# The Australian Songwriter

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In This Edition:


- On the Cover of the ASA: **Julia Michaels** performing at the 2015 National Songwriting Awards
- Chairman's Message
- Editor's Message
- 2016 Australian Songwriting Contest Announcement
- Julia Michaels and Sven Tydeman: 2015 Winners of the Folk/Acoustic Category
- Denise Silk: 2015 Joint Winner of the Lyrics Category
- Charlie Cacciola: 2015 Joint Winner of the Lyrics Category
- Sponsors Profiles
- Wax Lyrical Roundup
- Terry Bennetts and Imogen Clarke: PPCA Live Performance Award Winners
- ASA Member Profile: Donna Hotz
- Members News and Information
- The Load Out
- Official Sponsors of the Australian Songwriting Contest
- About Us:
    - Aims of the ASA
    - History of the Association
    - Contact Us
    - Patron
    - Life Members
    - Directors
    - Regional Co-Ordinators
    - APRA/ASA Songwriter of the Year
    - Rudy Brandsma Award Winner
    - PPCA Live Performance Award Winner
    - Australian Songwriters Hall of Fame
    - Australian Songwriting Contest Winners

## Chairman's Message

To all Members,

Welcome to the March 2016 eNewsletter.

Last month was an extremely busy one for your Board, with preparations for the 2016 Australian Songwriting Contest being put into place. Negotiations with Sponsors, on-line Platform Providers and the like do take up a great deal of time. A big shout out must go to Secretary Clare Burgess for the amount of energy and effort she puts in on a daily basis, to help make the Competition bigger and better each year.

Vice Chairman and Editor Alan Gilmour also works enormously hard as well. Besides his Director duties, he tackles the very demanding task of putting together the monthly eNewsletters, and always comes up with informative and interesting articles and interviews.

We also take great delight in announcing that The Australian Songwriter's Country Show on TodaysCountry94one received a People's Choice Award for The Most Popular Show on country radio at the People's Choice Awards held in Tamworth on 21 January 2016. This especially gladdens the heart of the ASA Board because this is Alan Gilmour's show. He does a wonderful job deejaying and is one of the main reasons the show took out the prize. He always features a lot of ASA Members' songs on his show, so it is another way of helping out our Membership. BRAVO ALAN.

Don't forget to get your entries in when the 2016 Contest opens, and in the meantime check out the eNewsletter.

See you at the Wax Lyricals.

**Denny Burgess**

## Editor's Message

Welcome to the March 2016 edition of The Australian Songwriter.

This month, we feature an interview with 2015 Folk/Acoustic category winner, Julia Michaels, as well as articles on 2015 Lyrics joint winners, Denise Silk and Charlie Cacciola, and a profile on ASA member, Donna Hotz, and all the usual stuff!

The Australian Songwriter welcomes written contributions from ASA members and readers of the magazine. If you have anything that you would like to say about yourself, other songwriters/musicians/artists/new releases or upcoming events, simply send your contribution via email to the Editor at alang@asai.org.au.

Cheers,

**Alan Gilmour**

## 2016 Australian Songwriting Contest Announcement

Preparations are currently underway for the launch of the 2016 Australian Songwriting Contest.

As in previous years, there will be thirteen categories into which songs and lyrics can be entered:

- Australia
- Ballad
- Contemporary Pop/Dance
- Country
- Folk/Acoustic
- Instrumental
- International
- Lyrics
- Open
- Rock/Indie
- Songs for Children
- Spiritual
- Youth

Once preparations are completed, we will place an announcement on the ASA website at www.asai.org.au, which is expected towards the end of March 2016. Entries can then be submitted via the online platforms on the ASA website.

The contest is open to both ASA members and non-members.

Judging will commence immediately after the close of the contest, and entrants will be advised, in stages, of their progress in the contest. The first round judging will provide a short list of songs for further judging. The second round judging will narrow the field down to the Top 30 songs in each category. The third round of judging will provide the Top 10 songs in each category, which will be announced at the 2016 National Songwriting Awards, to be held later in the year.

The winners of each category will be asked to attend the 2016 National Songwriting Awards, to collect their prizes and trophies, and to perform their winning songs to the awards night audience.

The ASA Board of Directors will also select two important prizes from among the songs entered into the 2016 contest. The **APRA/ASA Songwriter of the Year** will be chosen from the winners of each of the thirteen categories. **The Rudy Brandsma Award** will be presented in recognition of songwriting excellence by an ASA member during the course of the contest. The winner will be chosen from among all ASA member song entrants attending on the night.

It's now time to get your original songs together in readiness for the contest launch. Best of luck in the contest!

## Julia Michaels and Sven Tydeman: 2015 Winners of the Folk/Acoustic Category

**Photo: Julia Michaels performing at the 2015 National Songwriting Awards**

We caught up with **Julia Michaels** for a chat prior to the 2015 National Songwriting Awards. Julia, along with **Sven Tydeman,** were the winners of the Folk/Acoustic category in the 2015 contest, with their song, "Love my Ghost".

**ASA**: Welcome Julia. It's an interesting title: "Love My Ghost"? Can you tell us how that came about?

**Julia**: It started off as a scene for a film. We received a brief from someone who was looking for a song to feature in a particular scene of a film, which was about two characters who were having a toxic relationship.

I already had this melody, and some really good lyrical ideas lurking in my mind, so Sven and I started working with that, and the song just evolved into this really haunting melody, and throughout, the word "Ghost" just kept popping up. Really, this wonderful idea just fell out by accident in a way.

**ASA**: Where did the story idea come from?

**Julia**: We did receive that outline brief, so we had something to begin with, but regardless of that, you still need to be able to relate to and draw on those personal experiences that you can identify with. For myself, I was just relating it to a relationship that you just can't break away from, and one that has this repetitive

**Photo: The 2015 Folk/Acoustic presentation.**

pattern of just coming back into each other's lives all the time, and leaves you with that haunting feeling of "why do I do this"? So that is the sentiment behind it.

