# The Australian Songwriter

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The Magazine of The Australian Songwriters Association Inc.

In This Edition:


- **On the Cover of the ASA**: **Ricky Muscat**, 2018 Co-Winner Of The Ballad Category, Performing At The 2018 National Songwriting Awards
- Chairman's Message
- Editor's Message
- A Message From Our CEO, Clare Burgess
- The 2019 Australian Songwriting Contest Is Now Open
- Ricky Muscat: 2018 Co-Winner Of The Ballad Category
- Wax Lyrical Roundup
- Kieran Roberts And Katelyn Newlands: 2018 Winners Of The Lyrics Category
- Sponsors Profiles
- ASA Member Profile: Thomas Libreri And Tessa Libreri
- Members News and Information
- Latest Music Releases From ASA Members And Friends
- Mark Cawley's Monthly Songwriting Blog
- 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
    - Webmaster
    - 2018 APRA/ASA Songwriter of the Year
    - 2018 Rudy Brandsma Award Winner
    - 2018 PPCA Live Performance Award Winner
    - Australian Songwriters Hall of Fame (2004 to 2018)
    - Lifetime Achievement Award
    - 2018 Australian Songwriting Contest Category Winners
    - Songwriters of the Year and Rudy Brandsma Award (1983 to 2018)

## Chairman's Message

And away we go…….

The 2019 Australian Songwriting Contest is now on in earnest, so get your entries in. As usual, it is already shaping up as a superb competition, and doubtless will once again surpass the previous year in the volume of songs received.

Don't forget that the Instrumental Category is now Instrumental/World Music Category, so we'd like to see all songwriters who work in those particular genres, submit a lot of entries.

This year there are more prizes than ever before, so here's to a bumper Contest.

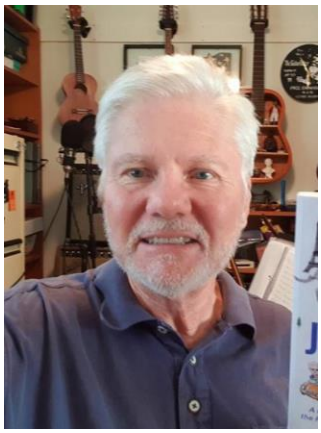
Personally, I have just returned from Victoria, after representing the ASA at the 2019 APRA Awards, held on Tuesday 30 April in the Melbourne Town Hall. Congratulations must go to APRA, including Chair Jenny Morris, CEO Dean Ormston, and all the Board, especially Director Member Director Relations Milly Petriella, for all the work they put in to make the evening an unqualified success. They are a great Sponsor of the ASA, so if you haven't signed up with them yet, get your backside into gear and do so right now.

Our Award-winning Vice Chairman and eNewsletter Editor, Alan Gilmour, has trumped himself yet again, by providing a highly entertaining and informative communique for May, so make sure you put in some time to read it and catch up with all the goings on. Also keep checking up on the Website for information on all Regional Coordinators (they continue to grow) regarding details on 'Wax Lyricals', and other announcements.

One more time, all ASA Members should also be Members of our Major Sponsors APRA and Wests Ashfield, so please get cracking in that regard. See you at the 'Wax Lyricals'

**Denny Burgess**
Chairman

## Editor's Message



Hi Everyone,

We have an interview this month with the 2018 Ballad Category co-winner, Ricky Muscat, and a profile on the 2018 Lyrics Category winners, Kieran Roberts and Katelyn Newlands. Our ASA Member Profile this month features husband and wife duo, Thomas and Tessa Libreri, who perform as Destiny Band Oz. Look out also for Mark Cawley's monthly songwriting blog and his new book release, Song Journey.

The Australian Songwriter welcomes written contributions from ASA members and friends. 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.

**Alan Gilmour**,
Editor and Vice Chairman

## A Message From Our CEO, Clare Burgess

Hi everyone!

Pleased to touch base with you on the launch of our 39th Australian Songwriting Contest.

Prize sponsors have all been locked in, and links to the entry platforms are now on our website homepage. So, get in early, as you don't want to miss out on this year's revamped and upsized amazing array of prizes!! (including some that you receive for simply entering, regardless of the final results!!!).

We couldn't do this without our incredible sponsors who support the arts and try to help all you valued songwriters to create and bring light to us all through your work.

**APRA** has been a Major Sponsor for years and they are your friend with free membership, as they go about the business of collecting any royalties to pass on to you. Register your songs with them anytime.

Our other Major Sponsor is **Wests Ashfield Leagues**, the club where for many years we ran our National Songwriting Awards, until we had to move to larger premises. But this wonderful club, which supports a great many local charities and sports organisations, stuck with us and still provides funding we could not do without.

In an effort to respond appropriately by boosting their membership, the ASA is intending to pay for Social Membership of some of our song contest entrants. This will mean that if you are in the locality, you will, at no cost to yourself, be able to formalize your details at the front desk and immediately go on to enjoy the venue's facilities, including discounted dining and other member benefits. If you have any objection to us doing this, please let me know by return email.

Also – make a note in your diaries that the National Songwriting Awards this year will be held on Wed 30 October at Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL, in Sydney. Nice to have plenty of notice!

**Clare Burgess**

Director, CEO and Secretary

The 2019 Australian Songwriting Contest Is Now Open

## THE 2019 AUSTRALIAN SONGWRITING CONTEST IS NOW OPEN.

As in past years, the 2019 contest contains 13 individual songwriting categories:

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

Prizes and trophies will be awarded to the winners of each category, as well performance opportunities at the 2019 National Songwriting Awards.

The **2019 APRA/ASA Australian Songwriter of the Year** will be chosen by the ASA Board of Directors from the category winners. The 2019 winner will receive a beautiful trophy plus a cheque for $3,000, courtesy of sponsors, APRA AMCOS.

The ASA Board will also choose the winner of the **2019 Rudy Brandsma Award For Songwriting Excellence** from among all of the ASA members, present at The National Songwriting Awards, who have submitted songs into the contest and who have exhibited songwriting excellence in their song entries. The winner will receive a beautiful Maton acoustic guitar, courtesy of sponsors, Maton Guitars.

To enter, simply go to the ASA website at www.asai.org.au and follow the prompts.

Thank you to the following contest platforms for hosting the contest:

IndieCentral.com

SONG CENTRAL

Just for your diaries, the **2019 National Songwriting Awards** will be held on **30 October 2019** at the **Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL Club**, the same venue as in the past two years.

Tickets will be available once the judging of the 2019 Australian Songwriting Contest is complete.

Ricky Muscat: 2018 Co-Winner Of The Ballad Category

**Ricky Muscat** was the co-winner of the Ballad category in the 2018 song contest with his song "Why Can't You Love Me". Welcome Ricky.

**ASA**: Can you tell us a bit about your winning song?

**Ricky**: This song was written about five years ago as a dance track, it was a big full dance production at the time, and it had been just sitting there for a couple of years with some other songs I had written.

I did a single launch a couple of years ago and I didn't have enough original songs to perform and I didn't want to do covers, so I took this dance song and turned it into a ballad and performed it at my launch.

