



**HIGHER
GROUND
AUSTRALIA**

<http://www.hgavic.com>

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HIGHER GROUND NEWSLETTER – May 2021

WELCOME

It's been over twelve months since the word 'pandemic' became part of our everyday vocabulary, and it seems that it is not going anywhere soon. Globally, we've all had to readjust our lives to an extent – some greater than others.

As vaccination programs roll out across the world, there is some hope that we can resume some sort of 'normal' life soon. The outbreak in India, however, has proven that we are still walking a tightrope.

As many countries, like the United States, Britain, and Australia emerge slowly from lengthy lockdowns and draconian restrictions, we quickly realise that we are not out of the woods yet.

When Billy Jacobs passed away this week on May 3, it was a huge shock to all who knew him. Billy, an artist and musician, attended the Aspen tribute each October and was a much-loved participant of the nightly sessions at the Mountain Chalet.

I had recently mentioned to him that he needed to visit us in Australia so he could add some typically Australian themes to his unique collection. The outpouring of stories and tributes to Billy on Facebook has been huge. One thing Billy's passing has taught us is that the COVID virus is far from over and we must diligently take care of our health by following the guidelines advised by our health officials.



Photo: Billy and Melanie Patfield at Ashcroft, 2012

God Bless you, Billy.

<https://www.cantonrep.com/story/news/2021/05/05/navarre-artist-billy-jacobs-remembered-his-idyllic-art/4953876001/?fbclid=IwAR0iVfih3-1RbMzSxRWPViZ70V2YFwBAIm88kfOLz4BfGQUiyChqu8krhyQ>

BILLY JACOBS TRIBUTE

This is from the Aspen in October Facebook page:

In honour of Billy Jacobs, we will be taking contributions that will go towards a potted plant to the memorial service and a grove of trees to be planted in Billy's memory. Any remaining funds will be donated to a charity the family designates. You can send your contributions by any of the means listed. If you have any questions, you can message me through this site or call/text me directly at 757-912-1448. We all love Billy so much. Once there are any memorial plans made public, I will post the info here. Online contributions can be made to the following:

Cashapp \$LaurieStowers
Venmo @Laurie-Stowers
Zelle lkn4spc@gmail.com
PayPal. Lkn4Spc@gmail.com

JIMMY FONG

Our good friend, Jimmy Fong, has not been idle at all during the last year. He recently released a new version of his song, Memories of Penang, with a full orchestra led by Robert Dora. It is uplifting, happy, and reminds us that no matter where we have come from originally, there is much to celebrate.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tz1sy5l4tWo>

Sadly, Jimmy's younger brother passed away suddenly recently in Penang, Malaysia, and Jimmy is unable to be with his family during this sad time. Although his death was not COVID-related, this pandemic prevents families from being together during these crucial moments. On behalf of us all at HGA, I would like to extend our deepest condolences to Jimmy and to his family and we hope that they can come together in the near future to reminisce and to support one another.

JASON OWEN

Australian country singer, Jason Owen has re-released his Jason Owen sings John Denver album recently. Details are on his website.

<http://jasonowenofficial.com/>

Jason is also embarking on a tour of NSW over the coming months, so please watch out for advance advertising for your area.

I know he will be performing at the Cessnock Performing Arts Centre on Saturday, August 7 at 8pm. I will update with more shows when I get a full listing. Unfortunately, it doesn't look as if he's travelling to Victoria, but with the uncertainty surrounding snap border closures, it's probably a wise move.

HGA TRIBUTE, 2021

In light of the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic, there will not be a tribute weekend again this year. I'll be talking to our members sometime during the course of the year to decide on the future of the tribute weekends. We are part of a unique and special group that is connected by threads of love of the music and philosophy of John Denver, and those bonds cannot be broken. How we celebrate in the future remains to be seen. Watch this space!

I'll continue sending out newsletters and the website is a work in progress. In the meantime, keep sending through articles, photos, anecdotes, etc to include in the newsletter. The web address is <https://www.hgavic.com/>. Please contact me on hga.vic@gmail.com with your photos, comments, and feedback.

HIGHER GROUND RAPTORS

Peggy McDonald continues to use her special skills to rehabilitate raptors in her bush setting in the southern highlands of New South Wales. The work she does is important to ensure that our native wildlife is well-cared for. Peggy's rehabilitation techniques were developed through her dedication to providing the very best environment for recovering birds. By travelling to the Middle East to learn specialised skills and through becoming a Churchill Fellow, Peggy is one of our most experienced raptor experts.

Peggy's work is funded by donations and sponsors. If you go to her website, there is a list of projects that require funding. If you are able to donate, please select one of the listed projects you would like to contribute to. You may also choose to donate in John Denver's memory.

www.highergroundraptors.com and <https://www.facebook.com/HigherGroundRaptors>.

Click the link to view an older story on Peggy and her work, which was aired on the ABC.

<https://www.abc.net.au/7.30/caring-for-injured-birds-of-prey/11290932?jwsource=em>

RADIO PROGRAMMES – WILLIE HOEVERS

Willie Hoever's of the Rocky Mountain Foundation for the Performing Arts has worked tirelessly to promote John's music through the foundation and through his regular radio programmes.

In 2013, Willie launched his fortnightly online show, 'The Music of John Denver' for American Veterans radio, which is available globally on www.avradio.org

The next show is on Saturday May 8 at 2pm Mountain Time.

