

2007 Victorian & National Country Music Awards Winners

Victorian Sections

FEMALE VOCALIST

Rebecca Lee Nye
Gotta Say Goodbye

MALE VOCALIST

Paul Costa
Love Is Not A Game

GROUP/DUET

Sovereign
It's My Town

ALBUM OF THE YEAR

RESTORATION
Paul Costa

VICTORIAN ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR

Paul Costa

National Sections

FEMALE VOCALIST

Beccy Cole - *Poster Girl*

MALE VOCALIST

Lee Kernaghan - *The New Bush*

GROUP

The Wolverines - *Angel Eyes*

DUET

Paul Costa/Aleyce Simmonds
The Way You Make Me Feel

HAWKING BROTHERS

BEST NEW TALENT

Sharnee Fenwick - *How 'Bout Never*

SONGWRITERS COMPOSITION

The New Bush
L.Kernaghan/G.Porter/C.Buchanan

SMOKY DAWSON BEST INDEPENDENT RELEASE

RESTORATION
(Album)
Paul Costa



Paul Costa winner of five awards

The 16th annual Victorian & National Country Music Awards has highlighted the depth of talent from artists in genres ranging from bluegrass, ballads and through to country rock.

The winners announced at the gala dinner awards night, on Friday, February 9, at the Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre in South Morang, included **Paul Costa, Lee Kernaghan, Beccy Cole, Rebecca Lee Nye, Anne Kirkpatrick, Travis Collins, The Wolverines** and **Sovereign**.

Whittlesea Country Music Festival President, Innes Creighton, said "Each award is special recognition for their winner, whether they be someone new to performing, an ascending star or at the pinnacle of their Country Music career.

"These awards provide an alternative to the Golden Guitars in Tamworth, attract more entrants whether or not they have a recording contract."

The award night with a capacity



WALKS OF LIFE Gina Jeffreys

It's been a long time coming but Gina's new album WALKS OF LIFE has been well worth the wait. Here is an album that smacks of honesty, integrity and heartfelt songs.

Gina took time away from recording and performing to concentrate on raising her son Jackson but when she and husband and album producer Rod McCormack decided to go back into the studio it was with a bunch of songs that will mesmerise and pull at your heartstrings.

Songs like the first single, *Live It* or *Evening Star* get you in on first listen, whilst others like *Heart Like A Wall*, *On A Good Day* or *Never Mine* (with Felicity Urquhart) will get you second time around.

There's some very personal material here – *Little Circle* (inspired by Gina's grandmother's wedding ring), *You Make My Heart Sing* (inspired by Jackson) and the beautiful *Song I Never Heard*.

It's pretty much a listening album but *Stepped Right In It* and *A Woman Knows* will get you on your feet in no time.

**THE TRAILBLAZERS HERITAGE
AWARD**

I Am Australian - Travis Collins

BUSH BALLAD OF THE YEAR

Peppimenarti Cradle
Anne Kirkpatrick

INSTRUMENTAL

Triona Akba - Michael Kerin

**BLUEGRASS & TRADITIONAL
COUNTRY**

Don't Turn Me Down
Davidson Brothers

crowd of 500 marked the start of the Whittlesea Country Music Festival that includes a free family street party on the Saturday, plus two open air concerts on Saturday and Sunday at the Whittlesea Showgrounds

Special guests were **Adam Harvey, Beccy Cole** and **Anne Kirkpatrick** with local band **Hardrive**.

Pick a standout track? Come on, they are all great – but I'll go with *The Truth About Lies* - for now!

Gina's songwriting skills are showcased on five of the 13 songs and some of the best songwriters – international and local – score cuts here.

Production and playing are A1 and this album sets the benchmark for all releases to come in 2007. There'll be some hard work needed to do better than WALKS OF LIFE.

Gina's vocals are warm and commanding - the time away has allowed her voice to mature and mellow in a way that demands attention from the first note.

Yes it's Country, but even more than that – this is uniquely Gina Jeffreys – one of a kind!