**ASA**: Was it a joint collaboration? Or did you write the lyrics by yourself?

**Julia**: Yes it was a joint effort. We were in a room together, and had all of two hours, so we were pressed for time. I came in with this melodic idea, a chord progression and hummed through this melody that I was thinking about. As I was doing that, Sven was writing furiously. I looked over to see how he was progressing and everything just seemed to flow with what was in my head, and honestly within an hour and a half, it was done. We raced over to his studio and recorded it.

**ASA**: Wow an hour and a half! That's a record?

**Julia**: It might be a musician's exaggeration, but it was a really short time, definitely completed within a day.

**ASA**: So, you recorded it at Sven's studio with you as the vocalists?

**Julia**: Yes, that's right.

**ASA**: What other songs besides this one have you written? Are you a regular songwriter and do you write every day?

**Julia**: I try to. There is the inspiration part and then there is the discipline part. I do try to write whenever inspiration hits, and also depending how convenient it is for

me to pull my phone out and sing, but I do also have set times when I say OK, I am writing today, if all I get is one idea then that's fine, but I do write quite a bit.

**ASA**: What genres do you usually write in?

**Julia**: I have already written two EP's, yet every time I write, it seems to change shape depending on who I am into at the time, and what is influencing me, and I try to follow those inspirations, so it's hard to say!

I feel that the way the current music environment is at the moment, the genres are really blurry and changing constantly, so every time I have to classify myself, it's hard for me to say where I fit. Thinking about my music, the only thing that comes to mind is "haunting". It's not a genre yet, but maybe one day it will be. I guess I just try to write emotional truth that leaves a lasting impression, but I tend to go with whichever way a song shapes out at the time, regardless of the genre.

**ASA**: You are a performing songwriter? Where is it that you perform?

**Julia**: I have a couple of residencies, and I just try to get around Sydney as much as I can, and hope that people like what I'm doing, and want to come back.

**ASA**: Are these solo gigs?

**Julia**: Both! I do a duo acoustic act, and I also play with a band of really awesome musicians who I've known for a long time, so we gel really well and the vibe is really special. These musicians actually played on the album, so they were part of my music making process, and it's really magical when we play, because these people have embarked on this songwriting journey with me, and they help shape the songs.

**ASA**: Where do hope your songwriting and performing are going to take you?

**Julia**: Ultimately, I just want people to experience something when they listen to my music, and even if it's just five people that have downloaded it on iTunes, then that's just as fantastic, as if it was hundreds of thousands. If I have had an impact, then that's great. I don't know if I have any grand expectations.

It's hard to gauge what you want to do or where you want to go when the music industry is changing constantly, but if I can emotionally connect with people through my music then there is a lot of satisfaction to be gained in being able to do that.

**ASA**: It would however be nice to be able to make a million out of it?

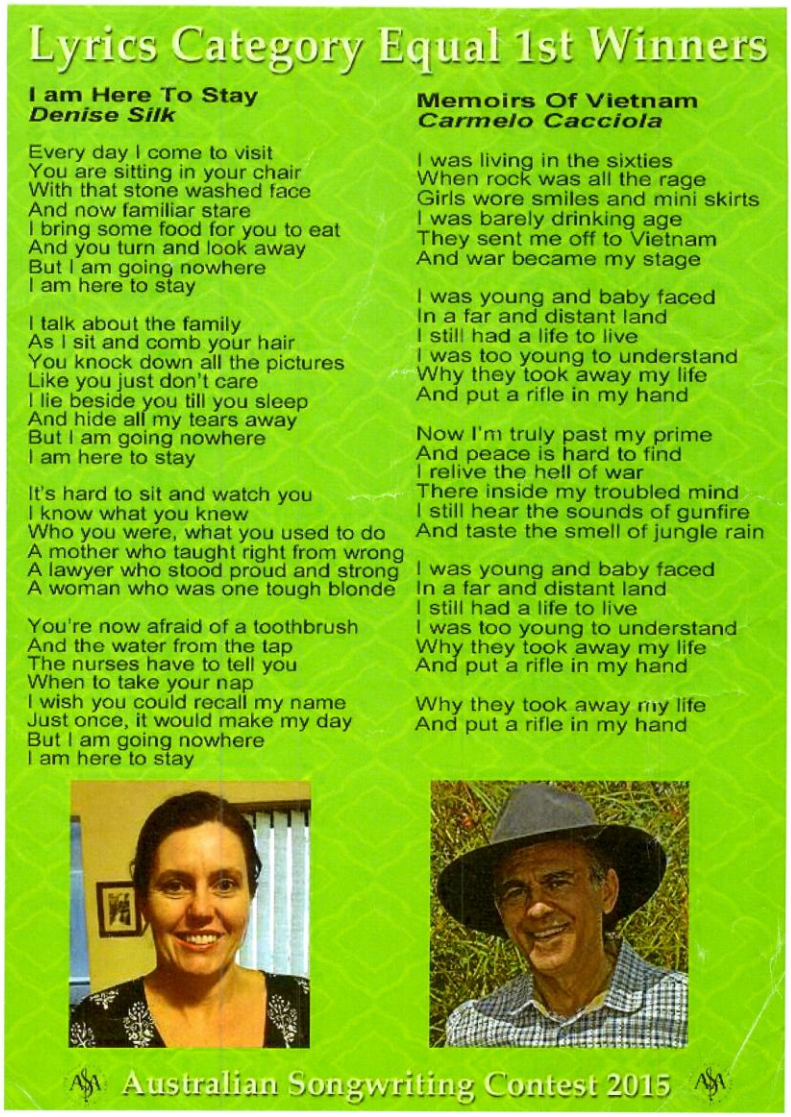
**Julia**: That would be nice. It's just hard to know how you go about doing that.

