

Dairy Flat Hall  
Cnr Postman Rd &  
State Highway 17  
Every 2nd & 4th Friday  
8.00pm—11.30pm  
Full Bar—Strictly No BYO



## Newsletter 25th Birthday Edition

### From your President

Hi Everyone,

I've read that it all started with a dream to provide music and entertainment to all those interested in country music with Joe & Betty Masters getting together with friends to make this dream a reality. The STETSON CLUB was formed in 1987 with the aim of providing a venue where people could come and be entertained by professional and semi professional musicians.

Monthly social nights at different venues grew with the Club settling in to premises in Dominion Road. From there the Club moved to Botha Road in Penrose and boasted a membership of around 200. The Club was sad to leave these premises when they were sold in 1990 and had to survive in various venues until securing the Dairy Flat Hall in 1992. We've seen the Hall go through a facelift in the last year thanks to a very active Hall Committee, many of whom are our members too.

In reality, not a lot has changed in 25 years! For sure, membership has fluctuated as has the fortunes of the Club. However, we still provide a vibrant and entertaining venue for those who love to listen to really good live bands, with country music still the preferred genre.

In this edition, we reflect on the last 25 years, the highs and the lows. You'll read about some of the more amusing sides to our history and I hope it gives you an insight in to where we've come from as a Club. Committees over the years have been very dedicated and the current Committee is no exception. I hope you'll join with us to secure our future and that you continue your support of the Stetson Club so we can all enjoy another 25 years of great entertainment.

Keep it Country!

Linda

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## Club History

In Joe Masters' outgoing Presidents Report in 1989, he thanked his Vice President Rick Sowman and the Committee who gave their time for free to work on the new clubrooms (carpets, curtains etc). Now, doesn't this sound familiar? With members' support of the recent hall upgrade, our Club spirit is obviously still alive and well!

Steve Kenyon



Steve Kenyon has run the Bar since 1989, and although he had a break from this job while he was President 1993, he's still our Bar Manager today!!! That's 22 years' service!!! Guess that's why he's a Life Member and is respectfully referred to as "The Sheriff" .....

Joe Masters



In the August 1990 newsletter, Steve was selling a mountain bike for \$500. It was a Healing 18 speed that "had little use". In the September 1990 newsletter, Steve was then selling 2 barbells, 2 dumbbells and some Weider Weights for \$100. Fit enough already were you Steve????

The Editor of the newsletter in the 1990s, Peter Bamfield, had plenty of support. For example, John Wallace compiled crosswords using country music history as clues, now aint that clever!

The first 'lucky members draw' was made in November 1990.

The Highwaymen played in Auckland in 1991 and ticket costs were thought to be high at \$39.50. With current show prices in the hundreds, hasn't inflation taken hold since then!?

In the 1991 British Country Music Awards, Alan Jackson was voted most promising act – well didn't they get that right!

Fay Heywood took over as Editor in 1992 followed by Lois Sharpe in February 1994. Lois capably held this post until she went overseas in July 1995. Betty Masters took over from Lois until June 1996 when Shona Wrathall took over the job. Ron Holder took over after that in 2000 and he was followed on by Syd Hamilton. Syd took a break and the Editor's job was taken over by Anne Blackburn. When Anne retired as President in 2004, Syd again took over as Editor. Linda Noble took over from Syd in 2010.



Lois Sharpe



Fay Heywood

In July 1992, Fay Heywood invited the FM Country Line Dancers to the Club to give a demonstration of this new style of dancing that 'is very popular in the States' (the first sign of things to come?).

The first line dancing steps were published in the August 1992 newsletter. The dance was Roundup or what is commonly known as the 'Acky Breaky Heart Dance'.

In the October 1992 newsletter editorial, the line dancers were requested to "show consideration on Club nights" and not "completely take over the dance floor" and that some songs were to be "line dancing free". This was followed up by a special announcement in the November 1992 newsletter that a new format was to be put in place whereby line dancing was allowed from 6.30pm until the band started and then only in the band breaks or when a line dance was announced. In the next month's edition the line dancers were thanked for respecting the new rules but included a comment that the floor was now often empty of dancers and a tongue in cheek question "I wonder why?" This rule was overturned in September 1993 when it was decided that line dancing could occur at any time during the evening.



## Club History Continued.....

The first official New Year's Eve social was held 31 December 1992 featuring music from the Silverados.

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1992 was the first social held in the Dairy Flat Hall. Red Hewitt's band played with 38 people attending. Sel supplied the food which was said to be delicious. Look out Jamie Oliver, Sel's in the kitchen!!!

