

George Plays it Straight!

As the year 2007 evolves, it's nice to know that some things never change.



Country music superstars come and go, but Texas troubadour **George Strait** just keeps on doing his thing in his own unique way.

He's as reliable and sturdy as those check shirts he always seems to wear and, in an industry where youth and fashion always seem to come first, there's nothing wrong with that.

With his simple, clean-cut farm boy image and incomparable voice, he is the epitome of **old time** country cool in our **modern age**.

In fact, if you like your country music served up in a totally traditional style, with plenty of **passion, heart and honesty...** then **George** is the man for you.

The last 12 months have been pretty special for old George.

Finally inducted into the **USA Country Music Hall Of Fame** in 2006 (what took them so long?), he celebrated **25 successful years as a recording artist** and made country music history when he clocked up his **53rd Number One single**.

Of course, **George** has broken any number of records down the years. He still holds the record for the **highest number of gold albums in country music history (33)** and down the years he's scored more than a dozen multi-platinum albums, achieved an incredible 16 CMA awards and sold something like **62million records**. Not bad going for a bloke who shies away from the spotlight.

The record-breaking 53rd Number One single, **Give It Away**, is a good example of the kind of trad country treats on **It Just Comes Natural...** **George's brand new album on MCA Records**.

As some country music just gets poppier with every passing year, it's great to know that one man **still plays it straight**, just like the greats of yesterday.

Here's to the next 25 years, George!

Acknowledgment to Ralph McLean for this article



Our Own Snippets

Club member **Dot Burke** sends her best wishes to members **Ron and Connie Cossons**. **Ron** recently went through Quadruple Heart Bypass surgery.

Best wishes also to **Malcolm Schencher** who is recovering from neck surgery.

Ian and Marie Holt of **Open House Country** are moving on to green pastures and **Gawler Country Music Club Inc.** wish to congratulate them on their achievements in promoting **Country Music** within **South Australia**. Best wishes on your travels.

John Hess takes over the reigns of **Open House Country** and we wish him all the best in teaming up with us in our endeavours to promote the culture and fellowship of **Country Music** throughout **South Australia**.



Charlie McCracken, Rob Edwards, Tracey Rains, Nathaniel O'Brien & Suede Country Band

Munno Para Bowling & Recreation Club
Cnr. Curtis & Main North Roads Munno Para
Sunday April 29th 1pm to 4pm

Cost \$10.00

Includes: Entertainment & Afternoon Tea
Door Prizes, Raffles, Trading Table

For Enquiries and Tickets contact
Jan 8522 2164 or Lorraine 8523 0909

All proceeds support the valuable work of the
Royal Society for the Blind

Ma's Country Kitchen



Ma has had a few problems with her dishwasher lately.

It's put a bit of a damper on her cooking activities. However, the show must go on so she thought she would rustle up a **wicked** little recipe **especially for men**.

Ma called the local **repairman**.

Since she had to do some shopping in the **Gawler Supermarket** the next day, she told the **repairman**, 'I'll leave the key under the mat. Fix the dishwasher, leave the bill on the counter, and I'll mail you a cheque.'

'Oh, by the way don't worry about my **bulldog Spike**. He won't bother you. But, whatever you do, do **NOT**, under ANY circumstances, talk to my parrot!'
"I REPEAT, DO NOT TALK TO MY PARROT!!!"

When the repairman arrived at **Ma's Country Kitchen** the following day, he discovered the **biggest, meanest looking bulldog** he has ever seen. But, just as **Ma** had said.... the dog just lay there on the carpet watching the repairman go about his work.

The **parrot**, however, **drove him nuts** the whole time with his incessant yelling, cursing and name calling. Finally the repairman couldn't contain himself any longer and yelled,

"Shut up, you stupid, ugly bird!"

To which the parrot replied,
"Go Get him, Spike!"

Ma says 'The moral of the story is.....
Men just don't listen!'

Muzza (Murray Hartin)

Australian poet **Murray Hartin** was asked to write a poem for the **Salvation Army** to increase public awareness of **Rural Suicide**.



The result was a tear jerking poem which was read out on air by **Wally Sparrow** on his **Country Brekky** radio show. It has since then whipped up a trail of interest, awareness and concern.....

Here is a poem written by **Muzza** and kindly provided to **Gawler Country Music Club**.

CANOLA CROPS NEAR COWRA

Nature's colours can't be captured in their purity and glow,
It's a thought that tortures artists, as only artists know,
While the scene is rich and vivid in a rich and fertile mind
On the journey to the canvas something special's left behind
But I'll share with you a vision that will never go away,
The canola crops near **Cowra** on a warm September day.

We headed out from Canberra for South West New South Wales
With the old colt Billy Rowlands fertilising bushman's tales
And he's got a way of speaking that the country folk know well
"Colt, six weeks ago out here the place was dry as hell
But then we got the rain like I thought we bloody would
And colt, there's canola crops out here that are pretty bloody good."

As I absorbed the Old Colt's character the miles quickly passed,
Laughter silenced silence and each yarn was his last,
The scent of spring was heavy on a fresh and gentle breeze
That gave away it's presence as it danced its way through trees
But then came forth the vision that took my breath away,
The canola crops near Cowra on a warm September day.

That dangerous hue of gold that alters minds and fathers dreams
Was oozing over fence lines, paddocks bursting at the seams,
A patchwork-quilted countryside hypnotising passers-by,
A sunkissed magic melody composed by earth and sky,
And as I go through life I'll remember all the way
The canola crops near Cowra on a warm September day.

Other work of Murray's including his monumental poem **"Turbulence"** will be available on his new website soon - www.murrayhartin.com