**ASA**: Yes, there are a lot of people out there wondering the same thing.

**Julia**: If there is anyone out there that knows any tricks on how to do that I'm all ears.

**ASA**: Thank you Julia for giving us your time, and congratulations, once again.

## Denise Silk and Charlie Cacciola: 2015 Equal First Winners of the Lyrics Category




**Denise Silk** and **Charlie Cacciola** were the equal first winners of the 2015 Lyrics Category, with their lyrics, respectively, "I Am Here To Stay" and "Memoirs of Vietnam".

**Denise Silk**:

Denise Silk is a poet and lyricist, whose musical range focuses mainly on folk, country and pop.

Denise was born and raised in the outer suburbs of Sydney: Lurnea and Hoxton Park.

She is the middle child, with one older sister and a younger brother. Her father worked for the Royal Australian Navy and her mother was a homemaker.

After High School, she pursued a Bachelor of Commerce degree with a major in Accounting.

She then spent the next 18 years in the corporate world working for the same international company, living in USA, Singapore and Shanghai. With such a strong desire for travel, her work took her all over the world.

In 2014, she walked away from that industry and career, to pursue her creative talent around writing.

Denise always had a strong passion around music ever since she was a child. Starting in 2009, Denise undertook 3 of the Berklee Music College On-line courses for Lyric Writing: Tools and Strategies, Writing Lyrics from the Title, Writing Lyrics to Music, followed by the Professional Certificate in Music Business with Berklee as well as the Creative Writing – Finding Your Voice course.

**Photo: (Left to Right) Charlie Cacciola, presenters Jennifer Armstrong and John Manners, and Denise Silk, at the 2015 National Songwriting Awards.**

In 2015, Denise was accepted into BOOKS, Lyrics, Music First Year Composer/Lyricist Program in London to nurture the art of writing lyrics for musical theatre. She had the opportunity to work with various composers writing songs for musical theatre throughout 6 month period.

Over the years, Denise has also shown a very strong interest in social activism, which inspires a lot of her lyrics. These have included:

- Established a bike program in Beng Melea, Cambodia;
- Visiting and actively supported the Hmong refugees in Petchabun, Thailand;
- Building houses in Aceh after the 2004 tsunami; and
- Raising money for flood victims in Indonesia.

**Carmelo (Charlie) Cacciola:**

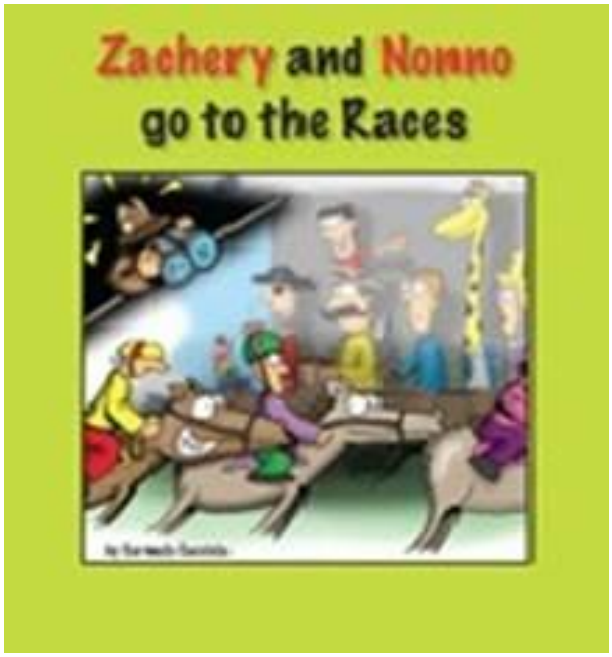
Carmelo, also known as Charlie, migrated from Sicily with his parents in 1954 and he grew up in New Farm, Brisbane, Queensland.

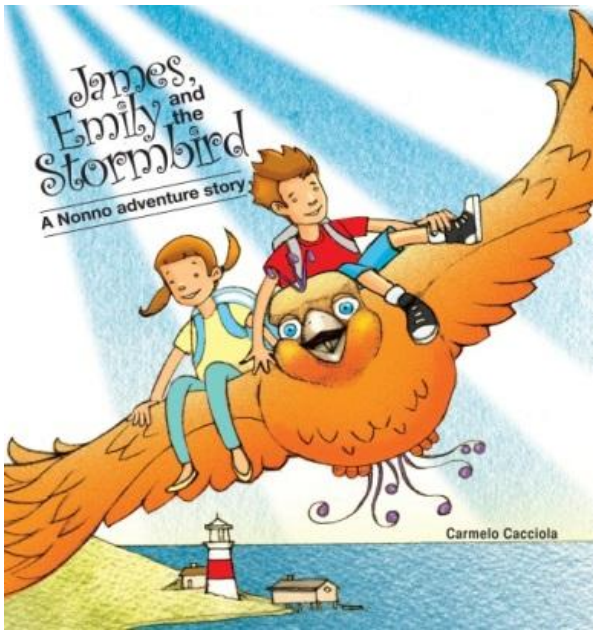
Towards the end of his 40 year successful corporate career, Charlie decided to pursue his passion for writing, as a side interest. Considering that he wasn't allowed to speak English at home as a child, this was shaping up as a huge challenge.

His first short story, "Love finds Sicilian Joe", about a city boy with an Elvis hairdo, who meets a dairy farmer's daughter outside a country barber shop, was aired in a "talent search" promotion on the Ian Maurice 4BC Brisbane evening radio show in 2005.