Sel Nash's band the 'Silverados' were runners up in the 1992 Auckland Country Music Awards.

A barbecue held in February 1992 raised \$410 to be donated to the 'Kids' foundation.

1993 must have been a more enlightened year as line dancing got its own page in the February newsletter called "Line Dancing Snippets". In the Sheriff's Page the next month, Steve said that "line dancing is booming" and that even he's going to give it a try!

The Stetson Club was full sponsors of the Professional Section of the 1993 Allstars Concert and gave \$500 to the winner of this section Sharon Williams.

The 1993 overall winner of the Auckland Country Music Awards was the very talented and irrepressible Marian Burns.

Marian Burns



In 1993, the Stetson Club Line Dancers team was in hot demand to give line dancing demonstrations around town. Dancers gave their time for free but were recompensed their mileage with petrol vouchers. Line dance teacher at that time was Fay Heywood.

In June 1993, a Waiuku Branch of the Stetson Club was formed—does anyone know what happened to this branch????

Now this could have come from a newsletter in July 2011 but is an extract from a letter to the Editor in July 1993: "What a fabulous Club we have, the atmosphere is magic. I always observe on Club nights new and old people making friends, no one is alone. All members feel it is their Club – and it is. I love to see people having a go at all the dancing, relaxing as they get more confident and no one laughs at your mistakes, they laugh with you."

The Stetson Club was presented with The Innovation Award at the December 1993 Country Music Association Awards night for being the "original promoter of Line Dancing in Auckland". A surprised Steve accepted the award but it was thanks to the efforts of Fay Heywood and Mary Murray that the Club received this award.

In 1994, Betty Masters and Diana Jack stood down from the Committee after 8 years service to the Club.

Garth Brooks played in Auckland in August 1994 and several Club members had the honour of meeting and getting their photo taken with him after waiting in a queue for over 4 hours. He even signed our Club flag.

At the 1994 Java Jive Country Music Quest, Jeannine Beattie came first, Bennie Brott was second and Gina Sterling was third.

Fay Heywood and Mary Murray gave line dancing lessons at the Stanmore Bay Hall in 1993 & 1994. Robyn Stretton took over from them with lessons at the Hibiscus Court Hotel in August 1994. The lessons moved to the Scout Hall then the Whangaparaoa Hall in September 1995 where Robyn was assisted by Linda Noble (Boyd). Other members who helped out with teaching were John Laughton, Anne Lett, Jill Walker and Paddy Woodhouse. Robyn retired from teaching in August 1996 and Linda then shared the teaching with Sharon Running. Linda retired from teaching at the end of 2001 and Sharon has been taking the classes on her own every Monday night since then. Now you know why she's a Life Member!



## Club History Continued.....

Sel's new band 'Southern Cross' gets its first mention in the May 1995 newsletter.

In June 1995, due to low attendances, the Club changed its format to live bands on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month and line dancing lessons with tapes/CD's on every other Friday night of the month. The tape nights weren't a success and were dropped in August 1995 so that there was a Club night on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday only. The Club went back to the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday nights of the month in mid 1996.



Rex May retired as Club Manager in 1996.

Door charges were increased in October 1996 and have remained unchanged since then.

Our 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday was celebrated on 21 June 1997 with Midnight Special rockin' the night away. Linda Noble was President and John Laughton was Vice President.

Rex May (above)

Betty & Joe Masters (below)



It was at the 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration that the first 2 Life Memberships were conferred—to Betty & Joe Masters.

In September 1998, Club nights changed from 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays of the month.



Past Presidents Line-up 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Our kitchen contractor resigned in 1998 and it was the Committee that cooked the toasted sandwiches for hungry members. It was probably the fact that a certain Life Member (known for burning things) was often on toasting duties that demand for food dropped away and we opted to provide supper only.

Ron & Don Holder

Brendon Ham & Back to Basix first perform at the Stetson Club in 1998.

A karaoke night was held on October 31<sup>st</sup> 1999 at 4pm. A few singing careers started here including the famous (or should I say infamous) 'twins'.



Stetson Sweethearts & The Man

The Stetson Club becomes a popular rock 'n roll venue in 1999.

The Stetson Sweethearts & the Man won the Intermediate Team Section at the Country Western Dance International Competition held in Tauranga Labour Weekend in 1999.

A branch of the Stetson Club was started in Taupo in 1999 by Bruce & Diana Jack.