- Jon Wolfe

Harmony's Special Song



Northern Territory singer and songwriter **Harmony James** generated a lot of interest when she released her debut EP at the Tamworth Country Music Festival last month and the first single from it has earned her a finalist spot in the International Songwriting Competition (ISC).

The single, *Tailwind*, is the only Australia finalist in the Country section of the competition and is due to hit the Australian radio airwaves at the end of this month.

Harmony is a graduate of the CMAA College of Country Music.

When she wrote *Tailwind*, about needing to get back out on the highway, it wasn't a stretch.

"Living in the Outback," she says, "where you think nothing of driving 600ks to a rodeo and having had almost as many addresses as birthdays, makes me well equipped to talk about the road."

Harmony says that *Tailwind* is a "special song, a song of hope, special enough to make the cut in the recording studio, special enough to be selected as the debut single and special enough to be a finalist in the ISC."

With the launch of her official website, the EP is now available for purchase online at www.harmonyjames.com and you can vote for the song in the People's Choice section of the awards at www.songwritingcompetition.com/pvwelcome2006.htm

Other Australian finalists in the ISC include **Lou Bradley (Americana), Colin Germano (Blues), Pete Hawkes (Instrumental) and Mark Lucas (Americana)**

**PATTI MCKINNON NEW
ALBUM LAUNCH IN
MARCH**

Ocean Road Music ORMGJDA02



[There's been a lot of reaction to last week's COUNTRYphile editorial. Here's some edited excerpts from a couple:](#)

I have emailed the CMAA four times since the program went to air and to date I have received no response...

...The CMAA's integrity is in question as well as their honesty to present without favour the rightful artists who should have been showcased in the televised Golden Guitar Awards. . .

...The CMAA should be made to re-broadcast the full program of the award winners and if this has to be done at their own cost, so be it! And may I add not on Foxtel or any other pay TV as there are many Country Music fans who do not have this facility.



*****Brian and Dorothy White** have resigned from the Drover Music Group to fulfill their wish to travel around Australia. It will be business as usual for the Drover Group, with the same contact phone number 02 4732 6444 (during business hours only).

*****Sharon Benjamin's** latest single, *Jack Of Diamonds* hit # 1 on the most played singles chart in The Netherlands during Tamworth week, January 07.

***Aussie Country finalists in this year's Grammys – **Keith Urban** (Male Vocal) & **Tommy Emmanuel** (Instrumental) – didn't win!

***New Aussie entries in the Country Tracks Top 30 this week are: *Then There's Me* – **Dianna Corcoran** #28; *Sing Me Another Bush Ballad* – **Tom Maxwell** #29; *A Little Bit Of Country In Us All* – **Allan Caswell & Drew McAlister** #30.



Patti McKinnon will launch her new album **GOOD HEARTED WOMAN** at the Goulburn Workers Club on March 24.

The night will also raise funds to help purchase a special trolley for the Emergency Department at Goulburn Base Hospital and Patti will donate \$2 from every ticket sold to this great cause. Other artists appearing on the night are Stephen.R. Cheney, Jonnie Russell, Chalkie White, Aimee Hannan, Alan Neal, Kerry Summerfield, Janis Gott and Ed Pearson.

Community radio DJ Jeff Dunn will comper the Country Hoedown and tickets are available at the Goulburn Workers Club.

- Pearl Doyle

Bravo, Jon, loved your column!

I spent considerable time last week in discussion with Channel 10's executives and Active TV, the producer of the tapes. Sure, Channel 10 set the time constraints but the content came from Active TV. When asked who decided which parts should be axed Active threw the 'ball' right back in the CMAA court as decision makers. . .

. . .The CMAA response should be such that it can adequately dispel the growing rumours amongst Country Music devotees that certain members of the [CMAA] executive is playing favourites for business reasons. . .

. . .What a pity such a good festival should be clouded by such unprofessional conduct and thoughtlessness. . .

- Jean McGrath

Write to the Editor – Jon Wolfe
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