



The McClymonts



## There's Room for our Old and New Treasures

It was the dream of the late Slim Dusty to build a Centre where the memorabilia collected all over Australia during his long and illustrious career could be shown and where visitors would be involved in an interactive journey through the heart and soul of Australia.

With the Slim Dusty Centre now finally under construction and an anticipated opening of December 2010, the call for assistance from the Australian public now goes out to seek specific items for the museum that will help to complete some of the stories of Slim Dusty's life.

It is evident that many Australians hold the memory of Slim Dusty and the 'Country Music Family' of his era close to their hearts and may have memorabilia hidden away in their homes, or more than likely, on display in their homes.

The curator for the Slim Dusty Centre, Linda Raymond would like to invite Slim Dusty fans and their families to consider donating items of memorabilia as a part of one of the many significant displays within the Slim Dusty Centre.

"Since starting work on this project I have come to appreciate the deep affection held by Australians and overseas country fans for Slim, Joy and the whole Kirkpatrick family. I want to ensure that those fans have a chance to be involved in this important new national cultural centre, and to see their personal memories become part of Slim's story" commented Linda.

The 'Dusty' family members have contributed their significant collection for display at the Slim Dusty Centre, material which has been gathered from over 50 years of traveling the length and breadth of Australia. Missing pieces of memorabilia and stories and photographs of Slim with truckies and Aussie folk to complement these displays will be a priceless addition.

An example of the items of interest to the Curator would include Western or 'Tex Morton' style clothing, young girl's cowgirl outfits, jodhpurs, boots, belts, neckerchiefs or pipes etc from the 1940's or 50's. From this era Ms Raymond also has an interest in an EZ guitar tutor or any other guitar methods or, something every young boy would have possessed at the time, Tex Morton or Smoky Dawson comics.

Undoubtedly, any posters, tickets, programs or advertising material collected from Agricultural shows, rodeos or sideshows in which Slim and Joy are mentioned would be cherished as an exciting part of the museum displays.

During his lifetime, Slim Dusty developed a great affiliation with our 'Truckies' and to compliment the 'Truckies Tribute to Slim' Paver Program in the courtyard of the Slim Dusty Centre, the Curator is also calling on the many truckies who have memories, photos or memorabilia relating to Slim.

Ms Raymond will also welcome any pieces of dashboard decoration and truck artwork or relevant photographs that members of the public may be kind enough to donate to the Slim Dusty Centre.

If you have any items of interest that may be donated to the Slim Dusty Centre please email your contact details and stories with photographs attached to [slimdustycentre@midcoast.com.au](mailto:slimdustycentre@midcoast.com.au) who will contact you for further detail.

Alternatively, please call (02) 6562 6533 or 1800 18 SLIM.

## Keep Golden Guitars Shining

Tamworth's prominent Country Music performers express their views on the current issues surrounding 'Country Music'.

Singer-songwriter Adam Harvey recently said, "People tend to dismiss country music without giving it a go. They think we still sing about the lyrics... 'My wife left me and my dog died', or if you play it backwards, it's where 'my dog left me and my wife died,' "he says with a laugh.

The problems (in promoting Country Music) are many: Image; airplay opportunities; marketing; media attention; differences views on what country music should be in a world dominated by glossy pop singers who flaunt skin and use digitally enhanced vocals....."

As Harvey suggests... "Not everyone even knows what country music is!"

The Australian's music writer, Iain Shedden, puts it this way. "Country music, since it was first called that in the 1940s, has evolved and fractured into hundreds of sub-genres, from alternative country to cowpunk to pop country crossover, so it's impossible to attribute one strict formula to all of it.

"In Australia, however, it's a little easier to define. Stretching back to the pioneering output of Tex Morton and then Slim Dusty, songs have simple folk structures, generally led by acoustic guitar, but accompanied by other instruments also used in the folk tradition, such as mandolin, banjo, and harmonica. Most often the songs are in waltz or 4/4 time," he says.

"The connection to the land is probably Australian country's strongest lyrical characteristic, with John Williamson one of the leading exponents of that form. Lyrics often have a narrative, although at the pop end of country (taking Taylor Swift from the US as an example), they can be more abstract... (or unoriginal)... with no ties to rural life at all."

Troy Cassar-Daley calls country "the story of everyday people. Vocally, it's sincere; instrumentally, it's proud to wear sounds like banjos and fiddles in the mix. Other styles of music steer clear of those because they don't want to be labelled; but we proudly use instrumentation that has the feel of the hills that cover this great land," he says. "Lyrically, it's pure hometown pride. And you know you're listening to Country - not pop or rock - when you hear songs for the common man. There's a lot of people living, loving and dying in Australia, and this music is about them."

Writer-photographer John Elliott, a Country Music festival veteran, recently gave a lecture titled Let's Get Real: The Need for Authenticity in Australian Country Music. "Great country music tells stories about our country; about who we are and where we come from. I think a lot of younger artists have lost this focus." Cont Page 11

## SA Country Music Star Quest

★ Open to All Ages ★ Singers ★ Soloists ★ Duets etc... ★ Heats ★ Finals ★ Entrance Fee ★ Judges  
★ Cash Prizes ★ Voucher Prizes ★ Clothes Prizes ★ Food Prizes ★ Recording Prizes ★ Tuition Prizes:

To Register your Interest in the above... Contact Keith Warren 8255 8920

Details soon on our website [www.gawlercountrymusicclub.com.au](http://www.gawlercountrymusicclub.com.au)