

# Karen's Korner

July 2006

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## WELCOME LITTLE WILLIAM!

Hello everyone!... My how time flies... last thing I remember was telling you how I was anxiously awaiting the birth of our new baby & feeling a little emotional about all the upcoming 'Changes' and how I'd handle them... and the next thing I know I've been there and done that! How was it you ask?... wow!, after doing labour, all I can say is you men really did get it easy in that department!. I did however luck out there a lot, with a 7 hour labour, no complications and no pain killers (Note:- I said no pain 'killers'- not no 'pain')... and mainly because he came so fast, there wasn't time! Anyway, William is now a few months old and we're beginning to see light at the end of the tunnel (although they tell me there's quite a few tunnels to go through after this one!?).

For those that didn't hear the news... Marty & myself proudly welcome our first born child, 'William Aaron (Louis)' to our musical world... he arrived on the last day of spring, a week early and it's been a very steep learning curve, but Martin and myself have survived... still a little shell-shocked, but I guess it's still early days yet! He's growing beautifully, and has really 'chubbed up' now (takes after his mum on that front!). I have finally got some more pictures on the computer so if you'd like some later ones emailed to you, just let me know. He had some feeding problems when he was very little and we are still working through those but it is getting

much better and I'm told it hopefully will all have righted itself soon. He's also at that beautiful smiling stage and when he does I just melt!!... (really makes that lack of sleep worth it). He also has lovely long 'banjo playing' fingers like his dad - although I've decided one banjo player in the house is quite enough so he's going to have to take up fiddle or mandolin! Anyway, hope to catch up with many of you at the gigs over the next year or so you can meet him in person... what can I say, he's gorgeous!

## GRANDFINALIST FOR GOLDEN SADDLE AWARDS 2006:-

Great news that missed the last Newsletter by only a few days was that I had been nominated and selected as a finalist for one of Sydney's top Country Music Awards - "The Golden Saddle Award". Finalists are nominated by "industry spotters" from a pool of Australian professional independent artists whom they consider outstanding at what they do. The Award is put up and presented as part of the major 'Galston Country Music Festival' and I was in amongst some top level competition!. The best news was that I made it into the top three, along with fellow independents Amber Lawrence and duo 'Sweeney Killeen'. I knew it would be pretty hard to win as the judges wouldn't have known much about the bluegrass & Acoustic style music I do best... and I've never really been a 'vibrant' performer pumping out that country-kick style music... (and let's face it, I'm not such a spring chicken anymore)... so knowing that, I was really quite proud to be up there in the final three... talent-wise I thought we were all as good as each other and I got to sing a few songs at the Galston Country Music Festival which was a real pleasure. It was a miserable rainy day and unfortunately the festival was

## No. 2 CHART POSITION FOR FIRST AUSSIE SINGLE:-

The first single from the 'Changes' album achieved an amazing Number 2 position on the Australian Country Music Chart. We did cross our fingers for the big Number One... but unfortunately Record label artist Lee Kernaghan released his new single soon afterwards and with the huge amount of publicity it got, it raced up the chart and snuck off with the number one spot... but hey... it's believed to be the highest chart position for a bluegrass song so that's a top achievement. Thanks to everyone who requested

## 'CHANGES' - SECOND SINGLE RELEASE

Hot off the press comes the second Australian single from the 'Changes' album, this time it's the "Producer's choice", as both Rod and Herm wanted this one to be a single. As we see out the winter months it's a beautiful acoustic ballad called "We should only have time for love". It's been released to Australian Radio Stations and once again, initial interest has been excellent. If you have a favourite radio station presenting a country music show, please ring up and request it... & if they haven't heard it yet... let me know and I'll make sure they get a copy.