Charlie then co-authored the acclaimed true crime story, "The Second Father", which was published by Queensland University Press in 2009.

More recently he has released adventure children books (cover pages below) for children aged 4 – 9 years which are available in libraries throughout Australia.




Then, Charlie met an extraordinary singer/songwriter, **Jim Harding**, and he turned his hand to writing country music.

He remembers meeting Jim, an imposing big man with a smile broader than his white Texan cowboy hat, wearing blue jeans, cowboy boots and swinging a guitar as he walked onto the stage like he'd been there all his life – he had.

In fact, Jim was born into country music, but Charlie married into country music. His wife, Lynda, would play the piano and her dad played the spoons and harmonica at their regular sing-alongs on the family farm in the small country town of Mundubbera, in the North Burnett. In his later years country music would become Charlie's second love.

Charlie said, "it was an incredible friendship of a Sicilian-born son of cane cutter, and a London-born ten pound pom and son of a British Army Officer – a 'wog boy' and a country boy – and we became best mates and songwriters". Together they penning some great country music songs until Jim passed away in 2014.

Just before one of Jim's gigs, Jim and a few of the boys said they wanted to see Charlie in the carpark. Anyone who lived through the sixties knows exactly what that means. "What could

they possibly want with me in the car park?" Charlie thought.

All the boys were wearing jeans, cowboy hats, and cowboy boots, and Charlie was dressed like he always did, like a city boy. He didn't own a pair of jeans. Jim opened with, "You all know that Charlie's my manager now. Next thing you'll know he'll be wearing pink or lime suits. Well we can't have that." It was smiles all around as he opened the boot of his car and reached for a parcel. "If you're going to be my manager, here put these on."

Charlie was approaching 64, and this was his first pair of jeans. Later, Jim gave him a cowboy buckled belt and a pair cowboy boots to match.

Charlie and Jim released six songs, including City Boys and Cowgirls, a song that was awarded 7th place in the Country category of the 2015 Australian Songwriting Contest. Charlie has also written a number of songs for other recording artists.

Charlie said he was humbled by his 1st place in the Lyrics category of the 2015 Australian Songwriting Contest, with "Memoirs of Vietnam", especially in the presence of Australian greats Johnny Young, Glenn A Baker and others. He was also a finalist in the ASA spiritual section with the tune, My Shepherd's Call.

Now retired with his wife Lynda, he writes some country music songs and childrens' stories, as a hobby. He is also an active member of the community and is highly sought after as a guest speaker/entertainer.

For his retirement his kids brought him into the 21st century by setting him up with a web site: www.stormbirds.com.au.

## Sponsors Profiles

iDoCoach
inside pro songwriting

**Mark Cawley** is a hit U.S. songwriter and musician who coaches other writers and artists to reach their creative and professional goals. During his decades in the music business he has procured a long list of cuts with legendary artists ranging from Tina Turner, Joe Cocker, Chaka Khan and Diana Ross to Wynonna Judd, Kathy Mattea, Russ Taff, Paul Carrack, Will Downing, Tom Scott, Billie Piper, Pop Idol winners and The Spice Girls.

**To date his songs have been on more than 15 million records**. Mark's resume includes hits on the Pop, Country, R&B, Jazz, and Rock charts and several publishing deals with the likes of Virgin, Windswept Pacific, and Steelworks/Universal. Mark calls on his decades of experience in the publishing world, as an artist on major labels, co-writer with everyone from Eliot Kennedy and Burt Bacharach to Simon Climie and Kye Fleming, composing, and recording to mentor clients around the globe with iDoCoach. He is also a judge for this years UK Songwriting Contest, New England Songwriter Search, A judge for Belmont University's Commercial Music Program, a contributing author to the USA Songwriting Competition and Songwriting Magazine, popular blogger and, from time to time, conducts his own workshops.

Contact Mark at www.idocoach.com.

**APRA AMCOS**

**APRA AMCOS** is Australia's royalty collection and distribution agency for songwriters.

APRA AMCOS helps music creators get paid for their work and gives music users easy ways to legally play and copy what they like.

Royalties keep the music coming and ensure the industry's future. And that's what we all want to hear.

For more information, visit www.apraamcos.com.au.

**Maton Guitars**

**Maton Guitars** is Australia's premier manufacturer of acoustic and electric guitars, and other fretted instruments.

Maton was established in 1946, and is now celebrating 70 years of manufacturing Australia's finest fretted instruments.

Maton provides one of its beautiful acoustic guitars each year as the major prize for The Rudy Brandsma Award, which is presented at the National Songwriting Awards.

For more information, go to www.maton.com.au.

**Edensound Mixing and Mastering**

**Edensound Mixing and Mastering** is located in Balwyn, Melbourne.

Edensound has Australia's only Focusrite Authorised Blue Mastering Suite, home of many platinum and gold hit records.

Edensound specializes in high quality mixing and mastering for your songs. With the experience and knowledge of engineer, Martin Pullan, and Edensound's state of the art equipment, Edensound is a mixing and mastering facility of unsurpassed quality.

Edensound can be contacted by phone on 0418 545 948 or via its website at www.edensound.com.au.

## Wax Lyrical Roundup

**Central Coast NSW 8 February 2016, Settlers Tavern**

**Brisbane QLD 14 February 2016, Retro Bar**

## Terry Bennetts and Imogen Clarke: 2015 Winners of the PPCA Live Performance Award

**Photos: Terry Bennetts and Imogen Clarke performing at the 2015 National Songwriting Awards.**

The PPCA (The Phonographic Performance Company of Australia Limited) is a not-for-profit organisation that provides licences to Australian businesses to play recorded music in public. The net fees are distributed to record labels and registered Australian artists who create the recordings, so they can continue to make music for us all to enjoy.

