



## NEWSLETTER - December 2018

Well, if you weren't there you just don't realise what a great time you missed out on. The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Clarence Valley Country Muster was an absolute record-breaker!

More than 700 vans and motorhomes filled the lush, green paddock at Wendy Gordon's Ulmarra property, turning it into a giant carpark for close to a week. This year's record number of bookings is only set to increase as word of the friendly little festival spreads via the handbills handed out by happy travelling Muster-goers and other exciting means.



### How many 'blooming' trucks?

Through an incredible alliance with a local company, news of the Clarence Valley Country Muster is being carried across the country by not one, but seven Bloomer Transport trucks!

Established in 1993, Bloomer Transport has a fleet of 18 vehicles all up, including body trucks and prime movers. A big vote of thanks to Bloomer's for carrying the country – and the Clarence Country Muster.

## Strong partnerships ensure great results



Ray Essery with Lorna Peden from Jackadgery, a generous auction bidder.

Some wonderful organisations became involved with this year's muster. In a very exciting partnership, Grafton Shoppingworld came on board and provided space within the centre to promote the event and help raise funds for the CWA's drought relief appeal. We did some brisk business at a cake and book stall for the drought appeal.

This continued throughout the weekend and by the finish, \$11,993.75 was raised through the cake and book stall, an auction and other donations.

The lucky winner of the hamper, which contained \$1000 in merchandise from the artists was a Grafton local, John Campbell. CWA rep Annette believes she might have even sold him the lucky ticket!

## Stiff competition in walk-ups

Hundreds of early birds turned out for the pre-muster entertainment, making the nightly walk-up shows on the Tex Morton Stage *the* place to be!

Each year walk-up artists vie for the major prize – \$2000 worth of recording time courtesy of Lindsay and Reegan Waddington's Kross Kut Records.

This year Wayne Sullivan and The Reilly Boys (Patrick and Lewis) took out the top prize amid some stiff competition.

They will also receive a paid guest spot on next year's muster program.





## Top-shelf talent appreciated by Muster fans



The entertainment was first class, as usual at this year's Muster. How about Digger Revell? Didn't he put on a fabulous show with that red-hot band on Friday night?

There's plenty of life in the old dog yet! Digger's been around since the Bandstand days and before, and he can still stand and deliver hit after hit like a young rocker.

And what about our brilliant bunch of yodellers? It's not often you get yodellers the calibre of Wayne Horsburgh, Justin Standley and Laura Downing on the same bill.

I think Justin Standley won even more hearts than normal when, during an equipment failure which left no sound on the stage, he kept on yodelling without

any amplification whatsoever. That incredible voice filled the venue and the applause he received was deafening!

## Birthday girl Beccy has a ball at the Muster



It was Beccy Cole's birthday at the Muster – and she made sure she celebrated in fine style.

The Muster's headline act was as entertaining as ever. Beccy just doesn't know how to put in an ordinary performance.

And Libby O'Donovan ... her set just before Digger's, accompanied by Kelly Brouhaha on guitar, was an absolute knockout.

I don't think there was a dry eye in the house when Libby sang Estelle, a tribute to her sister.

And the Sisters of Twang, her band,

were on fire. Beccy made Ulmarra the final stop on her latest Aussie Road Crew tour.

## Blacksmiths chip in for the chopper

There's always a lot of interest in the blacksmiths tent at the Muster. What is about a bunch of burly blokes hammering, bending, yarning and calling on age-old skills to create all sorts of practical and decorative items?

These clever fellas can make just about anything and each year they hand forge a bullock yoke to auction off for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service. The Muster was delighted to hand over \$2500 to the chopper group, thanks to the blacksmiths and the generous bidders at auction.

### **Plan to be at the 2019 Clarence Country Muster**



**ADAM HARVEY**

Runaway Dixie • Owen Blundell  
Jodie Crosby • Reg Poole OAM  
Peter Coad & the Coad Sisters  
The Gunbarrel Highwaymen  
Terry Gordon OAM • Dave Prior  
Chris Callaghan • John O'Dea  
Rodney Vincent • Lindsay Butler  
Johnny Greenwood • Shaza Leigh  
Kross Kut Showband  
Peggy Gilchrist  
Lindsay Waddington  
Ray Essery and Friends  
PLUS MORE TO  
BE ANNOUNCED

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FOR 2019!**

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With so many great acts booked for next year's Muster, hundreds of happy campers booked in again before they left the Muster site.

There's so much to look forward to at the 2019 Muster, who wouldn't want to book early to ensure they've got the best spot in the paddock?

That big, deep-voiced traditional country star, Adam Harvey tops the bill, along with some fabulous acts guaranteed to keep your hands clapping and toes tapping.

These include Golden Guitar finalists Runaway Dixie, country pioneer Johnny Greenwood, Mr Country Guitar Lindsay Butler OAM, Shaza Leigh, Peggy Gilchrist, Mr Entertainment Rodney Vincent, Tamworth Golden Guitar winner Jodie Crosby, renowned singer-songwriters Chris Callaghan and John O'Dea and so much more.

Your favourite bush poets will be on hand to ensure every day begins with a good belly laugh or two, followed by traditional artists that will reinforce your love of Australian country music.



## Terry Gordon's life story finally in print!



Muster talent co-ordinator Terry Gordon OAM has finally been captured in print – former Tamworth journalist/writer Anna Rose has coerced Terry into spilling the beans on his incredible career in the music industry. *The Highway of My Life* will be officially launched at the 2019 Clarence Valley Country Muster with a roast in his honour. With TG's good mate, Adam Harvey and funnyman Dave Prior on hand to keep the gags coming, it's sure to be a barrel of laughs.

Terry Gordon, pictured at the Muster with Kylie Adams-Collier, at rear, and sensational entertainer Laura Downing. Photo: **Robyn McIntosh**

## Claiming the date for a great cause

Here's something special to look forward to for next year's Muster! Something a little different – High Tea in the Garden.

All proceeds go to raise funds for the McGrath Foundation, which trains and places McGrath breast care nurses in communities across Australia.

By getting together a group of friends and booking a table, you can be assured your donation will help increase breast health awareness.



It will be held on Thursday, October 24, in conjunction with the annual Blacksmiths' auction. Should be a wonderful day. Don't miss this!

## One last very important vote of thanks

On behalf of Ken, Kerry, Terry and myself, I would like to thank all involved in making the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Clarence Valley Country Muster such a huge success.

There are so people who work behind the scenes to ensure everything runs smoothly.

Plus, of course, our fabulous sponsors Kross Kut Records, Bloomer Transport, Clarence Valley Council, Tourism Clarence Valley, Grant's Caravans, Grafton ShoppingWorld, Valley Signs and Printing, all our entertainers, and to all our visitors who take hand bills and bring their friends along. This is what makes the Muster such a success.

Big thanks to the lovely Robyn McIntosh, whose wonderful photographic coverage of the Muster was very much appreciated.

Until next year, thank you for coming. We hope to see you again with your mates and please, travel safely wherever you go.

**Wendy Gordon**

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