



The Newsletter that reaches across Australia

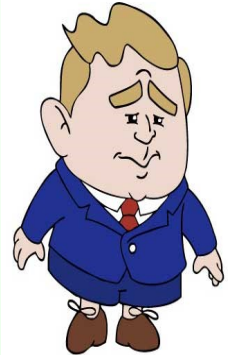
March/April 2014

Website: www.countrynetwork.com.au

Secretary: PO Box 105, PAKENHAM VIC 3810

Country Network

President's Message



Praises to Bob for his great article in our last newsletter, "CN salutes our very own honour roll". The quality and diversity of our membership will always be our greatest asset.

With another haul (what is the collective noun for a group of new CN members) of new members, CN is starting to bulge at the seams. With a 20% increase since the start of the year, we are already having to do a re-think about how we do things; both nationally and locally. How do we cater for all members who want to participate yet maintain our high level of intimate camaraderie that is part of the cause for our current surge in membership?

As we near the 300 membership mark, we must remember that Country Network has been here before, and so we must learn from the lessons of the past. Our first priority must always be to serve the wants and needs of the entire existing membership. To do so, we must acknowledge that as a simple social network organisation, we are sure to encounter a few "growing pains" along the way. Despite the many great ideas already flowing in (to add to those already on our "wish list"), we simply won't be able to do everything, and being "volunteer run", some things will take a little time. So we ask for a little patience, understanding and that we all keep the strength of unity and friendship strong as we loosen our belt a little to handle our bigger bulge.

Thanks to the many volunteers who assist with the running of Country Network. We couldn't have managed this growth spurt without you. But there's always room for more hands at the wheel - in fact, we still need a couple more volunteers so if you're interested, please contact me and we can discuss how you can assist.

A little love and affection in everything you do will make the world a better place, with or without you.

Neil

Vale - David Fopp



It is with much sadness that Country Network loses another quality member of our CN family. In the early hours of March 8th, David departed in typical David fashion; on his own terms.

David was more than just a dear friend to many, he was also an inspiration. His intellect and wit, combined with an amazing life filled with adventure, meant it was an honour to be in his audience whenever an opportunity arose. Although many of us will miss the opportunity for more, we are forever thankful, and better people, that he was part of our lives.

We will also miss his very amusing and interesting "Travel with Your Aunt" column which he produced for many Newsletters.



Those of you who access our website regularly will surely notice our relatively new Message Board. It has already generated stimulating discussions on a wide range of topics. One recent discussion forum is on mainstream films with a gay theme. These are much less frequent than gay porn and are not easy to find. I contributed to the discussion on the message board and expand further on that here. Those who have not yet seen this topic on the Board should find it rewarding. The quality and frequency of such films acts as some sort of barometer of our acceptance in society.

One of the earliest of such films (1987) is **Maurice**, based on a novel by the British author E M Forster. He published the novel posthumously before the First World War. It tells the story of two students who fall in love at Cambridge. Clive is a member of the nobility and Maurice is from a middle class family. Clive buckles under the pressure and gets married, often inviting Maurice to his house. The pain for Maurice is lessened when the gardener on the estate comes onto him. It's a big challenge for them to handle their class differences. In fact, the film is as much about the British class structure at the time as about the dangers of practising homosexuality.

The next film which I'd like to mention is **A Love to Hide**. This is a French film (2005) presented in English and set in occupied France during the 2nd World War. The film features two gay lovers Jean and Philippe. Philippe is a member of the Resistance and Jean's brother Jacques is jealous that his brother is to inherit their father's bakery. The film starts with Sara, a Jewish friend of Jean from before the occupation, walking in a daze through the dark streets of Paris seeking sanctuary with Jean. The rest of her family has just been rounded up by the Nazis. It turns out that Sara is in love with Jean. Thus we have two homosexuals harbouring a Jewish escapee, with a jealous brother lurking in the background. In addition, there is Philippe's highly dangerous work for the Resistance. The film continues with some harrowing scenes interspersed with acts of great courage and compassion. When seeing the DVD for the first time at the house of a friend of Cliff M in Perth, there was no way that I could avoid tears. Be prepared!