It went over really well, so from there we thought let's do a recording of it and maybe release it as my next single; and we are looking forward to releasing it next year.

**ASA**: That's great! You had a couple of co-writers is that right?

**Ricky**: Yes, James and Vince Lee, former members of Pseudo Echo and Vertigo, and I am lucky to be working with those guys, we do a lot of co-writes together.

A bit about the song, this song we wrote the music and melody first with James and then with Vince we do a lot of the lyrics stuff, and we piece it together

**ASA**: So, it was a genuine co-write?

**Ricky**: Yes, it was, that's how we do a lot of our work. I will go into the studio with James and we will build up a track capturing the melody. When we have something we think is strong enough we then go over to Vince where we start and get some lyrics ideas and try and fit the puzzle together.

**ASA**: How do you find co-writing compares with writing just by yourself?

**Ricky**: I actually prefer co-writing, I am a really lazy writer, when I am by myself I get started and get a really good start and then I get distracted and start on

something else. When I work with someone it's good to have someone to bounce ideas off, especially when the guys I am working with have about 30years experience in the industry, so it's really good for me to learn off them.

**ASA**: You are involved in Vocal Art Studios, is that correct?

**Ricky**: Yes, I am the General manager. We are really lucky, we had seventeen entries in the top thirty over a number of categories in the contests, and we have a big bunch of people coming up tonight, so it's going to be a fantastic night.

**ASA**: Can you tell us a bit about Vocal Art and what you do there?

**Ricky**: Basically, we are a private music school in the west of Melbourne. Our main interest is vocal, but we also do drums, guitar, bass and piano.

We run a talent development program as well, where we do songwriting with kids who take their music seriously, and we have a few in the Youth category tonight who we have helped with songwriting lessons.

It's a fantastic organisation where we are like a family. All the staff the parents the kids have been together for over ten years, so it's a really special place and it's great that we can all come here tonight and celebrate.

**ASA**: How can people get in touch with you?

**Ricky**: There is our social media platform and we also have a website, VocalArtStudios.com.

**ASA**: How do you find working with up-and-coming artists?

**Ricky**: I love it, I love kids and I am really passionate about singing and songwriting. So, to be able to do that every day and pass on the knowledge I have learnt is really rewarding.

We had one of our student teachers win a category last year, Abbey Grace. She has been at the school for over ten years and to see her grow into the songwriter singer that she has become is fantastic. As a mentor it's a great feeling.

**ASA**: Thank you Ricky it's been great to have a chat and learning about the work you do.

Wax Lyrical Roundup

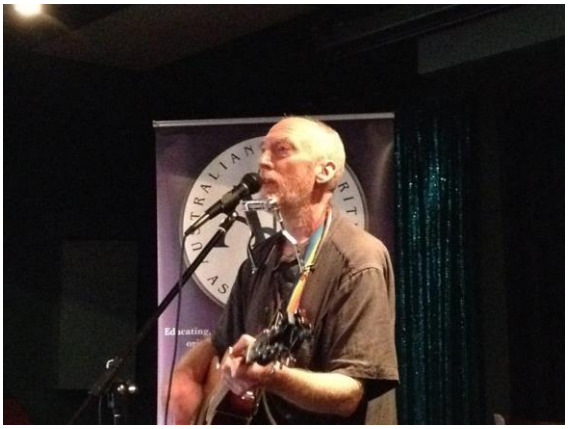
**ASA Yarra Valley VIC, 21 March 2019, Cunninghams Hotel Yarra Junction**

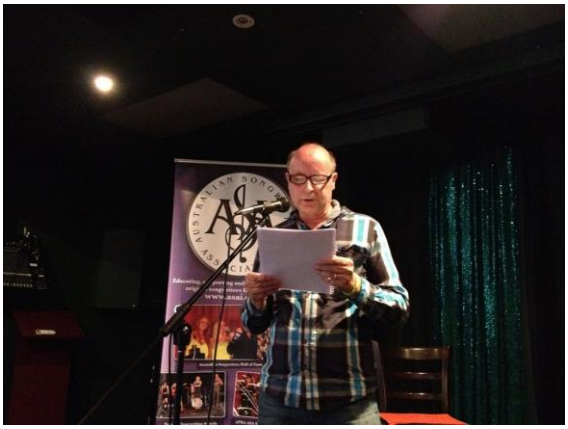
**ASA Dalby QLD, 25 March 2019, Dalby Hotel Motel (The Hoey Moey).**

**ASA Northern Rivers NSW, 21 March 2019, East Lismore Bowling Club**

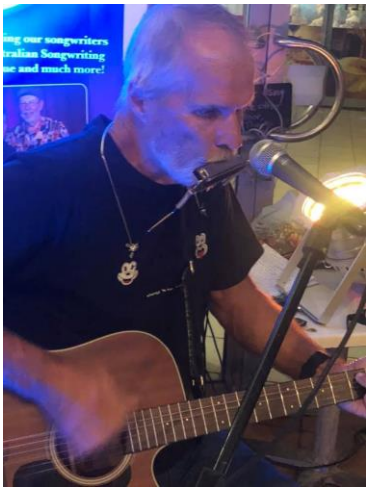
**ASA Newcastle NSW, 8 April 2019, Carrington Bowling Club.**

**ASA Canberra ACT, 24 March 2019, The Irish Club**





**ASA Sunshine Coast QLD, 12 April 2019, Kings Depot**



**ASA Cairns QLD, 11 April 2019, Elixir Music Bar.**

**ASA Central Coast NSW, 15 April 2019, Magenta Shores Resort**

**ASA Sydney NSW, 24 April 2019, Paddington RSL Club**

Our Sydney Regional Co-Ordinator, **Russell Neal**, has recently begun his monthly Wax Lyrical events at Paddington RSL Club on the last Wednesday of the month. Russell is looking for ASA members who wish to perform their original songs at the Wax Lyricals.

If you are interested, please contact Russell. Details below:

Russell Neal
SongsOnStage
0411 827 571
Email: songsonstage@gmail.com
Twitter: https://twitter.com/songsonstage
Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/russellnealmusic
https://www.facebook.com/SongsOnStage

# Kieran Roberts and Katelyn Newlands: 2018 Winners Of The Lyrics Category

**Photo: 2018 Lyrics Category winners, Katelyn Newlands (In Blue) and Kieran Roberts (Centre) receiving their awards at the 2018 National Songwriting Awards.**

Congratulations to ACT songwriter, **Kieran Roberts**, and WA songwriter, **Katelyn Newlands**, for their win in the Lyrics Category of the 2018 Australian Songwriting Contest.

**Kieran Roberts** is an Australian songwriter, multi-instrumentalist and composer.

He has performed in all manner of venues, large and small across Australia for nearly forty years.

Kieran has a background as a drummer, percussionist and classical bassoonist but he is perhaps better known in Australia as a piano and keyboard player and as a guitarist songwriter.

Kieran's range of performing has been extensive as a solo performer and as a lead singer in his own bands as well as for having played piano and keyboards with some of the biggest names in Australian Rock music like the late Stevie Wright, Kevin Borich, Lonnie Lee, Russell Morris, Normie Rowe, Max Merrit, Blackfeather & the Chain.

