



# in step with life

## WALK OF LIFE WITH GINA & FRIENDS

Some of Australian country music's biggest stars will join Gina for her 2007 Walk of Life during this year's Tamworth Festival.

They include **LEE KERNAGHAN, TROY CASSAR-DALEY, ADAM HARVEY, ADAM BRAND, BECCY COLE, MELINDA SCHNEIDER, JAMES BLUNDELL** and **SARA STORER**.

And country music fans are invited to join their favourite stars for the one-hour walk down Peel Street to raise funds for the Leukaemia Foundation, a charity Gina and husband **ROD McCORMACK** have supported actively for the past decade.

Gina's planning that this will be the first of many annual Walks of Life, which will not only raise funds for a very worthwhile cause, but also give country stars a chance to give something back to their fans and the community.

And, of course, the Walk of Life will give fans the opportunity to share the experience with their favourite artists.

The 2007 Walk of Life will take place on Thursday, January 25, starting at 9am. Walkers should gather at the corner of Peel and White Streets, and registration packs can be collected at Festival HQ, 437 Peel St.

Registration includes a Walk of Life t-shirt, hat and bottle of water, and the \$15 registration fee goes to the Leukaemia Foundation.

strain in the song is almost palpable, making it both a remarkable piece of writing and an extraordinary performance.

"*On A Good Day* is about losing someone — whether to death, or for some other reason, and having to get through what can be an unbearable time of loss and sorrow. During our work with the Leukaemia Foundation, we've met some incredible people with such a will to survive, but also many people who've lost loved ones. This song is written for them."

Another remarkable song is the powerful *Heart Like A Wall*, a song about the barriers we build around ourselves when we get hurt.

"Sometimes relationships destruct because of what happened even before they began. It's really important to keep your heart — and arms — open to those you love, and not to build those walls," Gina said.

A similar theme is explored in *The Evening Star*, which was cowritten with Rod and the immensely talented **LYN BOWTELL**. It's a song which Gina says was inspired by personal experiences and those of people close to her, though the song itself is an amalgamation of their stories.

"It's about a woman who chose her career over everything else that's wonderful in life. She lost both the love of her life and the chance to have a child by leaving it too late. We all need to love and be loved — but sometimes we forget," Gina said.

Strong women feature prominently on *Walks Of Life*, especially on *A Woman Knows*, which focuses on intuition, and trusting your instincts. It's a song about the end of a relationship, but it has a positive spin.

There are, however many far happier moments on *Walks Of Life*, and none more positive than the song Gina wrote (with Rod and **LOU BRADLEY**) for their son, Jackson. It's a simple, sweet little song titled *You Make My Heart Sing*, and it really does just that.

"He's the reason I took so long to make this

album, but also the reason why I'm loving singing more than ever. I love him more than I ever thought was possible," Gina said.

Gina's strong and happy relationship with Rod is captured in the exquisite *Little Circle*, a song she, Rod and Jerry Salley wrote about her wedding ring.

"My wedding ring belonged to my Nanna, who was happily married for 65 years. It went to my mum and dad, who are still together after 40 years, and now I have it. It carries a family tradition of love, commitment and happiness, and means so much to me. This year my ring will be 84 years old," Gina said.

Other standout tracks on *Walks Of Life* include *The Truth About Lies*, a morality tale to which many parents will relate, and the delightful *Song I Never Heard*, about how fate brings you to where you're meant to be.

And the album's final track, the beautiful *Ivy And The Oak* is a simple, heartfelt love song that's been recorded in a stripped back, sparse way that works perfectly. It's the ideal conclusion to a powerful and moving album.

Gina will launch *Walks Of Life* at the TREC at 3.15 pm on Wednesday, January 24. It will be her only Tamworth concert, and is sure to be a highlight of the festival. Gina is also doing a performance workshop for the students at the College of Country Music prior to the festival.

"It gives me a chance to talk to these wonderful young performers about what's worked for me over the years. I guess the strongest message I want to get across is that you have to be real, and you have to connect with your audience," Gina said.

After the festival, Gina, Rod and Jackson will hit the road, touring as much as possible during 2007.

"We'll be doing a lot of acoustic-style shows, and there are plans to include people like **BECCY COLE, JAMES BLUNDELL** and **ADAM BRAND** on many of the shows. I can't wait!" Gina said.