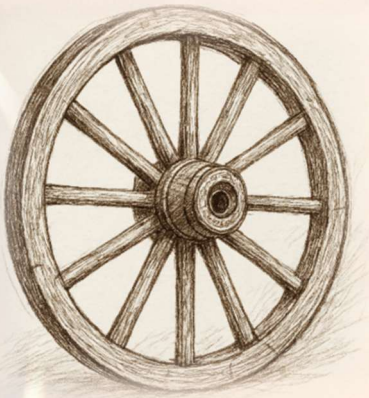
THE WAGON WHEEL



Welcome, we're glad to have you here!!

THIS IS THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF

SINCE 1974

CMAC

COUNTRY MUSIC ASSOCIATION

CANBERRA Incorporated

READING THIS MEANS YOU'RE HERE TO BE ENTERTAINED

PRESIDENT'S SEPETMBER REPORT

Greetings and I hope you're coping well with the current crazy, Melbourne weather.

A few things musical happened in the past month including the walk-ups, Singing it Country, the Moonshine and Maple show and the Repair Café/Hawker men's shed markets.

You'll see the full report on the Sep walkups so I'll just say that as usual, it was a pleasant afternoon with entertaining performances, including after a long time, my duet with Hilton on his super new lap-steel guitar which put out a fuller sound than his previous one!

Singing it Country at Smiths Alternative was a great evening's entertainment with terrific performances from CMAC stalwarts like Chillin, Bev and Garry, James and Audrey, Dean and Ramesh. There were a few visitors but hopefully this will increase as the word spreads about this free concert.

The Moonshine and Maple show down really even though there was only a small crowd. Audrey kicked things off with a good variety of songs that showed her versatility and Leila followed with a truly professional set that included some originals. The main act was very entertaining, especially the wizardry on the guitar! Thanks to David for his MC work!

The Repair Café/Hawker men's shed markets was a most enjoyable loose jam session that ensured that we musos had a great time. Thanks to Mike, Keith, Peter, Luke and James for your participation. We were also joined by a wandering minstrel called Richard who did a great job.

Ghosts of Country Music Past – We're planning a concert for next year which will feature locals performing songs from singers like Patsy Cline, Dolly Parton, Roy Orbison, Hank Snow, Kenny Rogers etc. Still in the planning stage so if you know anybody who can specialize in songs from Country singers now gone to that Grand Ole Oprey in the sky, let me know

NOTE:

- Wed 30 Sep. Making Music for Mental Health 6.30-8.30 at Smiths Alternative. Alinga St. City. Entry fee of $10 will go to a MH related charity. Smiths website has ticketing.

- Tue 13 Oct. (Free) Morning of Easy Listening Music performed by three local community music groups. 1030-1200 at Community Services #1. 63 Boolimba ST. Narrabundah.

Contact Chris 0450 799 456/csvanreyk@gmail.com

- Communication Workshop - I am looking for anyone who would like to attend a free 1&1/2 hr workshop looking at ways we can improve our personal communication. It is planned for a Tues morning in mid-November. Let me know if you're interested.

Contact Chris 0450 799 456/csvanreyk@gmail.com

See you at the walkups or one of these concerts

Chris

SOCIAL DIRECTORS REPORT SEP 2026

Hi Members, and friends,

Well spring has arrived, so to all those people who suffer from allergies, from the lovely blossoms I sympathise with you but, have to say it's a great season, everything is green, mowers working overtime, I love it.

Our September walk up, at the Irish Club was held on Sunday the 7th, of course it being "Father's Day", so to all the Dads out there, I hope you had a good one.

Once again, the CMAC committee got everything in order, we're so lucky to have devoted members they do a fantastic job, setting up the sound gear, and we had to put our starting time back to 2pm because of the overload of families who had booked it for lunch, but that was great, we entertained them too, and they loved it, so good for us too.

We had 11 artists names on the white board, all, ready to go, Dawne was our Em-cee, and did a fantastic job, we had Dorothy on the front desk, even though it was a free day, we had a couple of new members join great, and of course we had our raffles and Trivia so there was lots to do, great to see "Chillin" also Ralph (a past secretary) and Mickey, so the entertainment began.

1/ Bev and Garry, supported by Keith, Dawne and David, the audience sang along, and I must say Dolly's "Coat of many Colours" was a hit.

2/ Dean Jones, who appears to be getting better each performance, but I have to say we need a little more practise, on a couple of songs you did today, it's a matter of getting time to do just that, but we'll work on it, well done Dean, he was also supported by David, Garry, Keith and Me.

