

The Top Half Times

EDITOR: Not a 'Ten Pound Pom'

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CELEBRATING FOLK MUSIC IN THE CENTRE

WELCOME

We once again welcome you back to the premier 'Rag' in the Centre as we hit the presses with Vol. 2 of 'The Top Half Times'.

As we have been inundated with correspondence since we first hit the streets, (which I might add, sold out with in the first hour) we have had to limit the contributions we could include here. To those contributors who missed out on publication, we apologize.

39th TOP HALF FOLK FESTIVAL

Well folks, only about 6 weeks till the **BIG** weekend. As most would have heard by now, John Williamson will be our special guest. He will be playing 2 shows, one Saturday and again Sunday. If you haven't already done so, ring Shelagh or Colin at Glen Helen (8956 7489) to arrange a camp site. If you require any details about the weekend ring either Scott 0422 982 703 or Dave 0418519211.

THE PIONEER WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME

Haven't they come a long way? When you think that the first ever public meeting held in relation to setting up a museum was only held in February 1993. Not only did they do up The Old Courthouse as their initial premises, but they have done a magnificent job so far in restoring 'The Old Gaol', their new home. We would like to thank them all very much, especially Helen, for going out of their way to host us here tonight. Well done ladies.

Every one here tonight should make a point of coming back for a decent look around at all that has been done here, and a wee donation is always welcome.

A FURPHY

As you are aware, the Scots have their 'Rumour Mill', whereas we in Australia have our 'FURPHIES'. These came about because the Furphy Farm Water Cart followed our Diggers overseas during the First World War. They were pulled from post to post to water the troops. Everyone would quickly gather around to hear the latest 'gossip' from the previous posts visited. Hence forth they came to be known as 'FURPHIES'!

Furphy No 1; Who was the leader of the Last Camel Train (2002) who was seen walking out of Oodnadatta about 30 mins. after the Camel Train had actually departed, a very bewildered look on his face asking "where is my car, where are my camels"?

Furphy No 2; The band 'Bloodwood' (In the days when they had different coloured hair) were appearing 'In The Old Dart'. This "appearing" meant, along with the odd music spot, being seen in every pub they could find. Three of them any way. The fourth member of the group, felt, for the sake of 'keeping the home fires burning', he had to be seen in EVERY 'Mothercare' shop he could find!!

Furphy No 3; Is it true that a certain committee member was held in detention overnight in Hong Kong for attempting to enter the colony illegally?

Furphy No. 4; A male member of the group, *PHILIP SIDE* appearing here tonight, was originally a *public servant!* "I'm wasting my talents here" said he, "private enterprise is where I should be"! The poor boy only lasted a few months as an enterprising private before returning to, yes you guessed it, *The Public Bloody Service!!* "Not enough time for band practice when you're working for a living" says he.

COPYRIGHT

The odd comment has been passed as to the origin of a number of articles that we have printed, I would just like to point out that we hold 'copyright' to all printed material within the Top Half Times. (*Everything has been copied—Ed.*)

WHO AM I?

I am part of the entertainment tonight. I received the following letter from a group of people:

“ Dear,

You have nice eyes. You are excellent at sport. You have a beautiful voice. You look beautiful every day. You are kind to kids. We love you teaching us sports. Who am I???

MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME ABOUT;

RELIGION; “You better pray that will come out of the carpet”.

TIME TRAVEL; “If you don't shut up I'm going to knock you into next week”.

LOGIC; “Because I said so, that's why”.

OSMOSIS; “Shut your mouth and eat your supper”.

BEHAVIOUR MODIFICATION; “Stop acting like your father”.

THE CIRCLE OF LIFE; “I bought you into this world, and I can take you out.”

IRONY; “Keep laughing and I'll give you something to cry about.”

STAMINA; “You'll sit there till all that silver beet has gone.”

VICTORIAN DROUGHT

It's so dry in Victoria at the moment that if the Pommy cricket team don't tour soon, there will be no ducks this year! The Vics are only permitted to eat watermelon between 8pm and 8am. Thieves are siphoning radiators instead of fuel tanks. All the Baptists have become Anglican. Most 'bottom of the harbour' schemes are re-surfacing and the government has just introduced a water pistol buy-back scheme.

