

## Contact Details:

Janette Frawley

PO Box 8155

Camberwell North VIC 3124

Australia

[jfrawley@highergroundaustralia.com](mailto:jfrawley@highergroundaustralia.com)

Higher Ground Australia



[www.highergroundaustralia.com/](http://www.highergroundaustralia.com/)

Volume 6 – Edition 4

## HIGHER GROUND NEWSLETTER – August 2009

### Welcome

Welcome to our Newsletter. This will be the last HGA newsletter until November. I will be touring Canada and America during the months of September and October and will be taking a break from the newsletter for those months.

I am really looking forward to our forthcoming trip but will be 'off the radar' so to speak. We will be zig-zagging across both America and Canada over those months, with the first month mostly in Canada.

We will be in Aspen between 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> October and will be staying at the Limelight. We will also be attending most of the events in Aspen during this time and we look forward to meeting up with people we have met before and those we have yet to meet.

We will also be in New York for a few days, Denver for a couple of days prior to driving to Aspen and we will also be driving from San Diego to San Francisco after we leave Aspen. Please let me know if you want my email address or mobile phone number and I am really hoping to meet up with as many JD people as possible.

### Congratulations - Grandma!

Congratulations to Pat Evans and family who became a Grandma for the second time on the 4<sup>th</sup> August. Her new granddaughter is called Shayla Anne.

### Birthdays

Happy birthday to all those who celebrate a birthday in August, September, and October. May your day be very special.

Special wishes to Linda of Ohio who celebrated her birthday on the 14<sup>th</sup> August. Linda has been a special friend to HGA for many years and I believe she has celebrated her recent birthday by attending a Keith Urban concert!

### Our Deepest Condolences

We extend to Moe Sanderson and her children of North Pole Alaska, our deepest sympathy on the recent sudden death of her husband and dad, Charles. He was only 44 years of age.

We would also like to pass our condolences to Can Altanbay's friends and family. Can has been fighting cancer for some years and survived against all odds. Sadly his fight ended in June.

### JD Weekend in Port Stephens

Melanie, Jan, and 'The Wilsons' have been hard at work organising the JD weekend, which will be held from Friday 9<sup>th</sup> until Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> October at **the Retreat, Anna Bay**, which is near Port Stephens, NSW.

<http://www.theretreatportstephens.com.au/>

The Lodge features six bedrooms, large living and dining areas, fully equipped kitchen, plus a large separate entertainment area that can be used for the sing-a-long. It is only a 20 minute drive from Newcastle airport and is extremely close to beaches, whale watching tours, and is a major koala habitat in NSW. There is also plenty of room for campervans and caravans.

Accommodation for the weekend costs \$37.50 per person, per night, which equals \$75.00 per person for the weekend. A **non-refundable** deposit of \$37.50 per person is required ASAP in order to secure our booking at The Retreat.

Please email Melanie to secure your place at the JD weekend on [mel\\_belle\\_99@yahoo.com](mailto:mel_belle_99@yahoo.com). The deposit may be made by direct debit to:

**Account Name:** Melanie Patfield

**Bank:** Greater Building Society

**BSB:** 637000

**Account Number:** 163342916

Please type **JD Weekend** and your name as the description for your and Melanie's records. Also please email Melanie to let her know that you have deposited money into her account. It may take a couple of days to appear in her account.

If you would prefer to pay by money order, please email Melanie and she will pass on her address to you personally.

### We Need Help!

Thanks for those who are helping out with the silent auction. We do appreciate your help. We are lucky in that all other jobs seem to get done without anyone asking. Thanks to all those

people who roll their sleeves up and give a hand where it is needed.

### **Our Fundraising Efforts**

This is a reminder to you all that we hold a number of special effort events during the course of our annual John Denver weekend. The proceeds from the silent auction are used to donate to a wildlife refuge or rehabilitation centre for the continuing work they do for birds of prey in particular. All monies received for the silent auction are donated. We also include in this donation any contributions we receive from our members unless they state that they want the money spent on other expenses.

The proceeds of our annual raffle are used to pay for our expenses, including the plaque and trees. Max Moore kindly offered to help pay for stakes and wire to protect trees from being ravaged by our native and very hungry animals when we require the extra funds to cover these costs.

The 'books for schools' and the postage costs are 100% donated, so there is no outlay required by HGA for this special effort.

The booklets that are distributed annually are also donated so there is no outlay required by HGA for providing these.

Once our expenses are covered by the raffles and if there is any money left from the raffle fund, it is added to the donation to the wildlife/rehabilitation centre.