An editorial in the February 2000 newsletter called for more 'blokey type' food at supper and less 'grannie' food. I think the Ed wanted more savoury than sweet but an odd way of saying it!

In the August 2001 newsletter, the Ed mentioned The Sheriff (a builder by trade) had found a skeleton when excavating a site—is this really true Steve????????????????

JamesRAY first performed at the Stetson Club in 2002.

New blue tablecloths were purchased for the Club by Sue Bradley in December 2003.



## Club History Continued.....

Long time members Ally & Keith McDermott celebrated their 55<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary in March 2004. They're still members and by my calculations they've been married now for 62 years, congratulations you guys!

The Stetson Club donated \$2,500 to the Gore Country Music Club in 2004 after their clubrooms were destroyed by fire.

Chet & Johnny O'Connell released their first album together in 2005 titled 'The Journey'.

We were honoured to have Shane Cortese visit our Club in November 2005 and he sang a few songs with his good friend Chet O'Connell.



Alwyn & Keith McDermott

In March 2006, for the first time ever in all the years he's been a member, Steve Kenyon won the Members' Draw!



The Stetson Club celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2006 and the following year celebrated its 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday on 27<sup>th</sup> July. Dave Dawson donated a commemorative key to the Club for its 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday.

A special meeting was held in October 2006 to set guidelines around the nomination process for Life Members.

A Life Members plaque was purchased in 2006 and is displayed each Club Night on the wall to the right of the stage (see photo back page of the newsletter).

Long time members Lois & Colin Renal celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary in September 2007, which means they'll be 54 years married this year. Congratulations in advance you two!!!

The Stetson Club launched its first website in September 2007 thanks to Thomas and Maryanne Mischler.



Lois & Colin Renal

The Glen Moffat Band played a reunion gig at the Stetson Club in January 2010.

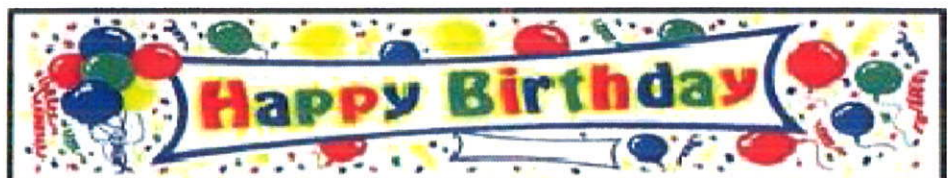
In 2010, friction around the use of Stetson Club equipment by the Dairy Flat Hall Committee prompted a couple of special meetings. It was agreed that the Hall Committee would apply for its own liquor licence and that the Stetson Club would sell our lights and bar fridge to the Hall Committee.



Life members Sharon Running and Linda Noble were co-opted on to the Committee in August 2010 after the resignation of Sue Bradley, Lucie Bothwell and Charles Bothwell. Lucie and Charles returned to their positions on the Committee in December 2010.

The Independence Day Theme night saw numbers over 110, the most to a Club night so far in 2011.

Charles & Lucie Bothwell





## Messages from Members & Friends

*Congratulations to The Stetson Club on reaching this milestone! As part of the founding group of six, I don't think any of us imagined that the Club would still be going 25 years later.*

*Every member, guest, musician or anyone who has had some input into the Club can be very proud of what has been achieved.*

*We are sorry that we cannot be with you at the party but we hope the night is successful and we know the music will be great!*

*Keep it country!*

*Betty & Joe Masters*

*Life Members*



I am one of the longest attending members of the Stetson Club (except for Steve) as my wife and I joined on the first Club Night at the Dairy Flat Hall in 1992.

In those days the entertainment consisted of Peter Trail and/or Sel Nash standing in the corner of the hall by the "lucky table" playing to about a dozen people in the back corner of the supper room.

The entire dance floor was used by one or two couples doing ballroom dancing.

The membership did grow steadily though as the local rural mail delivery man was a country music fan and passed out flyers to everyone on his route to advertise the Club. However, that was short lived as he turned out to be Dairy Flat's equivalent to Albany's Bert Potter and suffered the same consequences.....

The Club hired two ladies to cook full meals for sale to the members. The food was great but not very profitable for the Club.

The Club barely survived those early years but then line dancing was introduced by a couple of Air NZ stewards who had learned it in the States. They gave classes on Sunday afternoons which were well attended by the members including Bill Chapman and Chuck Rademacher who then began teaching at various locations in the Auckland area.

Line dancing kept the Club solvent for quite a number of years until some of us learned to Rock & Roll at the turn of the century. Line dancing still helps the club financially thanks to the lessons given by Sharon Running at Whangaparaoa Ratepayer's Hall every Monday night.

