

Willaston Country Music Club Inc

Gawler River Road, Willaston South Australia
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Tickets and Bookings: Elaine Guymer 0409 679 171

"Donnybrook Dancing"

MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER



On Sunday 1st February, **Willaston Country Music Club** hosted **Workin' Overtime** supporting **Graeme Hugo**. Both are big favourites of the club with very popular repertoires. I am sure everyone would have enjoyed the day. Again I wasn't able to attend the show, but I popped in for a few minutes while passing through and caught a song or two. I briefly caught up with a few people as well.

With me not being there, and **Matthew Roderick** not there, the photography task went to **Kyle Ogars** and I express enormous gratitude to him for stepping up. Thank you, **Kyle**.



Coming up this month is our 17th birthday show. Hip, hip, hooray!!

~ ~ ~ AROUND THE CLUBS ~ ~ ~

Southern CMC hosted **Mystic Blue** from Mt Gambier on Sunday 8th February. An overfull crowd kept the dance floor full. **Tracey, Mark, Peter and Peter** sang lots of favourite songs.

It was **Southern's** 38th birthday so everyone received some birthday cake. It's amazing how the club is so big and healthy after all that time.

(Thanks to **Sandy Smallcombe** for the report & **Robert Chapman** for photo)



~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Barossa CMC in Nuriootpa hosted **Polaris 71** on Sunday 8th February. They celebrated their 35th birthday and shared a wonderfully made birthday cake.



(Thanks to **Elaine Guymer** for the report and photos)

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



Murray Bridge CMC also hosted **Polaris 71** this month, on Sunday 22nd February.

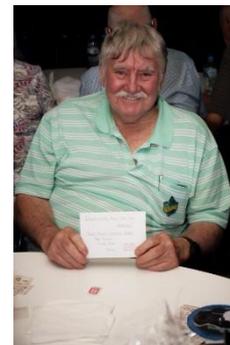
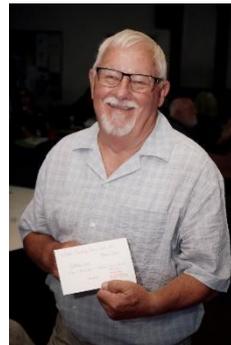
Gloria and Bob Neindorf (my reporters for MBCMC) are away and have been unable to provide a report this month.

(Photo courtesy of **Polaris 71**)

~ ~ ~ FEBRUARY PRIZE WINNERS ~ ~ ~



Lucky Envelope winners – **Lyn Craddock, Neville Nitschke and Raelene Dunn (\$25 each)**
 Door Prize – **Neville Seadon**
 (Coffee and Co voucher)
 Birthday Prize – **Dianne Marshall**
 (Café Sia voucher)
 Membership Prize – **Ian Dawe**
 (Cheek Avenue Charcoal Chicken voucher)



SPONSORS

They help us, so please return the favour and support them. Here's the full list

Café Sia	567 Consulting	Drake's Supermarket
Coffee and Co	Gawler South Bakery	Kevin Kowald
Mitre 10 Gawler	Rick & Raylene Neumann	Café Nova
Lyndoch Fine Foods	Cheek Avenue Charcoal Chicken	Willaston Football Club

~ ~ ~ WANTED ~ ~ ~

PRESIDENT – Ray is very much in need of a rest from the role of President. Can someone please give him a hand with a view to taking over soon? We've got a good team to do most of the work, they just need some leadership. Please give this some serious thought.

PRIZE CO-ORDINATOR/S – The club is still looking for people who love to shop!! Gee, there must be a few people out there that fit this bill. We need one, two or even three people to get involved with the prize collation tasks. Many hands make light work, and if more people are involved, it helps a lot when some can't be there. Please see **Ray** to take on this task.

• **Why doesn't Garth Brooks enjoy mountain climbing?**
 Because he has friends in low places.

~ ~ ~ RAY'S CORNER ~ ~ ~

- Sad News: Sandy Newell** is leaving us for a fair while.



Our trusty Newsletter Editor has to hand back the reins for a year or so due to personal commitments interstate and family health issues. This will be her last newsletter for the foreseeable future.

What a wonderful job she has done with our Newsletter so far. Now we ask that someone pick up where she leaves off. Sandy's done all the heavy lifting getting the format right, arranging contributors and the like.