Why couldn't the inmate call his friend? He didn't have a cell phone!

CONTRIBUTION BY SCOTT BALFOUR

& BARRY SKIPSEY

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(Must have been lost in the post.....Ed.)

THE TOP HALF FOLK FESTIVAL

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The very first festival was held at The Old Telegraph Station 14th of March 1971. It incorporated a concert celebrating Alice Spring's Centenary. It is now the longest running folk festival in Australia.

The only two people who performed at the very first, and are still appearing at the 39th this year are Peter Bate from Darwin and our very own Scott Balfour (although he was living in Tennant Creek at festival time in 1971)

Over the years it has been held in the Alice, Darwin, Katherine, Mt Isa, Jabiru and Townsville. Nowadays, it alternates between the Alice and Darwin. There is talk that in future years, owing to the advancing ages of the Folkies they may all stay home and just have a 'telephone hook-up'?

TRUE STORY, FAIR DINKUM

Many many years ago (No grey hair days), members of the Folk Club were asked to perform for some of the inmates of the now old jail. (This one...Ed.) Just about every song they sang told of 'robbery', 'murder', 'sheep stealing' etc.

At one stage the M.C. asked if there were any requests? A loud voice from the rear of the yard yelled, “*Please Release Me* by Englebert Humperdink!!

ALICE SPRINGS TOWN COUNCIL

Our Town Mayor was offered a spot tonight to perform a duet with the Town Crier. Unfortunately we didn't receive a reply?

QUOTATIONS

“Two Wongs don’t make a white” *Arthur Caldwell* on Asian immigration, 2 December 1947.

“The trouble is, Queensland gets branded as being part of Australia”. *Joh Bjelke-Petersen*, quoted in the *Age*, 5th December 1981.

Seen on a baby’s bib: *SPIT HAPPENS*

“I’ll think about it” *David Evans*.

AUSTRALIAN ETIQUETTE

DINING OUT;

1. When decanting wine from the box, tilt the paper cup and pour slowly so as not to bruise the wine.
2. If drinking directly from the bottle, hold only with one hand.

SOMETHING FOR THE LADIES

Behind every successful man is a very surprised women.

Ladies should never criticise their husbands faults as it is those slight imperfections that prevented them getting better wives.

If it has tyres or testicles, you’re going to have trouble with it.

SPONSORS-SUPPORTERS

We’ve found on the whole that most sponsors are pretty tight when it comes to parting with the readies. If they were any good, we wouldn’t be here tonight trying to rustle up a quid. If we don’t raise enough there will be no bloody Folk Festival. If there’s no Festival, won’t you mob bitch and groan. You want a festival, right, firstly, go outside and pay again to come back in. Secondly, don’t just buy a raffle ticket, buy a book of the bloody things. Lastly, tell the barpersons “*They must be dreamin*” when they tell you the price of a drink and **PAY DOUBLE**. Do you want this bloody festival or not??

There is a free bottle of wine for the first person on stage admitting they have actually spent time “At Her Majesty’s Pleasure” within these walls, and what it was for? Contact bar staff if this is you.

AUSTRALIAN ETIQUETTE

DATING;

1. Always offer to bait your date’s hook-especially on the first date.
2. Be assertive. Let her know you’re interested: “I’ve been wanting to go out with you ever since I read that stuff on the dunny door about you”.

.....

A man and his wife were sitting in the living room and he said to her, “Just so you know, I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and fluids from a bottle. If that ever happens, just pull the plug.” His wife got up, unplugged the TV and threw out all his beer.

.....

I’m on the Chet Atkins Diet.....I just pick my food” (Chet Atkins famous American guitar picker)

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Old Folkie # 1 : “Have you ever read Shakespeare?”

Old Folkie # 2 : “No, who wrote it?”