John Laughton





Hi folks,

I joined the Stetson Club back in 1989 after doing a couple of gigs at the Botha Road, Penrose premises. Such a friendly group of like-minded people and a great Committee which is still the hallmark of the Club today. There have been changes of course over the years, but not the people. We have always had good Committees who are passionate about county music and work hard to deliver quality nights of dancing, music, food and friendship, consistently hard to find these days.



The Cosmopolitan Clubs and R.S.A's are a good environment too but the Stetson Club is special because of the music. Bands who enjoy playing country know they can feel right at home playing this music all night because it covers all styles of songs and dancing.

Back in the early nineties we decided to put on a bit of a "bash" at the Browns Bay Recreation Centre. We booked Barry Saunders and the Warratahs. They had a series of 3 or 4 concerts in Auckland and I remember the sound engineers drove a van load of gear from Christchurch. The Silverados did the first half with a couple of guest singers but the Warratahs were outstanding in the second half. To me, they rank as one of the finest New Zealand country bands for a live show with an original sound and great songs and of course Barry Saunders' voice, not to mention great musicians. Four hundred people had a night to remember with a 3 course sit-down meal (not all at once!)

So it's good to see the Club ticking along nicely and the hall in good repair, thanks to all the good keen blokes and blokesses' hard work.

It's always a pleasure to play there and hang out with the Stetson Club family. Congratulations on 25 wonderful years.

Cheers,  
Sel Nash

Well, 25 years.... I've been around for about 21 or so of those years and let me tell you it's been one hell of a journey! When I came to Auckland, there was a big lack of country music after 2½ years on Norfolk Island and 6 months in Australia.

I was a radio listener back then and they played the Karl Katte country show at 5.30 'til 6.00 every weekday morn. Being a tad early for me, I used to tape the show and listen later. (I've still got the tapes I edited.) One morning Merv Smith was talking to Joe Masters about the Stetson Club and that sounded like something I'd be into. That was in Botha Road days when we had the building all to ourselves so we kept it set up permanently. With a good bar and a good kitchen, we couldn't go wrong. Most of the music was provided by solos and duets because we didn't have room for bands. It was a very friendly, family orientated place with a pool table, dart board and a jukebox, which got a hiding in the breaks.

Met some really nice people back then, some of whom I still see from time to time and one life long friend in Sel Nash. Sel and Dave Tusani were regulars as we were open every Friday back then. It was a sad time when we had to give the building back, but life goes on and after a couple of trial moves we ended up in Dairy Flat and the rest, they say, is history.

We started off slow back then just using the supper room but slowly progressed in numbers so we could get to use the stage. Line dancing was probably the biggest kick we got as we used to fill the hall 'til other people and clubs caught on. We had a full kitchen back then serving good food for a good price staffed by two ladies from Whangaparaoa. The Club has had its ups and downs over the years but I think we have proved the test of time and maybe we'll be around in another 25 years. I'll be there, 'cause by then I'll be.....holy hell.....old.

The Stetson Club has developed over the years but some things never change, our love of country music, nice people and a friendly social club. Your Club has always been in good hands, too many to mention, but thank you all for the memories and good times and let the good times roll.....on and on.....  
The Sheriff & Life Member





## Messages from Members & Friends

THE UNIQUE STETSON - a report from Susan Brennan-Hodgson

They say that the first thoughts to pop into your mind about a particular subject or topic are probably the most telling, so when I programmed "Stetson Club" into my head, it immediately came up with: dancing, friendship, fun. I won't argue with that, because "our Club" represents all these things, and so much more. Don't you just love the musos belting out those iconic classic hits so dear to our hearts, urging us onto the floor to meet the beat? The laughter, the strong, not-so-silent, cowboys manning the bar, the sassy chat in the ladies' loo, (can't speak for the blokes). The scrumptious homemade country suppers, and of course, our venue - the Dairy Flat Hall. Especially now that it's all bright and reborn, plus that fabulous deck outside where we rock the block and chomp BBQ. Every aspect of the Stetson Club is so *very cool and so unique!* The Club has now reached it's 25<sup>th</sup> birthday - how commendable is that - a quarter of a century, confirming we have the magic mix, the recipe for success and we are prepared to move with the times. I am sure those who originally started the Club could never have envisaged how popular and enduring it would become.



