

Willaston Country Music Club Inc

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"Donnybrook Dancing"

JUNE 2026 NEWSLETTER

The first thing we did when we entered the footyclub grounds was to look for the red van that was usually parked on the south/west side of the carpark. Of course, it was not there, as Barossa Bob was farewelled on Friday the 1st of May by a large crowd of mourners. The country music clubs were well represented, as were the individuals who came to pay their respects. You will remain in our thoughts Bob, as you were a staunch supporter of all country music, attending most of the monthly shows, as well as the music festivals and other performances around the region. Heather and Elaine raised their glasses to Bob during the show as a tribute to this giant of a man. Rest in peace Bob Meissner.

Pat Hentschke will be remembered as a loyal and regular attendee at Willaston. She sat at Cath's table with her friends and son, who sadly passed before her. Her daughter, Ros Edmunds, remains a constant light at the club, moonlighting as Mother Christmas and Easter Bunny, filling in on the desk, and helping out wherever possible. Pat's service is scheduled for Friday 8th May in Kapunda, which unfortunately I am unable to attend, but I am sure will be well attended.

Our condolences to Ros and Chris on their loss.

Natalie Pearce was farewelled at a ceremony on Friday 15th May. A large crowd attended her farewell and paid their respects to a Life Member of Barossa Country Music Club, a past president of this club, and a regular attendee at Willaston, and of course Barossa. She struggled with her mobility in the latter stages of her life, but never lost her sense of humour and interest in Country music. Natalie was remembered as a generous, loving, creative, animal-loving, budding cricketer, and Crows supporter. She loved her family and three generations showed their love for their mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

She was a dancer most of her life, loved dancing, and loved country music.

Rest in peace Natalie.

Our show on the 3rd May saw Working Overtime performing their hearts out. Superb guitar work by Stewart Ray, Tammie Ray, and Narelle Jones (Thomas) and drumming by Rocky Datson. Catchy vocals by all four performers, with the crowd joining in with the songs that they knew, especially the finale of "Sweet Caroline".

June sure knows her performers and always manages to book the best!

The crowd was depleted by colds and flu, but the 100 plus attendees enjoyed a magnificent day

Christine Clifford was the guest artist and she excelled herself, both as a solo act and singing with the band. She has won many awards recently and will perform at a concert on Saturday 9th May at the Parafield Gardens Recreation Centre.



Lunches were again a great success with wraps, sandwiches, and hot meals prepared by our chefs, Sue and Leon, flying out the door. Sue and Leon are supported by a large group of volunteers, who prepare the sandwiches and wraps, salads, crumbs and gravy prior to serving time, and work tirelessly plating and serving the meals. Sue cooked her amazing desserts again, doubling the apple crumble serves to cater for the masses of people clamouring for this delectable dessert. Don't forget the bread and butter pudding, the pavlova and the custard and ice cream served up in massive quantities on the day.

Kyle, our lights man, was sick but the light show was still on.

Let's not forget Earlston, who puts up flyers in the most unlikely places, takes flyers to the other shows, puts out the signs in Willaston and Gawler on the day of our show (if he does not have a helper), takes bookings and then organises the parking for attendees at our show, particularly those who need a park close to the entrance due to their limited mobility. He enjoys being outside, smoking and talking to everyone but spent a lot of time inside at this show, only getting up to dance twice, eating his sandwich quietly sitting next to Kathy, and talking to a range of people, including Keith Hampel, who finally found someone to dance with!

Our tireless leader, Ray, had offered to show people how to put the Drakes app on their phone, but I don't know how many people availed themselves of his offer. Please do this, as Drakes pay 2% of your bill to the club. It all adds up, and the more people who use this app, the more money the club will earn.

Ray was seen enjoying a dance at the back with Fay, and they both showed off their dancing skills, despite Fay's injuries in a recent fall. Go Girl!

Jan and Rowena again folded the raffle tickets, sold by June and her helper. Thanks to these two for their tireless efforts each month as they sit quietly at their table unnoticed by the general public.

Elaine did a sterling job taking bookings and organising table sittings, before sitting at the desk for the entire day. She soldiered on, despite her own health issues, and family worries. She has agreed to use laminated place tags, which will take us a month or two to organise. We ask that you take notice of these name tags and only sit where you are allocated to make the seating planning go smoothly.

Heather helped stick the name tags on the tables prior to the show, and maintained a presence during the show as the Membership Officer, and also helping Ray with the draws towards the end of the show.

The winners were:

Membership Draw - Joy Dolls – Cheeky Chicken Shop

Birthday Draw Leon Kouflidis – Coffee and Co

Door Prize – Pauline Brecht – Café Sia

Cherie filled in for Errol who was sick on the day. When not at the desk, Cherie was everywhere, filling in where she could. She is an invaluable member of the committee. Her husband, Andrew, helped out

again, jumping in to wipe the tables down after the show finished. He earned his stubby holder given to him by Elaine.



Les again sold 2 sets of bats, with 2 guest wheel spinners making their presence felt, particularly when the numbers were read out back to front. Did anyone notice?

Vicki Ross and Kelvin Wong were again big winners in the bats and raffle draws, but they deserve to win as they spend lots of money at the show and are both extremely lucky and generous. Teresita, who sits next to Vicki, is a Naturopath, and has curing products for sale.

Our thoughts were with Brian Spargo (Murray Bridge Country Music Club) who was involved in a car accident during the week prior to our show.

Our thoughts are particularly with him during his recovery and we look forward to seeing him soon.

Yes, he was at Playford Country Music show, complete with his new Madza.

Speaking of Playford, they are still looking for replacements for Keith, Helen, and the catering team.

The deadline in their AGM in August, so give a thought to stepping up.

How about Earlston and Kathy winning the Monte Carlo at Playford! Earlston looked distinguished, as was fitting for the day after his birthday (75 years young) and Kathy looked stunning in her long dress which swirled around her as Earlston swung her around the dance floor.

Please join us at our next show on **Sunday the 31st May**, featuring The Hoffmans, Joe Musico, and The Boys. This show replaces the June show which clashes with the Barmera/Cobdogla festival held from the 3rd June to the 8th June. I know a lot of people plan to go to the Riverland for this festival and we hope it's successful. Friday the 5th is Daryl Eckert Memorial day, so those who missed his memorial service will have a chance to pay their respects at this very important event. Last year it was extremely cold at this time of year, so take your woollies.

I went to the British Working Man's Club on Wednesday last to hear Gary Burrows and his new band. Gary sang and sang and sang and played the drums like the pro he is. He was ably supported by a vocalist and 3 guitarists, one of whom sat down most of the show. There were even dancers in the cages alongside the stage, with Tanya featuring in the left-hand cage and on stage to support the vocalist. Lots of rock and rollers on the dance floor showing off their moves.

The food was tasty and hot and reasonably priced, and water was free from the bar.

Thanks to Sandra and Len Lloyd for taking me there.

Kathy Trankalis

Editor Newsletter WCMC

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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.

~ ~ ~ **RAY'S CORNER** ~ ~ ~

1. **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.

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



4. **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.

5. **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). Has been a tedious, frustrating journey so far battling beauracracy and stubborn procedures within banks, crdit card vendors , ASIC and ATO. You'll know I've won if I keep my hair.





6. **Booking Phone Numbers.** We now have 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 fully configured.



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.



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Deadline: Tuesday before the show.