The PPCA works together with licensors, being thousands of Australian recording artists and hundreds of labels both major and independent. While PPCA enables businesses to thrive by playing a repertoire of quality music, it also safeguards the rights of thousands of Australian recording artists and labels, ensuring that they receive a fair return for their music.

The PPCA sponsors the award for the best performance at the National Songwriting Awards each year.

ppca

**Our goal is to contribute to the growth of the Australian music community by promoting to business the value of using recorded music**

## ASA Member Profile: Donna Hotz

ASA member, **Donna Hotz**, is a QLD songwriter and author.

This is Donna's story, in her own words:

"Born in Brisbane 1963, my mother, older sister and I moved to North Queensland to a small town named Ayr in 1964, due to my parent's separation.

"My early childhood years my family and I lived worked within the farming communities of Ayr, Delbag and Millaroo. I feel in love with music 1970 when I seen Creedence Clearwater Revival singing, 'Looking out My Back Door' live, in black and white on television. It was amazing and I said to myself on that day, 'This is what I want to do.'

"My family and I then moved to North West Queensland the mining town of Mount Isa. My step father was Italian and he started his own business as a bricklayer. He built our first home in Mount Isa.

"We left Australia in 1972 for 12 months and lived and went to school in Italy. This was one of the most amazing experiences of my life. Living in Italy helped me understand my culture, as I am not born Italian, but this is my culture and still is. Family, friends, food, music and traditional dance was my most favourite part of my Italian culture. We then moved back to Mount Isa and I then lived there on and off for a total of 33 years.

"I started writing poems and short stories in primary school. My highest marks were for writing and drawing my own pictures, which made projects very exciting for me.

"Moving to Ayr again in my second term of grade 8 was exciting and this is when I met my first author. I was so overwhelmed and of total awe after meeting him, I then decided that this is also what I want to do when I grew up.

"Moving back to Mount Isa the mid year 1977, we opened our own restaurant called the 'International Italian Club'. I got to meet artists that performed at our local Civic Centre, as they would visit our restaurant after their show and have a meal.

"The most impressionable artists I remember where Maria Fantuzzi and Marty Rhone. My favourite part of being at the restaurant was playing the juke box. Assisting with cooking, waiting tables and cleaning were just everyday chores at the restaurant.

"I wrote my first 3 songs when I was 14 years old. I did not think that my writing was good enough; also I had no idea of competitions and how to get my artistic work into the world.

"I married in 1988 and had two wonderful children.

"I started poetry writing again in 1998 for friends about their special and sometimes sad occasions. I also started to write a children's book, as this was a story that I told my daughter before bed.

"From there my story telling grew and on Friday nights friends would pop in to hear what I had written for the week. This was the start of my fan base and definitely encouraged me to keep writing. We called this Donna Poet Night.

"After my divorce in 2003, I become obsessed with writing, and wrote maybe 100-120 poems. I started some books and still did not think I had enough talent to do anything with them.

"In 2004, I sent some poems to a company called ParamountSong.com in Nashville, misreading the article, as I thought I was entering a poetry competition. Turned out they loved my poems and we turned them into songs.

"This is when I started writing specifically for songs. In 2006, I had 'Hold My Heart Close' and 'When Does It End' produced by ParamountSong.com, also entering lyrics only into 'Song of the Year' and placed Semi-Finalist 2006 and 2008.

"Every stopped again 2005 and life took over. So my dream was put on the back burner for a period of time.

"In 2013, I had four more songs produced, being 'Crystal Tears', 'A Thousand Boxes of Tissues', 'Ode To Our Songwriters' and 'Waiting For Her Heaven'. I was awarded one of their best songwriters for 3 years.

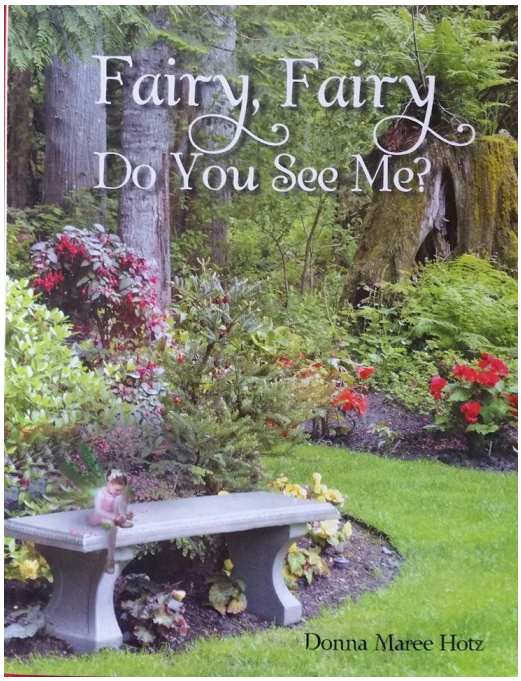
"At the end of 2014, I had songs placed on 2 albums. I also made the album covers of 'Waiting For Her Heaven' and 'When Does It End?'. These were songwriting albums produced by ParamountSong.Com's sister company, StarTune Records.

"I also placed runner up in 2014 in the Australian Songwriting Contest in two categories, with 'Waiting for Her Heaven' and 'Crystal Tears'. This was my first time entering the ASA Competition. I attended the Awards Night and had a wonderful time, taking my mother Judith, and my daughter Vanessa with me.

"I then also released my own EP 'Not Just Country' available on iTunes. (https://itunes.apple.com/au/album/not-just-country-ep/id919057563). This album contains the songs I have had produced thus far. It is also available to be heard on Jango.com, internet radio. I now have fans all around the world and I personally answer and keep them informed of where I am going and what is happening with my song writing. (http://www.jango.com/music/Donna+Hotz+Songwriter).