Amber, Me, Nikki &amp; Tracy (Sweeney Killeen)

## "CHANGES" MORE REVIEWS

**More reviews have come in for the new album!...** this one is particularly special as it comes from USA's biggest Bluegrass Magazine "Bluegrass Unlimited"

"... In a word, Karen Lynne's 'Changes' is simply lovely. Her voice is strong & clear. Harmonies are tight yet mellow (the final strains of 'Once more' are exquisite). Instrumental arrangements caress the ballads and punch the quick tunes. Collectively, these components deliver 45 minutes of dreamy bluegrass, creating an album that celebrates love through it's many phases. And did I mention that Karen Lynne is from Australia? Sometimes a step back from the source is a good thing, giving musicians a wider perspective, a fresh approach to old chestnuts, a chance to produce something that's both new and familiar. So it is with 'Change'. Material comes from writers like Gordon Lightfoot, Ron Block, Phil Ochs, Paul Craft and Ronnie Bowman: a broken heart that won't heal, the craziness of jealousy, old love that interferes with new, wanderlust, the futility of fighting, and the ever-popular cheating. It's a buffet of love themes, and they're delivered with emotional strength and integrity in these 14 tracks. Lyrics and vocals are only half the bluegrass equation, however. Instrumentally, these musicians (I'm assuming they're all Australians) are as accomplished as any you'll find in the USA. Michel Rose's resonator guitar cries on the sad songs and dances on the fast ones. Mick Albeck's fiddle sings with sweetness or crowd-pleasing panache, as required. Ian Simpson's banjo is always bright and bouncy, while the guitar work of both Simpson & Rod McCormack is rich, warm, and sparkling. Trev Warner's mandolin licks fall like crystal raindrops, while James Gillard's double bass is a solid foundation for the band. If you like your bluegrass both sweet & spicy, with clear, expressive vocals and instrumental arrangements that deliver standout individual breaks as well as a cohesive whole, 'Changes' could be just what you're looking for".... (Julie Koehler, Bluegrass Unlimited, USA)

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washed out, but we had a lovely day anyway... (William was actually a far bigger hit than his mum!). Amber Lawrence took out a well-deserved win with a great performance... but I must say, I wouldn't have liked to judge. Unfortunately I had also had an operation on toes on each foot a few days prior so that didn't help my 'stage presence' much either but the band were great and it was a good day. Marty said the funniest thing was that just as they announced Amber's name as the winner, young William rather forcefully spat out his dummy!.... Marty said he'd wished he'd had a video camera as - even though it was purely coincidental... it would have been a 'funniest home videos' winner for sure!



Singing at Galston  
Country Music Festival



[www.karenlynne.com](http://www.karenlynne.com)

## Gig & other News

Not much to say about gigs at the moment as I'm still technically on a break, but if you check out the upcoming gig guide there are a few. As I had my birthday off, (7th April) Marty & myself took the chance to go away for a couple of days prior to the baby arriving and as a treat we spent a few days on the central coast. While there we had a lovely night out with dinner and music from 'The Greencards' (Carol Young, Kym Warner & Eamon McLoughlin) which was great. We also had a really enjoyable spot as a bluegrass 'trio' at the Blacktown CM Club's St Marys show... to all those involved, thanks for inviting us... and it's been really nice to get



'The Greencards' give their all!

down to the Sydney Bluegrass & Traditional CM Society (B&TCMS) a few times lately. Being that it's held on a Saturday night we could rarely get down there previously... but while I'm off, we can!

In November we are really looking forward to going to the Harrierville Bluegrass Convention - its a lot of fun and Marty, William and myself will all be there. Due to Jim Rush pulling out, Acoustic Shock will be there with a slightly different line-up, but it will still sound great. Marty's shiftwork always made it hard to get down there but as he's now a 'full-time' musician (as he has indeed received a redundancy from his day job!... another big & scary 'change' for us this year!)... we can go!

Also, whilst I didn't get selected to sing at the Mildura CM festival this year, I **WILL** indeed be in Mildura for a few days catching up with supporters (and showing off our new baby... sorry, I can't help myself, but he's a real cutie!)... and as I'll be there, the organiser, has invited me to sing at the concert at Henderson Park... so if you are going to Mildura, make sure you go to Henderson Park on the final Sunday & come

### GIG GUIDE (Based on Current Info known - Details may change)

**\* From April 2006 Karen has been officially on Maternity Leave and continues for a few more months but I'm sure there will be gigs spots and guest appearances that will happen occasionally... so watch the web page gig guide or email her for updated information.**