Think Stetson Social Club, then **STETSON HAT**. Yes, *that hat* is the heartbeat of country music and the outward visible sign of who we are and the Club we represent. It is our acknowledged emblem and appears on our Life Members' board, letterhead, newsletter, T-shirts, badges, car stickers and assorted items. We wear the Stetson with pride to our Club nights, we walk that little bit taller, and know we belong. We stand out from the crowd in our Stetsons, we love them. But in reality, how much do we actually know about our unique symbol? I decided to Google the Stetson and found a wealth of information, in fact, there is even a video you can watch of the Stetson hat being made. I also found there are certain protocols associated with the Stetson hat which I had been unaware of. For those of you who are not online, or don't have the time, I have decided to share a small sample of the information available for your immediate enjoyment and better understanding of the traditional Stetson hat. Hope to see you wearing yours at every available opportunity.

### Stetson History

In 1865, with \$100, John B. Stetson rented a small room, bought the tools he needed, bought \$10 worth of fur and the John B. Stetson Hat Company was born.

Today the Stetson hat factory in Garland, Texas is one of the largest in the country and produces a line of hats in hundreds of different styles and colours. As a result, Stetson hats are the most well known hats in the world. Wherever and whenever hats are discussed Stetson will be mentioned.

Stetson, it's not just a hat, it's the hat.

### How to Wear A Stetson Hat

Take off your Stetson hat as etiquette dictates. It is improper to wear a hat indoors and downright disrespectful to fail to take off the hat briefly to salute a lady. When standing still with the hat off, it should be held by the crown at the chest.

Wear your hat on top of your head, either pulled down over the eyes or put back. Don't wear it slanted on the left or right of the head.

Put on and take off your Stetson hat using the brim -- not the crown. Lift it off your head by holding the front and back parts of the brim. Handling the crown will only deform the hat.





## Messages from Members & Friends

Initially it was by way of a phone call - another gig fitted in to a long list. The crowds were slightly bigger and there were definitely more hats and the supper was excellent..

I always thought of how great it was that a 'Private Club' could get a proper, regular country music gig up and running and congratulations to all concerned.

Fax machines became the preferred mode of communication but the crowds were still good, though with less hats and the supper delightful.

A number of committed people are doing a fantastic job here!

Today the email has emerged and while crowds are down somewhat and hats less frequent the supper is still terrific and the Club Nights flow on twice a month.

Thanks hugely for the band work and hearty congratulations on 25 years!

Regards, Kiwi



At my very first visit to the Stetson Club in 1995 to try line dancing, I remember it was announced that the Club Nights would only be held once a month, instead of twice, as there was not enough people coming along. I was amazed, as on that night the dance floor was full - of line dancers!! My involvement was initially because I fell in love with line dancing and then I discovered that I really liked country music. I started teaching the line dancing classes in 1996, initially sharing the teaching with Linda, and then continuing on myself, which I still continue to do today. Interest in line dancing has come and gone over the years, but the classes are still going strong! I was co-opted onto the Committee as Acting Treasurer in 1997, was Treasurer for a few years and then President/Treasurer, finally retiring from the Committee in 2001. I have also prepared the end of year financial statements ready for audit since 1997, and still continue to do so. Although my interests and work commitments mean that I can no longer attend Club Nights as often as I would like, I remain committed to the Stetson Club - it is unique and something very special, and I am proud to be part of the Club's history and also involved in it's future.

Sharon Running, Life Member



As an ardent country music fan I find there is no better way of listening than with a hall full of people who love the sound as much as I do, and the Stetson Club, having all the top country bands, has made this possible in the most enjoyable way.

As a line dancer who enjoys dancing to live music, having a designated part of the floor to dance on is much appreciated. We love to do our dancing to all those top bands.

My biggest moment at the Club was when I was invited into the Stetson Club line dance team known as the 'Stetson Sweethearts' but I was no sweetheart so they had to add 'And The Man' on the end of their name. It was a memorable time for me, and we achieved some great results too.

As a long standing member I have always had that comforting feeling of knowing there was and is a haven for us to go to and with the realisation at the end of each Stetson night that there really is a heaven on earth.

Thank you Stetson Club. May your reign supreme for ever.

Don Kay





## Messages from Members & Friends

### My Top 10 Country Music Memories

Ross Tizard

1. My visit to Nashville in 2010. Staying with the wonderful Sally & Brian Burgess, spending time in the city at night, visiting the Ryman Auditorium, hearing The Time Jumpers at The Station Inn, meeting Vince Gill, a trip down the line to Graceland in Memphis, hearing Tootsie's Orchid Lounge in full swing, and more. I will return one day. It's a beautiful area with great hospitable charm.