"My songs are also aired on 4CRM Mackay QLD by Greg and Sandy Harvey.

"I am currently seeking music producers in Australia, as I have just started working with an unsigned artist, Claire Hebbriff, on the Gold Coast. Claire is a Blues/Jazz singer and I have songs for her to record. I am very proud that Claire is excited about working with me.




"In April 2015, Andrew Wishart performed my song 'When Does It End?' in Gippsland as part of the Centennial Anzac Celebrations.

"In November 2015, I was fortunate enough to be invited to have songs aired on a wonderful Country Radio Station by Alan Gilmour, called The Australian Country Songwriters Show, on TodaysCountry94one.

"In December 2015, I self published my first children's book, 'Fairy, Fairy Do You See Me?' with Xlibris.com and it is now available for purchase. Soft cover copies and e-Book copies are available for purchase through your favourite book stores, and e-Book online suppliers, or direct from the publishers www.xlibris.com.au

"I have just received my first 500 copies, so if anyone would like to purchase a copy through me, just private message me on FB. (https://www.facebook.com/donauzwriter).

"Becoming a Nonna, my first children's book becoming live was a great start to my year. I also received notification that I received Song of the Year-Semi-Finalists Placement for 'War Behind My Door', lyrics only.

"Life is very exciting, still heaps to do and hopefully I can assist unsigned artist along the way.

Written by Donna Maree Hotz
15/02/2016.

## Members News and Information

### 1. Songwriters Meeting Point

Perth WA lyricist, **Patrick McMurray**, is looking to pursue musical collaboration with like minded composers. Patrick@patrickmcmurray.com.

ASA member, **Henry Hamad**, is a lyricist who is looking for someone who would like to add music to his lyrics. If you can help Henry, please contact him on henry.hamad@gmail.com.

ASA member, **Donna Hotz**, is a lyricist who is seeking a composer to help create songs from her lyrics. If you can help, please contact Donna on donna_hotz@hotmail.com.

Looking for somebody? Contact us at the ASA, on alang@asai.org.au.

### 2. The Australian Country Songwriters Show

todayscountry94one

94.1FM .... where country lives

Now, there's now an even better reason for ASA members and friends to submit their original songs for air play on **The Australian Country Songwriters Show**, on TodaysCountry94one.

The show has just won a People's Choice Award, for the Most Popular Show on Australian country radio, at the People's Choice Awards held in Tamworth on 21 January 2016.

This means more great exposure for your original songs.

The Australian Country Songwriters Show provides opportunities for ASA members and friends, who write and record in the country and country crossover genres, to receive air play for their songs.

If you'd like your songs considered for airplay, please contact Alan Gilmour on alang@asai.org.au.

### 3. APRA AMCOS Art Music Awards 2016

- Eleven categories covering contemporary classical, improvised and experimental music, electro-acoustic and contemporary jazz.
- Nominations open to APRA and AMC members as well as industry organizations and companies.
- Nominate by Monday 11 April 2016.

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## 4. 2016 Australia Day Awards

In the last magazine edition, we mentioned the Australia Day award given to Tina Arena, but managed to somehow overlook the award given to the equally deserving **Shane Howard**.

Shane was awarded the Member of the Order of Australia for his service to the performing arts and the recording industry, as a singer, songwriter and guitarist, and for his work with indigenous musicians.

Shane has worked on more than a dozen albums with indigenous artists including Archie Roach, Joe Geia, Jimmy Chi and Patricia Clarke also The Pigram Brothers.

He is quoted as saying "Australia Day is a complicated day! As a nation, we have to deal with that, instead it's become a symbol of division and not unity."

He then promptly went on to call for us to become a republic, going on to say "Our national character is evolving; that's why I think it's really important that we move towards a republic and we stand on our own two feet. But I don't think you can have a republic without having a treaty with your First Nation's People, if you want to stand as an honourable nation in the world"

Shane is passionate about the plight of our indigenous Brothers and Sisters and about the Spirit of the land we live in, and he is not afraid to speak out on the injustices he sees; be that in song or by other means.

Coincidently, the award provided him with a stage, and like any musician worth his salt that sees a stage, he couldn't resist taking advantage of it to talk about those issues close to his heart. But isn't that one of the important roles that a songwriter and musician should play? That is to use their creative talent to inform and protest the wrongs in the world in attempt to prompt and inspire others to make things right. "Well in a perfect world that is how it should work".

Although it could have proved awkward for Shane to accept this award, feeling as he does about certain issues, he accepted it with pride and grace and with the self-knowledge of what he had achieved over time. He certainly has no reason to feel shame.

## 5. Welcome to GANGgajang WAY, Bundaberg QLD!

It was great to hear the news that the Queensland "rum city" of Bundaberg has recently named one of its streets after the great Aussie band, **GANGgajang**.

GANGgajang's quintessentially Australian song, Sounds of Then, was created in Bundaberg.

For those who came in late, GANGgajang, is an Australian pop rock band which was formed in 1984. Three of the founders are front man Mark 'Cal' Callaghan (ex-Riptides) on guitar and lead vocals, the late Chris Bailey on bass guitar and Graham 'Buzz' Bidstrup on drums (both ex-The Angels). With the addition of Geoffrey Stapleton on keyboards, guitar and artwork, and Robert James on lead guitar.

The band was the coming together of a group of musicians who already, individually, had a rich Aussie music history. The band's odd sounding name was derived from the sound of a guitar playing a loud chord (gajang)".

While the band has been a sort of moveable feast of members over the years, the nucleus of Callaghan, Bidstrup and Bailey remained at the heart of it, until Chris Bailey sadly passed away in 2013. The impact of losing their dear friend is still felt by his fellow band mates and those who knew him, so having this signpost also acts as a lasting memorial and tribute to Chris.