As a songwriter on piano, Kieran is inspired by the styles of Jimmy Webb, Randy Newman, Bruce Hornsby and Elton John, while when writing on guitar Kieran is drawn to the down to earth narrative grit and incisive lyric sensitivity of the late Harry Chapin and the great Australian songwriter Paul Kelly.

On lyrics, Kieran says that for him, "it is a joy to write thoughts and words every day, if not therapeutic, be it on a laptop, notepads or the phone and that it is important to initially write with immediacy and honesty."

"For me, writing has become more than a passion. Really, it has become more of a health issue. It lets me de-clutter and find stillness amidst the fast-moving world. It calms me down. Many people like to read or cook. I find it more therapeutic to write."

On subject matter, Kieran says that, "I'm constantly being fascinated and educated by the world around me and the endless supply of unique people and experiences that occupy life's spaces both great and small."

"For me writing is a beautiful privilege and a freedom to express my feelings about anything at all. For me, writing song lyrics is often an attempt to make some kind of humble sense of the beauty, feelings and chaos that I encounter, recall or resonate with, every day".

"With lyric songwriting it is important to find the power of economy and not just waffle on. I re-write and re-write. That is one very important distinction between poetry or prose and writing a song lyric. A song is usually a short thing and there is often only room for one idea. Then that idea can be dressed with a story and evocative relevancies. Jimmy Webb has some great things to say about that in his book, 'Tunesmith'."

"The laptop is a great tool because I can edit and shift text easily and really try to drill down (but not tie down) some kind of esoteric essence that I might have been dreamily trying to capture, which through writing a song might hopefully become something beautiful and fresh to resonate with about something that we might have thought we already knew about, may have forgotten or would perhaps like to feel again."

"With prosaic music and all its many weapons like rhythm, sounds and melody etc. I am confident that it is still possible to create powerful communication with songs in what can sometimes seem and overwhelming and uncaring, fast world."

"It is obvious to me that the world is a vast and complex place but at the end of the day we are all human and probably share some simple common experiences, needs, struggles, desires and feelings."

"Life is a uniquely joyous and challenging thing for everyone because everyone has their own set of life circumstances and variables and I find that fascinating. For me, writing lyrics is an opportunity to empathize in some small way with the struggles, humor and aspirations of my fellow man."

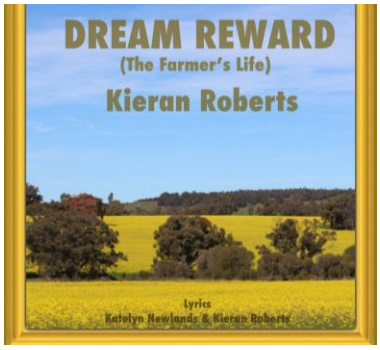
Instrumentally, Kieran has also composed and released three albums of electro-acoustic albums, 'Audio mind Travel', 'Journey of a Soul' and 'Moods of Christmas' and has also composed and recorded several full-length computer game soundtracks with the Academy of Interactive Entertainment.

Kieran has had a substantial and dynamic involvement with the Australian Songwriters Association from 1996 to the present and served as National President of the ASA from 2003-05. Kieran is a family man and continues to share his love and knowledge for music widely as a teacher both in schools and in the private setting of his home teaching and recording studio barn, Moment Music.

**Katelyn Newlands** is a West Australian song lyrics writer. She has been writing song lyrics, self-published poetry and novels since 2004.

During 2017 she had music created for four of her songs by a Perth music producer.

At the end of 2017, she met Kieran Roberts, songwriter/ singer/ music producer of ACT, who collaborated with her to recreate The Farmers Life, which she had written in 2012. It became Dream Reward (The Farmer's Life).




Kieran entered their song in the 2018 Australian Songwriting Contest and, although only shortlisted in the country section, it went on to win the Australian Song Lyrics Category 2018.

Katelyn has many more song lyrics to get music written to of many genres. Her lyrics range from personal stories in song, spiritual, country, experiences and world events. They are an extension of her poetry.

Katelyn's motto is to never give up believing in yourself, you can achieve anything at any age, and being close to retirement age, this has proved it to her.

## Sponsors Profiles:

1. **Major Sponsor: Wests Ashfield Leagues Club**

Thanks to major sponsor, the **Wests Ashfield Club**.

A premier entertainment and dining venue, and home of Wests Tigers and Wests Magpies Rugby League teams, Wests Ashfield is an excellent place to visit in Sydney's inner west.

Not only supporting a host of local sporting and youth-related activities, the Club lifts itself above the rest by also being a "Patron of the Arts", as demonstrated by its incredible ongoing sponsorship of the ASA.

All music lovers are encouraged to return the favour by becoming members of Wests Ashfield and, at very least, indulging yourself by enjoying some of the culinary delights the Club has on offer.

The Club is located in Sydney's inner west, at 115 Liverpool Road Ashfield, and provides great dining restaurants, great coffee, and regular community activities for members and friends. Check out the website at www.westsashfield.com.au.

## SPOIL MUM THIS MOTHER'S DAY IN THE GARDEN

It's the day to show you love for that wonderful, inspiring woman in your life. The Team in The Garden understands the importance of this and promise to help you show her just how special she is.

Wests Ashfield will be celebrating **Mother's Day** on Sunday 12 May 2019 in The Garden Restaurant from 9.00 am all the way through to 10.00 pm.

To book a table call the friendly reception team on 8752 2000 or book online at the Wests Ashfield website at http://thegardenwests.com.au/bookings/.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Breakfast | 9.00am – 11.00am | Special Breakfast Menu |
| Lunch | 12.30pm – 3.00pm | A la carte menu |
| Dinner | 6.00pm – 9.00pm | A la carte menu |

2. **Major Sponsor: APRA AMCOS**

**APRA AMCOS** is a major sponsor of the ASA, and provides generous support, including prize money of $3,000 annually to the APRS/ASA Songwriter of the Year, which last year, was **Anirban Banerjee**.

The ASA would like to thank APRA AMCOS for its continuing support, to assist make ASA activities, such as the Australian Songwriting Contest and the National Songwriting Awards possible each year.

The ASA is a not-for-profit organization, and relies on the support of its generous sponsors, its members and its other fundraising activities.

If you write music, you should become a member of APRA AMCOS. It's free to join, and once you do, APRA AMCOS can help you make money from your music. Become part of a collective community of 100,000 songwriters!

**APPLY NOW FOR MENTORSHIPS FOR WOMEN IN MUSIC**

After the success of last year's inaugural mentoring program for women, we are pleased to announce the return of Mentorships for Women in Music, with ten new mentoring opportunities for songwriters and composers available across a variety of genres and disciplines. Applications are now open for the following mentorships:

- Popular/Contemporary Music, in partnership with APRA AMCOS
- Heavy Music, in partnership with UNFD
- Film Composition, in partnership with the AGSC
- TV Composition with Jay Stewart

We invite women at any stage in their career to apply. Whether you are starting out, returning to the industry or looking for advice on moving to the next level, you will be seriously considered for the program. Each mentorship is offered for a three-month period and mentees will receive some financial support over that time.

