

HOMESTEAD / HARVEY NORMAN MORAYFIELD
YOUTH TALENT EXPO 2008

COORDINATORS REPORT

Saturday 2nd August 2008 saw another hugely successful Junior Talent Expo wow the audience and Sponsors.

The quality of the performances left the Judges, Trevor Johnson, Rhonda Hopkins, Paul Wilson, Lyn Drage, Walter Coassin and Sam Burgess with an extremely difficult task in finding the winners of each section.

Country Music is definitely alive and well with the new generation of performers taking up the gauntlet and putting their music and talents out there with confidence. It gives me great pleasure to know that some of the Juniors we had on the Homestead Stage last Saturday are well on their way to becoming Australia's future Country Music stars.

It was lovely to have entrants Jemma Beech & Amelia Richards who made the long trip all the way from the Macarthur C.M.C. in Sydney competing for the first time this year. The girls entered the Junior Duet section as "Country Charms" and took 2nd Place behind Brooke Yarnold & Michael Cole. Brooke is from Pioneer Village C.M.C. and Michael is from Homestead.

Amelia Richards also placed 3rd in the Own Composition section where the entrant has to write & perform their own song live on stage.

Our visitors from Macarthur have assured us they will return for next year's Youth Talent Expo and bring along more of their Junior members to perform as well.

High praise goes to every Homestead Member who contributed to the very smooth running of the day. I cannot name them all here but I know each and every one of you from the front door to the computer room, stage and Comperes,(including the Manager of Moreton Bay's own Radio Station 101.5 FM's Mr Brian Smith), did your jobs to perfection and you all have my sincere thanks and should be justly proud of your Club. I must however make mention of our Groundsman Michael Smith. Once again Michael has organized a perfect set up in the grounds of Stanmore hall for this Festival. Please accept my overwhelming thanks for the effort you and your crew put in. Michael also provides the security throughout the day. While I'm on this subject many thanks to all who turned up on Friday and Sunday to help put up and pull down the tents, lights etc and clean the hall. People don't realize how much planning and effort goes into an event such as this and you all did it superbly. A great Job once again !!!!!

To the Homestead Band Members and all the visiting musicians, you did a great job backing the acts. How good is it to see such competent Musicians among the Juniors who have the ability to just jump up on stage and back any act who asks them to. They play with a great deal of confidence with abilities equal to seasoned musicians. Congratulations to all of the Musicians and we hope to see you all back next year.

I would like to make special mention here of the reigning “Queensland Champion” the winner of the 2007 Champion of Champions, Lance Coassin. Lance gave his day up to be there to back the contestants. His display of guitar playing while backing Michael Cole in the Anything Goes section brought the house down.

Homestead thanks you Lance and congratulates you on winning Champs.

It was a pleasure to have entries from The Moreton Bay Fiddle Club perform in our Expo for the first time and good to see that 2 of the young musicians on fiddle, taking out 2nd place (Jessica Truman) and 3rd place (Hannah Deigan) in the Solo Instrumental section. The Moreton Bay Fiddle Club were the last act in the Anything Goes section. There were 16 young fiddlers on stage and they had the audience clapping along. We hope to see you there again for next years Youth Talent Expo.

The friendship between rivals shines through with all contestants willing and prepared to assist each other on and off stage.

This kind of companionship among rivals can only be found in Country Music and Homestead applauds all of you young people. Keep up the good work.

The Sponsors of this Event were magnificent. Homestead has the best and most loyal sponsors I have come across.

Our Major Sponsors “Harvey Norman Morayfield” have assured me they will be there again next year.

Tracy Robinson who is the Franchisee of the Bedding & Manchester store in Morayfield also donated an extra \$1,700 worth of goods for our rolling raffle.

Tracy and the gang at Harvey Norman Morayfield we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your generosity and willingness to support young talent and we’ll see you all again next year.

Morayfield Music provided a Washburn Acoustic Guitar valued at \$700 for our major Raffle Prize and other goods for the rolling raffle. Glen Eadie and Morayfield Music support Beginners, Amateurs and Professional entertainers and will they be back with us again next year. Homestead thanks you for your generous Sponsorship.

The winner of the Washburn Guitar is Mrs Janelle Potter from Caboolture who purchased her ticket at the Homestead Stage of the 2008 Urban Country Music Festival. Janelle is over the moon with her win and has already started to play. Congratulations Janelle it is great to see someone so excited about winning and so keen to get started.

Special thanks to Queenie Lodge who spent hours at many different Country Music Clubs selling tickets in this raffle. Queenie is a little disappointed she did not sell the winning ticket but is so pleased the guitar went to someone who will take up the challenge of learning how to play it.

With great pleasure Homestead welcomes Queenie Lodge as our very first Honorary Member. Queenie was awarded the keys to Homestead for her services to Homestead and Country Music in general and we hope that you will enjoy the benefits that being a member of Homestead Country Music affords.