In 2015, almost to the date 30 years on from when the song was released, the band was back in Bundaberg to cut the red ribbon to open GANGgajang WAY. The band followed up with a performance later in the night.

The new Paddington Grove Estate, along with the famous street sign, will perhaps mark a new start for many. Those who won't be lucky enough to reside in GANGgajang Way can take heart. There are plans to give each band member their very own street name. Let's hope the council has a ready supply of replacement signs or a souvenir proof design, because it's a fair bet that the sign will be a target for those who are keen to have their very own band memento.

GANGgajang WAY is situated not far from where the words to the song, Sounds of Then, were first penned by singer, songwriter and former Bundaberg local, Mark "Cal" Callaghan. For those who are unaware, the song relates to the experience of watching "lightning crack over cane fields", something very unique to the Bundaberg region.

The song began life as a poem in a notebook, written by 14 year old teenager, Mark, reflecting on the time that his family moved from England to Bundaberg in Queensland, which proved to be a major culture shock for him.

Mark lived half way between Bundaberg and the ocean, where all around was bush, scrub and cane fields. You could only imagine his surprise when he saw and smelled his first sugarcane field burn off. That's an experience that would be ingrained on anyone's memory let alone a newcomer to this country.

Mark didn't have any easy time of it. His parents split up just after moving there and at school he didn't fit in. Other kids tormented him because of his British accent.

Although the song may present as a tribute to an Australian way of life, and we tend to celebrate it as such, the reason behind the writing of this song goes way deeper than just being another feel good Aussie anthem. It is rather an involved, angry song, because it encases the angst and anguishes of a young man whose life and family had been turned upside down. The song speaks of his struggle to find his place in a new land and a way to fit among those who considered him to be an outsider. It must have been a challenge for the young Mark to grasp an understanding of how he might cope in this alien environment he had been thrust into.

Those smells sights and sounds mentioned in the song are the things that accompanied him throughout these uncertain times. The core of the song refers to those sensations that can rekindle memories, and transport you back to "Then". Music is a medium that does that so successfully for people!

This was to become the path he would follow throughout his life, and all these years on, it is one he is still walking down, as are his friends and fellow band mates.

Ironically, that same path has led them back to Bundaberg, where it all began. In spite of his rocky start, Mark has fond memories of Bundaberg and was both thrilled and a little bemused by the honour bestowed, as were the other band members.

Their journey has come full circle, and they have a signpost to prove it. It would appear as though Mark has finally received the acceptance he craved for as that confused creative teenager so many years ago.

Thanks to Carole Beck for this article on GANGgajang.

## 6. Bob Dylan Sells His Personal Archive for Up To US$20 Million

**Bob Dylan** has sold his personal archive of notes, draft lyrics, poems, artwork and photographs to the University of Tulsa, where they will be made available to scholars and curated for public exhibitions, the University has said.

The 6,000 item collection spans nearly the entire length of Dylan's 55 year-long career, and many have never been seen before. The collection was acquired by the George Kaiser Foundation and the University of Tulsa in Oklahoma.

The collection also includes master recording tapes of Dylan's entire music catalog, along with hundreds of hours of film video.

The Foundation and the university did not say how much the Bob Dylan Archive cost, but the New York Times, which was given an exclusive preview, said it was sold for US$15 million to US$20 million.

Tulsa is also the home of a museum dedicated to folk singer Woody Guthrie, one of Dylan's early influences.

"I'm glad that my archives, which have been collected all these years, have finally found a home and are to be included with the works of Woody Guthri To me, it makes a lot of sense, and it's a great honor," Dylan said in a statement.

Despite being regarded as "the voice of a generation" for his influential songs of the 1960s and 1970s, Dylan, now 74, has mostly kept his items out of the public eye, resulting in high prices when they occasionally come up for auction.

