



## News from **Jim Haynes...JUNE '07**

### • **WAGNER AWARD FOR JIM AND ADAM**

I was thrilled and humbled to be presented with a **Wagner Award for Services to Country Music** at the Windsor Function Centre on the evening of Saturday June 2nd. As a major fundraiser for the Cancer Council the evening was a great success and the venue is fantastic.

At the end of the concert **Adam Harvey and myself were announced as the recipients of the Wagner Awards for 2007**. The awards are made for services to Country Music, with Adam's charity work and ambassadorship of Aussie Country in the USA and Canada being the reason for his award. In my case the award is for helping and encouraging young talent and my involvement with the Country Music Association of Australia as a board member for over ten years.

**I was very proud to accept the award** on a night when the concert featured two young artists I have had a lot to do with. Tracy Killeen, who I first met at the CMAA College in 2001 and who toured with me when she was part of the Sweeney-Killeen duo, is going great guns as a solo act. Relative newcomer, sixteen-year-old Katie Brooke, who I first met at Camerata last year, wowed the audience with her vocal quality as she sang and played the Maton guitar we gave her at The Big Bush Brekky in January.

The concert was a beauty with Adam Harvey and myself joined by Tracy and Katie, along with Bryen Willems, Tall Timbre, Jo Ellis and Doug Adams. The all-star band was led by Jake Lardot and featured old mate James Gillard on bass. Having lost my mum to cancer fifteen years ago I was very moved by the hard work Don Wagner and his committee put into this wonderful annual event.

### • **DREAMWORLD STAMPEDE**

Up at the **Gold Coast on June 3rd The Dreamworld Stampede** is shaping up as an event not to be missed by Country Music fans. I will be there with a

special Australiana Verse and Humour show featuring the hilarious Paddy Ryan and Bill Kearns as well as myself and a couple of old mates to make some music and tell some funny stories.

The main concert features Lee Kernaghan and Troy Cassar-Daley with Sara Storer, Tania Kernaghan, The McClymonts, The Wolverines and Felicity Urquhart and in the Trail Blazing Arena Dianna Corcoran, Nik Phillips, Kirsty Lee Akers Lou Bradley will perform

### • **HATS OFF TO WILLO!**

I am looking forward to compering the **Hats Off To John Williamson** Concert on Saturday the 7th on July at Blazes, West Tamworth League Club. John and his manager, Phil Matthews, were great to me when I was starting out as a solo act twenty years ago after leaving Bandy Bill & Co Bush Band. I sand backing vocals on quite a few of John's albums and Phil signed me to my first record deal as a solo artist. These days John and I see each other mostly at CMAA Board meetings and we usually manage to share a joke or two. John is a wonderful Australian and a genuine good bloke.

### • **HATS OFF TO BUSH VERSE**

On Sunday Morning July 8th Paddy Ryan and myself and a few others will present our annual **Hats Off To Bush Poetry** Show in the Chillingworth Room at West Tamworth League Club. This is always a great show full of laughs and good Aussie spirit. Breakfast is available from 7.30 and the show begins at 9 am.

### • **SINGLETON POETRY WEEKEND ON AGAIN**

**The Big Singleton Bush Verse Weekend is on again** on the weekend of the 13th, 14th and 15th July. Noel Stallard and myself will perform a special 'Tribute to CJ Dennis, John O'Brien and others' on the Friday evening and workshops on wrting and performing Bush Verse will run all weekend, with a major concert of Humour and Aussie Verse on the Saturday Evening. Call Isabella Bailey for information and bookings on 02 6571 2669 or email at [bailey.electrical@hunterlink.net.au](mailto:bailey.electrical@hunterlink.net.au) and don't miss one of the friendliest weekends you will ever have with great people and poets in the Hunter Valley.

### • **CHARITY CONCERT IN INVERELL**

Everyone around the Inverell district should mark Wednesday August 22nd in the diary. **Melinda Schneider** and myself will be at The Town Hall for a special FUND RAISER CONCERT for Inverell District Hospital. Local talent Melanie Dyer and Gillian Higgins will join the Warialda School Band and Ross Hill Choir to put on a great show and raise some much needed funding for specialist services at the Hospital (Which was where my cruciate ligament was operated on many years ago!) Melinda and myself will headline a great line up of talent for a very worthy cause ...PLEASE come along and help us make it a worthwhile evening!

• **NEW VERSE BOOK READY FOR OCTOBER RELEASE**

Here we are half-way through the year already ... I have been working on a new collection of rhymed verse which will be out for Christmas. Over **1000 poems** in a huge volume divided into 28 themed sections, I think every bush poet and bush poetry fan will want one, I certainly hope so!

Hope to see you all somewhere soon!

Cheers,  
Jim