

June 18th 2022

Australian Music Legend Lonnie Lee
'The Last man standing from his era'

On Sept 18 1940 a little babe was born to David and Nancy from a sheep station in Rowena in the far outback of NSW. They could never have imagined that years later, Australia would be celebrating his 80th birthday as one of Australia's true music legends for over 60 years..

He got his first break at 15 year old, in 1956 on radio 2UW Amateur Hour and then a few months later at the Trocadero, became Australia's first Elvis Presley. He then started what some say, was the first Rockabilly combo in Australia.

In 1957, he was possibly the first Rock'n'Roll singer to appear on TV's Sydney Tonight at ATN7 then in 1959 became a regular on the ABC's Six O'Clock Rock TV Show. He was publicly voted the most popular star on that show, even over his friend and compere Johnny O'Keefe and was voted second most popular star on TCN9's Bandstand.

His barage of major national hits is legendary, from the song he wrote with Johnny O'Keefe in 1959, 'Ain't it so' to 'Starlight Starbright', 'I found a new love', 'Defenceless', 'When the Bells stop ringing and many more top 10 hits.

In late 1961, he was awarded the most coveted award, 'The Golden Microphone' as Australia's most popular record star.

Here are just some of his achievements..

Then..

1956 Australia's Amateur Hour doing Johnnie Ray impersonation

1957 Feb - Australia's ELVIS, then Sydney's ELVIS- 1st TV show, 'Sydney Tonight'

1957 'Sunday Sun' 1st local rock star story - Started first Rockabilly Band.

1959-First of 8 Top Hits start with 'Ain't it So" written by Lonnie & J.OK.

1959 With Johnny O'Keefe, takes 1st Rock'n'Roll tours through Australia.

1960-ABC Most Popular Star on TV's 6 O'Clock Rock. Non stop National hits

1961- 2nd most popular star on TV's Bandstand

1961- Golden Microphone Award as Australia's Most Popular Star

1962 Press Award "Australia's Most Consistent Hit Parader

1959-1970-8 No 1 Hit Records-5 Gold Records many Albums

Concert tours with every major US superstar of the era, Everly Bros, Johnny Cash, Crash Craddock, Jerry Lee Lewis, Ricky Nelson, Bobby Rydell etc..

More hits in Australia than Buddy Holly, Jerry Lee Lewis, Chuck Berry etc.

1st to have a Stereo LP in 1964

1st to have a full colour album cover in Australia 1960

1st artist to record a Bee Gee song, 1960 "I'd like to leave"

1st Australian to top NZ parades and successfully tour New Zealand 1962- 1965 -1969

1960's Tours of England, Europe, Pacific, Central America, USA.

1970's Living in Nashville for 9yrs - wrote for and with Roy Orbison and other stars.

1970's-80's. Owned record label & promo company in Nashville & Las Vegas.

1970s-80s Lived in Las Vegas total 4 yrs performing with own music companies.

1970's Performed and had own shows with major stars touring across USA

1972 Hollywood, producer and GM for Mickey Stevenson of 'Dancin' in the Street'.

1980 was made an 'Honourary Delegate to the USA House of Representatives'

1983 Las Vegas Was a founder Director of the American Society of Country Music

1998 and 99 was awarded by Australia Post, 'Best Performing Nostalgia Artist' .

2001 was awarded Australia Post, 'Best Nostalgia Act'

1980's Re-introduced Nostalgia Rock'n'Roll back into Australia with Fabian tour and Lonnie Lee's Rock'n'Remember Show' on weekly radio and live.

ABC TV Anniversary representing pop music on TV. Picture in ABC lobby.
Ausmusic Melbourne launch, chosen to represent the first Australian Rock Stars.
One of the most featured at Powerhouse Museum's "Real Wild Child" exhibit.
Major attraction at Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne and major provincial events.
For 3 years, was the major show at Darling Harbour, 'Australia Day', celebrations
Still tours theatres, clubs, casino's, outdoor events and corporate shows. Across Oz.

Since 1989 he has released 29 albums, 8 DVDs, 2 books and other merchandise
2001 One of the most popular stars on, the 'Long Way to the Top' tour and TV

Recent and Now

One of the major stars of NSW Premiers Concert to 32,000 people January 2019.
Victorian Government Seniors tours and since Covid-19, 2020 Live Stream event.
2020 Released album 'Back to Base X' songs he wrote and by other leading writers
got 4 star review in SMH and by reviewers around the world.

Currently recording his first Christmas album of popular and his own songs, for release in late October.
Since Covid-19 lockdown in March, 4 times a day, every week, he streams past live shows and interviews to,
YouTube, Facebook, Mix, Twitch and MobCrush.

Nearly every week he is interviewed by radio stations somewhere across Australia.

Like other artists, his live shows have been cancelled for 2020 but there is still a chance his Christmas Season
of daily shows at the Waterview Restaurant in Berowra Waters, may still be on.

Currently he is writing his autobiography and preparing follow ups for his Photo, Letter and Poster Memory
books. The first large coffee table size photo book features 700 photos.

Live Shows

Lonnie Lee is unique - one of a kind - his music style, his vocal style and energy levels are all very different to
his peers.

His show today, reflects his past record success in a unique, high energy presentation incorporating many
personal favourite classic songs, his own hits, and tribute to his friends and peers.

His band the Leemen provide backup harmonies to some of the most professional rock'n'roll music you'll hear.
In an average 3 hour show, he is on stage 80 + minutes, for 40 plus songs. and they always want more...

2022 Created and produced his solo theatre show 'Just me and my music

Business Interests

Solar Expo

In the 1970s and 80's he lived in Hollywood, Las Vegas and Nashville, writing with Roy Orbison and for many
other stars and in 1980 became an Honorary Delegate to the American House of Representatives from
Tennessee Congressman Bill Boner.

In Nashville in, 1980, he promoted the first American environmental expo with his, 'Living in the 80's', where
solar, holograms and many other cutting edge ideas were first publicly exposed in an expo by major
corporations.

Computers

Before Apple and Microsoft desktop computers came into being Lonnie became interested and involved with
Main Frame computers and he started the first computerised record promotion service in USA and this led to
him to writing many computer programs for the entertainment, auto and other businesses.

In the mid 1980's he started possibly Australia's first Internet business directory with his 'Sydney Internet
Directory' and still today his company, 'SydneyBiz', hosts many businesses online.

Promoted major tours for these stars

In the 1970's he helped promote tours for these stars. Ray Charles, Tom T. Hall, The Hollies, Gene Pitney, The
Diamonds, Roy Orbison, others.

**During Covid-19 Every week he streamed a new Lonnie Lee video stream
Choose your platform at <http://www.rocknrolltheatre.com>**