Finally, we have the film **Latter Days** (2003). As it is well described on our Message Board, this summary is brief. Christian, a young gay man in LA, mainly committed to one-night stands, meets a young Mormon missionary Aaron. Christian is attracted to Aaron, but the latter sees him as superficial. Aaron, rather than merely handing out pamphlets, comforts a woman who has just come out of a hospital where she had to let life support be turned off on her partner. Soon Christian starts making a move on Aaron whose latent homosexuality starts to emerge. They are discovered and Aaron is sent home in disgrace and placed into a facility to 'cure' him. We have Aaron's rejection by his parents and Christian's despair at the disappearance of his lover. However, it all ends happily.

John R (Mallacoota)



Future Social Events Around Australia

- VIC **Sunday, 23rd March**— Autumn Leaves Luncheon Spectacular—Neil & Mal—12 noon.
- WA **Sunday, 23rd March**—Karrinyup Organ Concert, 2.00 pm (see notice page 5)
- WA **Friday, 28th-Monday, 31st March**—Myalup Pines weekend (see notice page 5)
- WA **Sunday, 20th April**—Easter Bonnet Party at Gary & Graham's—4.30 pm (see notice page 6)
- VIC **2014 Corroboree, Queenscliff—24th-28th April**
- WA **Saturday, 17th May**—Princess Theatre—Red Carpet Event—4.30 pm (see notice page 6)
- WA **Sunday, 25th May**—Champagne Afternoon Tea at Carl & Gary's—3.00 pm (see notice page 6)

In addition to the highlighted events above, there are also regular national social gatherings which can be viewed in the CN "Social Events" on the website., e.g.

- NSW **Bike Ride** each Tuesday at 8.30 am—Coffs Harbour Jetty. (see notice page 10 in this newsletter)
 - NSW **Lawn Bowls** each Wednesday— Coffs Harbour (see notice page 10 in this newsletter)
 - NSW **Dinner** each Wednesday—Coffs Harbour (see notice page 10)
 - VIC **Geelong**—Dinner 1st Monday of every month (contact Bruce)
 - VIC **Village Green Pub Lunch**—Last Tuesday of every month.
 - VIC **Latrobe, West Gippsland**—First Thursday of every month.
 - WA **Perth Coffee Morning**—First Sunday of every month (Page 5)
- (Please contact Roger, Events Co-ordinator, if you wish to advertise or inquire about any events on the website by e-mailing: events@countrynetwork.com.au—or phone 0400 308 687. For advertising events in the Newsletter, please contact me—Cliff on 0422 799 729 or cliff11@iinet.net.au and copy in Roger)*

Contributors to Newsletter

David T.	Neil W.	John R.	Ric S.
John L.	Michael S.	Carl McK	Grant S.
David F.	Herb C.	Frank J.	David B.

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The Book Thief



This is based on the book of the same name by Markus Zusak, who lives in Sydney. It stars Geoffrey Rush and Emily Watson.

It tells the story of Liesel, a young girl who lives with a foster family in Germany in World War 2. She learns to read with the help of her foster parents and a Jewish refugee whom they are hiding in their home. For

Liesel, the power of books becomes very important in her development and in helping her to understand and to cope with the awful events happening around her.

This is a moving story set amongst middle-class German citizens in a small town. Sophie Nelisse is excellent in the role of Liesel and Rush and Watson are their usual brilliant selves.

I recommend the film although it might have benefited by being a little shorter.

Short Term 12

This is set in a foster-home for at-risk teenagers. Grace, in her 20s, is a very concerned caretaker for those in her charge—she herself has had a difficult past with which, when the movie starts, she has not yet fully come to terms. She is also in a relationship with Mason, a co-worker.

Jayden, a gifted and troubled teenager, arrives at the facility and Grace feels a special bond with her. From a difficult beginning for them both, this relationship proves to be a turning-point for Jayden and Grace. This is not a film that would have wide appeal but it has won awards at several film festivals.

Jack Ryan—Shadow Recruit

It is based on a character created by the author, Tom Clancy, who died several months ago. The movie introduces us to Jack Ryan as a young man—the older Ryan (based on books by Clancy) has already been screened—notably in “The Hunt for Red October”. Ryan uncovers a plot by a high-ranking Russian who has bought up big in US Bonds with which he will flood the market after an attack, which he engineers on U.S. soil—thus destroying the US economy.