Sat, 29 Aug, 11-2pm Karen Lynne & Acoustic Shock Bluegrass Band, Rozelle Markets, Rozelle  
 Sat, 5th Aug, 11am Karen Lynne, Martin Louis & Jim Rush (Bluegrass Trio), Coachmens Park, Queen Street, St Marys, guest appearance at the Blacktown Country Music Club's Saturday morning Show.  
 Sat, 5th Aug, 9pm Karen Lynne & Acoustic Shock Bluegrass Band, Sydney Bluegrass & Trad. Country Music Association (B&TCMS) Annandale Community Centre, Johnston St, Annandale  
 Sat, 2nd Sept, 9pm Karen Lynne & Martin Louis, Sydney B&TCMS Annandale Community Centre, Johnston St, Annandale  
 Sun, 10th Sept Karen Lynne - solo guest spot, Galston CM Festival as a Grandfinalist for the 'Golden Saddle Awards'.  
 Sun, 24th Sept, Pat Drummond & Karen Lynne, 30 years Retrospective The Harp Hotel, Tempe 2.30PM -6PM \$16.00 includes free copy of 'Skooldaze' LP \$5.00 kids; little kids free  
 Sun, 1st Oct, Karen Lynne, Guest spot at Henderson Park, Mildura CM Festival  
 Sat, 7th Oct, 8pm Karen Lynne & Martin Louis, Sydney B&TCMS, Annandale Community Centre, Johnston St, Annandale  
 Sat, 14th Oct, Karen Lynne Bluegrass Trio, South Coast Country Music Association Bluegrass & Acoustic Night, Mt Kembla Heights Community Hall, Mt Kembla. 8pm - To Be Confirmed.  
 Sun, 15 Oct, 1pm, Pat Drummond & Karen Lynne, Wisemans Ferry Inn, Wisemans Ferry  
 Thu, 19 Oct, 12.30-2pm, Parramatta Mall, Council Stage Church Street, Parramatta  
 Fri-Sun 27 - 29th Oct, Karen Lynne & Acoustic Shock, Dorrigo Folk & Bluegrass Festival, Dorrigo  
 Sun, 12 Nov, 2pm, Pat Drummond & Karen Lynne, Jamberoo Hotel, Jamberoo  
 Fri-Sun 17 - 19th Nov, Karen Lynne & Acoustic Shock, Harrierville Bluegrass Convention, Harrierville  
 Sun, 3 Dec, 11am, Pat Drummond & Karen Lynne, Aristocrat Technologies Children's Christmas Party, Mutt Park, Hurstville

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and say hi!.. meet little William.. (and grab a copy of the new album as well!)

Pat Drummond fans should be aware that he's celebrating 30 years without a real job with a series of gigs at Harpe Hotel, Tempe,.. so if you dwell in the sydney area, don't miss out!

Don't forget also that myself and Acoustic Shock will be performing at the Dor-rigo Bluegrass & Folk Festival so if you live in that area we hope to see you. It will be the last time you will see the band in their original format for a while as Jim (the guitarist) is taking a break,.. and it'll be little William's first big festival weekend away!!

### TWO NOMINATIONS in the AUSTRALIAN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS

More good news as I've picked up two Nominations in the 10th Australian Independent Country Music Awards. The first is for "Female Vocalist" - which is always an honour for a 'singer' to receive & secondly in the "Album of the Year" category for the new CD 'Changes', even more of a pleasure because this album really deserves it!.. here's hop-

**THANKS!..** Firstly to everyone who has sent cards, gifts and emails etc congratulating us on the birth of little William,.. I'm sorry I still have not had much time yet to catch up on my official 'Thankyou notes',.. but we have been really humbled to see how many of you were so kind,.. thankyou so much from both of us,.. it has been a lovely time in our lives!



