AUSTRALIAN SONGWRITERS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

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1986

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AIMS: To provide a central service that bridges the gap between developing Australian songwriters and the established music industry.

To offer a source of learning for developing songwriters covering all aspects of songwriting as well as the music industry.

To provide support and an avenue for collaboration for members on their road to becoming successful and/or satisfied songwriters.

POSTAL ADDRESS: P.O. Box 125, Surrey Hills, Vic. 3127.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT:

President	-	Russell Zimmer	PH. (03) 7046528
Enrolment	-	Gary Withers	PH. (03) 2213513
Publicity	-	Jim Shomos	PH. (03) 8506270

700.3897

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This newsletter is dedicated to the memory of the late RUDY BRANDSMA for his guidance and inspiration as our friend and our Chairman of The Songwriters Association February 1980, until his untimely death on August 19, 1983.

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Editorially Speaking

with Jim Shomos

There are many superlatives that I could use to describe th 1985 Song Contest - from the stunning venue and excellent judging panel, through to the tremendous response from members and the music industry - but the most exciting and rewarding aspect of the event was the quality of the twelve songs which made it to the finals.

To further highlight this, it was great to see Lee Simon (with some prompting from Cash Backman) offer to play the winning song, by Messrs Nicholson and Coco, on EON FM's Album Show. I'm not sure that "Cadillac Jack" ever made it to the EON airwaves, but it was a tremendous gesture which would not have been made if the song hadn't been good enough.

Whatever else happens with the A S A Inc. Song Contest, we should never forget that it is an event where songwriters can receive recognition and encouragement for their work. The higher the standard of entries the greater the recognition, and the better chance you will have of getting your songs recorded.

Every one of the finalists proved that they have the potential to be successful songwriters. I hope they fulfill that potential.

This will be my last newsletter as Editor. All future newsletters will be edited by the very capable Noreen Kane who has

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EDITORIALLY SPEAKING continued:

done a magnificent job as Co-Editor. If there is anyone in our Association who would like to assist Noreen, please write to us giving details, or phone her during business hours on 6983220.

Russell has some important news in his report which should be read by everyone. So all that remains for me to say is this; 1985 was a great year for the A S A Inc., let's make 1986 a great year for songwriters.

VISIONS OF A SONG CONTEST

The A S A Inc. Song Contest 1985 was recorded on video, and is available to both members and non-members.
Although it was not a professional recording, the quality of sound and picture is good. Whether you would like a copy for the memory, as an incentive, or out of general interest, your donation would be most welcome.
To order your copy please write to Gary Withers, or place an order with him at our workshop in March. Cheques or money orders should be made payable to The A S A Inc..
The cost for members is $20. and for non-members. $25.

A Word from the Chair

with Russell Zimmer

Now that '86 is with us, and the wheels are starting to roll again I hope you are finding some positive new directions to pursue in your life and career.

We are of course, still basking in the success of our end of year contest at the Palace - in fact it's hard to believe that with such a complicated period of organisation leading up to the contest, so few things went wrong. Murphy's Law was evident of course: however, the team of our organisers ensured a smooth running event, and my congratulations go out to the winners, the finalists and all who took part. Watching a replay of the video confirms all the above. (Read Gary Withers' column for details about purchasing a copy.)

We are a little behind schedule this year with workshops etc., but with the music industry in general and the Committee all enjoying well earned holidays, there is a certain difficulty in nailing anybody down long enough to begin these events. All hands are back on deck now and the first workshop details can be found in these pages.

As an incorporated association we are bound by our constitution to conduct an Annual General Meeting for the purpose of electing office bearers and for voting on important issues. There are two positions open for nominations this year. I am unable to maintain the responsibilities of being President any longer due to mounting work pressures, particularly at night, and so a new President must be found. I believe we have several member

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...President's report continued:

now who would be suited to the position. Originally, as Vice-President I automatically took the reins after Rudi Brandsma's death, until a new President could be elected. Approximately three years later I still find myself presiding. However, I believe it healthy for the Association to elect "new blood" to the presidency from time to time. That time is now - we are on a firm course with good footing and some new ideas can continue the Association's development.

Jim Shomos is unable to continue this year in the capacity of Vice-President/Public relations for the same reasons. Jim's relatively short period on the Committee has meant massive changes to the directions we were headed. All of them have been for the better and consequently we are an infinitely stronger group than ever before. This is in light of industry recognition professional outlook and membership growth. Jim's contacts in the music industry have been invaluable in helping organise workshops and contest judging.

Our collective experience will still be present as we will both be remaining as members, and look forward to having more time for writing songs.