Just need someone with a bit of time and flair to continue her legacy.

- Suggestion Box:** This is a new feature that will be kept near the door for you to drop in your ideas. We're always looking to improve our shows and your experience at them, so simply drop us a note in the box. We will evaluate every suggestion and implement them if practical.



3. **Volunteers' Lunch:** the club is run entirely by volunteers (except the artists themselves), and in appreciation of their selfless service the Club takes them out for a meal once a year.



So all volunteers keep an eye out for your personal invitations to lunch on Sunday 29th March 2026 at the Southern Hotel. Let us know if you don't receive one, and make sure you RSVP to **Charmaine**.

4. **Committee Meetings** have been held monthly since we started the club. From now on they will be held bi-monthly on even months instead.



5. **Barista Coffee** now available. **Kathy Trankalis** kindly donated a coffee machine to the club. **Kimberly** has got most of the bugs sorted out in recent trials, so you can now enjoy a proper cup of coffee at the club. (No I'm not a coffee snob – quite the opposite). Check this out next visit. She even has alternate milk for those who need it.

6. **Card Payments.** With a bit of luck we should have card payment systems in place for the next show (or the one after at the latest). We have purchased two systems – one for the door and one for the kitchen. While these add convenience in modern lives, they do bite a little bit in surcharge fees – the price for modern living (at least until the government belts the banks into providing these services as essential and free).



7. **Booking Phone Numbers.** We will be buying two mobile phones for the card payment system above. These phones will also serve as our numbers to call for future bookings. That will free up the personal phones of our volunteers. Will advise the numbers as soon as we get them confirmed.



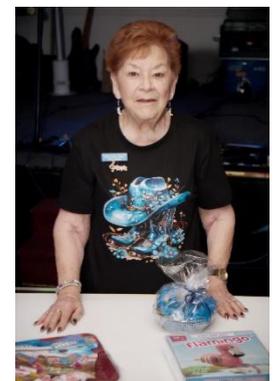
Drakes Community Dollars Programme

Download the app from here: <https://drakes.com.au/mydrakes-app/>
 Another reminder to support this program that supports us.
 Full details are in previous newsletters, or ask **Ray** how to set it up.



Drakes.

~ ~ ~ **HAPPY SNAPS** ~ ~ ~



GO FUND ME GET WELL MEL



This is **Mel Birrell**. While many may not be familiar with her, we certainly know and love her husband **Lance**.

Lance Birrell is a very popular self-employed musician/country music touring artist. He performed here at Willaston last October.

Lance needs to give up touring/playing immediately to be based in Tamworth right next to his wife **Mel** while she endures months of treatment including chemo, surgery and radiation.

In 2015, **Mel** defied the odds and won her battle against Breast Cancer. She went on to fight this insidious disease again in 2023.

Cancer free, **Lance and Mel** decided life is precious and life can be too short so they sold the family home, **Lance** gave up his day job as a high-end crane driver working up to 12-hours a day and they bought a home on wheels and headed off caravanning around Australia with **Lance** performing live all over the country.

"Your Breast Cancer has returned", would be words **Mel** should not have heard ever again but now she is in the fight of her life. Her Breast Cancer has returned and it's aggressive and so their life on the road STOPS!

Lance's ability to play all over Australia to earn a wage STOPS!

Too humble to ask for help, too proud to put their hand up for any handouts, but right now we need to wrap our arms around this beautiful family and help out financially so **Lance** can be right by **Mel's** side and support her through everything ahead of her.

Lance has performed at many fundraising events over the last decade and now it is time to return the love.

If you have internet access, and feel the urge to support this beautiful family, type **Go Fund Me Get Well Mel** into your browser and it will take you to a designated page where you can make a donation.

~ ~ ~ **THANK YOU** ~ ~ ~



Thank you to all those wonderful people who have supported me with the tasks I have done for the club since I joined. Your help has been immeasurable. I really hope someone steps up quickly to take on the Newsletter Editor role and I will support a transition as much as I can.

That's all from me for a while. Looking forward to coming back later in the year.
Sandy.



FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/WillastonCMC

WEBSITE: www.willastoncountry.com.au

Newsletter Editor: **Position vacant** news@willastoncountry.com.au Ph ??

Deadline: Tuesday before the show.