2. Singing with my friend Terry Moratti [New Plymouth]. Terry introduced me to country music and he put up with my taunting for a few years before that! There's many a song that I sing now that came out of Terry's songbook.

3. First hearing legends such as Alan Jackson, George Strait & Vince Gill. I loved the new contemporary sound. I had been scared off by the old 'cowboy' image – it was time to take the 'western' out of C&W music! These guys, along with many others such as Brooks & Dunn, Garth Brooks and a host of female artists, all made honky-tonk accessible to a younger audience.

4. Playing at the Paihia Country Music Festival. So many of NZ's favourite artists make the trip north every year and create a huge variety of sounds. It is a great place to share the stage with peers. There is room for a festival like this on the North Shore...maybe one day soon.

5. Performing with 'Western Union'. I have a vision to play with great musicians and to deliver some of the latest US Top-40 country songs. Someone has to play the latest Brad Paisley tunes here in NZ and I'm willing. We have already had several line-ups and some great guests. More to come.

6. Meeting Country Music People. Our music is down-to-earth and so are the people. There is a family atmosphere whenever singers & players gather. If the guitars come out then we all know it can be a long night.

7. Bar Africa [Albany] on any given Sunday. There is a core group of CM fans that keep this venue alive between noon & 3pm every week. Thanks to JamesRAY for over six years of performance. It's a great place for friends to gather with a fantastic variety of artists throughout the year.

8. Gore Gold Guitars. I attended for a day this year while in the South Island. This is a traditional talent quest festival with an emphasis on developing new performers while also showcasing the established names of NZ music. What a hospitable town Gore is in the winter. I'll go back one day.

9. Finding any country music that my wife Christine will listen to... It started with Vince Gill, then along came the Mercury song by Alan Jackson, and now Kristy Lee Cook, Keith Urban, Lady Antebellum, & Rascal Flatts all make the list. It has to be played loud and I can hear her coming home when the car reaches the letterbox!

10. Any visit to the Stetson Club. My first time ever was to hear JamesRAY & his band – I certainly wasn't interested in dancing in those days. I spent many nights simply listening to the bands and enjoying the hospitality of the Committee & members. Now I'm happy either on the stage or the dance floor. It's a special place. Congratulations on the first 25 years.





## Messages from Members & Friends

Happy Birthday Stetson Club from JamesRAY

Thank you for offering me the opportunity to contribute an article to the Stetson Club's 25th commemorative newsletter. What an honour! Thank you.

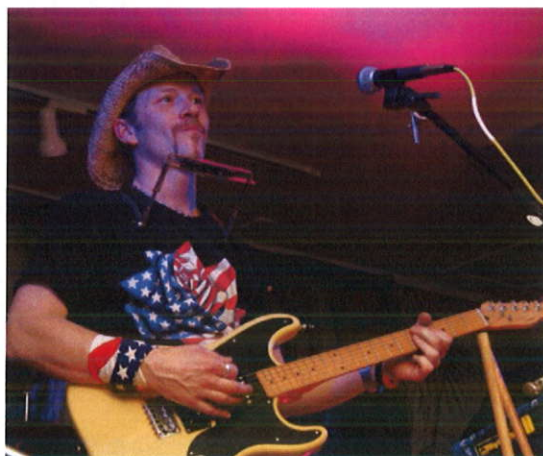
As a full time professional entertainer it's great to have an ongoing working relationship with clubs like the Stetson Club. Having said that, there really is no other club like the Stetson Club :-)

The 29th of July, 2011 marks the eleventh year since I set foot in New Zealand. I didn't come to New Zealand to stay long and certainly not to live here. I was even more determined not to live here when I was told that country music was frowned upon in New Zealand! My whole life was driven by country music. Shoot, my life was just one big country song after another! However, while I was playing my songs around New Zealand I soon discovered that there were country music fans here. They just weren't in the greater majority as it was back in the US. And, they were quite a bit more mature, let's say.

Once some folks heard that I performed country music I was soon directed to the Stetson Club and I remember one of the first times visiting. I read or heard that if you bring a 'plate' you got a discount off the already cheap door fee. "Great", I thought! "They feed you too! This'll be cool". Me thinking that the idea of bringing a plate was so that the good folks at the club didn't have to bother with dishes! Smart idea. Little did I know that you were supposed to bring something on that plate to share with others!!! Yep, that boy ain't from around here! And, then there was those little pieces of white bread with something green in the middle. Looked interesting. Never being one to pass up a new experience I ate one. Wow! That's really good. Asparagus rolls? Been a fan of the Stetson Club ever since! :-)))

Unfortunately, I don't get to attend much as a non-performer just because I'm always performing most every Friday night that the Stetson Club is on. But, when I'm there as a performer it's always been an awesome feeling of belonging. It feels great to be in a room with folks that seem more like family than just an audience. For a country boy so far from the dance halls and honky-tonks of my southern roots it's really special for me to feel a part of the Stetson Club every time I'm there. It's become my New Zealand country home.

