the belief that together, we can overcome the challenges and build a vibrant future for Australian music.

The Aussie music scene can only thrive when it becomes a reflection of the nation's identity, unburdened by external pressures and driven by a collective commitment to nurture and showcase the incredible talent within our borders. Let the revolution begin - a harmonious uprising that heralds a new era where Australian music stands tall and proud, unshackled and ready to conquer the world. Bob Corbett (full version on his FB page)

EDITOR'S NOTE: Times have changed and we're in the techno era. It seems to be survival of the smart, creative and well connected. As individuals we are solo so change may be needed. Pursue your songwriting dreams using your own strengths and initiatives. Stay connected with like-minded songwriting friends & rise together. It's who knows who and collaborating seems to be the thing in this current climate. Remember, **First The Song!**

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The Songwriters Nights at the Press Tamworth with Lawrie and Shelley Minson, normally happens during the first week of the month. Next one is on Friday March 1.7pm.

and is out now on all streaming platforms. The strength of her songs are her vulnerability and authenticity, along with her amazing smoky vocals. Keep an eye out for her music as she deserves to be heard.

**You can catch Ruby and the Red Horse at the Hardys Bay Club Ettalong Beach on March 24, 2pm.**

**EDITOR: Well done to those who played on a showcase, at the concert or busked. Good luck with upcoming gigs.**

**Thanks for reading to the end and I appreciate those who have contributed to this issue. All efforts have been made to provide accurate information at the time of printing. Contributions are always welcome as long as they are suitable for publication. Next issue should be in June-**

**If you have news or something of interest to share with TSA members, please email [tamsongwriters@gmail.com](mailto:tamsongwriters@gmail.com)**