### 'Labour of Love' - Track Listing & reviews

1. **Nearest Distant Shore**
2. **Grandma Used to Say**
3. **Water Lilly**
4. **I Don't Know Why**
5. **Stronger Than I Knew**
6. **The Woman Before Me**
7. **There Goes My Heart Again**
8. **Calm at the Centre of the Storm**
9. **Wildflowers**
10. **Half the Moon**
11. **Blame it on Your Heart**
12. **He Says**
13. **Just the Way I am**
14. **All the Loving and the Hurting**
15. **Streets of London**
16. **Colours of Australia**

*"... a very impressive debut album,.. production was excellent,.. a lovely selection of carefully chosen covers and three very thought-provoking originals..." Cap News*

*"... a very professional debut album,.. high quality product to be proud of,.. the icing on the cake is Karen's lovely natural unforced singing voice,.."* CM News & Routes, UK



*... And the Journey Continues,..* so where was I?.. it's been a while since I continued my musical journey in the newsletter,.. but I think I was really maturing as a performer & as a person after 'Second Wind' came out,.. it received so many wonderful accolades but still didn't break the industry 'glass ceiling',.. but for the first time in my career,.. it was OK. The confidence I'd gained & stubbornness (I'd always had) enabled me to tackle an overseas tour,.. it was hard work & very time consuming but slowly via the phone, the internet & thru the many loyal contacts I'd picked up in the previous two solo tours,.. I connected with a whole bunch of interested venue operators who would put on a gig for us. I knew we wouldn't make a lot of money, but we agreed that to cover our expenses on a 6 week trip around Europe & UK sounded like a pretty fun, unique, interesting & cheap way to do a once in a lifetime holiday,.. & we did,.. what amazing things you can do when you put your heart & mind to it!

### SONGWRITER TOP 10!

It was nice to get some songwriting recognition quite recently when a co-written song called "Blue Mountain Rain" (written with Richard Porteous)- from the new Changes album received a seventh placing in the "TSA - Tasmania & New Zealand Songwriters Awards",.. I haven't been writing much lately so it was great to be reminded I was a writer in that way.

### No. 2 CHART POSITION FOR FIRST UK SINGLE (GOSPEL CHARTS)

The month of May also brought the first overseas single release for the new album. This time it was the gospel track 'There is a Reason' which was released in the UK. It received heaps of airplay on the gospel radio programs and ended up reaching Number 2 on the UK gospel chart,.. thanks again to all who supported it.

**APOLOGY** - Firstly for the lateness of my 'thankyous' to those that sent gifts etc,.. also for the lateness of this newsletter, for the print quality of the last newsletter (I forgot to take the colour master with me when copying!) & lastly for putting in so many baby piccys in this newsletter!.. (but I've had no gigs & I'm 1 proud mum!!)





**LABOUR OF LOVE**  
(1998)  
Karen Lynne - First Solo Album  
KLF0704 - 001/SR 15  
(16 Tracks)  
Contains a mix of both Traditional & Contemporary Country, Folk & Bluegrass (3 originals).



**SIX DAYS IN DECEMBER**  
(2000)  
Karen Lynne & Pat Drummond  
Duet Album (11 tracks)  
KLF0704 - 002/SR18  
Contains a number of Duet & Solo tracks from Karen & Pat . All tracks are Australian (10 Orig) Country/folk in style



**BLUE MOUNTAIN RAIN -**  
(2001)  
Karen Lynne & Martin Louis  
Collaboration (18 tracks)  
KLF0704 - 003/SR 20  
Genuine Australian Bluegrass!, featuring Acoustic Shock Bluegrass Band & many great Aussie players (1 orig & 2 instrum.)



**SECOND WIND -**  
(2003)  
Karen Lynne - Solo Album  
KLF0704 - 004/SR 38  
(14 Tracks)  
Contains a mix of Traditional & Contemporary Country Music including a duet with Grant Richardson. (3 originals)

**ALBUM ORDER FORM**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ POSTCODE: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTRY: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT No: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ Copy/s of the \_\_\_\_\_

Album @ \$25 each + \_\_\_\_\_ Postage

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\* NB: Postage is \$2 , (\$3 for multiple articles or Overseas orders)

Please send with Cheque/Money Order

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Credit Card Details (We take Mastercard, Bankcard & VISA).

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CARD EXPIRY DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME ON CARD: \_\_\_\_\_

CARD NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_



**CHANGES**  
(2006)  
Karen Lynne - Solo Album  
KLF0704 - 003/SR 55  
(13 tracks + 1 Bonus Mix )  
Contains a mix of Traditional Bluegrass & also some more contemporary Acoustic Style Ballads (2 originals)

IF Undeliverable Please  
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