The action sequences are excellent and gripping, but the plot is very predictable. The film stars Kevin Cost-

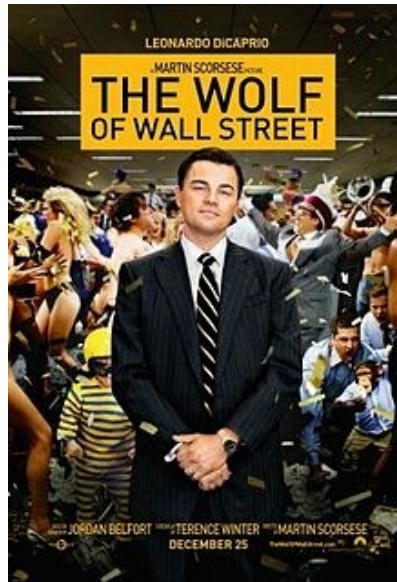
ner (as Ryan’s CIA controller) and Kenneth Branagh who also directs. There is nothing outstanding about it. I have to say, though, that I wasn’t bored.

12 Years a Slave

Based on a true story, Solomon Northrup, a negro, was born a freeman, living in New York. He is kidnapped and sold into slavery in 1841. Solomon suffered years of servitude but never lost his will to stay alive and to retain his dignity. In the tenth year of his slavery he finally regains his freedom due to a meeting with a Canadian abolitionist. The movie is very upfront with the depiction of the indifference of the slave owners to those in their ownership and the brutal cruelty which they inflicted on their slaves. It is a sombre and moving story—the film is slow-moving but it held my attention all the time.

This movie has received acclaim at film festivals, winning 3 Oscars, the Golden Globe Award and the BAFTA (British Academy of Film and Television Arts).

The Wolf of Wall Street



A true story based on the book of the same name by Jordan Belfort and is a tale of excesses.

In the 1990s, Belfort was infamous in American financial circles. He amassed millions in illegal transactions and spent millions on a lavish lifestyle and wild hedonistic parties. The story details his rise and fall. The movie is very confronting

with scenes of sexual and depraved behaviour. At one stage Cocaine is snorted from a prostitute’s intimate area and in another, a lighted candle is inserted into Leonardo DiCaprio’s (who is excellent as Belfort) bottom. It is hilarious in places.

I enjoyed the movie.

(Footnote: The film has set a record for profanity in a major Hollywood production with over 500 uses of the ‘F’ word!!)

Inside Llewyn Davis

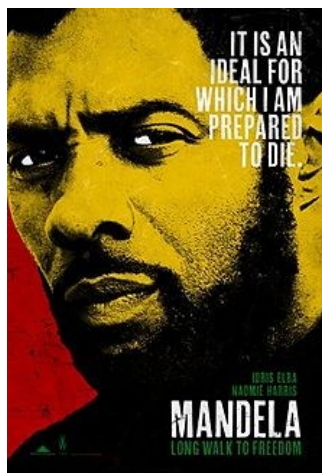
This follows a week in the life of a young guitar-playing folk singer in Greenwich Village (New York) in 1961. Llewyn Davis goes from venue to venue in a struggle to make good—sometimes accompanied by a cat which he has managed to pick up on his travels.

(Continued from Page 3)...

He faces difficult obstacles on occasions in his quest for work—most of them of his own making. The movie is directed by Ethan and Joel Coen (Directors of “Fargo”, some years ago, which for me remains one of the most delicious comedies of all times) and features pleasant folk music.

I enjoyed the film but I found it difficult to have any great sympathy for the folk singer.

Mandela—A Long Walk to Freedom



This is based on Nelson Mandela’s autobiography. I read the book many years ago, and, from what I recall, the facts as shown in the movie are accurate. Most people will be well aware of Mandela’s life story so I won’t go into detail on this score. I will just mention two aspects:

- (a) his devotion to the cause came at a great cost to his family which was sadly neglected by him.
- (b) His wife, Winnie, also suffered terribly during her husband’s long incarceration. On his release, she longed for revenge which put her at odds with Mandela’s reconciliation approach.

The role of Mandela is played by Idris Elba, of whom I had not heard, but I thought he was good in the role.

Last Vegas

This is centred on four friends all around their 70s, who have known each other since childhood. One of them—a self-proclaimed bachelor, Billy, has proposed to his 30 something girlfriend and “The Gang” decamp to Las Vegas for Billy’s wedding and a stag celebration beforehand. While a lot of the action and gags (references to the prostate and Viagra etc.) are predictable, I found the movie great fun and enjoyed it immensely—it has great style. The four friends are played by Michael Douglas (Billy), Robert De Niro, Morgan Freeman and Kevin Kline.

