

# MEDIA RELEASE

Popular country music entertainer Don Costa was immortalised recently in the South Australian Country Music Hall of Fame at Barmera, during the 33rd SA Country Music Festival & New Talent Awards, when he placed his hand in a concrete guitar.

He joins the League of Legend Country Music performers who have been inducted at the Hall of Fame, including such icons as Slim Dusty, Smoky Dawson, Chad Morgan, Tex Williams, Ted Egan, the LeGarde Twins, and more recently Troy Cassar Daly, Becky Cole, Kasey Chambers, and many more.

Among the line up is the late Rocky Page who established and ran the festival for many years. Rocky initiated the festival in order to give his music students a platform on which to participate against other budding entertainers, and it has grown from there. Many successful country music entertainers began their careers at the Riverland Country Music Festival, as it was formally known.

The South Australian Country Music Festival & New Talent Awards is small by comparison to other major festivals, but the line up of well known guest artists and entertainers attract country music fans from all over Australia and New Zealand, and it is fondly referred to as the friendly festival.

The artists who attend the festival enjoy the friendly atmosphere and the personal interaction with their fans. Don has attended the festival on several other occasions, and thoroughly enjoyed his time there. He thanked Murray and Dot McDonnell and their committee

for his invitation to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, and his fans for their support over the years.

David and Heather Hoffman were also inducted that day. Over two hundred handprints have been placed in the guitar, and visitors to Barmera are encouraged to wander around the museum and view the hands in fame which form part of the giant guitar.

Rosemary Gower 25th June 2014