



Smoky Dawson Memorial Appeal

Your chance to pay tribute...

The Smoky Dawson Memorial Appeal is being co-ordinated by a committee under the auspices of the Dawson family and the Australian Country Music Foundation chaired by Mary Chapman and including Max Ellis, Judy Loffel, Bob Kirchner, Deniese Morrison and Lance Smith

When Smoky Dawson died on 13th February 2008, we all lost a hero and a friend.

For more than six decades, Smoky and his wonderful wife Dot made an extraordinary contribution to the life of our country.

Their contribution to Australian culture, to Country Music and the entertainment industry, to the community or just to their fellow Australians, is remarkable. They did so much to set the standards, musically, professionally and ethically, to which our industry aspires. They helped shape our lives and our country.

Now we would like to establish a permanent memorial to the iconic figure that Dot and her husband created over the years.

With your help, we are planning to commission and erect a life size statue of **SMOKY DAWSON** in Tamworth, the city he and Dot enjoyed so much and which they helped transform into Australia's Country Music Capital.

Following are some details of our plan...

- The memorial will be situated in a prominent position in Tamworth.
- Discussions are under way with the sculptor and the Dawson Estate and Family about the nature of the memorial and with Tamworth Regional Council about its location.
- Incorporated in the sculpture will be a plaque with likenesses of Smoky and Dot, which will tell the story of their incredible life together.

- The Smoky Dawson Memorial Committee has been formed under the auspices of the Australian Country Music Foundation.

The committee comprises people who have had a long association with the Dawsons including long time family friend and Chairperson Mary Chapman together with Max Ellis, Bob Kirchner, Judy Loffel, Deniese Morrison and Lance Smith.

- After consideration, the sculptor chosen is **Tanya Bartlett** from Shortland, whose work on projects such as the Light Horse Memorial in Tamworth and the statue of Don Bradman in Bowral, has been widely acclaimed. Tanya, who is originally a country girl, has a strong respect and understanding of the way in which Smoky is viewed by his fans and friends and we are confident she will produce an outstanding and very sympathetic work of art.

- We are aiming to unveil the memorial statue in January 2011.
- The appeal for funds will be launched in October 2009 and will close at the end of January 2010.
- Contributions to the Smoky Dawson Memorial fund are fully tax deductible through the Australian Country Music Foundation.
- If you would like more details or would like to help in some way please don't hesitate to contact any of the Committee members.

- The Smoky Dawson Memorial web site is...

www.smokydawsonmemorial.com

- Remember. The Appeal will stay open only until the end of January 2010.

- For more information please contact...

- Appeal Co-ordinator Deniese Morrison on **0407 276 934**, appeal@smokydawsonmemorial.com.

- Chairperson Mary Chapman on (02) 6761 7306 Max Ellis on 0438 667 314 (email mxls@optusnet.com.au)... Bob Kirchner on 0419 998 386 (email bobk@optusnet.com.au).

Donation details:

Note: All donations over \$2 are fully tax deductible.

Contribution can be made by cheque, credit card or by bank transfer to the Memorial Appeal or direct to ACFM, 93 Brisbane Street, Tamworth 2340.

Name of donor : _____

Contact/address details for receipt and memorial info including unveiling

Amount of donation \$ _____

Donations can be made by...

- Direct deposit to Smoky Appeal BSB 032621 Acc 373885
- Cheque (made out to ACMF Smoky Dawson Memorial) and sent to

The Smoky Dawson Memorial Appeal:
PO Box 1842
Tamworth NSW 2340
- Credit card (see below)

Payment by credit card

Please debit my Mastercard Visa

For (donation amount) \$ _____

Name on card _____

Card number

____ / ____ / ____ / ____

Card expiry date ____ / ____ CCV: _____

Once you have printed and completed this form, fax to 0267 612 612 or post to ACMF, PO Box 1842, Tamworth 2340. If you prefer, you may scan and email to donations@smokydawsonmemorial.com

Signature of cardholder

"Riding, Riding, on a Trail Where Dreams Come True"

Herbert Henry Dawson was born in Melbourne on 19/3/1913. Growing up in difficult circumstances, he spent time in an orphanage and later, as a teenager, in Victoria's "Kelly Country" where he absorbed the ways of the bush, even meeting Ned's brother, Jim. A youthful and disastrous experiment with an old pipe gave him the nickname that became his famous trademark.

Smoky tried many things before music, farm work, rough riding, a tannery and even cycle racing. His life changed in 1933 when he met Florence Cheers, better known as Dot. Their friendship grew and they married in 1944, two brilliant people working as one, supporting and complementing each other, personally and professionally, together creating the legend that is "Smoky Dawson".

By 1932, Smoky was playing steel guitar in the Coral Island Boys with his brother Ted. He discovered hillbilly music and, by 1937, Smoky Dawson's "Pepsodent Rangers Show" was a hit on 3KZ. By the early '40s, Smoky was writing songs and performing all over Melbourne and Sydney. His first recording, *I'm A Happy Go Lucky Cowhand*, was made in 1941 with legendary producer Arch Kerr. It became the foundation of an immense repertoire of superb original songs recorded over some seven decades.



After a hard war, Smoky picked up where he left off and success swept him into an incredible life of stardom, recording and touring, sometimes with Stan Gill's Rodeo. Smoky, became a yodelling, whip-cracking, knife-throwing, film-acting, song-writing, singing, radio & TV super star.

Milestones abounded on the Dawson Highway. In 1952 in the USA, Smoky

became the first artist on Hickory Records in Nashville, a label owned by Roy Acuff and Wesley Rose. They urged him to stay but by 1953, his Kelloggs radio show had become the biggest networked radio program in Australia. For 10 years, millions of young Australians avidly followed "The Adventures of Smoky Dawson" on radio and later TV.



Then there was Smoky's Ranch at Ingleside bought in 1957, the re-launch of his career in Tamworth in 1970, the Roll of Renown in 1978, a Golden Guitar for *Khancoban* in 1988, Member of the Order of Australia in 1999, his induction into the ARIA Icons Hall of Fame in 2005, and so much more. Smoky continued to compose and record the music he loved. His last recording, *Homestead of My Dreams*, was made in 2005 when he was 92.

Smoky was an active member of the Masonic Lodge and Rotary, a patron of Children's Hospital Bear Cottage and the Stockman's Hall of Fame, first Life Member of the Country Music Association of Australia and Founding Patron of the Australian CM Foundation.

Countless people, including many young artists, can attest to Smoky and Dot's kindness while their circle of genuine and loving friends encompassed people from the most exulted in the land to the most humble.

Smoky Dawson was a good man, admired for his humility and his infectious good nature. He revelled in the spotlight, sharing his achievements with enthusiasm and joy, spreading laughter and happiness where ever he was.

He was an inspiration to us all.