(Footnote: The movie’s title is as above—I’m not having a senior moment).

Blue is the Warmest Colour

A love story which takes place over a period of about 10 years. Adele is a 16 year old high school pupil who seems bored when her school friends prattle away about boys and sex. A brief relationship with a classmate, Thomas, leaves her cold and one evening she wanders into a gay bar and meets Emma who is 5 years older and

who is studying for an Arts Degree.

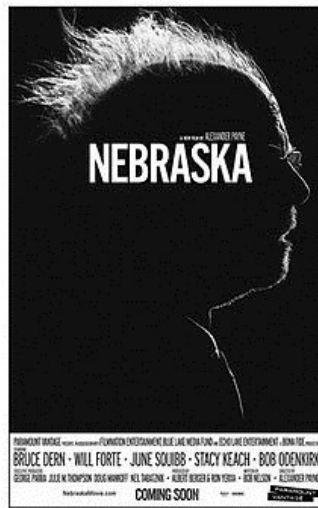
Adele’s and Emma’s friendship develops into a passionate affair—the first kiss initiated by Adele and both girls fall deeply in love. The movie deals with how the relationship proceeds. The sex is very frank and prolonged. One scene runs for about 10 minutes. I was moved by the story. The film runs for about 3 hours and the acting was remarkable. For me it was one of the best films so far in 2014.

Dallas Buyers Club

A true story about Ron Woodroof, a rodeo cowboy, a bigoted hard-living man with a very high (straight) sex drive. In 1985 he is diagnosed with HIV—in its early days—and having been told that there were no approved medications in the US, he researches and finds other alternatives which he smuggles or imports from Mexico and further afield and sells them to other HIV and Aids sufferers. What follows is the opposition from medical and police circles and how Woodroof deals with it.

I found the film absorbing and Matthew McConaughey (generally seen as a “hunk” in romantic comedies) is excellent. The movie has been nominated for several Oscars including best film, best actor and best supporting actor.

Nebraska



Shot in black and white, is set mainly in bleak countryside in Montana, Wyoming and, of course, Nebraska. One scene is shot at the famous Mt. Rushmore in South Dakota. The story centres around an old man, Woody Grant, who, from a letter that he has received in junk mail, believes he has won \$1,000,000. He refuses to accept advice from his wife and two sons that this is not so.

Woody wants to go to Lincoln in Nebraska to collect his winnings. Eventually, one of his sons agrees to drive him there and what follows is an account of their travels involving, on the way, hilarious encounters with old friends and other family members. I enjoyed the movie very much—a moving story, plenty of humour and good acting.

Some Thoughts: (a) “In old age, the body continues to degenerate, but the spirit should become luminous” - Sr. Theresa Lee, a Malaysian Nun.

(b) “There are no impossible dreams, just our limited perception of what is possible—Beth Mende Conny

What's happening in WA

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GREETINGS TO:



March:

11 Bevan W.
27 John B
28 Max R.
28 Lance W.
30 Gary H.
31 John R.

April:

2 Michael O.
5 Frank H.
16 Colin T.
18 Ric S.
19 Viv L.
28 David H.

May:

7 Phil M.

Sunday 23rd March—
Karrinyup Organ Concert—2.00 pm—
Karrinyup Community Centre,
41 Pawlett Way, Karrinyup Shopping Centre.

Organist John Pound at the Wurlitzer Organ—
followed by coffee at Café 34. For more infor-
mation contact Carl on (Mob.) 0409 375 359 or
e-mail: resolute3@bigpond.com



Myalup Pines Weekend Camp—Friday 28th March – Monday 31st March



Forestry Road, Myalup—arrive after 2.00 pm. Ric will arrive a bit later as he is travelling from Esperance. **No linen supplied** so bring sheets, blanket, towel, pillow and pillow slip. If the weather is nice; the beach is fairly close—so bring your swimmers etc.

Ric said that your meals will be supplied by the bush cooks—
not flash but tasty!

\$25 per night, per person, plus food costs. Any queries ring

Ric on 08 9071 2338.

COFFEE MORNINGS IN PERTH CITY— SUNDAYS 6TH APRIL & 4TH MAY

The gathering around the coffee pot will be as usual—the first Sunday of the month at Bocelli's Espresso, Forrest Place (at the base of the escalator) in the Murray Street Mall. Meet at 10.30 am.