The date set for the Annual General Meeting is <u>Tuesday 1st April.</u> For your information, the relevant extract from our constitution follows:

(1) The Association shall in each calendar year convene an annual general meeting of its m mbers. (3)
(2) The annual general meeting shall be held on such day as the Committee determines.
(3) The annual general meeting shall be specified as such in the notice convening it.
(4) The ordinary business of the annual general meeting shall be:
    (a) To confirm the minutes of the last preceeding annual general meeting held since that meeting.
    (b) to receive from the Committee reports upon the trans-

...President's report continued:

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actions of the Association during the last preceding financial year.
(c) to elect officers of the Association and the ordinary members of the Committee; and
(d) to receive and consider the statement submitted by the Association in accordance with section 30 (3) of the Act.

(5) The annual general meeting may transact special business of which notice is given in accordance with these rules.
(6) The annual general meeting shall be in addition to any other general meetings that may be held in the same year.

I urge you all to attend this important meeting as you will then have a chance to nominate and vote for these new ' key position' Committee members who will represent you, as the Association interacts with the music industry.

At the same time it is a chance to meet socially the other members present, make contacts, play your songs etc.

See you there.....Russell.

And now, a few words from our editors and contributors: our sincere apologies to those of you whose names we have dared to spell wrongly; it's those gremlins in the typewriter again...

APOLOGIES!

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Thanks again, and thanks a million to all our sponsors.
None of it would have been possible without their help.

THANK YOU RUSSELL ZIMMER

By now you will have read that Russell and I are resigning from the Committee of management of the A S A Inc. While there has been much said about my involvement over the last three years, one man who deserves a special tribute is Russell Zimmer

Too many people (at times including all of us on the Committee) have underestimated or taken for granted Russell's contribution to the Association. He has devoted many valuable hours and given services without financial reward, and has been doing so ever since the beginnings of the ASA more than six years ago.

Russell has always been on hand to answer questions or offer advice to members or committee people, and has almost never missed a meeting or function that has been held.

He was the person who took control when Rudy Brandsma died suddenly, and who steered the ASA through that testing time. Over the last three years during huge changes and much progress, it was Russell who kept everyone in line with the ASA's objectives, always aware of the Committee's responsibilities to both the members and songwriting and to the music industry in general.

Russell has been the perfect diplomat; always able to see the 'other point of view', and invaluable to a Committee which often became over-enthusiastic.

Although sometimes self-effacing, Russell has carved a career for himself in music while conducting his duties for the ASA without ever seeking recognition or applause. It is only fitting that he has established his studio as a professional but financially accessible alternative to the larger Melbourne studios. It is equally fitting that over the last two years

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THANK YOU RUSSELL continued:

Russell has become a respected writer and producer of jingles which have been aired on national radio and television.

Unfortunately, it is his devotion to music and family which will take Russell away from the A S A's Committee - but not away from the Association. I have great pleasure in announcing Russell's inclusion as an Honourary Member FOR LIFE in the A.S.A.Incorporated.

I am sure everyone who has met the man will join me in wishing Russell the best of luck in achieving all his dreams and ambitions.

Thanking you, Russell Zimmer.

JIM SHOMOS.

I am quite sure that the rest of us in the Association will echo Jim's sentiments, and find our own ways to let Russell know how much his efforts have been, and will continue to be appreciated. I hope that as many of you as possible will attend our Annual General Meeting, and say farewell to him as President, and to Jim as vice-president.

NOREEN KANE.

HURRY! HURRY!!

CONTESTS

Once again Kerrie Salo has sent notification of contests we should be entering, as usual there's not much time.

CAPITAL COUNTRY MUSIC ASSOCIATION TALENT QUEST:

One we missed, but Kerrie had three songs which reached the finals - see the next issue of your favourite musical magazine for her article on this one.

ORANA COUNTRY MUSIC ASSOCIATION CONTEST:

You'll have to be quick; entry forms are available from:

The Secretary
Orana Country Music Association
P.O. Box 1169
Dubbo NSW

The entry fee is $4.00 per song, there is $200 for first prize, and it closes on 14thMARCH.

ROCKHAMPTON COUNTRY MUSIC ASSOCIATION:

This one is run by the Lions, ten finalists are chosen and if you get that far, have a singer at the ready. The address for application forms is:

Lions Rockhampton Country Music Festival
P.O. Box 722
Rockhampton QLD 4770

The entry fee is $10 per song, First prize is $600, second is $300 and third is $100, and closing date is 25th April.

Thank you Kerrie -we need a few more members like you...

Try Some Trivia
with Jim Shomos

Great to see 3UZ turn towards country music. It will be interesting to gauge how this will affect the country music industry - particularly if the trend is followed in other states. It is definitely a positive sign for our 'country' style songwriters.

''''

Songwriting can really put you on the breadline! One person at last year's contest got a little heated when the catering staff at the Palace wouldn't give him a dinner-size supper. Thanks to the professionalism of the Palace Functions Manager and the presence of our diplomatic President, the situation simmered down before it got to the hookline...
The key word was SUPPER, not dinner. Perhaps the person needed a little food for thought!