When we select a recipient for the annual silent auction proceeds we select a private facility that receives little or no government funding to do their work. Representatives from these centres are invited to join our weekend and we ask them to talk to our members about the work that they do. This gives us a better insight into the work that is done and how the money we raise and donate is used. This year all funds we raise will be donated to **Native Animal Trust** – a not-for-profit group who care and rehabilitate a variety of native animals, such as wallabies, eagles, and koalas. For more information on the important work these people do, please click on this link: <http://www.hunterwildlife.org.au/>

### **Thanks!**

I would like to extend our warm thanks for the donations of goods for our forthcoming silent auction in October. We really appreciate these donations. All proceeds will be donated to an eagle rehabilitation centre in the Newcastle area.

### **Annual Book Giveaway**

We will be giving away another 2 books to Australian schools or kindergartens nominated by our members. We have paperback copies of

'Sunshine on My Shoulders' for younger readers and 'John Denver Man for the World' for older readers. If you are not able to attend our weekend but would like to nominate a school that would appreciate the donation of a book on your behalf, please email Jan [barjan@exemail.com.au](mailto:barjan@exemail.com.au) Please include your name and the name and address of the school or kindergarten you would like to nominate. These details will be included in our 'raffle' style draw on the Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October during the John Denver weekend. Max Moore, our celebrity guest, will draw the raffle. This special effort has been a huge success and many schools across Australia have benefitted from receiving a surprise book in the mail for their libraries. In a small way, we are able to get John's name and music out to the younger children. Please make an effort to nominate your school for this special effort. For economic reasons, we can only post to Australian schools, although any of our global members may email a nomination for an Australian school.

### **Special Raffle**

I have it on good authority that there is a copy of Alfie the Christmas tree being raffled as an extra special effort this year. If anyone has recently checked out the price of Alfie on the secondary market, they would surely be interested in buying a ticket for this raffle.

Cost of the tickets will be \$5.00 or 3 tickets for \$10.00. Anyone can buy tickets and pay for them via direct deposit, money order or cash. Please advise Melanie by email that you have forwarded the money and she will email you the ticket numbers. We will publish the winning ticket numbers in our November edition of the newsletter. Melanie's email address is [mel\\_belle\\_99@yahoo.com](mailto:mel_belle_99@yahoo.com).

### **Annual Raffle**

Our annual raffle first prize will be a framed poster of John Denver. More details to come.



### **Windstar John Denver Peace Cloth**

Jan is organising our annual panel to be sent to the organisers of the Windstar John Denver Peace Cloth Connection.

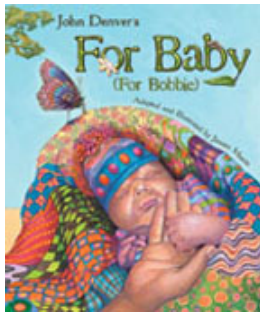
<http://www.johndenverpeacecloth.org/store.php>

She is looking for fabrics that are significant to the life of John Denver and that can be used for this panel. If you have anything to donate to Higher Ground Australia for this project, please contact Jan on [barjan@exemail.com.au](mailto:barjan@exemail.com.au)

### **Website**

Our website is updated often and the newsletter is uploaded each month. Please refer to the website from time to time to view all the good stuff that Lynn has included. Sign the guest book whilst you are there! [www.highergroundaustralia.com](http://www.highergroundaustralia.com)

### **New Picture Book from Dawn Publications**



For Baby (For Bobbie) will be released by Dawn Publications in September. The illustrator of this book is Janeen Mason and the illustrations look superb. This series of books have been wonderful and I hope that they will be continuing the John

Denver and Kids series for a long time to come.

Janeen will be attending the 2009 John Denver Tribute weekend in Aspen

### **Special Anniversary**

2009 has been the 'Year of the Anniversary'. This month is no exception with the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 'Woodstock'. I have included the lyrics to the song John Denver wrote about his Woodstock experience – **I Wish I Could Have Been There.**

### **John Denver Alive Around the World**

New and exciting news from Eagle Rock Entertainment. A new set of five DVDs will be available from 12<sup>th</sup> October (USA).

**John Denver is one of the most successful and best loved recording artists of the 20th century. His easy going manner, fine voice, superb songwriting and dedication to environmental issues all combined to build a huge global fanbase that has continued to grow since his untimely death in a plane crash in 1997. This superb 5 disc set is the definitive John Denver DVD release. There are three complete live performances with full band from Australia in 1977, Japan in 1981 and England in 1986. These are complemented by a solo acoustic performance from Japan in**

**1984 and his performances at Farm Aid from 1985, 1987 & 1990. The final disc has two hour long documentaries made by John Denver, his 1990 Earth Day programme about environmental issues and his 1972 show about the Bighorn sheep of his beloved Rocky Mountains.**

**Bonus Features each of the first three discs has additional bonus tracks.**

If we can make this release a success, there will be interest for more John Denver releases. New unreleased concerts have been found, and they also want to release the old U.S. variety shows. However, to make this happen and for there to be continued retail interest in John Denver, we need to make this release successful. So go out there and make this happen for everyone to be able to see more official releases! Post on the Internet everywhere, go to your local stores and request the new box set (specifically by name – "John Denver - Around The World Live that is being released by Eagle Vision").