[call Carl on 0409 375 359 if you have any queries!]. (sorry I will be away and miss both—Cliff)

(We have a very friendly group so come for the pre-winter warm-up) →

(Photo courtesy Men of Max Gallery)



Easter Bonnet Party - WA



**Sunday
20th
April**

Fabulous Dinner with Tea & Coffee provided

Starts 4.30 pm—
Dinner served at 6.00 pm

Cost only \$15 per person—BYO drinks. Pool available (bathers optional). BYO Towel and Easter Bonnet competition—wonderful prizes at Gary & Graham's house, Madeley

For address and bookings—contact Carl on 0409 375 359 or (08) 9300 6014

Red Carpet Event—“Princess Theatre” - Saturday, 17th May—WA

Programme:

4.30—4.45 pm	Arrival
5.00 pm	Cartoons
5.15 pm	“Mame” (Part I)
6.30 pm	INTERMISSION with finger food and Beverages
7.15 pm	“Mame” (Part II)

Cost: \$7.00 per person for movie. Please bring a plate of finger food for supper & your own drinks. (Fruit juice, tea and coffee provided.)

Dress: Black tie or pearls or both. Tiaras and feather boas optional. Great prizes for most elegant outfit. Bribes accepted. (Address: 1 Munday Way, Medina)

The mini cinema is at a private home and can seat 30 people so you must book. (Bookings: Carl 0409 375 359 or 9300 6014 or e-mail: resolute3@bigpond.com)

Champagne Afternoon Tea, WA



**Sunday,
25th May**

**3.00 pm at
Carl & Gary's home,
Ocean Reef**

(Contact Carl on 0409 375 359 for more details.)

COMEDY CORNER:



Practice safe text, use commas

... and never miss a period.

LAST CHANCE TO JOIN OUR BALI HOLIDAY GROUP

MONDAY 16TH JUNE TO 30TH JUNE 2014

Booking date has been extended to 17th April. We have filled one villa but still have 2 rooms available in the 2nd villa

See the social events listing on CN website for further details. ...or contact Carl McKenzie on (08) 9300 6014 – Mob: 0409 375 359.

E-mail: resolute3@bigpond.com

Don't miss this great offer! Affordable with fantastic CN company

Tassie High Tea

On Sunday 15th Feb. at Grant Stebbings' Glebe home we gathered for a Victorian-style afternoon tea. Champagne was served on arrival and then we tucked in to the spread. Eat your heart out Jamie Oliver as you missed out since you didn't reply to your invitation. The guys brought sweet treats and savouries, hummingbird, fruit and carrot cakes, cucumber sandwiches, biscuits, fairy cakes, scones, etc. Recipes were swapped and we were amused seeing "Victorian condoms" perched on crystal decanters amongst the artifacts and silver.

We were plied with cups of tea and coffee and left after a few hours stuffed with lots of carbs. and sugars. Next day we could return to our diets.



Discussions occurred about a new contact/coordinator to fill Dave Arnold's large shoes. Tony Furmage has offered and as he is involved in many gay groups he will be excellent in the role. Thanks Tony.

Next social event is to be a day trip and picnic meal to the Huon area on a Saturday in March/April. Date to be decided and Stan, Grant and Glenn will organize.

Grant S.

Travels with your Aunt

(By David Fopp. Canberra)

(Editor's Note: In a special tribute to David who recently passed away, I will be including a few more articles, which he had written).

...NOT EVEN MEXICO—BUT SOUTHERN AFRICA...

On the first afternoon of a 2-day drive from Harare to Johannesburg we turned off the main road and travelled east for about an hour. We were now looking at the ruins of a large town which had been called Zimbabwe. That is how the country got its name. It was in its prime in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries when Arab traders

came up from the coast. The main "goods" traded were gold and slaves.

The buildings were situated in a wide, shallow valley in dry savannah countryside, much like the Yucatan. To our right was a large circular building which had been the palace. But here the main difference with Yucatan was evident. No carvings. But interesting designs had been made by the way the great slabs of stone, making the walls, had been laid—vertically, horizontally and sloping. On the rise about 600-700 metres across the valley was another big



solid building. It was the fort. In between were the views of the aristocracies' housing.

It was a very interesting and informative afternoon. I had never heard of a large township existing in southern Africa back then.

--o0o--

MARCH/APRIL NEWSLETTER INPUT

Please note the next Newsletter is due to be issued on 8th May so would appreciate your input to me by 1st May.