Songwriters and composers who are APRA AMCOS members and identify as women, and those who feel they would benefit from a program designed for women in music, can apply. You must be an APRA AMCOS member to apply.

Applications close Friday 31 May 2019, at 5PM AEST. Full details below. For any questions, please contact writer@apra.com.au, your local Writer Services rep, live chat during business hours.

**AND NOW, NINE NEW SPONSORS FOR 2019:**

### 3. I Heart Songwriting Club

Whether you're a beginner, hobby or professional songwriter, practicing songwriting will always make you a better songwriter.

Take advantage of the opportunity to join I Heart Songwriting Club's 10-week challenge and write 10 songs and GET FEEDBACK before you submit to the Australian Songwriting Contest.

I Heart Songwriting Club is a totally online platform for ALL songwriters with both a peer program and a fully mentored online course for 10-17 year olds.

Join the platform that has supported many Australian songwriters including ARIA nominated Mama Kin (WA) and Tommy Spender (Vic), and the ASA's Rudy Brandsma Award winner, George Begbie (Tas).

Contact: www.iheartsongwritingclub.com Principal: Francesca de Valence

### 4. Tenterfield (NSW) Peter Allen Festival

The Tenterfield (NSW) Peter Allen Festival will be held this year on the **5th to the 8th September 2019**.

The Peter Allen Festival is an annual event held in the historic town of Tenterfield NSW in early September as a celebration of Peter Allen's contribution to Arts and Culture not only in Australia, but internationally.

The 2019 Peter Allen Festival will incorporate a range of activities including arts, culture, singing, songwriting, theatre, dance and entertainment.

Tenterfield is the location of one of Peter's most famous songs, **Tenterfield Saddler**. This festival will be a celebration of Peter's music, rural lifestyles, heritage, history, food, local produce, local talent and the indigenous history of the area.

For information, go to https://www.thepeterallenfestival.com.au/.

## 5. MasterWriter

**MasterWriter** is the most powerful suite of songwriting tools ever assembled in one program. It is the #1 bestselling software for songwriters and is used by some of the most successful songwriters in the business.

Its vast array of reference dictionaries, songwriting tools, and organizational features make it an essential software for every songwriter.

In a profession where good is rarely good enough, MasterWriter will help you to consistently create the exceptional.

For more information, go to www.masterwriter,com.

**Songguard**

A songwriter's worst nightmare would be to wake up and hear a hit by someone else using their melody or lyric and claiming it as their own. Don't let this happen to you.

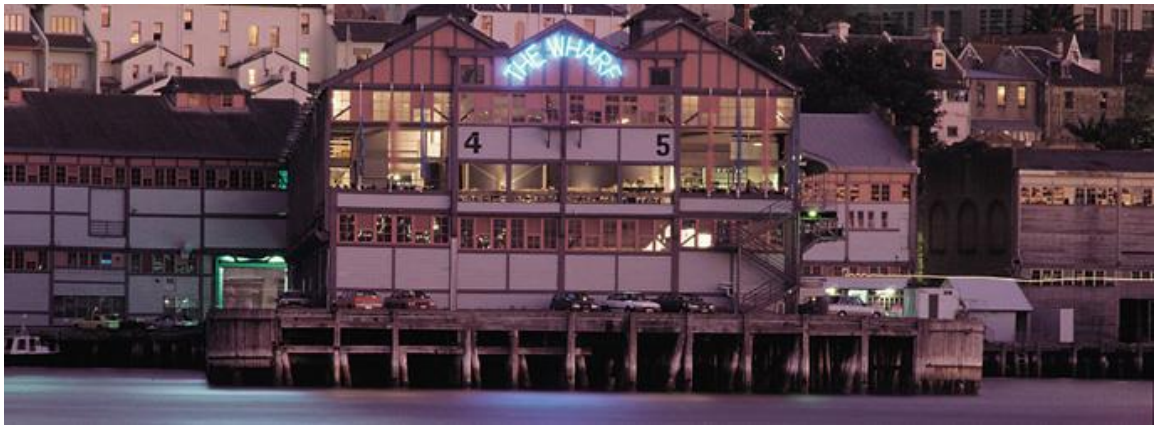
When you post your songs on the internet or send them to artists, producers, labels and publishers, millions of people have access to them including the people who are currently making the music. This exposure puts the songwriter at great risk that someone may steal or use parts of their song and claim it as their own.

The essential evidence in the event of an infringement is proving the *date of creation.* Registering your song with Songuard gives you proof of the *date of creation* in the same way a US Copyright does, for a fraction of the cost.

The cost to register your song with Songuard is only $3.95.

For more information, go to www.songuard.com.

## 6. Sydney Theatre Co




Sydney Theatre Company (STC) has been a major force in Australian drama since its establishment in 1978. The Company presents an annual season of diverse productions at its own venues at The Wharf and nearby Roslyn Packer Theatre at Walsh Bay, and as the resident theatre company of the Sydney Opera House. Our current Artistic Director is Kip Williams, who was appointed in 2016.

STC offers audiences an eclectic program of Australian plays, interpretations of the classic repertoire and the best of new international writing. It seeks to produce theatre of the highest standard that consistently illuminates, entertains and challenges. It is committed to the engagement between the imagination of its artists and its audiences and the development of the theatrical art-form.

STC has presented productions by Abbey Theatre, Traverse Theatre, Complicite, Cheek by Jowl, Out-of-Joint, the National Theatre of Great Britain and Steppenwolf Theatre Company. In recent years, the company's international profile has grown significantly with productions, including Hedda Gabler*,* A Streetcar Named Desire*,* Uncle Vanya*,* Gross und Klein (Big and Small) and Waiting for Godot.

For further information, go to www.sydneytheatre.com.au.

## 7. Taronga Western Plains Zoo Dubbo

TARONGA WESTERN PLAINS ZOO DUBBO

For the Wild

**Taronga Western Plains Zoo**, formerly known as (and still commonly referred to as) **Western Plains Zoo** and commonly known as Dubbo Zoo, is a large zoo near Dubbo, New South Wales.

It opened to the public on 28 February 1977, to provide more living and breeding space for large animals such as elephants and antelopes which needed more space than was available at the restricted Sydney site.

The zoo is run by the Taronga Conservation Society (formerly Zoological Parks Board of New South Wales), along with Taronga Zoo Sydney. Western Plains Zoo is located on the Newell Highway in west Dubbo about 4 km from the city.

For further information, go https://taronga.org.au/dubbo-zoo.

8. **The Code**

**Katcha Live Studio** has been operating for ten years in the Sydney suburb of West Ryde, since 2009. It is run by husband and wife team, Cha Samaraweera and Kat Ferguson.

"We opened and dedicated to teach for one reason and one reason only: "To get you performing live", they say.

"Whether it's in front of your family, friends or other audiences we want to see you perform in confidence."