My congratulation to all the good folks past and present that have kept the Stetson Club going for 25 amazing years! Thank you for letting me be a small part of that. May the Stetson Club continue to rock on - in a country kinda way of course :-)





## Messages from Members & Friends

My first association with the Stetson Club was in 1998, getting a booking there after having being seen by some of the Committee at my first Bay Of Islands Country Music Festival that same year. My first Stetson Club gig, I don't know who was more nervous, me or them. I remember it being very line-dance oriented back then with minimal other Rock'n'Roll dancers at the gigs (which has certainly changed in recent years). The Stetson Club is dedicated to the live country music scene in Auckland of which I was becoming part of back then and has given me much pleasure in the last 13 years with numerous gigs there for my band. It has most definitely been a privilege for me to have been part of the journey for the Stetson Club toward this 25<sup>th</sup> Birthday year.

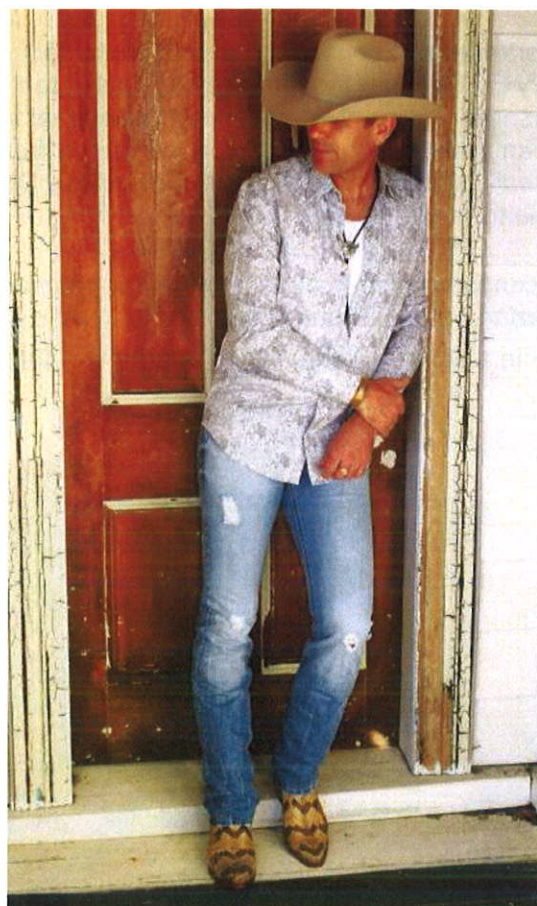
Another beauty of this club is the venue for me, this old hall giving the Stetson Club its character, even with recent renovations the feeling doesn't change in the hall with dim lights, loud music, cowboy boots, cheap drinks and of course the people who make the Club. Having met and got to know many of the Club's members, followers and characters, of which there is a few, I always come away from the gigs there with a smile on my face. You know the requests that will come, the "2 songs" signal before supper and the sometimes almost brawlsh division between the line dancers and the Rock'n Rollers.

It's always a party there and as this Club evolves, along with its members, it will always be the Stetson Club and I look forward to my next gig there. Congratulations on 25 years of keeping it country.

Thank you.  
Brendon Ham



Steve Rolands and Brendon Ham at the  
20th Birthday Celebration in 2006.  
(These guys haven't aged at all in 5 years!!!  
Come on you two, what's your secret???)





## Messages from Members & Friends

Looking back on the many years we have been performing at the Stetson Club there is always one theme – and that theme is people having a good time dancing, singing, socialising and enjoying the common interest of country music.

The Stetson Club is a great reminder of my early years when I started working with my Dad's band. As an 11 year old my weekends were spent performing with the band in community halls. Weddings, birthdays and various other functions were held in halls and they all had the one thing I loved the most.....the 10pm supper!! Nothing better than enjoying a lamington half way through the night.

The Stetson Club is the ultimate hall party – simply rock up to the door, grab a seat and enjoy yourself....and of course there's the added bonus of supper.