Subsequent Newsletters will be issued approximately every 6 weeks as has been happening over the last 12 months. To make it more uniform the CUT-OFF dates for **2014** will be:

<u>INPUT BY</u>	<u>NEWSLETTER ISSUED</u>
15th March	22nd March
1st May	8th May
15th June	22nd June
1st August	8th August
15th September	22nd September
1st November	8th November
15th December	22nd December

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS



We hope you will enjoy meeting some of our members. Please pick up the phone and contact another member from our Membership List: either in your area or anywhere in Australia.

For those who are already members, check the list and see who has joined so you can contact them to make them feel

WELCOME!

Geoff D.	-	QLD	Rob	-	VIC
Terry C.	-	QLD	Mark D.	-	VIC
Des H.	-	QLD	Phil A.	-	VIC
Peter D.	-	QLD	Alan J.	-	VIC
Tony H.	-	QLD	Alan B.	-	SA
Philip R.	-	QLD	Brian	-	WA
Ron D.	-	QLD	Bevan W.	-	WA
Henk H.	-	VIC	Ron W.	-	NSW
Ben	-	VIC	Adrian R.	-	NSW

The Big 300

To celebrate our soon to be passing of the 300 members mark, CN would like to have a little fanfare by awarding our 300th member with an additional year of membership (valid to 2016) and, if the applicant has nominated an existing member as being known to them, that existing member will also have their membership extended an additional year.

It is just a small token of acknowledgement to mark an occasion that has been achieved due to the dedication of so many members over so many years. Like all organisations, we've had our ups and downs and although we will always prefer quality over quantity, we think 300 is a significant number to give all of us a pat on the back for a job well done.

300

300

Letters to the Editor:



The new member's list published with the February newsletter does not include any birthdays. Why not? It seems to me this is fairly basic information and is interesting to most other members.

I know that I have often contacted other members in the past either because they were born around my date (8th July) or because their own anniversary was approaching and this is a nice time to greet them.

Perhaps someone felt we should not encourage age discrimination. Personally, I don't mind anyone knowing that I was born in 1936, but (if this is really a consideration) I think we should still include the day and month in all listings.

Thank you for another great read, and a feast for the eyes on Page 7 (February edition).
Herb C., QLD.

Area Co-ord's Report—South Aussie

WELCOME

To Alan B. of Paruna, who has recently joined Country Network. Great to have you aboard. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

AFL FOOTY

Returns to the new Adelaide Oval! Could this be the year of the "Crows" or "Power" ?

VISITED THE STATE OF EXCITEMENT



Perth
City

Had the privilege of visiting Perth for a week stopping with a friend and the both of us boarding the Queen Mary 2 at Fremantle and sailing back home. A rewarding experience of sailing on the greatest liner ever built; sharing with over 1000 South Aussies doing the same thing. *Friends of Dorothy*, met every night in the Commodores Bar, even met an ex-

CN member there.

IRISH JOKE

Paddy was waiting at the bus stop with his mate when a lorry went by loaded up with rolls of turf. Paddy said, "I'm gonna do dat when I win the lottery". "What's dat", says his mate. "Send me lawn away to be cut", says Paddy

THANK YOU

Nice meeting up with seven WA guys (most were CN members) at their coffee morning on the 2nd March. Special thanks to Trevor A. for being my

escort on the Red and Blue Cat Buses and seeing all the city sights of your most wonderful city.

FROM the ARCHIVES

CN Magazine July 1997.....Volume 20/6 Cucumbers are better because you can fondle a cucumber in the supermarket - and you know how firm it is before you take it home.

ROYAL ADELAIDE HOSPITAL

Graham S. Bunbury had the displeasure of attending our health services for a week instead of returning home on the cruise ship "Radiance of the Seas ". When he was evicted from hospital he sort

refuge at a nursing home at Mannum run by Nurse Nancy! He was in his true glory though, when he was able to visit the local cinema at Murray Bridge and do a cruise on the paddle steamer "Marion" that reminded him of a fantastic previous house boat cruise experience in SA. Many thanks to Brian P. for



Queen Mary 2

his excellent hospitality. I heard that he had trouble at keep it up!..his leg, had to be off the ground...where a stool came in handy.

A MESSAGE FROM THE QUEEN MARY 2 TO GRAHAM S.

Get better soon Sturky from John and Bill (friends of Ralph).