"The bottom line is to be able to perform in front of many with confidence and entertainment skills. It does not matter how old or young you are, you need to be able to do this if you want to learn an instrument."

For more information, go to www.katchamusic.com.

**9. Vagabond Cruises**

With over three decades experience, **Vagabond Cruises** is one of Sydney Harbour's longest established cruise companies!

"As a family run business, we deliver a wide range of convenient and all-inclusive packages including live entertainment lunch and dinner cruises, private functions for any personal or formal occasion such as weddings, receptions, corporate events, harbour transfers, school formals, university parties and formals, birthdays, hens and bucks parties and much, much more!"

"Our dedicated events team aims to make your event memorable for all the right reasons: choose your own package and vessel and settle in for a great experience on Sydney Harbour. We boast a fleet of fully equipped vessels to accommodate between twenty and an impressive three hundred and fifty guests, day or night!"

"Vagabond Cruises is equipped to host events of all styles and offers a tailored service, taking into account your individual requirements and budget, to fully realise a successful event! We offer flexible cruising options and guarantee to beat any comparable quote!"

"Full info on all our services may be found on www.vagabond.com.au."

**10.** **PaintballBookingOffice.Com**

Love paintball? Then look no further than Paintball Booking Office.

Paintball Booking Office is an international organization for paint ballers, with 22 locations around Australia.

Australia has been highly rated for paintball by 1,036,788 players

Australia has become the home of paintball lovers. Our centres are across the country, and provide you with a fantastic day, without the hassle. Paintball in Australia will get you outside and using natural props like trees and bushes as a way to hide from the enemy and advance to achieve victory! We can ensure that a day at our paintball centres will be a day you never forget.

For further information, go to www.paintballbookingoffice.com.

**11.** **Loving Earth**

**Loving Earth** is a well-established Australian producer of raw and organic food with a strong focus on chocolate. Great care is taken with ingredient sourcing. Their cacao (which is used to make their chocolate and their cacao powder) is sourced directly from the growers in the Ashaninka community in Peru, where cacao originated. It is this direct trade and ensures the ethics behind the ingredients in a market where fair trade comes heavily in to play.

Loving Earth is based in Melbourne and is dedicated to sourcing and manufacturing the highest quality organic, fairly-traded and wild crafted functional foods available.

"We work with small producer communities around the world to provide healthy, sustainable and fair ingredients, which we use to handcraft our unique range of raw chocolate bars and superfood snacks."

"Having established long-term relationships with several indigenous cooperatives, our aim is to help them add as much value as possible to their raw products at the point of origin."

For more information, go to www.lovingearth.net.

# ASA Member Profile: Thomas Libreri And Tessa Libreri

**Destiny Band Oz** is the registered recording and performing name of Australian singer, songwriter, recording artists and musicians, **Thomas and Tessa Libreri**, and was so named as it seemed like 'destiny' that they met!

They are primarily a duo with their own band, and have been performing together for years, but only released their first original song to radio in 2017.

Thomas and Tessa write, record and produce their music independently and do not always perform with their full lineup.

'Band Oz' was added to the name 'Destiny' once they started to release their music, as it became apparent there were a lot of bands around the world going by the name 'Destiny' and their music was getting all mixed up with other artists.

Thomas and Tessa are now based in Gippsland, Victoria, relocating from Kinglake after the tragic 2009 Black Saturday Bushfires in which they fought and saved friends and neighbours, but the experience was life-changing. (Thomas was presented with a Bravery Medal by the Australian Governor General for his actions saving a neighbour on that day who sadly passed away 3 weeks after).

The realisation that life is so fragile prompted the pair to record their first album of original songs that they had written over the years (more-so for posterity than anything else). They were strongly encouraged to release their music to radio, and since their first release in 2017, they have now recorded three full albums and two Eps and have been blessed with great chart successes for their nine official single releases.

Their latest single, 'My Family and Me' debuted at #1 on the Country Songs Top 40 Australian Airplay Chart in February 2019 and remained at #1 for 5 weeks in a row. their second Australian #1 single after 'Put on a Good Show' in August 2018. Eight of their nine releases charted on the Australian chart (most in the Top 10) plus eight #1 songs in Tasmania, international number #1s, Top 10s, awards and nominations, including nine nominations in the ISSA Awards and ICMA awards in April 2019.

Destiny Band Oz has released its next single, a tribute for ANZAC Day, Tessa's heartfelt version of the classic song about a father having to farewell his son, 'Danny Boy' as he heads off to war. It is the only non-original song from their latest album, 'Changes'.

Thomas and Tessa were excited to have attended Tamworth Country Music Festival for the first time in January 2019 and perform their music on various stages. Highlights were winning the Gold Medallion Media Award for Best Band or Duo of 2018, (presented by Alan Gilmour!), presenting an award at the People's Choice Country Music Awards (to Alan Gilmour!) and participating in the Australia Day Toyota Cavalcade.

Destiny Band Oz achievements:

- Winners of the Gold Medallion Media Awards for Best Group or Duo 2018 at Tamworth CMF 2019.
- National TICMA Country Band of the Year 2018
- Winners of the Best Indie song Sep 2018 and Jan 2019
- Winner of Best Country Song in the Akademia Awards March 2019
- Finalists in 2020 ICMA Awards and
- finalists in 2 categories of the 2019 Australian ICMA Awards;
- Nominees in 9 Categories of the 2019 ISSA Awards
- Finalists in the 2018 Australian Songwriters Association Awards;
- 1 of 8 finalists in the 2018 ASA Rudy Brandsma award;

- Finalists in three categories of the 2018 Josie Music Awards USA;
- One of five finalists in the 2018 Southern Stars Country Music Awards;
- Finalists in the 2019 Tamworth Songwriters Association Awards and semifinalists in two other categories;
- Finalists in four categories of the Tasmanian Independent Country Music Awards 2017 and 2018 and received TICMA awards for their 2017 #1 hits;
- Finalists in the 2018 People's Choice Music Awards finalists.

All Destiny Band Oz's music is available for streaming and download from the usual online stores or CDs from selected local outlets or by direct mail order through their facebook page, website, email or at live shows.

iTunes link- https://itunes.apple.com/au/artist/destiny-band-oz/1439101828

Spotify https://open.spotify.com/artist/2JSlyxbWbZIDFZ3AIxhPAq?si=DDJKXnEvS6uP_ZLillgslw

## Members News and Information

### 1. Songwriters Meeting Point

Perth WA lyricist, **Patrick McMurray**, is looking to pursue musical collaboration with like-minded composers. Patrick can be contacted at Patrick@patrickmcmurray.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.

Sydney songwriter, **Bob Brown** is looking for a co-writer. His musical likes are "ballads/ country/ country rock/ guitar instrumental, but I'm open to whatever project." "I've been in the Top 30 of ASA but never cracked it further in." Bob has sent us some recordings which we are happy to pass on to anyone who is interested. Bob can be contacted on hbmarvin@gmail.com.

ASA member, **Tony Bogan** is a lyricist, who is looking to team up with a musician/composer, to put music to his words.

