



# The Prospect Whisper

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## Forbes Rally – January 2026

### *'Elvis Festival - Love Me Tender'*

We arrived at Forbes Showground on Tuesday the 6<sup>th</sup> of January with temperatures in the high 30s increasing to over 40 degrees throughout the 6 days. This report comes from some of the members who attended the rally after being interviewed by the roving reporter.

#### Mark and Karen

Karen and Mark enjoyed seeing the Elvis Festival with Marks quote being 'Temperatures Rising' and as per Billie 'I ain't nothing but a Hound Dog'.



#### Bev and Ken

Unfortunately, we had no luck in selling any guitars, but we did get to attend the parade, and we visited both the clubs in Parkes and had a quiet time in Cooke Park watching the performers. Kens quote "Hunka Hunka Burning Love" didn't happen, too bloody hot.

#### Ron and Di



We visited the Henry Parkes Museum, Car Museum and the gates to Graceland, very informative. On Wednesday we met the Elvis Express Train, Thursday we enjoyed watching the movie Song, Sung Blue at the Forbes Club and on Friday it was Rons' birthday, so all members attended the Forbes Inn to help Ron celebrate the night. Ron received a special gift from Mark, a light that clicks over the toilet seat so that he can see where to pee, what a thoughtful gift. Both Ron and Di lost their voices 'A Little Less Conversation' may have helped. Ron and Di also had to visit the Forbes Hospital due to Di injuring her elbow but couldn't get any help and were advised to come back. Hopefully Di's elbow is better now.

#### Laurie and Carole

As per Laurie – We enjoyed the Elvis Festival in the company of our fellow members and visitors. Laurie advises that we now have shares in the Forbes Club as it was attended frequently by members for long periods of time to beat the heat "Who needs money" and "Big Boss Man" songs from Clambake – 1967 movie. Carole reported other than the heat we had a great time and enjoyed the breakfast show in Forbes.



### **Karen, Bruce, Maria and Joe**

Karen enjoyed the water fights which members participated in thoroughly enjoying the coolness of the water, making me feel refreshed and cooler in the heat. We all enjoyed our first Elvis Street parade, glad that it was early in the morning due to temperatures rising. The four of us enjoyed our star and comet gazing each night with four of us happy not to see a flaming star as per Elvis's song a "Flaming Star" as quoted in the song "A Flaming star over his shoulder, and when a man sees his flaming star, he knows his time, his time has come".



### **Keith and Dianne**

Although the heatwave during our stay in Forbes restricted us somewhat, we still had a good time trying to keep cool on the first night. We met at 7pm in the heat and with water guns on the ready it wasn't long before everyone, our visitors included, were sitting in wet shirts and feeling refreshed.



Regardless of the extreme heat we still enjoyed all the sights and sounds of the Elvis Festival in Parkes. We got to see all the excitement as the Elvis Express rolled into the Parkes railway station and so many Elvises along with other passengers dressed in outfits to suit that era mixed with everyone out in the carpark. So many photos were taken of the posing Elvises with fans. We enjoyed a couple of shows in Parkes and walked through Cooke Park where shows are held but the heat was too overbearing for us to spend much time there. The Street Breakfast in Forbes on Friday at 9am was very enjoyable as the morning was a lot cooler then. Keith was serenaded to by Elvis as he ate his pie, and I got pulled up by not one but two jive dancers to dance with them – they were like energiser bunnies while I was waltzing. We were lucky to have had a shady spot to watch the Street Parade. A lot more time was spent in the air-conditioning of clubs to keep cool and there were many catch-ups having morning tea, lunch or dinner....or all day there. Thank you to our members for the laughter and good times.

*Footnote:* We couldn't even have a cold shower because the tap water was hot. We even tried the water in our tanks, but it was too warm as well.

### **Mick and Julie**

We had a great time as this was our first time to an Elvis Festival. While in Forbes we had a day trip out to Trundle which has a pub with the longest veranda and the widest street in Australia. To stay cool, we went for an afternoon swim to the



Forbes pool and Trundle pool which was a lovely way to end the day. The Elvis impersonators bought back many memories of our wedding day in Las Vegas as we were married in Graceland's Chapel by an Elvis impersonator quote "When I get married it'll be no secret"

### **Merv and Anne**

Merv and I arrived Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>, after staying at Macquarie Woods the night before. Our priority on Wednesday was to view the 'Gates of Graceland', an exact replica of the famous Graceland gates that Elvis had erected when he purchased the esteemed Graceland estate in 1957. These gates have been erected onto the new 'Wall of Fame'. This wall has a rich history, starting with its establishment in 1995. It recognises individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the Australian music industry. A new wall was erected two years ago and the location moved near the Henry Parkes museum and the King's Castle Elvis museum. All the



"Some people tap their feet, some people snap their fingers, and some people sway back and forth. I just sorta do 'em all together, I guess."

plaques were then relocated to the new wall. It was interesting to read all the names of the names of the plaques – the first one being Johnny O'Keefe. The 2025 recipient was Marcia Hines, who was given her award while we were there. Other plaques on the ground, were also unveiled showing the winning busker of that particular year.



Unfortunately, we were not blessed with good weather this time. It has always been hot but this year the weather was extreme. Needless to say, this had a big effect on our ability to have maximum enjoyment. During previous festivals, it has been wonderful to walk down Clarinda Street and enjoy the music of the many buskers. However, it seemed that there were very few buskers this time and our guess was that the heat was way too extreme for them, but we did see quite a few in the pubs. The heat also restricted our members to mix outside with each other, but the water fight did help ease the heat slightly.

On Thursday morning we left Forbes early because we had tickets for the Poets Breakfast. The poetry was very entertaining, and most were very funny. We found out while we were there that the host was the father-in-law of Chrissy, from the Amity group. He kept us engaged before the poets



performed. A young man called Marshall gave us an impromptu rendition of some Elvis songs. We then saw Marshall in the Saturday parade and then on stage, at Cooke Park. He sang songs from the 50s and we were very impressed and he got lots of people dancing. After the breakfast we headed for the Leagues Club and enjoyed watching the heats for this year's ETAs (Elvis Tribute Artist). The winner will compete in USA later in the year. There were 20 ETAs competing and they each sang two songs each.

We did manage to spend a few hours each day in Cooke Park. On Sunday, the temperature dropped to mid-30s, and Merv and I spent many enjoyable hours watching the free entertainment in the park.

**Baz** Unfortunately, Baz had 'left the building', and I missed interviewing him but I'm sure he had a good time. I would like to thank everyone for their help with this report.

### ***Signing off***

"Tomorrow will be too late. It's now or never" and "There's no guarantee for tomorrow. With that in mind, I'm going to live my life like there is no tomorrow. I don't want to waste time while I'm here .... I'll slow down when I'm gone."

Report by Julie.