INSIGHT

Talk is cheap until you call a lawyer!

Hoping to see all my old and many new friends at the Foreshore Frolic! Cheers,
David T.



Prime Timers WA

WA Country Network members occasionally combine with Prime Timers WA to enjoy a social get together. I have listed the PT's functions below and any CN members (WA or visiting WA) are most welcome to attend:

- 24.3.14—Taping TV programme "Sweet & Sour" Ch.44—attending the public forum—6.00 pm
- 29.3.14—Book Club discussing "Kakatoa" - 2.00 pm—at Finch's house.
- 13.4.14—General monthly meeting. Lotteryswest House, 2 Delhi St., West Perth.—2.00 pm. (EVERY SECOND SUNDAY OF THE MONTH)

Contact me for any information concerning the above or future functions. (Cliff Moores 0422 799 729 or Chris Hart on 0418 499 328).

FROM NSW NORTH COAST

The following events are on-going. Anybody who is passing by or who would just like to participate with some friendly guys, please roll up.

1. Each Tuesday morning at 8.30am (9.00am in winter) at the Coffs Harbour Jetty about 7 of us set off on a bike ride. (We can help you with a bike if you didn't bring one.) It's about 38kms long, not too challenging, with the very attractive added bonus of, just after half way, a regular coffee stop. There are around 7 other (non-riding) guys who await our arrival at the coffee stop, which lasts about an hour. If you don't ride, then at least you can

meet us at the coffee stop. A great catch-up. The bike ride is usually over (back where we started) by noon.

2. Each Wednesday there are two regular events:

(a) Lawn bowls in the morning (not too early a start). Usually between 6 and 10 people participate. This is in Coffs Harbour.

(b) Dinner at the Coffs Harbour Hotel. There's from 8 to 16 guys assemble regularly there, normally arriving about 6.00 for a drink before going into our dining room at 7.00pm for a hotel meal (from \$8.95 upwards) of reasonable standard. By 8.30pm it's usually all over, unless there's a related event being held at the hotel.

For further information about

these events please contact me (David Breden) on mob: 0418 170 311 or David Peplow on (02) 6651 6394.

We'd be happy to see you. And, if required, host you.
Cheers David B.

We have all sorts of people joining us on this ride but not sure which one he was on?



The State of Handsome Men—Tells All

The men in THE STATE OF HANDSOME MEN are excited. Not long to go till the Queenscliff ~~Foreskin~~ Foreshore Frolic. We will welcome all our interstate guests with open arms and maybe more. We in Victoria are eating a lot. The Geelong monthly Monday dinners have been so successful that the Geelong boy (thank you Peter C.) have started a monthly Sunday lunch as well. The Gippsland Monthly dinner doubled their number last month while the Melbourne monthly lunch at the Village Green Hotel continues to be well supported. Most of us are getting a little fatter unless we rush home

after dinners to do an exercise routine, which can be enjoyable. Next week Neil and Mal will be hosting their annual Autumn Lunch, an event not to be missed. Last month Phillip T. hosted a nude weekend at his rural property, which was attended by about 25 men. I have been told that the weekend was enjoyable, even though the nights were a bit cool so some actually unnuded (a new word) themselves. This coming Tuesday several of us are going to the theatre to see, "Sex with Men 2". Does that mean 'one man having sex with 2 others at the same time?' Well, we will

find out.



Birthday greetings in March and April to Ross B, Andrew W, Bob in Beac, Ross S, Dean S, Andrew A, Chris H, Matthew M, Lindsay B, and our esteemed Secretary, Michael B.

Frank J.



AREA CO-ORDINATORS REPORT—W.A.

Another busy month gone by Gary and I have just returned from a 10 day trip to Borneo staying at the Magellan Sutera, Kota Kinabalu

It was a quiet holiday but we enjoyed our time away at a lovely resort. Now back to reality of house cleaning gardening and preparing meals.

The Valentines Pizza evening was a very pleasant evening with 12 members and guests turning up . Weather wise it was a perfect evening.

Another pleasant event was our train trip to Mandurah with a good crowd turning up for a fish & chips lunch and then to Lance’s unit for afternoon tea.

On Sunday the 19th April our Easter Bonnet Party and Dinner is being held for further details and bookings see page 6 in this Newsletter.

Make a note on your calendar for the 17th of May to attend our Movie night being held at the “PRINCESS THEATRE MEDINA” (see page 6).