''''

The number of ballads and songs with strong lyrics which are hitting the airwaves lately is encouraging. There is a tremendous amount of good music on the charts lately with a refreshing feel about it. Lets get ourselves amongst it!

''''

If you are ordering a copy of the 1985 Contest video, don't forget to indicate whether you want VHS or BTS.

''''

Some FUNNY PHOTOS taken at the Contest will be on show at The Belvedere on the 11th - bring yours along if you took any on the night.

MEMBERS MENTIONABLES

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TROPHY CHANGES

The Rudy Brandsma Memorial Trophy was won at our contest last year by talented member Steve Wade.

Originally set up to honour " THE OVERALL BEST SONG," the heading is no longer relevant because of the revision of the categories. This means that a new main name-plate has been prepared so that the trophy is now presented as " THE RUDY BRANDSMA ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD."

Steve will have received the trophy for his twelve month period by the time you read this newsletter.

Category winners certificates also will have been distributed by now.

FIRST WORKSHOP NEWS

Just a tiny bit late, but nonetheless interesting... On TUESDAY 11TH MARCH, BE AT THE BELVEDERE HOTEL AT 8PM for a showing of a video. Remember us telling you about the Music Seminar at Swinburne College? Well, a video was made on the night, and I believe it will be most instructive to us all. Come along and tell us what you think. There will be time for questions and socialising afterwards. You will be getting advice from people like Phil Dwyer 'showbiz'solicitor, Brian Cadd, Glenn Wheatley, Lee Simon and representatives from the CBS and Mushroom Labels. Very important to us as writers, and for those about to start a group.

ROLL CALL

with GARY WITHERS

It is always a pleasure to inform you that our membership is still increasing at a steady pace. We would like to welcome the following members who have joined in the past two months:

L. W. JOHN	P. KELLY	E. D. REYNOLDS
M. LEEDS	D. HILLMAN	G. BECCIA
P. GENO	S. RUTHERFORD	M. BOYD
A. GREENWELL	B. GOWERS	S. HILBURN
L. FLACH	R. WHELAN	B. ROBERTSON
P. MARATOS	B. LOUIS	M. HILBURN
J. THEODORAKAKIS	D. HANNAY	C. MANGAN

We have decided to implement a joining fee of $5.00, beginning 10th February 1986. That is: $25.00 membership, and $5.00 joining fee. As of the abovementioned date, those members who have allowed their membership to lapse beyond the two month reminder period, will be charged the fee to re-join.

As at the 10th February 1986, the following members will become non-financial. Would these members please send notification as soon as possible.

B. MCNAMEE	M. KERR
P. SCERRI	R. NITTI
D. HENKELS	G. ROOKE

(Next page please)

ROLL CALL continued:

VIDEOS FOR SALE

A VIDEO was taken of our Annual Song Contest in December, and copies are available to you. The cost is $20.00 to members, and $25.00 to non-members. Orders can be sent via our postbox by enclosing a cheque/money order along with your name and address. Cheques etc. to be made payable to the A. S. A. Inc. The tape will be forwarded to you as soon as possible after receipt of your order.

Please note that the video is not a perfect reproduction as the camera was running automatically some of the time, and there were certain difficulties with the lighting in The Palace. Actually this was an experiment on my part, but I'm still really pleased with the quality of the picture, and even more so with the sound.

CUPID'S CORNER

WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT THE BELVEDERE ON THE 11TH, don't forget to say congratulations to Gary: he and Janine were married a couple of months ago. Also, buy Jim Shomos a double brandy or two - he and Wendy will be tying the knot a mere four days after the workshop!

Anyone else for a mention? Send me the gory details, or dob in your friends, anything that's of interest about our members can appear in print - keep it clean of course!

NK

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Can arrange and record your song from a rough cassette to a professional demo-tape suitable for presentation to the music industry, or just as a good record of your efforts. Sheet music is not necessary for this work to be done.

Association members receive a 20% discount for this service, making the cost to members only $100 per song.

Enquiries can be made to Russell Zimmer by phoning (03) 7046528; or write to P.O. Box 559, Dandenong Vic 3175

Association Discounts

Music Junction,
204-106 Camberwell Road,
East Hawthorn Vic 3123

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Ron Leigh's Music Factory
316 Highett Road,
Highett Vic 3190

20% Discount (sale lines excluded)

Douglas HI-FI
431 High Street,
Preston

20% Discount

Forest Hill Photographic & Music
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Forest Hill Vic 3131

5 % Discount

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DON'T FORGET - your membership cards are valuable!

You will need to present them to obtain current discounts.

Please support these organisations and take advantage of the discounts offered.

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