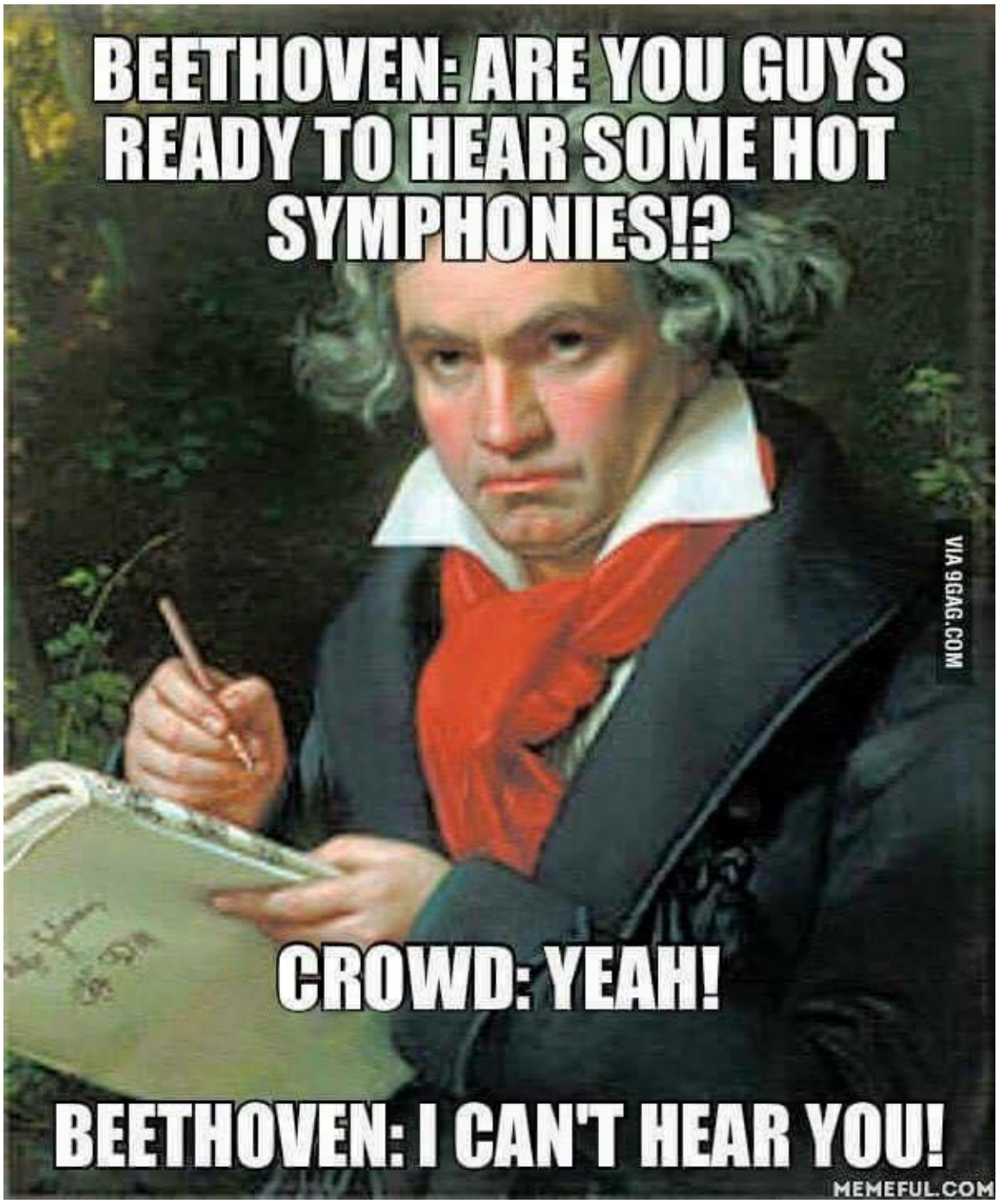
A handwritten copy of the song "Like a Rolling Stone" sold for a record US$2 million at a New York auction in 2014, while the electric guitar he played at 1965 Newport Folk Festival sold for nearly US$1 million in 2013.

The archives handed over to the University of Tulsa include two notebooks with lyrics from the 1975 album, "Blood on the Tracks," and Dylan's handwritten lyrics to his 1964 song, "Chimes of Freedom", scrawled on hotel notepaper, dotted with cigarette burns. There is also correspondence between Dylan and the late beat poet Allen Ginsberg.

Thanks to Reuters for this article.

## The Load Out

An Oldie, but a Goldie…



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The ASA would like to acknowledge the assistance of all of its sponsors for supporting us in our activities throughout the year. The ASA is a not-for-profit association and could not undertake its activities without the assistance of its valued sponsors.

We would encourage ASA Members to use the services of our sponsors wherever possible.

**The ASA is proudly supported by the following organisations:**

## About Us

The Australian Songwriters Association Inc. is a national, not-for-profit, member organization, dedicated to the support of songwriters and their art, by providing avenues for encouragement and education of developing Australian songwriters, and recognition and promotion of our accomplished members.

## Aims of the Association

- To celebrate the art of songwriting;
- To assist and encourage developing Australian songwriters;
- To provide information and general advice to members;
- To create performance opportunities for members;
- To aid the professional development of members;
- To enable members to meet and/or exchange ideas and information
- To facilitate member transition into the established music industry;
- To facilitate delivery of member services at a National, State and Regional level;
- To salute our best songwriters at major industry events such as our National Songwriting Awards Night.

## History of the ASA

The Association was founded in Melbourne VIC in August 1979 by the late Tom Louch (1932-2009) and the late Rudy Brandsma (1944-1983), who saw the need for an organisation that would bring Australian songwriters together.

Today the Association has a vibrant membership Australia-wide and enjoys an established and respected role within the music industry.

The ASA's membership is diverse and embraces and explores all genres of music.

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## APRA/ASA Australian Songwriter of the Year 2015:

Karen Guymer (VIC)

## Rudy Brandsma Award Winner 2015:

George Begbie (TAS)

## PPCA Live Performance Award Winners 2015:

Terry Bennetts (WA) and Imogen Clark (NSW)

## Australian Songwriters Hall of Fame:

2015: Johnny Young

2014: Kate Ceberano

2013: Garth Porter (Sherbet)

2012: Don Walker (Cold Chisel)

2011: Steve Kilbey (The Church)

2010: Richard Clapton

2009: Ross Wilson (Daddy Cool, Mondo Rock)

2008: Doc Neeson, John Brewster & Rick Brewster (The Angels)

2007: Brian Cadd

2006: Glenn Shorrock, Beeb Birtles & Graeham Goble (LRB)

2005: Russell Morris

2004: Harry Vanda, George Young & Stevie Wright (The Easybeats)

## Australian Songwriting Contest Award Winners 2015:

John Walsh and Imogen Clark (NSW) (Australia Category)

Robert McIntosh (NSW) (Ballad Category)

Anirban Banerjee (ACT) (Contemporary Pop/Dance Category)

Loren Steenkamp (SA) (Country Category- Joint)

John Greenwood (VIC) (Country Category- Joint)

Julia Michaels and Sven Tydeman (NSW) (Folk/Acoustic Category)

Terry Bennetts (WA) (Instrumental Category)

Coa Lopez (USA) (International Category)

Denise Silk (NSW) (Lyrics Category- Joint)

Charlie Cacciola (QLD) (Lyrics Category– Joint)

Karen Guymer (VIC) (Open Category)

Quentin Clark (QLD) (Rock/Indie Category)

Jason Greenwood (VIC) (Spiritual Category)

Stan Lenz (QLD) (Songs For Children Category)

Kayla Borg (VIC) (Youth Category)

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