Tony writes: "I have a collection of around 40 song lyrics I have written of varying ideas or themes (not boring love songs either) and I really want to team up with some good musos/composers ASAP."

Tony can be contacted on 0488 443 155 and tonydb71@gmail.com.

ASA Member, **Liz Connolly**, is a vocalist, lyricist and songwriter, looking for a Gold Coast or Northern NSW based songwriting partner who can help write/co-write guitar/piano accompaniments to her songs. Liz has half a dozen songs in a variety of styles (pop, rock, folk, ballads), that she has completed or semi-completed using electronic songwriting tools. In 2014, her song "Don't be Afraid" was short listed for the ASA song writing competition Contemporary Pop/Dance Category but didn't progress any further. Liz can be contacted at lizconnollymusic@gmail.com or 0409345133.

**Willy57** is a lyricist who is looking for someone to write melodies to his lyrics. If you are interested, Willy can be contacted at willy57@optusnet.com.au.

**Spencer Kelly** writes "I've been writing songs for years but it's only in the past 6 years that I've been getting Stacy Hogan at Writers Paradise studio to produce them. Have been on the lookout for a great co-writer / lyricist as I tend to get a bit tired of my own lyrics - I've got a lot of great backing tracks/melodies I've written and demo'd (100+), but haven't developed further, so if you know of a good writer who might be interested, I can be contacted at spencerwho@yahoo.com.

**Looking for somebody?** Contact us on alang@asai.org.au.

## 2. Jane Cornes-MacLean Has Been Appointed As The New ASA Regional Co-Ordinator for Perth WA

I have been a songwriting teacher for eight years and run a successful annual songwriting retreat in Ubud each Spring, at which I teach the fundamentals of songwriting and ways to increase creativity.

I was also the artistic director of the Nanga Music Festival until last year. After 10 years, I felt it was time for fresh blood, but I continue to be a committee member, and to support the festival's ethos of quality acoustic-style music and lyrics that count.

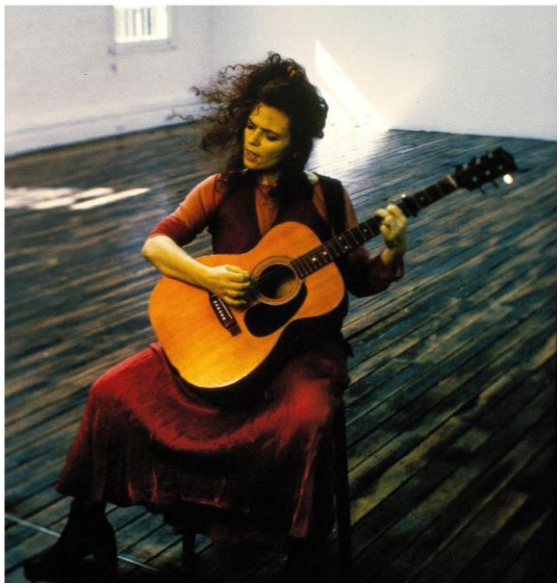
For over a decade, I was half of the female duo Doris, and during that time released three full length CDs.

Currently I perform with my own trio, Jane and The Rain (www.janeandtherain.com).

For 11 years, I was state editor for Gourmet Traveller magazine and wrote features on food, wine and travel.

You'll find out more about my background as a writer and teacher at my website, www. juice creative.com.

## 3. ASA Member, Paula Punch's New EP Release



ASA member, **Paula Punch,** has a new EP coming out on 30 April 2019.

The EP is called **Lost Horizon Sessions** and features four original songs recorded at a live recording session several years ago at Electric Avenue Studios.

The songs were recorded with Philip Punch, and mixed 'live' to 2-track by Groove Myers. These tracks were only recently re-discovered and have been now mastered for release by Robin Gist of Tone Master Productions.

The last track, Lost Horizon, is appropriately the title track. Groove's live mixing style rode Paula's songs perfectly to work with her emotional performance, and reflect these songs mood of heartache, yet personal empowerment.

## 4. ASA Director, Gary Luck's Play, Dreamland, Featured At The 2019 Short + Sweet Canberra Festival

"So proud that I can now announce officially that my play, Dreamland, has reached the top ten of plays entered into this year's Short + Sweet Festival and will play over six nights at the Canberra Theatre from 29 April to 4 May."

"Rehearsals are well underway, and I am so lucky to be working with some of this city's finest young actors.

Ticketing information is now out. Please come and see them perform!"

Almost ten years ago, the world's biggest little festival kicked off in the coolest little capital, which grew to become the largest community of performing artists in Canberra, with over 100 people contributing to each festival.

The 2019 festival is going to be a celebration of that community.

**Above: The Dreamland Team**

As an open access festival, Short + Sweet Canberra brings together a broad range of artists. Professional performing artists work alongside talented enthusiasts, and artists with more experience and expertise in other artforms. And most importantly, it brings new audiences into the theatre as friends and family members of participants attend performances and recognise their own potential to participate.

Short + Sweet Canberra is at once local and eclectic. Plays are submitted from all over the world, and the festival director shortlists approximately half of the festival's content from local writers, and half from interstate and overseas.

Most actors and directors who participate come from Canberra, many travel from the capital region, and the festival has also welcomed actors and directors from Sydney and Melbourne.

Short + Sweet Canberra enjoys the support of Canberra Theatre Centre, without which, we couldn't stage this great festival each year. The Short + Sweet family is committed to building a more creative world, 10 minutes at a time. The platform provides an accessible and enjoyable theatrical experience to individuals from all walks of life and gives them the opportunity to connect with creatives from all over the world.

Gary will be performing six of his own original songs throughout the play - a universal story about sex, drugs, rock n roll and redemption.  With a twist!

## 5. Support Act: Music In The House 2019

**Support Act** is the Australian music industry's registered charity. It was founded in 1997 by the music industry, for the music industry. Support Act recognises that a career in music can bring its own unique rewards and challenges and can sometime result in financial hardship.

Support Act has helped in so many different ways. They've paid the rent for struggling musicians, kept the power on, repaired instruments, provided petrol, bought school uniforms, helped rehouse a prized vinyl collection, replaced a rotten bed and kept a dog in biscuits.

They've helped get artists and music workers back on their feet when they have hit a tough patch and just need a breathing space. They've also brought comfort and dignity to many people in the final stages of life.

Support Act's founding members are AMCOS, APRA, ARIA and PPCA

**Music In The House** was created in 2006 as an opportunity for Support Act to recognise someone in Australian music for their musicianship, and as importantly, their broader contribution to the community. It is now Support Act's flagship fundraising event.

Over the past 14 years, we have celebrated many wonderful Australian artists, listened to some killer acoustic performances of their music by artists they admire, and heard heartfelt and moving testimony from their peers regarding their influence and impact on our lives.

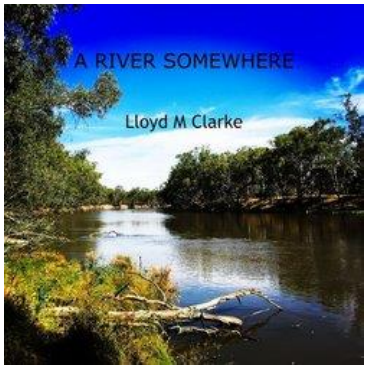
In doing so, we have been joined by the who's who of the Australian music and entertainment industry and have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for our programs which help artists, roadies and music workers who are doing it tough.

