

## Country Stage Coach!



**Harris Coaches** are pleased to be the exclusive carrier for the **Graeme Hugo Day-Show Tours**. They invite you to tour with them on luxury coach to meet **Graeme and his wife Lynne** at their new tranquil location on the **Copper Coast, York Peninsula**.

Upon arrival **Graeme** will greet you for a short chat and a light morning tea before commencing his inaugural new show.

Immediately following the show **enjoy a BBQ lunch** and catch up with **Graeme** once again; and, depending on how loud you yell (bellow / roar) you may even be treated to an encore or two following dessert and before your departure for home.

**Harris Coaches** extend an invitation to two of our club members to join us for the premier of this **new Tour** at a discounted price of **\$35.00 per person, normally \$55.00 per person**. This price is fully inclusive of morning tea and lunch and a great opportunity to **be amongst the first to enjoy this new experience in Country Music**.

Please advise at booking if you have any special dietary needs and we will do our best to accommodate.

Limited seats are available on selected dates and they are expected to fill fast, so don't hesitate to ring them to reserve your seat as soon as possible.

Don't dilly dally give **Harris Coaches** a call now on **1300 659 993**

For further information and bookings...

## Following Smoky's Tracks

No doubt most **Country fans** will already have heard that **Australia's founder of Country Music... Smoky Dawson, the world's oldest recording artist**, passed away on the **13th February 2008** after a short illness, aged 94.

**Smoky** was farewelled on **Feb 20th 2008** at a private and simple funeral in Sydney. A group of 60 family and friends gathered at the Artarmon Uniting Church in Sydney's north to say goodbye.

Among guests at the intimate service were businessman **Dick Smith**, rocker **Jimmy Barnes**, retired broadcaster **John Laws** and many leading **country music** figures.

In an interview in 1994, **Smoky**, who is survived by his wife **Dot**, said he wanted to be remembered as an **"ordinary bloke"** who brought some goodness into the world.

**Smoky** was raised in the **Victorian town of Warrnambool**. His mother and brother died while he was at a young age.

After his mother's death, he was placed in a **Melbourne orphanage** due to the beatings he received from his father.

Later in life, **Smoky** said the experience inspired him to want to do well for himself. He first began performing his songs on radio in the **1930's** and recorded his **first album in 1941**, before joining the **Army's Australian Entertainment Unit in World War II**.

**Smoky** flew to the **US** to sign a record deal and performed at the prestigious **Grand Old Opry**. He returned to **Australia** to become a famous radio star.

**Smoky** wowed audiences with his 'on-stage' performance which included **whip-cracking and axe-throwing**.  
**Memories linger. Smoky R.I.P.**

## Give Me Love Love Love!

**Gawler Country Music Club Vice President Kevin McGregor** has been known to put pen to paper, writing poetry and songs.

This eloquent extract of verse from a song by **Keven** speaks words sure to strike a chord with many of our club members.

**As a child I enjoyed playing marbles  
Or making a brown paper kite  
But the toys today made for our children  
Teach them about greed and how to fight  
So let's not brainwash our children  
Give them time to form thoughts of their own  
For if we are to grow a sturdy oak tree  
We must nurture the acorn we've sown.**

**Kevin McGregor**

## Ma's Country Kitchen



**Ma** has been looking at some healthy alternative snacks.

The modern day fast food option need not be unhealthy.

Did you know the 'Sandwich' was named after **John Montagu, 4th Earl**

**of Sandwich** an 18th-century English aristocrat?

It is said that **Lord Sandwich** was fond of this form of food because it allowed him to continue playing cards, particularly cribbage, while eating without getting his cards greasy from eating meat with his bare hands. **Clever fellow!** Goes down well with his **yard of ale** too!

Our modern day **Sandwich Artists** at **Subway** should be grateful for such an imaginative gentleman.

Here's a healthy sandwich recipe with... **The Lot!**

## Cheese and Salad Sandwich

Food for fit and healthy kids

**Serving size:** Serves 4

**Preparation time:** Less than 15 minutes

### INGREDIENTS

200g low-fat cottage cheese  
1/3 cup coarsely-grated reduced-fat cheddar cheese  
1 cup baby spinach leaves, shredded  
1 green onion, thinly sliced  
1 small carrot, grated  
1 tablespoon roasted sesame seeds  
1 teaspoons lemon juice  
30g Mesclun (A mix of assorted small, young salad leaves)  
8 slices wholemeal bread

### METHOD

Combine cottage cheese, cheddar cheese, baby spinach leaves, green onion, small carrot, roasted sesame seeds and 2 teaspoons lemon juice in medium bowl. Sandwich 30g mesclun and cheese mixture between 8 slices of wholemeal bread.

Munch!

## The Story of Tamworth (cont.)

**2TM** ran the famous **Bi-Centenary Show in 1970** which re-introduced artists like **Smoky Dawson, Shirley Thoms and Billy Blinkhorn**.

The posters all said **"Worth driving 100 miles to see!"** Again the response was excellent.

As a result of the success and amazing reaction to **Hoedown, the concerts and other factors**, a group of people at **2TM, Warwick Higginbotham, Eric Scott, Kevin Knapp, John Minson and Max Ellis (presenter of this article)** conceived the idea of marketing **Tamworth** as an **Australian Centre for Country Music**.

**Eric Scott** had already located **Hadley Records** in the city and his recording studio and label became an important element in the development of the project.

Prior to this, **Ross Murphy's Opal Records** had already started in **Tamworth**. Later, **Lindsay Butler's LBS** and several others continued the recording contribution.

In **1969, Tamworth** was declared the **'Country Music Capital'** in all promotional activity by the radio station.

Despite the fact that virtually the only substance to the title was the **'Hoedown' radio program, our concerts and Hadley Records...** the name and concept caught on... and our reputation grew. We were ready for the next step. **The Awards!**

In **1972**, after **Johnny Ashcroft** had made a suggestion at a **Gold Record** presentation at an earlier **2TM** concert, plans were made for an awards scheme for **Country Music Songwriters and Recording Artists**, and on January 28<sup>th</sup>, **1973, the first Australasian Country Music Awards were staged** in the **Tamworth Town Hall** in front of a significant number of industry people.

**Joy McKean** won then first **Golden Guitar** ever, **Slim** won his first two.

The Awards were scheduled on the **January long weekend** for several reasons. Firstly, January was a quiet business and operational time for **2TM**. Secondly, the long weekend at the end of the school holidays was judged to be an ideal time for travellers. And there was already **The Amateur Country Music Talent Quest** which had been run for some years by the organisation, which eventually became the **Capital Country Music Association (CCMA)**.

**To be continued in next month's  
Gawler Country Music Club's Newsletter.**

Acknowledgement to [www.historyofcountrymusic.com.au](http://www.historyofcountrymusic.com.au)