

The Age of Country Music

Recently I've been checking out the positive things that young people have to say about **Country Music**, and it surprised me how rational their responses were to the question...

'Why does Country Music not appeal to most young people?'

Answer 1

I love country music and I'm 15...but I like other types of music too. It seems that rock music, hip hop, pop, etc. have more of a meaning to younger people because they can understand what the songs are about...A lot of country songs are written along the lines of when you are older. Also, something similar to peer pressure takes place, like when you are at school and all of your friends are listening to everything but country, you kinda get hooked on it. I don't think it's because country is not "in style" but because no one wants to be different from everyone else...

Answer 2

I think it's because of peer pressure. I've grown up listening to country music, but I remember when I was around 13 I would never admit to my friends that I listened to it. On the rare occasions my mother would drive me to school we would listen to it all the way there, but the moment we pulled into the parking lot I turned it to a pop station. I did it because country music wasn't cool in my school, and I wanted to fit in with everyone else. As I got older I started to realize I didn't care what everyone said about my taste in music and talked about it all the time with my friends that listened to it too. I loved country music because I could relate to it. And by the time I graduated high school, a lot of people started listening to country music. Nowadays, my 12 year old cousin is going through the same thing. She likes a lot of country but will only listen to it around me or some of our other family members, not her friends.

Answer 3

It's a bold statement to say that NO young people like country, and they ALL like rock and rap. There may be a lot of younger kids that don't like it. But then again there are a lot who do. I loved country music all my life. My parents listened to it. I grew up on 80's & 90's country. Then when I was 17 I found **Hank Williams Sr.**, and became hooked on classic country. I think most young people are afraid to say they like it because there is a big stereotype that comes along with it. People think if you listen to country, you must be some un-educated, backwoods redneck. When that isn't the case at all. Going through school it wasn't "cool" to like it. I got made fun of for listening to it. But now that I've been out of school for a while, I run into my old classmates who made fun of me at country bars/country concerts....they liked it all along but didn't want to look uncool.

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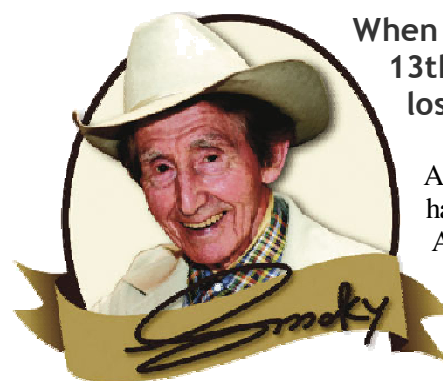
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Larry and Sue Rincon Gwen Connor

Remembering Smoky



When Smoky Dawson died on 13th February 2008, we lost a hero and a friend.

A site in Peel Street Tamworth has been selected to honour Australia's Country Music legends **Smoky Dawson**.

He will be commemorated with a bronze statue in the

main street of Australia's Country Music Capital, Tamworth.

The **Smoky Dawson Memorial Committee** has reached agreement with Tamworth Regional Council to erect the commemorative statue in an area directly in front of Council's Ray Walsh House headquarters building in the centre of the city.

The Appeal for funding was launched in October 2009 and the project has raised \$120,000 from family and friends of the Dawson's family.

The statue has **Smoky** seated on a bench with a plaque telling **Smoky and Dot's** incredible story.

The statue will be unveiled on Thursday January 26 2012 as a highlight of the 40th **Tamworth Country Music Festival**.

If You wish to Pay Tribute to a great Australian Donations can be made by

- Direct deposit to Smoky Appeal
BSB 032621 Account 373885
- Cheque (made out to ACMF Smoky Dawson Memorial) and sent to
The Smoky Dawson Memorial Appeal
PO Box 1842 Tamworth NSW 2340

Make sure you let us know if you wish to have your donation acknowledged on
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Marie Hodson

Marie moved from SA to Werris Creek in New South Wales. She performs with **Donella Waters** in the **Dolly/Reba Show** and has appeared at the **Gympie Muster**, **Bunyip Festival**, **Riverland Country Music Festival**, **Barham Festival**, **Mildura Country Music Festival** and **Tamworth**.

For the 2012 **Tamworth Country Music Festival**, Marie has put together a show, **Friends of the Opry**, based on the iconic ... **Grand Ole Opry**.

"Harper Valley PTA"

You may have heard this song played by a band at your local Country Music Club.

Do you know who originally sang it?



Jeannie C. Riley (born Jeanne Carolyn Stephenson on October 19, 1945) is the country music singer best known for her 1968 Country and Pop hit "**Harper Valley PTA**".

She became the first woman to have a single become a **Billboard Country and Pop number one** hit at the same time.

She had moderate success with Country music, but never duplicated the success of "**Harper Valley PTA**".

The song is about a widowed woman by the name of Mrs. Johnson, who confronts a group of members of the PTA after her daughter brings home a note from school that's critical of her (Mrs. Johnson's) habits of wearing a mini-skirt, going out with men, and other behavior of which they do not approve. The climax of the song comes when Mrs. Johnson turns the tables on the PTA and exposes their hypocrisy, one member at a time.

Next time you see the band **Kindred Spirit** at your **Country Music** venue, ask **Raelz** to sing "**Harper Valley PTA**".



Celebrate New Year with **Kindred Spirit** at **Munno Para Bowling and Community Club**.
Sat 31st Dec. 8pm 'til 1am.
Tickets in advance \$10 from Club.
BYO Nibbles. No Ticket No Entry.
Hope to see you there!

The 2011 Slim Dusty Tribute Show
DVD is now available from our
Club Committee.