3/ Greg, great selection of songs "Every time you work in the room" and "Love Hurts" were two of his selections, a happy songs too.

4/ Chillin, great to see the girls Shaz and Cass, one of the songs they choose, was one Shaz wrote when she was 18 yrs old, "Take myself away" and one for their Dad, "The Long Goodbye" and I have to say it, you did well to get through it was quite an emotional song.

5/ Leo Laverty, “Red River Valley”, “Under your spell again”, and one of Dolly’s “Old Flames” and big thanks to Tess for the “Ice Cream” in a couple of months it will be Garry’s shout.

6/ Ralph Martin, welcome back, good to see you, after your health scare, here’s hoping we see you a little more often, ok.

7/ Ramesh and Chris, also supported by Keith tinkling away on his drum box, “When my Blue moon turns to Gold Again”, and “Rambling Rose” were two of the classics they choose to play, good singing Ramesh

8/ Hilton and Chris, Chris doubled up with Hilton along with Keith, they did three instrumentals, and it’s a big welcome back to Hilton, who’s been away overseas visiting, having an extended holiday.

9/ Peter Wardrop, supported by Keith and Mike, have to admit I was helping Dawne sell raffle tickets and missed writing down your songs, sorry.

10/ Mickey, also good to welcome her back too, long time no see, after a very quick rehearsal with Shaz & Caz, also Keith, she took to the stage and owned it, “My Brown Eyed Girl” and one of Dolly’s “Nine to Five”.

11/ Mike M, now Mike had other plans for today, and couldn’t come, so to see him come in with his gear, was quite a surprise, his plans ended early, so why no, Irish Club, here I come, wonderful, “Boot Scootin’ Boogie” and “Rock Around the Clock” had toes tapping everyone.

Then we had Maureen do just one song, after a quick rehearsal and trying to get the right key she did her best with “Honky Tonk Angels”, being her first time on stage, it’s always tricky, trying to sing into the mike, start off on the right key, and sing, maybe you could help yourself, firstly, by recording what you sing on your phone, and play it back to yourself, and that may help you realise if you’re on the air or not, okay.

A very good line up of artists, and I’m sure the audience agreed.

Trivia > Question> How old was Dolly Parton when she first appeared on the “Grand Old Opry”

Answer > 13 yrs old, winner Shaz, great.

Now Raffles, big thanks to Dawne, for the prizes, and she's so quick selling tickets, she's our jack of all trades, that's for sure.

1st Ralph Martin, 2nd Angela Plant, 3rd Peter Wardrop, 4th Mike Crozier, Congratulations to you all.

Our next walk up, falls on the long weekend in October, so some of us, the Committee and Dawne, are going to be away, but it will still, go ahead, Mike M and Chris, will be there to get things underway.

So, it's bye from me, I've waffled on for long enough, so until we meet next, keep safe, well, and keep it country.

Bev.

NEWS IN BRIEF

It has been a busy month for the club with several opportunities to perform an/or listen to some great country music and the promise of things to come.

Goulburn Walk-up

Dean jones travelled up to the Goulburn County music walk-ups and sang a couple of songs with his dad playing rhythm and Goulburn Country Music Club Vice president on slap bass.

Singing it Country

The first of what will be a regular gig of contemporary Country Music at Smiths was on Sun 13 Sep and was most enjoyable with very listenable songs and a warm atmosphere.

It featured Chillin, Dean Jones and band, Bev and Garry, Ramesh, the quickly formed duo of James and Audrey, with Chris closing the session.

CMAC







SMITH'S alternative







This gig will be a regular free session at Smiths and will feature local artists, so lookout for the notice of the next session and come along. Contact Chris (0450 799 456) if you're interested in performing.

Community Country Music Showcase



Leila Audrey Lisa Joy Joseph

With the help of Weston Creek Community Council, we were able to present a showcase at the Irish Club on Saturday 19 September.

The headliners were a couple from Melbourne called Moonshine & Maple and they delivered a fabulous show with original music and some classic covers including a wonderful version of '500 Miles' that they have recently released.

We also had the chance to promote some local talent in the form of Leila and CMAC's own lady of song – Audrey.

You can see some clips from the show on the CMAC Facebook page.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/337198544689618/

Making Music for Mental Health Smiths Alternative 30 Sep

For those of you who agree that music is terrific for Mental Health, and who doesn't, there's a fundraising gig at Smiths on Wed 30 Sep. 6.30-8.30.

There's a $10 entry fee and that money will be donated to HOME, a MH related facility in Queanbeyan. Come and listen to some local artists and help a good cause.

Contact the Smith's on +61 401 084 773 for the tickets.