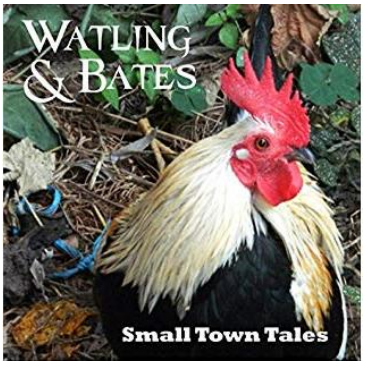
**The 2019 Music In The House will be held on Wednesday 29 May 2019.**

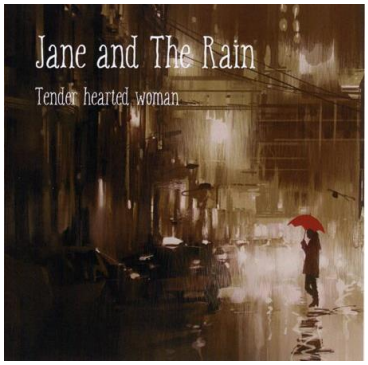
**6. Songwriting Workshops**

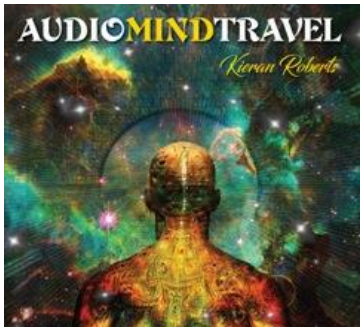
## Latest Music Releases From ASA Members And Friends

If you have a new music release, please let us know, and we'll feature it here.

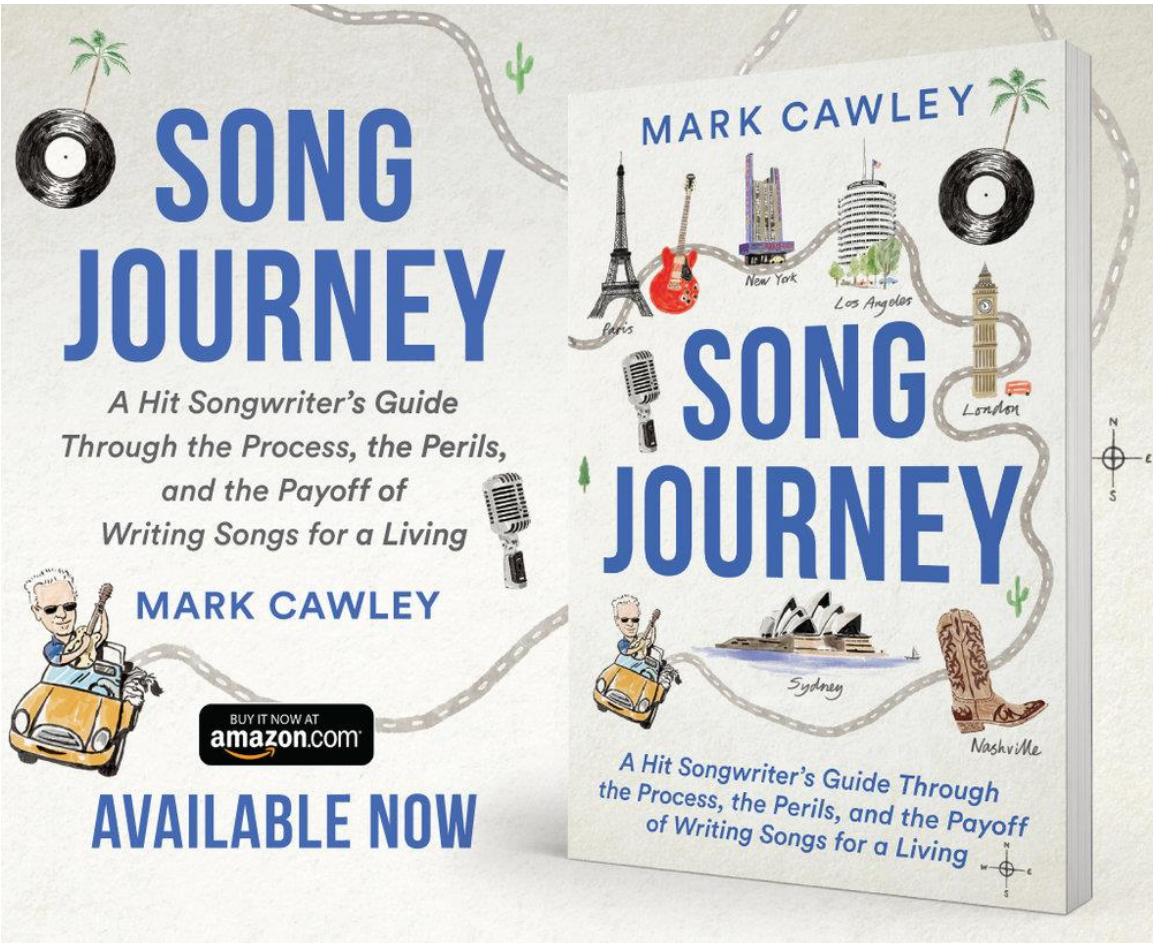






Mark Cawley's Monthly Songwriting Blog




## The Mantra Every Lyricist Should Live By

*The following is an excerpt from Song Journey by Mark Cawley*:

As a songwriter, what's a good place to start once you have a title or an idea of what you're going to write about? Prose. But, instead of jumping right in, try closing your eyes, thinking about your idea, and then writing what you see.
Don't rhyme, don't worry about cadence or how cool it looks on the page, just write.

If you're writing a song about meeting the love of your life, talk about the time of day, name the place you met, what the weather was like. Color of her hair.

Even the smallest detail can make the difference between a generic lyric and one that comes to life. If it's a car, what's the make? These details make up the real stuff. Write the real stuff because it's the good stuff. You can make it pretty later.

If you have one mantra as a lyricist, let it be "Show. Don't tell."

I wish I'd invented this, but I'm not that smart. Any Nashville writer knows this truism, and it applies to every kind of lyric. If you're telling, you're just reporting.

"Just the facts" is not a good idea here. You want to paint a picture, and you do that with color and detail. Make the listener see what you want them to see.

The late John Braheny wrote one of the best books on songwriting I've ever read called The Craft and Business of Songwriting. In it, he uses this example to illustrate the point:

Look at three objects—a car, a book, and a musical instrument:

- My great 1982 Porsche 928 with a broken right taillight.
- My paperback with a blue cover and the words *Gift from God* printed in gold.
- My old white Telecaster with a broken B string and a missing volume knob.

*Now you see 'em…*

- My Honda
- The book I'm reading
- I play an instrument

*…and now you don't.* That is the power of "Show. Don't tell."