4 - 6 pm Eastern time

3 - 5 pm Central time

2 - 4 pm Mountain time

1 - 3 pm Pacific time

12 - 2 pm Alaskan time

2100 - 2300 UK time

2200 - 0000 European time

Next Morning – Sunday May 9

4 - 6 am Japan time

6 - 8 am Sydney, Australia time

8 - 10 am New Zealand time

Additionally, Willie hosts the show in the UK on Ridge Radio. The next show will be held on May 15 at 6pm

UK time www.ridgeradio.co.uk

Here is a time zone conversion chart:

6:00pm - 8:00pm UK Time

7:00pm - 9:00pm European Time

4:00am - 6:00am Sydney Australia Time

5:00am - 7:00am Auckland New Zealand Time

2:00am - 4:00am Tokyo Time

1:00pm - 3:00pm Eastern Time

12:00pm - 2:00pm Central Time

11am - 1:00pm Mountain Time

10:00am - 12pm Pacific Time

9:00am - 11:00am Alaskan Time

Watch this space for other syndicated shows. For more information, please contact Willie

willie@rockymountainfpa.org

<https://rockymountainfpa.org/home>

TRIBUTE ARTISTS

As we emerge from the COVID abyss, many tribute artists have resumed performing for live audiences, albeit within strict COVID restrictions. Jim Curry recently streamed one of his paid concerts and made it available for 24 hours to cater to the various global time zones.

Check out your favourite tribute artists through their individual websites to see which artists are performing and when. Please support live music. It is one of the hardest-hit industries globally, and if our friends in the music industry are to survive in the long term, they need our support now.

MARK CORMICAN

<http://markcormican.com/schedule/>

JIM CURRY

<https://www.jimcurrymusic.com/future-concerts/>

BACK HOME AGAIN

A tribute to John Denver.

Tom Becker is a former member of the Legendary Folk Group, The New Christy Minstrels, and has gone on to appear with Grammy Winners and Music Legends

including Ray Charles, Jerry Lee Lewis, Willie Nelson, Gregg Allman and Jerry Jeff Walker.

<http://www.johndenvertribute.net/schedule.htm>

CHRIS COLLINS AND BOULDER CANYON

<https://bouldercanyonband.com/concert-schedule>

CHRIS WESTFALL

<http://www.chriswestfall.com/inConcert.php>

JOHN ADAMS

<HTTPS://WWW.JOHNADAMSBAND.COM/CALENDAR>

CHRIS BANNISTER

<http://chrisbannisterthemusicofjohndenver.com>

BRAD FITCH

<http://www.cowboybrad.com>

WILL KRUGER

<http://www.willkruger.com>

RICK SCHULER

<http://www.sunshinerick.com>

TED VIGIL

<http://www.tedvigil.com>

JOHN DENVER PROJECT BAND

<http://johndenverprojectband.it>

RON MATTHEWS

<http://www.ronmathews.net>

For more information about tribute artists around the globe, check out our website; www.hgavic.com

ASPEN IN OCTOBER 2021

From Laurie Stowers

If you are planning on staying at the Mt Chalet this October, OUR DEPOSIT IS DUE.

If you do not plan on traveling to AIO and already have a room reserved, please contact the chalet to cancel any unnecessary reservations.

I am still working with the musicians that entertain us all so that we can navigate the restrictions still in place due to Covid. I hate that Covid is going to affect us for another year. We will do the best we can. As soon as I

have information on scheduled events I will post it. <https://www.facebook.com/AspenInOctober/>

THIS MONTH'S SONG SELECTION – FALLING LEAVES

I selected Falling Leaves (The Refugees) for this newsletter as the song was written by John Denver as a result of his visit to India and the experiences he had visiting one of the largest slums outside Mumbai. In support of our neighbours in India, who are currently in the middle of a deadly COVID-19 wave, I transcribed the following words from the introduction to the song from the Christmas Concert he performed at DAR Constitution Hall on December 19 and 20, 1996.

'When you hear these words, carry them in your hearts for those who are less fortunate than ourselves, those who are without food and shelter, those who are suffering the tragedy of conflict among people between nations.

The song is called Falling Leaves and I have the notion that every leaf that falls is a prayer – a prayer for the spring and summer.'

Let us pray that our Spring and Summer brings relief from the ravages of this terrible, terrible virus and that we can enter a world that promotes more tolerance and respect for one another.

Some material included in this newsletter has been derived from the public domain, such as the internet and printed media. Articles and reviews are the opinion of the individual writer and as long as the content is of a reasonable nature and it is appropriate, it will be included. Organisations mentioned or featured in this newsletter are included to educate and inform people of their role and purpose. HGA does not profit from including the names of any organisation in this newsletter.

This newsletter is only emailed to those people who have individually contacted HGA and expressed a wish to receive it. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you no longer wish to receive the HGA newsletter.



Falling Leaves (The Refugees)

(John Denver)

*Thank you for this precious day
These gifts you give to me
My heart so full of love for you
Sings praise for all I see
Oh, sing for every mother's child
For every childhood tear
Oh, sing for all the stars above
The peace beyond all fear*

*This is for the refugees
The ones without a home
A boat out on the ocean
A city street alone
Are they not some dear mother's child
Are they not you and I
Are we the ones to bear this shame
And they this sacrifice*

*Or are they just like falling leaves
Who give themselves away
From dust to dust from seed to shear
And to another day?
If I could have one wish on Earth
Of all I can conceive
It would be to see another spring
And bless the falling leaves*

*Thank you for this precious day
These gifts you give to me
My heart so full of love for you
Sings praise for all I see
Oh, sing for every mother's child
For every childhood tear
Oh, sing for all the stars above
The peace beyond all fear*