



A MESSAGE FOR MATES OF THE CLARENCE VALLEY COUNTRY MUSTER

Happy new year

A belated welcome to 2017 to all our previous “Muster Mates” and friends we’ve yet to meet ...

It’s been so full-on here in the beautiful Clarence Valley, I’ve hardly had a chance to scratch myself in between overseeing improvements to the site, praying for rain and gardening. Slowly but surely it’s taking shape, with pops of colour appearing all over the place.



Hank’s ‘secret daughter’ heads Muster line-up

I’m so excited about this year’s Muster – and our very special “exclusive” guest – Jett Williams, daughter of the one and only Hank Williams Sr.

Just being close to someone associated with the “Prince of Pain” (as Lindsay Butler refers to Hank), will be a rare privilege.

Jett was born five days after the death of Hank Williams Sr, and it took almost two decades for her to be correctly acknowledged as his daughter. She has quite a story to tell.

Jett is doing a select number of concerts in Australia before her Clarence Valley Country Muster appearance. She’s being brought to Australia by Terry Gordon OAM.

Australian country’s sweetheart, too

We are also thrilled to announce Tania Kernaghan, one of Australian country music’s favourite daughters, shares equal billing with our esteemed overseas artist. Tania is in for a busy year ahead with a brilliant new album, *All Australian Girl*, fresh on the market and a national tour marking her brother Lee’s 25th anniversary of *Boys From The Bush*.



But wait, there's more

The legends and big names keep on coming for the 2017 Muster ... Chad Morgan, Reg Poole OAM, Terry Gordon OAM, Owen Blundell, Gunbarrell Highwaymen, Dianne Lindsay, Peter Simpson, John MacDonald, Lex K, Doug Stuart, Lindsay Waddington, Rodney Vincent, Ray Essery, Gary Fogarty, Glenn Jones, The Muirs, Bev Branson, Ken 'Chainsaw' Lindsay, Pete 'Smokie' Dawson, Errol Gray and the Kross Kut Showband. And that's just for starters ...

Join the exclusive 1000 Club

From humble beginnings, we've experienced tremendous growth over the past four years. That's why we've come up with a special reward for Muster Mates – offering you membership of the exclusive *Muster 1000 Club*. Each year the number of vans booked in at the Muster continues to grow substantially. Let's all bring a mate and see if we can reach that magic 1000-van sign-up.

Your support means a lot

Don't forget to spread the word among your friends about the 2017 Clarence Valley Country Muster. They can be part of the 1000 Club too, if they hurry!

I have hand bills I can post out for you to distribute on your travels if that makes it easier. Without your invaluable word-of-mouth as Muster Mates, this event would not be the success it is.

You have no idea how much your help is truly appreciated. Thank you so much.

New deposit system

Due to 67 bookings that did not turn up last year, or phone to cancel, I've been compelled to initiate a deposit scheme. I held those 67 sites last year and don't want to get stung again, so I feel a deposit \$20 per person to secure your site for the 2017 Muster isn't an unreasonable ask.

This deposit is not redeemable (although sickness, etc, may be taken into consideration).

Slight price increase

There will be a slight price increase to \$120 per person per campsite for your campsite, all entertainment and water.

I'm sure you will notice the annual improvements to the infrastructure on site.

We want to make your Muster experience the very best time after time and are continually building new facilities to make your stay that much more enjoyable.

Making Muster parking easier

To take any potential hassle out of parking at the Muster, all sites will be marked clearly – with street names saluting our artists left *and* right.

You'll be sure to remember your address if it's 26 Ray Essery St or 21 Tania Kernaghan Drive.

To quickly verify your correct location, consult the list of names at the start of each street.

This is also very handy in case of emergency, so if anyone has first aid training or similar, this will be noted next to their name. Please let me know these details asap.

With the rapid growth of the Muster, we want to ensure everyone's health and safety needs are adequately met.

Parking warriors

A big thank you to the SES volunteers who help make parking at the Muster a breeze. They stay on site all week and help out, so it was great we could show our appreciation for their efforts.

We were able to give the SES a donation of \$3,300 from the auction of the bullock yoke (which was donated by the Grafton Blacksmiths Association). They also received \$750 from the Harvey's Bar auction, with the leftover money distributed to one of our workers, who was having health issues.

Make it a date

Dates for the 2017 Muster are from Monday, October 23 to Sunday, October 29. Earlybirds will find the gates open on Saturday, October 21 – ***no earlier!*** Bookings and deposits can be directed to me or my sister Kerry (at GoGirlz, Grafton).

New group bookings protocol

With any group bookings, you will need to supply me with all the names, registration number, postal address and email address of each member of your entire party so the group is not split up into separate camping areas. This is most important.

We won't stand for chair rage

Nobody enjoys chair wars. Arguing over who's sitting where doesn't make it an enjoyable time for anyone, so we're aiming to eliminate "chair rage" at the Muster. We're investigating the feasibility of installing theatre-style seating. I'll keep you posted on that one.

Milestone in the making

In closing this short update, I wish everyone a happy and healthy new year, miles of smiles and safe, fun-filled travels. I look forward to catching up with you all in October.

Tell all your friends about the Muster and let's make the 1000-caravan/motorhome milestone in this, our fifth year. If that happens, I sure will be a very happy chappie.

All the best until we meet again ...

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