A lot of time and money has been spent making these releases visually beautiful and sound great. These will be a lot different than the bootleg copies that have been floating around. These concerts have all been restored from the original master tapes.

The box set will be released in Europe on October 12th and in North America on October 13th. Australia, Japan & Spain release dates are not announced yet – but will be close or on these dates. The releases will be region coded.

The box set will feature:

Disk 1 – Rocky Mountain High, Live in Japan This is the 1981 show recorded at the NHK Hall. This show was beautifully restored from the master broadcast tapes and will feature stereo & 5.1 Surround sound.

Disk 2 - Country Roads, Live in England This is the 1986 show recorded in Birmingham. This show was fully restored from the master broadcast tapes and will feature a completely new stereo & 5.1 Surround Mixes.

Disk 3 – Thank God I'm a Country Boy, Live in Australia. This is the December 1977 show recorded at the Sydney Sports Ground. It was restored from the original master broadcast tapes and will feature stereo & 5.1 Surround sound.

Disk 4 – Bonus Material:

Japan 84 acoustic concert.

This is the Lake Biwa Concert recorded in August 1984. It was restored from the original master broadcast tape and will feature stereo & 5.1 Surround sound.



### Farm Aid Footage

This will feature the 8 songs that John performed at the annual Farm Aid concerts in the United States. It will feature 3 songs with the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band from 1985, 2 songs from 1987, and 3 songs from 1990. All songs will have stereo & 5.1 Surround Mixes.

### Disk 5:

This disk will feature 2 documentaries, Earth Day 1990 (In Preservation of Earth), and Bighorn. Both previously released. Picture and sound has been improved.

**As we have not yet been given a release date for Australia (and New Zealand, please start calling your local stores for copies of this set of 5 DVDs. As Christmas is approaching, perhaps it would be a good time to think ahead for gifts for your favourite JD fans.**

**When the stores know there is demand for a product, they will get hold of copies.**

This is only sold as a boxed set of 5 DVDs. They are not sold separately.

### Rocky Mountain Christmas on DVD

More good news for the JD fans and their children and grandchildren. What a wonderful Christmas gift this would make for the special person in your life!

Rocky Mountain Christmas was first released in 1975 but will be available on DVD from 6<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

There does seem to be a lack of information about this release. We will pass on any information as we get it ourselves

### What is Happening in Britain?

"Denver Day" on Saturday, September 26 at 11:00am.

Event: Denver Day

What: Club/Group Meeting

Host: Friends of John Denver

Start Time: Saturday, September 26 at 11:00am

End Time: Saturday, September 26 at 5:30pm

Where: Histon & Impington Royal British Legion Club

To see more details and RSVP, follow the link below:

<http://www.facebook.com/n/?event.php&eid=96338421811&mid=a5cee3G2a8fb6fcG2778610G7>

Followed by

"Rene and Thomas from Nickels & Dimes in concert" on Saturday, September 26 at 7:30pm.

Event: Rene and Thomas from Nickels & Dimes in concert

"All the way from Holland for one night only!"

What: Concert

Host: Friends of John Denver

Start Time: Saturday, September 26 at 7:30pm

End Time: Saturday, September 26 at 11:00pm

Where: Histon & Impington Royal British Legion Club

To see more details and RSVP, follow the link below:

<http://www.facebook.com/n/?event.php&eid=119376497574&mid=a5d090G2a8fb6fcG2778a0eG7>

### From the pen of John Adams!

On Saturday, August 29th, 2009... we will be making our debut in Historic Central City, Colorado. It will be at the Central City Event Center, located at 131 Main Street on the second floor above the Doc Holiday Casino! The facility is in a beautiful 1874 building that takes you back to the Old West and is ideal for our concert! The bar itself is something to see...it is in an oval shape with seating all the way around it that gives the room a unique and charming ambience. This is one concert no to be missed! Dinner is also available before the concert with reservations in advance. **CLICK THIS LINK**

<http://www.bluetulipmusic.ecrater.com/category.php?cid=320601> to purchase your tickets for dinner/concert (\$34.00 per person) or for concert only (\$17.00 per person). You can phone your order in at 970-948-7032! Tickets are also available at the door the day of the concert for \$40.00 per person including dinner or \$20.00 per person for concert only! A full bar is available as well. Dinner is served at 6:00pm and the concert will begin at 7:30pm! Come join us for and fun and exciting evening while listening to such favorites as, Rocky Mountain High, Annie's Song, Take Me Home Country Roads, Leavin' on a Jet Plane and the 1975 CMA Song of the Year Back Home Again! Seating is limited, so plan to attend now!

