



NEWSLETTER

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2017

## Hankering at the Muster



The 2017 Clarence Valley Country Muster is the **ONLY** festival appearance in Australia by Jett Williams, daughter of the late, great Hank Williams. On her first Down Under tour, Jett will perform 12 select dates in October-November.

On Sunday, October 29, Jett will perform exclusively at the Muster, singing some of her daddy's songs with Australia's own version of the Drifting Cowboys.

This is one seriously great band and features Rod Coe on bass; Kelvin Nolan on guitar; Dallas Southern on pedal steel and Brendan Crickmore on fiddle. (Hank didn't have drummers in his band, so neither does his daughter).

Get a Hankering for what's ahead on Thursday night, October 26, by trying out your own version of your

favourite Hank Williams song. Hank fan Ray Essery will donate a trophy to the winner. Then, after the songs have been sung, settle back with some popcorn for the Hank Williams movie, *I Saw The Light* on the big screen. While you're watching, think up a Hank memory to share with Jett when you meet her on Sunday.

## Three of Hank's biggest fans notch up anniversary year

The Gunbarrell Highwaymen – Terry Gordon, Reg Poole and Owen Blundell – who are all major Hank Williams fans, mark a significant milestone on their musical journey this Muster.

It's now 28 years since the three amigos decided to join forces and head on down the Lost Highway as a country supergroup ... and they're still going strong.

Having toured Australia and New Zealand, and performed at most major festivals along the way, The Gunbarrell Highwaymen still don't tire of each other's company. There's always plenty of laughs and the odd beverage or two consumed when the three friends meet. Why don't you join them for a celebratory ale or two – and some great country music!

## Hitch up the van and get hitched

Romance is in the air at the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Clarence Valley Country Muster. In fact, you can even get married! Registered marriage celebrant Tania Kernaghan will help you re-tie the knot in a special ceremony only available to 2017 Muster attendees who book in advance.

Tania will get the ball rolling by renewing the marriage vows of Glenn and Gayle Jones in a special ceremony at 9am on Sunday, October 29 on the Tex Morton stage. Those wanting to join the happy couple in re-matrimony need to pre-register on the website at a cost of \$20 per couple.

After Tania officiates at the mass renewal service, each couple receives a certificate signed by Tania, and then joins the other renewally-weds for a free high tea in the gardens, washed down by a free small Passion Pop to add even more sparkle to the occasion.

What better way to celebrate your commitment to each other – and to country music – at the 2017 Clarence Valley Country Muster? [www.cvcmuster.com.au](http://www.cvcmuster.com.au)

**Please note:** Bookings are essential and the \$20 vows renewal cost **does not** include your entry to the 2017 Clarence Valley Country Muster.



## Charged with emotion

As a traditional country music festival, the Clarence Valley Country Muster attempts to pay its respects to Australia's proud military past, this year saluting the Charge of Beersheba. On Friday, October 27 at 1pm, Glenn Jones and two Light Horsemen will ride down the boulevard to honour those who took part in that seemingly "impossible" charge a century ago on a Turkish battlefield.

It is 100 years since the Charge of Beersheba by 800 members of the Australian 4<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Light Horse.

Visitors to the Australian Outback Spectacular on the Gold Coast may recognise Glenn Jones, who as well as being an established country star, has been a featured entertainer at the Gold Coast attraction for several years.

For those keen on Australia's military history, don't miss the current Salute to the Light Horse, now showing at AOS. [www.outbackspectacular.com.au](http://www.outbackspectacular.com.au)

### **Did you hear Chad got busted?**



Yep! For being such a legendary entertainer for six decades, the Sheik of Scrubby Creek was sentenced to a lifetime in bronze – and then some!

A bronze bust in Chad Morgan's likeness was unveiled in an historic ceremony in Bicentennial Park, Tamworth on the June long weekend. Unlike Chad, none of the previous bust recipients got to inspect their bronze image as they'd all passed on to Hillbilly Heaven.

Chad, however, took the time give it a really good once-over before having his photo taken with any one of the hundreds in attendance.

Be one of the first Clarence Muster mates to congratulate the consummate showman on his bronze bust in Tamworth as he prepares to stand and deliver as only the Sheik can do!

### **Two grand reasons to consider Kross Kut**

You can do one of two things at the 2017 Clarence Valley Country Muster – walk up or shut up!

Well, not exactly – and, please, we don't mean to be rude – but the \$2000 prize package for the best walk-up act of the Muster is certainly worth thinking about.

Every performer deserves to have an audience appreciate their efforts, and a pretty handy reward at the end of the event would be to win the Kross Kut Records package, which offers \$2000 worth of studio time at Lindsay Waddington's award-winning facility.

Tune up your guitar – and your vocal cords – there's still a bit of time left to perfect your act before you hit the road for Grafton. [www.krosscutrecords.com.au](http://www.krosscutrecords.com.au)

## **New book tells Ray's story ...**

Everybody's favourite dairy-farming bush poet Ray Essery has something very special to share with Clarence Valley Muster mates this year – his life story in print!

You can be part of history as *Ray Essery: One Hell of a Ride* is launched on the Tex Morton stage for the first time.

Be one of the first to have the author sign your copy after the official launch proceedings are over.

From his days growing up on a dairy farm to life on the ocean wave as one of the Royal Australian Navy's youngest petty officers, Ray Essery has had more thrills and spills in his lifetime than most.

Yet, he's still wearing that trademark grin and is always on for a yarn. Don't leave Ulmarra without your signed copy of this wonderful new book, written in Ray's own words by Anna Rose.

## **Stick around – we enjoy your company**

While you're in the district, why not consider doing the other special event at this time of year – the annual Jacaranda Festival?

The picturesque town of Grafton comes alive under a canopy of purple from October 28-November 5, with events staged by local arts, crafts and sporting groups. There's the crowning of the Jacaranda Queen and Princess, market stalls, music and fireworks along the mighty Clarence, a street parade and so much more.

Talk about timing – it would tie in perfectly with your visit to the Muster and allow you to extend your stay in our beautiful part of the world. [www.jacarandafestival.com](http://www.jacarandafestival.com)

# **RAY ESSERY**



## *One Hell Of A Ride*

*Stories and poems of the NSW Northern Rivers by one of its greatest characters - as told to ANNA ROSE*

## **Become a Muster Mate**

If you're planning on joining us in October, you might as well be in good company. Ask a bunch of friends to come with you so you don't have to spend the next 12 months bragging about what a good time you had here.

This Muster started off quite small and each year the numbers have grown substantially. One day we're going to hit that magical milestone of 1000 site bookings – now, won't that be a reason to bring out the champers!

The Clarence Valley Muster has gained a reputation as a “friendly little festival” where everyone's here for the same reason – to have fun. The artists meet and mingle with the folks in the beautifully-manicured grounds maintained year-round by your host, Wendy Gordon.

It really is a very special gathering, so bring your friends – the more, the merrier!

## **So many reasons to Muster at Ulmarra**

In this brief catch-up we've only covered a few great reasons why you should ***make the Muster a must*** on your October itinerary. Happy trails, and we'll see you there ... just take the Lost Highway to Ulmarra – you can't miss it!

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

*All the best until we meet again ...*

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