

Adventures at Alcheringa and Murray Bridge

It was Sunday morning **22nd March 2009** and it had been a while since I last travelled outside of the metropolis of **Elizabeth, The City of Playford.**

Here I was sitting in the comfort of a **Greenock Creek Charter Tour Bus** along with 40 other **Country Music** enthusiasts. The day-trip had been organised by **Helen Warren** our **Gawler Country Music Club Secretary.**

Air conditioned, music, loads of leg-room... the engine fired up ready for take off, and.... we were "On the road!"

As we glided through **Gawler, Williamstown, and Mount Pleasant... Helen,** with a big smile on her face, passed lollies and mini Easter eggs to the happy day-trippers. She reminded me of a well-organized air hostess; and I felt like a privileged aeroplane passenger complete with fully fastened seat belt.

We were now well on our way to **Dave William's Place... Alcheringa.**

The road was flanked on each side by bare spindly trees and dehydrated grass paddocks. The only movement outside of the coach was from a few birds in flight and the occasional flock of sheep.

Approaching **Mannum...** the dry rocky hills contrasted against the blue sky, which was dotted with motionless fluffy clouds. Further on, the scenery changed to large undulating hills with clumps of huge rocks, appearing as if randomly sprinkled over the landscape.

As we reached **Palmer** a road sign said **Murray Bridge 30K.** The land was now relatively flat and barren with distant clusters of trees. We were soon travelling along a freshly laid black tarmac road... "**Murray Bridge 3KM.**"

Aha! Civilisation! A Performing Arts Centre, Traffic Lights, Woolworth's; streets lined with old houses exhibiting loads of character.

Our Coach Driver meandered through cars, motorbikes, taxis and policemen; moving cautiously through the busy town and on to **Wellington.**

The coach pulled up next to a house with two large vertical obelisks pointing towards the sky... ..We had arrived at ...**Alcheringa.**

On entry we were each supplied with a large mug of lovely hot tea/coffee and mustered into a large room big enough to seat 50 people.

The walls were decorated with posters and pictures of **Country memorabilia.** This was so interesting.

As I swivelled my head left to right to absorb the wall hangings I almost choked on the ample supply of freshly made sandwiches.

There were home baked cakes and biscuits, yummy scones and fresh cream... What an excellent spread! An abundance of good food for everyone.

As we ate and drank, a well known gentleman by the name of **Chooka Williams** entertained us with good songs, and a swag of stories and jokes... **Chooka** had difficulty controlling his laughter at the heckling he received from his audience.



Tiffany Stroh was soon on stage. She was so good singing songs from her huge repertoire. **Tiff** is maturing in her performance and confidence, and it was a pleasure to see a **young artist** putting on such a good show.

Dave Williams appeared on stage to tell a few jokes but I think he was more interested in the young lady in the caravan parked outside the front door. I didn't want to look, but I'm lead to believe she had a very attractive pair of legs which she openly displayed through the windows of the caravan. No sign of **Dave!** Where was he?

Stuffed with food... the entourage filed out into the museum which is chock-a-block from floor to ceiling with attention-grabbing **Country Music** relics and memorabilia. Photos and posters of rodeo events, and numerous country artefacts filled the area.

A video of **Tex Morton** was playing...

I noticed as he spoke, he was puffing away on a cigarette...

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Ma's Country Kitchen Inspiring Country Sounds



Spoil yourselves and your friends with this yummy old recipe.

Baked Bananas

- 2 bananas peeled and sliced
- 1/4 cup lightly packed brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 tablespoon shredded coconut
- 2 tablespoons dark rum
- icecream
- cream

1. Heat oven to 350.
2. Place bananas in small ovenproof dish.
3. Sprinkle with sugar and dot with butter. Sprinkle with coconut.
4. Bake until bananas are soft and coconut is golden brown, 10 to 15 minutes.
5. Pour rum over, gently stirring through.

Serve bananas warm with icecream and cream.

Hi Flo!
Can we have some Birthday Cake?

Now 16 Years Young!

Thanks Carlene for a lovely cake.



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Young **Country Music** artists may very well find they can access support and encouragement from the **youth focused Northern Sound System (NSS)** in **Elizabeth.**



The NSS is ideally located next to the **Launch Pad (skate park)** at **73 Elizabeth Way, Elizabeth.** It is only a short walk from the **Elizabeth train station.**

The normal hours of operation are from 10:00am until 6:00pm. Band rehearsals are available until 11:00pm, and of course we also have events happening during the week and weekends.

For further details, please contact NSS staff on **8255 5560.**

The Floor's state of the art and flexible performance space is ideal for events of all kinds. From high intensity (very loud) rock shows to gentler (not so loud) acoustic events. **The Floor** also has facilities for live recording of shows.

The Studio, a fully equipped rehearsal space with industry standard backline facilities that will attract bands seeking good quality, affordable rehearsal space. The Studio doubles as a recording area and is linked to **The Floor** via a digital multicore to facilitate multitrack recording of live performances.

The Workshop is a large project/training room that serves as the key training space in the NSS and can cater for groups of up to 30 people.

A complete education package is on offer with its "Passion to Profession" workshop series. Proudly supported by **Arts SA,** this series involves collaborations with key industry musicians and educators.

For those of us who need some of that "experience" every employer seems to look for, the NSS offers all sorts of things to do and **Get Involved** that will help you hone your skills so that you're ready and on your way to achieving your goals.

You might think that the NSS is only for people who play a musical instrument, but it's for everybody. For instance, have you thought about how skills picked up through volunteering can translate directly into a paying job?

Have a look at www.northernsoundsystem.com/

And click on the **Country** link.

Also available for assistance and a fun day is our **Gawler Country Music Workshop.**

See page 9 for details.