### Aspen in October

*The Expect a Miracle...Now, Foundation presents:*

**THURSDAY OCTOBER 8th 2009 - THE WHEELER OPERA HOUSE - Aspen CO THE JOHN DENVER ALL STAR TRIBUTE BAND IN CONCERT**

**"Doin' Their Own Thing"**

Join these world class musicians, singers, and songwriters for a special evening of music and good times. Coming together each October for twelve years to celebrate the musical legacy of their friend and collaborator John Denver - Hear



this all star line up for the first time performing their own music as only they can.

*Featuring the original music of:*

**MACK BAILEY - DENNY BROOKS**

**BILL DANOFF - ALAN DEREMO - PETE HUTTLINGER**

**CHRIS NOLE - HERB PEDERSEN - KENN ROBERTS**

**JIM SALESTROM - JOHN SOMMERS - MOLLIE WEAVER**

Tickets are on sale

<http://www.wheeleroperahouse.com/wheeler/>

produced by Karmen T. Dopslaff

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The Expect a Miracle...Now, Foundation presents:

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY - OCTOBER 9th & 10th,  
2009 THE WHEELER OPERA HOUSE - Aspen,  
CO 12th Annual JOHN DENVER TRIBUTE  
CONCERTS Celebrating the Man and his  
Music with special guest MICHAEL JOHNSON**

**MACK BAILEY - DENNY BROOKS - BILL  
DANOFF -ALAN DEREMO - PETE  
HUTTLINGER - DON GROVE - GARY MULE  
DEER - CHRIS NOLE - HERB PEDERSEN -  
KENN ROBERTS - JIM SALESTROM - JOHN  
SOMMERS - MOLLIE WEAVER**

Tickets are on sale

[www.wheeleroperahouse.com/wheeler/](http://www.wheeleroperahouse.com/wheeler/)

produced by Karmen T. Dopslaff

### **Windstar**

**Coming Home - A Windstar Celebration**

**Sunday, October 11, 2009**

**@Windstar Land Conservancy**

2317 Snowmass Creek Road

Old Snowmass, Colorado

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Live Music

New Windstar Products

Silent Auction

Environmental Presentation by Colorado

renowned photographer John Fielder

Special Windstar History Presentation featuring rare photos!

Q & A's with President Ron Deutschendorf

The John Denver Memorial Peace Cloth Display

EARTHcamp and Connections Presentations

History Walk on the land

Hike to the Meditation Platform

Refreshments

Our Celebration is Windstar's way to say thank you to our members for their support throughout the year! Join us for music, fun, photos, hikes and celebrating a rich Windstar history while moving into the future with us!

It's our gift to you!

If you aren't currently a Windstar member, you are welcome to join The Windstar Foundation at the event.

Help support us in the environmental work John Denver began in 1976 and believed in so strongly!  
Volunteers Needed

Auction Items Requested. Please contact Shari or Dreux at [ComingHome@wstar.org](mailto:ComingHome@wstar.org)

### **Sunday, October 11, 2009**

John Adams Concert will be held at the Wheeler Opera House at 7.00pm

Tickets are on sale

<http://www.wheeleroperahouse.com/wheeler/>

For more Aspen in October, please click this link:

[http://www.john-](http://www.john-denver.org/default.asp?nc=6946&id=511)

[denver.org/default.asp?nc=6946&id=511](http://www.john-denver.org/default.asp?nc=6946&id=511)

## SEE YOU IN ASPEN!

Some material included in this newsletter has been derived from the public domain, such as the internet and printed media. Articles and reviews are the opinion of the individual writer and as long as the content is of a reasonable nature and it is appropriate, it will be included. Organisations mentioned or featured in this newsletter are included to educate and inform people of their role and purpose. HGA does not profit from including the names of any organisation in this newsletter.

This newsletter is only emailed to those people who have individually contacted HGA and expressed a wish to receive it. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you no longer wish to receive the HGA newsletter.



## **I wish I Could Have Been There**

*I wish I could have been there on the highway  
When the people came from miles around to see  
The children of the flowers come together*

*I wish I could have been there in the sunshine  
With the sound of lovely laughter in the air  
And the music makers first began to play  
To hear them play*

*And I wish I could have been there in the rain  
When the clouds were silver castles in the sky  
And I wish I could have heard the people sing  
As the rhythm and the words came floating by*

*I wish I could have been there in the starlight  
When the countryside was quiet once again  
And the music and the makers  
The poets and the singers  
And the children of the flowers had all gone*

*And I wonder will they ever return again?*