Walk-ups Sun 4 Oct

It is a long weekend so plenty of time to attend and perform at this walk-up that will be a scaled down version of the big production we usually have with a smaller PA system but still enough for you to entertain the very appreciative audience, so come along and enjoy!

Tribute concert for Ghosts of Country Music Past - Early 2027

As the title says this will feature performers who will specialise in Country Music artists who have passed away. (All the ones that have been dying for you to see!)

If you or somebody you know does a super job singing songs of a particular former Country Music star, step up now (There will be a back-up band so you will be supported).

Contact Chris 0450 799 456

CMAC Christmas festivities

We are calling on all members to submit with any ideas we can consider to make this an enjoyable occasion. Let us know what you would like to do.

TRIVA

Our President has decided to test your grey matter! The answers are later in the newsletter.

A. Was our president Chris van Reyk born in

1. Colombo 2. Colombia or 3. Caloundra

B. Kris Kristoffersen was once married to Rita Coolidge. **True/False**

C. 'Wildflowers' was composed and sung by Polly Darton **True/False**

D. Kasey Chambers was once married to

1. Lee Kernaghan 2. Paul Kelly or 3. Shane Nicholson

E. Slim Dusty adopted this name when he was around ten years old **True/False**

F. 'Stand by your man' was co-authored by Dolly Parton. **True/False**

G. Hank Snow was a Canadian-American singer songwriter who recorded 140 albums. **True/False**

H. The lap steel guitar originated in Hawaii. **True/False**

I. Sara Storer was once a

1. Jackaroo 2. School teacher or 3. Police officer in the Northern Territory

J. A Kazoo is played by

1. Hand 2. Nose or 3. Mouth

Answers at the end of the newsletter.

POSITIONS VACANT

- PUBLICITY OFFICER

Do you have flair for desktop publishing, advertising, promotions?

Then the position of CMAC Publicity Officer is perfect for you. We are seeking a volunteer to assist the committee with the promotion and advertising of events and activities through the production of the newsletter and website. You will occasionally be required to attend committee meetings.

Please register your interest and availability at

info@cmac.asn.au

WALK-UP HELP REQUESTED

We need help for open mic walk-up set up and pack up. The smooth operation and viability of our monthly walk-ups is heavily reliant on volunteers to assist with the setting up and packing up. If you are able bodied and eager to make a contribution, please reach out to attending committee members on the day, who would very much appreciate your assistance!

LIVE EVENTS IN CANBERRA

- **Wed 30 September 6:30 – 8:30pm**
  Music for Mental Health
  Smith's Alternative, 76 Alinga St, Canberra
  Come and listen to some enjoyable performances by local artists at Smith's Alternative, $10 entry will go to a local Mental Health related charity.
  Contact Chris van Reyk.0450 799 456 csvanreyk@gmail.com

- **Sat 24th Oct** 2026
  'Heart & Soul' launch **Leila**
  Polo Club, Turner Tickets incl booking fee through Humantix

- Canberra Irish Club Welcome to Friday Live Local Music: Each Friday 8 pm. Go along and see performing artists from the local Canberra region. Keep a keen eye on the Club's website for updated gig listings.
  https://www.irishclub.com.au/What-s-on/WTF-Live%20Music.aspx

- The Burns Club Canberra Live Music: A variety of live music events (and the Club generously provides the CMAC committee with important meeting space). See website for details.
  https://www.burnsclub.com.au/whats-on/entertainment/

- The Old Canberra Inn Live Music: Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Energetic live music from some amazing Canberra musicians. Acoustic sets on Saturdays.
  https://www.oldcanberrainn.com.au/events

- Murrumbateman Acoustic Music Club open mic walk ups: Last Sunday of each month 5.00-8.00 pm. A fun night with an eclectic bunch of musicians and a warm and appreciative audience. All welcome.
  https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057254276396

- The George Harcourt Inn: Known for supporting local talent, this pub hosts live music on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays, making it a great place to catch up-and coming artists.

REMEMBER TO KEEP IT COUNTRY

SEE YOU AT OUR NEXT WALK-UP ON 4th OCTOBER

TRIVIA ANSWERS

A. COLOMBO

B. TRUE

C. FALSE. IT WAS DOLLY PARTON

D. SHE WAS MARRIED TO SHANE NICHOLSON

E. TRUE

F. FALSE - IT WAS TAMMY WYNETTE

G. TRUE

H. TRUE - ALSO CALLED 'HAWAIIAN GUITAR'

I. SHE WAS A SCHOOL TEACHER

J. IT IS PLAYED WITH THE MOUTH