39TH TOP HALF FOLK FESTIVAL

Yes folks, it’s now only weeks away. Along with John Williamson, there will be in excess of 20 other performances on ‘Centre Stage’. There will also be varied workshops (not wood or metalwork....Ed.) conducted over the course of the weekend, as well as the famous ‘Poets Breakfast’ both Saturday and Sunday mornings, (When else would you have breakfast?...Ed.) and to add colour to the whole weekend, there will be a number of ‘locally produced’ Craft Stalls in and around the concert area. But wait, there IS still more. You must be there to see Dave Evans & Scott Balfour’s own version of Spicks & Specks. (Or was this the original version?...Ed.)

Make Love—Not War - Hell do both, GET MARRIED!

What does a base guitar player use for birth control?. Their personality.

.....

CENSORED.....Ed.

SPONSORS & FRIENDS

As we all know, no fund-raising activity or Folk Festival can happen in this town without the wonderful support of many businesses and individuals. Please give thanks to the following for tonight and the forthcoming festival in June.

**“Community Benefit Fund-Dept. of Justice”
Glen Helen Resort, Tony Smith & Libby Prell, Pioneer Women’s Hall of Fame, Rock City Music, Herman Marcic, ABC 783 Radio, Top End Folk Club, Puntj Hall, John Williamson, Alice Waste Removals, Independent Grocers, Mitre 10 and lastly Barry Skipsey for the wonderful framed photo of “Territory Icons” being raffled tonight.**

There is a furphy going round that a well known ex water resources employee and well known folkie once spent a night in the cells at the Avon Downs police station on the Barkley Hwy.

Was he there because:-

1/ It was pouring with rain, his swag was getting soaked and he needed shelter?

2/ It was a safety issue and something to do with witnesses seeing him throwing too many empty stubbies, and nearly himself, into the rapidly flowing James River in an attempt to guess the flow rate?

3/ He threatened to sing to the local coppers who’d had a long day and didn’t need another chorus of “Old Man River”?

4/ All of the above?

The neatest correct entry handed in at the bar before 9pm will win a

AUSTRALIAN ETIQUETTE

IN GENERAL

1. Never take an open stubby to a job interview
2. Always identify people in your paddocks before shooting at them.
3. It’s tacky to take an esky to church.
4. If you have to vacuum the bed, it’s time to change the sheets.
5. Even if you’re certain you’re included in a will, it’s rude to take your ute and trailer to the funeral.

TONIGHTS ENTERTAINMENT

Please raise your glasses to the following artists who have given their time freely tonight to entertain us all:

**M’Lis Scott & Jayne Hughes, Barry Skipsey
m Mel, Neil & Ben Phillips.**

He Herman Marcic, Ross Muir & Chris Scott
sn’t it wonderful to have such generous friends and thank you, the audience for supporting this fund-raising event.

MEN’S RULES

We always hear the “rules” from the female side. Here are a few rules from the male side;

Breasts are for looking at and that is why we do it-Don’t try to change that.

Saturday = sports. It’s like the full moon or the changing of the tides-Let it be.

Shopping is NOT a sport-We are never going to think of it that way.

If you think you are fat, you probably are-Don’t ask us.

If something we said can be interoperated two ways, and one way makes you sad or angry-We meant the other one.

Anything we said 6 months ago is inadmissible in an argument -In fact all comments become null and void after 7 days. Learn to work the toilet seat. You’re a big girl. If it’s up, put it down.

We need it up, you need it down, that’s life. You don’t hear us complaining when you leave it down. And

lastly, I’m in shape-Round is a shape.

A MUSICAL INTERLUDE

How do you get a guitar player to play slower? Put music in front of him.

What happens when you play a country song backwards? You get your farm back, you get your wife back, you get your dog back.....

What sentence do drummers use least? “Hey guys, why don’t we try one of my songs”

What’s the difference between a savings bond and a drummer? Some day the savings bond will mature and make money.

The Taliban has taken 90 fiddle players hostage. If they’re demands aren’t met they’ll release one every hour.

How many lead guitarists does it take to change a light bulb? None, they just pinch someone else’s light.

How many folk musicians does it take to change a light bulb? Four, one to put the new bulb in and the other three to sing about how good the old one was.

I’m told Bloodwoods songs aren’t as bad as they sound.

When do Bloodwood songs sound the best? When they finish.

Gone Chopin, have Liszt, Bach in a minuet. That’s all folks.