The Award for the Caboolture Urban Country Music Festival which is a 30 minute paid Guest Spot on the Main Stage in the Town Square sponsored by the Moreton Bay Regional Council is a much sought after prize. Not only does the winner get to perform at a Prestigious Country Music Event on the main stage in the Town Square, they also have their name on the same advertising leaflets as the big name stars who are performing over that May weekend. The winner is also invited to perform on the Homestead Stage in Lions Park on the Sunday of the Urban Festival. What a thrill this is for the Homestead / Harvey Norman Morayfield Youth Talent Expo 2008 Champion to be billed with our top Aussie Stars.

Moreton Bay Regional Council Deputy Mayor, Cr Greg Chippendale has assured me that this award is ongoing and he took great pleasure in spending time at the Expo and taking in some of the acts before presenting The Urban Country Music Festival Award to the Overall Champion for 2008 Dana Hassall from Dalby.

How good was it to have the 101.5 FM outside broadcast van on site for the day. Charmayne Robinson, one of Homestead's Junior artists who did not enter this years expo did a great job rounding up performers to be interviewed live on radio. What an experience for these youngsters. Thanks to the Management of 101.5 FM for supporting our Juniors at all of the events that they have been involved in since last years expo including, The Youth Talent Expo 2008, The Urban Country Music Festival and Farm Fantastic where they sponsored our Homestead Junior Stage. Our thanks also for the promotion of our Events on air for the past few months. Many thanks to Tracy & the Big "D" on 101.5 FM's Monday night country Music Programme and to Daryl Kirkup and Haak & Elly Mae on the Wednesday night Urban Country programme for your excellent coverage. Homestead appreciates your involvement. 101.5 FM you did a great job. See you next year.

Studio 51 manager Errol Stratford was in full agreement with this years winner of \$200 worth of recording time which was awarded to Amber Goldsmith. Amber & Errol have already got their heads together to plan her C.D. Errol Sponsored the same award last year and it will be ongoing. Errol, your Sponsorship is really appreciated. Thank you.

Homestead would like to thank Caboolture News for their articles leading up to the Festival and in particular Mr Geoff Mazzlin for his interest in the Homestead Juniors and the Homestead / Harvey Norman Morayfield Youth Talent Expo for the past 2 years and the advertising his newspaper provided. Geoff was the instigator of the Homestead Stage for our Juniors at Farm Fantastic this year where every participant did themselves proud. A photographer from Caboolture News was in attendance on Saturday to take photos for a story post/event. Thank you so much. Homestead is Glad to have you on board.

Our sincere thanks to the Management of Mothar Mountain Music Studios in Gympie for their generous sponsorship of \$500 worth of recording time to our 2008 Overall Champion. The donation of such awards assists these young people to experience the workings of a recording studio and the thrill of having their own C.D. to sell and promote their talents. This is the first year of their Sponsorship and we hope that it will be ongoing.

Homestead appreciates the articles and photos relating to this years Youth Talent Expo published in the Quest Newspapers, particularly the great story on our 2007 Youth Talent Expo Champion Kimberley Thomson who performed at the conclusion of competition in a Guest spot as part of her Prize. Kimberley has a wonderful stage presence and is a lovely unaffected young lady and a credit to her family.

I wish to personally thank Carly Graham of Quest Newspapers who did everything she could at short notice to promote the Festival. A Quest Newspaper photographer was in attendance and took many photos for use in their papers. Your involvement is appreciated and we'll see you again next year.

To all our other excellent sponsors let me on behalf of Homestead Country Music thank you all for your support. An event such as this one takes many Sponsors and a lot of hard work to produce a successful outcome. Your Sponsorship has allowed this to happen again as the Homestead Youth Talent Expo 2008 was a huge success. We sincerely appreciate your support.

The Catering crew from Old Skool Muscle Car Club Catering did a superb job providing tasty food from early in the morning up until the evening. The food was great, affordable and the service excellent. As well as doing the catering the Old Skool Muscle Car Club provided a few decked out cars for the visitors to Homestead to admire or have their photo taken with. What an opportunity to get a unique promo pic.

Homestead hope that you had a successful day and we thank you for being there. Well Done to Homestead's own Graham "Boppa" Curtis and his team.

The following is a list of the major awards that were presented.

THE COORDINATORS CHOICE – winner =
PETE MAREE THORNTON – HOMESTEAD

HE PRESIDENTS CHOICE – JUVENILE WINNER =
STEPHANIE ISAKKA – NORTHERN SUBURBS

THE PRESIDENTS CHOICE – JUNIOR WINNER =
AMBER GOLDSMITH – BUNYA

STUDIO 51 AWARD =
AMBER GOLDSMITH – BUNYA

JUVENILE ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD =
AYLA SCANLAN – YANDINA

JUNIOR ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD =
HOLLY TOLLIS – INDEPENDENT

JUVENILE CHAMPION =
REBECCA HOLDORF – BOONAH

JUNIOR CHAMPION =
MICHAEL COLE – HOMESTEAD

2008 OVERALL CHAMPION =
DANA HASSALL – DALBY.

Thank you to all the competitors for attending this years event. We hope to see you back again next year.

A final word of Congratulations to the winners and we hope you all have a fabulous year till we meet again for the 2009 Homestead / Harvey Norman Youth Talent Expo.

Laurie Sterling

Coordinator
2008 Homestead / Harvey Norman Morayfield
Youth Talent Expo 2008