How much color and detail is too much? In Jimmy McDonough's biography of Neil Young, *Shakey*, he wrote a piece where he compared a good lyricist to a "stager."

My daughter, Morgan, has her own interior design business here in Nashville and gets called in occasionally to be a stager. Her job is to look at a house that's on the market and put herself in the buyer's shoes. Is there too much of the owner's memorabilia or tchotchkes in the house? Is it too sterile? How can she make the house inviting so the buyers can pick up on the vibe but also see themselves living there?

A good lyric writer adds just enough colour and detail so the listener sees what you want them to see. If there is not enough colour and detail, the listener is left to only imagine.

I know you've heard a song and felt it was telling *your* story. That's good lyric writing. Too much detail and it's only the writer's story. Just enough and it becomes yours.

*For more advice on writing good lyrics, you can find Song Journey on Amazon.*
*Mark Cawley is a hit songwriter who coaches other writers around the globe through his one-on-one, online service iDocoach.com. His songs have been on more than 16 million records with cuts ranging from Tina Turner to Wynonna Judd to The Spice Girls. Mark is a judge for the UK Songwriting Contest, Nashville Rising Star, Belmont University's Commercial Music program, and West Coast Songwriter events. He's also a contributing author to USA Songwriting and Songwriter Magazine, a sponsor for the Australian Songwriting Association, and a mentor for The Songwriting Academy UK. Born and raised in Syracuse, New York, Mark now resides in Nashville, Tennessee.*

The Load Out

WE SPLIT WAYS HERE...
STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN
HIGHWAY TO HELL
LED ZEPPELIN
AC/DC

## Official Sponsors of the Australian Songwriting Contest

The 39th Australian Songwriting Contest 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.

## Contact Us


| | |
|---|---|
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| Facebook: | www.facebook.com/asamusicians<br>www.facebook.com/australiansongwritersassociation |
| Youtube: | www.youtube.com/austsongwriters |
| Patron: | Glenn A Baker |

## Life Members:

Tom Louch, Rudy Brandsma, Russell Zimmer, Dominic Crea, Marie Murphy, Colleen Zulian, Alex Bialocki, Rob Fairbairn, Brian Henderson Ward and Kieran Roberts.

## Directors:

| | |
|---|---|
| Denny Burgess | Chairman |
| Alan Gilmour | Vice Chairman, Public Officer, Financial Officer, Online Content Manager and Editor of The Australian Songwriter Magazine |
| Clare Burgess | Director, Chief Executive Officer and Secretary |
| Gary Luck | Director and Manager of Regional Co-Ordinators |

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Dean Mackin, F1 Internet Services, (0409 240 660)

## 2018 APRA/ASA Australian Songwriter of the Year

Anirban Banerjee (ACT)

## 2018 Rudy Brandsma Award Winner

Lola Brinton (NSW)

## 2018 PPCA Live Performance Award Winner

Ricky Muscat (VIC)

## Australian Songwriters Hall Of Fame:

2018: Iva Davies (Icehouse)

2017: Vikki Thorn, Donna Simpson & Josh Cunningham (The Waifs)

2016: Andrew Farris and Michael Hutchence (INXS)

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 (Little River Band)

2005: Russell Morris

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

## Lifetime Achievement Award

2017: Christine Anu, for her work as a Songwriter in the Music Industry for First Nations Peoples

## 2018 Australian Songwriting Contest Award Winners:

Stephen Phillip (QLD) (Australia Category)

Anirban Banerjee (ACT) (Ballad Category- Joint)

Ricky Muscat (VIC) (Ballad Category- Joint)

Jemma Siles (VIC) (Contemporary Pop/Dance Category)

Stephanie Wade (VIC) (Country Category)

Lucy Parle (NSW) (Folk/Acoustic Category)

Tom Anderson (NSW) (Instrumental Category)

Anirban Banerjee (ACT) (International Category)

Kieran Roberts (ACT) & Katelyn Newlands (WA) (Lyrics Category)

Kerrie Garside (QLD) (Open Category- Joint)

Abbey Gardner (NSW) (Open Category- Joint)

Antonio Corea (WA) (Rock/Indie Category)

Stephen Kiely & Roxanne Kiely (NSW) (Songs For Children Category)

Jacques Gentil (VIC) (Spiritual Category)

Kaitlyn Thomas (VIC) (Youth Category)

## Australian Songwriters Of The Year & Rudy Brandsma Award Winners

The title of **Songwriter/ Song of the Year** was first awarded in 1980, following the establishment of the ASA in late 1979. **The Rudy Brandsma Award** was first awarded in 1983, following the passing of ASA co-founder, Rudy Brandsma.

| | **Songwriters Of The Year** | **Rudy Brandsma Award Winners** |
|---|---|---|
| 2018 | Anirban Banerjee | Lola Brinton |
| 2017 | Steve Montgomery | Samantha Mooney |
| 2016 | Donna Dyson & Damien Leith | Alex Tobin |
| 2015 | Karen Guymer | George Begbie |
| 2014 | Rick Hart | Robert McIntosh |
| 2013 | Jacques Gentil | Dani Karis |
| 2012 | Andrew Winton | Melia & Nerida Naughton |
| 2011 | Brian Chapman | Katie Hardyman |
| 2010 | Kate Rowe | Karen Guymer |
| 2009 | Tony King | Kate Lush |
| 2008 | Jason Campbell-Smith | Jo-Kelly Stephenson |
| 2007 | Simon Shapiro | Brenda-Lee Heathcote |
| 2006 | Emma Joleen | Daniel Arvidson |
| 2005 | Michael Maher | K'Crasher |
| 2004 | Trish Delaney-Brown | Callee Mann |
| 2003 | Contest Not Held | Contest Not Held |
| 2002 | Kyls Burtland | Sara Downs |
| 2001 | Helen Mottee | Keith Armitage |
| 2000 | Andrew Horabin | Tomino Speciale |
| 1999 | Alf Tuohy | Mike Kidd |
| 1998 | Kyls Burtland | Not Known |
| 1997 | Xanthe Littlemore | Michael Waugh |
| 1996 | Mark Crocker | Felicity Hunt |
| 1995 | Rob Pippan | Sharon Bothe |
| 1994 | Danny Hooper & Steve Cole | Nigel Foote |
| 1993 | Not Known | Billy Dettmer |
| 1992 | Not Known | John Cooney |
| 1991 | Not Known | Not Known |
| 1990 | Ian Paulin | Jane Robertson |
| 1989 | Steve Wade | Not Known |
| 1988 | Steve Wade | Steve Wade |
| 1987 | Not Known | Not Known |
| 1986 | Rob Stambulic | Stu Storm |
| 1985 | Ross Nicholson & John Coco | Steve Wade |
| 1984 | Not Known | Debbie Bignell & Tony Stark |
| 1983 | Chris Lamech & Debbie Bignell | Chris Lamech & Debbie Bignell |
| 1982 | Not Known | N/a |
| 1981 | Not Known | N/a |
| 1980 | Not Known | N/a |
| 1979 | Commenced in 1980 | Commenced in 1983 |

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