If you are interested in attending the Karrinyup Organ Concert on Sunday the 23rd of March please give me a call. The concert commences at 2.00pm and tickets cost \$14.50 . After the concert we will meet at “Café 34” for coffee. (see page 5.)

Looking forward to catching up with other WA members at the Myalup Pines Weekend Camp, as far as I know there are still a couple of beds left, if you wish to attend please call Ric Shell in Esperance, now! (see page 5.)

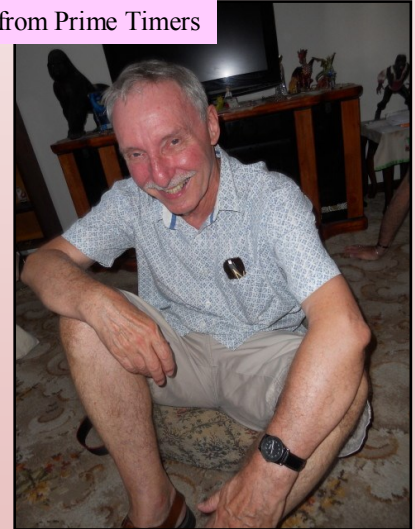


Mandurah Rail Trip



Lance’s A’noon Tea

Finch from Prime Timers



Lance explaining his figurine to Jai. In the background is one of Lance’s mannequins. He is an avid collector of these silent people.



Carl & Cliff solving world problems



Romantic Network

Peter and I met through Country Network. I remember it well. It was at the 1993 mid-year get together in Dubbo; the first CN function for both of us. We met and greeted in the alleyway between the dining room and the back meeting room at the Castlereagh Hotel. (It's a place we still go for lunch from time to time.) It was a lengthy and lively conversation that began a friendship that lasted into a period when both of us were no longer members.

Then in 2002, we both found ourselves unattached and by the end of the year, decided we were ready to take the plunge. We count our anniversaries from Boxing Day 2002.



Then in November 2009, Pete B. and Graham S. visited to ask us to consider rejoining CN, which we did. I will always be grateful for that visit and for the good friends we have made through their efforts.

While our eleven years is only a pup compared to the 30 and 50 years of some of our CN friends, we are the only couple I know of who met through Country Network. There must be others out there. I would love to hear your stories.

John Lynch.

(Editor's note—Thanks John and Peter for sharing with us. I'm sure there could be others who became involved or benefited through Country Network. Drop me a line! - cliff11@iinet.net.au or 4A Corrigan Way, Greenwood WA 6024)

Notice Board

1. Just a reminder to check your details shown in the *Members* section of the website to ensure that the **current details** shown are correct.
2. Members hosting events, please ensure you complete the Activities Form which you can download from the "Forms and Documents" section on the website. It's headed "Activities/Functions Advice Form". This is important to cover the Network for insurance purposes. If you do not use computers, a copy can be requested through our Secretary, (Michael Beaumont on Mob: 0433 502 106) or myself Cliff Moores Mob: 0422 799 729)
3. Don't forget to visit the Message Board on our CN website. Great place to put your comments and discuss all sorts of stuff with other members.



100 MPH goat....

Two good ole Darwin boys are out hunting, and as they are walking along they came upon a huge hole in the ground. They approach it and were amazed at the size of it. The first hunter says, "Wow, that's some hole, I can't even see the bottom. I wonder how deep it is?"

The second hunter says, "I don't know. Let's throw something down there, listen and see how long it takes to hit bottom." The first hunter says, "Hey, there's an old automobile transmission over there. Give me a hand, we'll throw it in and see."

So they picked it up and carried it over and counted, one, two, three and heaved it in the hole. They are standing there listening, looking over the edge, when they hear a rustling behind them. As they turn around, they see a goat come crashing through the underbrush, run up to the hole and, without hesitation, jump in headfirst.

While they are standing there staring at each other in amazement, peering into the hole, trying to figure out what that was all about, an old farmer saunters up.

"Say there," says the farmer, "You fellers didn't happen to see my goat around here anywhere, did you?"

The first hunter says, "Funny you should ask, but we were just standing here a minute ago and a goat came running out of the bushes doing about a hundred miles an hour and jumped headfirst into this here hole!!!!

The old farmer said, "Naw, that's impossible . . . I had him chained to a transmission."

Sex Research

If sex with 3 people is called a threesome and sex with 2 people is a twosome, beware if you're having sex and someone calls you handsome!