



Riverland Domestic Violence Unit



Melinda Schneider joins the Riverland Domestic Violence Unit



Domestic violence is an issue not many people like to talk about. Our current Patron, Jeanette Wormald has assisted the RDVU in various ways over the past few years. Times have changed and the number of families being assisted by our agency is steadily growing. This has put more pressure on staff and Management to come up with creative ideas to support our work. When we held our great celebrity auction a couple of years ago, Melinda Schneider sent us some signed CDs and DVDs. We needed to raise our profile even more this year and Melinda was approached to be a Patron. Here is what Melinda's response to our request was:

"When Ele Wilde approached me to become a Patron of the RDVU, I was truly honoured. I hope to be able to help support the hardworking team in continuing the wonderful work they have done for many families over the last twenty one years. Wishing everyone a safe, happy and peaceful 2008, may it be our best year yet!"

Love and strength,

Melinda Schneider x

For several years now Melinda has been a leading light of the 'new breed' of Australian Country artists. In a career which began with a stage debut at the age of three, (appearing with her mother internationally renowned yodeller Mary Schneider) she has kept her family tradition alive by becoming one of Australia's most sublime singers and popular live performers, but it is through her assured and accomplished song writing that she has really discovered her true voice. Four albums and eight years on, she has won numerous awards, four CMAA Golden Guitars – including 2005 Album of the Year with "Family Tree", APRA Song of the Year for the song "Real People" and Female Vocalist of the Year in 2003 for "The Story of my Life". Melinda's songs have been recorded by artists as diverse as John Farnham, Jimmy Little and US country artist Elizabeth Cook. Melinda's recent "Song of the Year" nomination at the Americana Music Awards held November 1st in Nashville for "Sometimes it takes balls to be a Woman", saw Melinda nominated along side Patty Griffin and Lucinda Williams.

"As a songwriter and singer Melinda Schneider is one of this country's truly important artists" Glenn A Baker.

"We are absolutely delighted that Melinda has joined us. We are sure that most of you would have heard of Melinda through her music. As times get tougher as we see more and more families in need, we look for positive activities that will raise our spirits. Why have two Patrons? It is simple: the more awareness the better. Particularly for small agencies in country areas! With Melinda's support, we hope to raise more awareness of domestic violence and how it affects families. There is a certain level of acceptance of domestic violence in our community. Our Patrons are here to say that there should not be any tolerance of domestic violence because we all deserve to live safe and happy lives and to provide safe havens for our children. We encourage everyone to support our talented Patrons as they do their bit to create peace and happiness in our worlds and enrich our lives with their words and music."

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