I'm in the entertainment business and along the way we've brought some unique entertainment to the Stetson Club. I still remember on two occasions (thanks to the creative hands of Steve Kenyan) when we gave away a door for the door prize. Then there was the wooden drawer that we gave away to the winner of the members' draw.....this is classic comedy folks....! And recently while searching for myself on Google (and let's be Honest, we all do...) I was reminded of the time I turned up in a little blue net ball skirt...only to be followed up by wearing a very short pair of red shorts that showed off an unattractive tan line.....



Check out Chet's Booty!!!

If I look out from the stage and see people smiling and having a good time then my job is done and that's a great feeling.

Earlier this year our long time drummer Joe Pukeroa passed away and he has been greatly missed by all of us in the band. He hadn't been with us for the past couple of years due to illness, but some of our best moments as a band were in the Diary Flat Hall rockin' out at the Stetson Club.

On behalf of myself, my dad Johnny O'Connell and Rob Pickets thanks for so many fun filled times at the Stetson.....I'm looking forward to the next 25... (and I'm still young enough to have a chance of seeing them).

Chet O'Connell



.....  
If you've enjoyed this newsletter and would like to know more about our Club contact the President Linda Noble or any Committee member listed on the back page.  
Memberships is just \$30 per annum so support us and support Country Music - join today!  
.....



## 10th Birthday Celebration—June 1997



Line Up of Past Presidents

Sel Nash, Fay Heywood, Joe Masters, Mary Carpenter, John Wallace, Linda Noble (Boyd)



John Wallace & Warren Couper—Above



Joe, Judy, Betty & Rachel—Above Right



Sue with Mary Murray



Boots N Blue Jeans Club Members—Above



Sue Smith & Steve Kenyon



Line Dancers—Below



## 20th Birthday Celebration—September 2006



Roisel Kershaw—Above Right

Maryanne & Thomas Mischler—Below



Syd Hamilton & Jokie Maloney



John Hitchcock & Steve Kenyon—  
Above

Rita Watson & Harvey Wade—Left

Line Dancers—Right



Steve Kenyon & Sel Nash



Susan Brennan-Hodgson  
& Roy Hodgson—Left

Aline Hitchcock & Anne  
Blackburn—Below





## Stetson Social Club Inc

*Dairy Flat Hall  
Cnr Postman Rd &  
State Highway 17  
Every 2nd & 4th Friday  
8.00pm—11.30pm  
Full Bar—Strictly No BYO*

Postal Address  
C/- Linda Noble  
2/25 Korotaha Terrace  
Rothsay Bay  
Auckland 0630

We're on the web!

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and get the latest band updates!!!

President	Linda Noble	09 476 4554	<a href="mailto:president@stetson.co.nz">president@stetson.co.nz</a>
Vice-President	Steve Kenyon	09 444 5334	
Secretary	Lucie Bothwell	09 475 5540	<a href="mailto:secretary@stetson.co.nz">secretary@stetson.co.nz</a>
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Committee	Charles Bothwell	09 475 5540	
	John Hitchcock	09 424 5693	
	Sydney Hamilton	09 479 6778	
	Jillian McWhinnie	09 424 8653	
	Jim McWhinnie	09 424 8653	
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Bar Manager	Steve Kenyon	09 444 5334	
Newsletter Editor	Linda Noble	09 476 4554	<a href="mailto:newsletter@stetson.co.nz">newsletter@stetson.co.nz</a>
Advertising	Jokie Maloney	09 479 6778	

Life Members

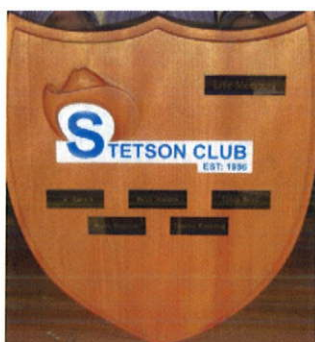
Conferred

1997 - Joe & Betty  
Masters

2002 - Linda Noble  
(Boyd)

2004 - Sharon Running

2004 - Steve Kenyon



### Past Presidents of the Stetson Social Club

1986	Sel Pointon
1987 - 1988	Joe Masters
1989	Mary Carpenter
1990	John Wallace
1991 - 1992	Fay Heywood
1993	Steve Kenyon
1994 - 1995	Fay Heywood
1996	Sel Nash
1997 - 1999	Linda Noble (Boyd)
2000 - 2001	Sharon Running
2002 - 2004	Ann Blackburn
2005 - 2010	Roisel Kershaw
2011	Linda Noble