

'LOOKING BACK TO SEE' Reviews  
Bill & Audrey

**BILLBOARD**

**"BILL & AUDREY REVIVE CLASSIC DUET SOUND DOWN UNDER"**

If you're in the mood for some serious country music, look no further than the current Australian release "Looking Back To See" by Bill & Audrey on Reckless Records.... Together, they create the classic country duet sound that just isn't heard anymore. The title cut and "We'll Sweep Out The Ashes In The Morning" are especially compelling."

**Chet Flippo, 1999**

**The Journal of Country Music**

"No hesitant irony infects this recreation of a 1950s-era barroom jukebox. Audrey's mournfully beautiful voice joins with Bill's plainer one in some quietly startling harmony work, and the man who doesn't cry when they sing Rik Grech's "Kiss the Children" is cut off."

**USA**

**3rd Coast Review**

"Jim Ed Brown & Helen Cornelius' title track can be taken as a mission statement for these Australians who, almost miraculously, revive what seemed lost beyond all prayer of recovery, the art of country duets. I've heard a lot of good lead and a lot of good harmony, but though I could reel off a long list of male and female singers, names you'd recognise, whom I've heard making a miserable mess of it, I can't remember when I last heard a really well done country duet. Can it really have been Parsons & Harris? Bill & Audrey fill this aching void with a very nifty mix, a classic, Carl & Pearl Butler's "We'll Sweep Out the Ashes in the Morning", well thought out duet adaptations ... and seven originals, notably 'Road of Regret' and 'Losing Side of Love', which stand up very well in this company. As a vocalist, Audrey really has that spinetingling 40s/50s hillbillyette sound... Bill & Audrey looked back and saw something they could do that nobody else was doing, and they do it with an utterly disarming simplicity and lack of selfconsciousness. In short, they sound like they've been timewarped from the golden age of country duets."

**John Conquest, USA**

**Blue Suede News**

"Well this is interesting - a country duo from Australia! ...this is fine old-time country music, the kind that always had a steel guitar. It's nice to know when I finally get down to visit the kangaroos I can also hear some good honky tonkin' music down under. An excellent CD, as much for originals like "You Opened My Eyes" (a fine slow tune), as for the cool covers."

**USA**

**Country Standard Time**

"Where do you go for real country music these days? Would you believe Down Under? This debut release from Australian duo Bill & Audrey is a collection of classic country duets that would make Porter and Dolly or George and Tammy proud. With Nashville having turned it's back on the music and artists of the past, Bill & Audrey prove that real country music still transcends time and geographical boundaries."

**Robert Wooldridge, USA**

**Radio KFJC**

"We get more product than we could even care about - it gets mind-numbing at times to hear the latest singer-songwriter, the latest Americana sound-alike band, or what have you. Turning these away would be easier without the multiple phone calls that follow them. Bill and Audrey, on the other hand, were an instant no-brainer add. Just an amazing album: pure, compelling classic country. Just put the old CD player on random and enjoy!"

**Mike Miyake**

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**Country Music People**

"What a nice surprise. An album of duets exactly as they used to be made back in the '50s, an act of reverence towards a sound that has long disappeared from the American airwaves. Ironic that it should come from an Australian outfit...

[Bill Chambers] laidback burry voice is ably suited to this selection of solid country songs, delivered with the gentleness and simplicity of yesteryear. Moreover... he's a fine composer of honky tonk tunes, exemplified here by the lighthearted 'Sugar Daddy' and 'Honky Tonk Fool', both of which he co-wrote with duet partner, Audrey Auld....Audrey, whose vocals are stark hillbilly, fit the retro feel perfectly, as on Kitty Wells 'Searching' and the Carl Butler & Pearl goodie, 'We'll Sweep Out The Ashes In The Morning'.....

This is an album of solid honky tonk delivered with an honesty that would scare certain American acts jumping on the retro bandwagon. Apparently, Bill & Audrey hold Hillbilly Jams in Australia - going by this release, they're unmissable." Four Stars

**Craig Baguley, UK April 1999**

**Country Music International**

\* \* \* \* (that's four stars!!) "...their musical ethos is a lot like Barry and Holly Tashian. ....'Kiss the Children' is the pick of all the cuts. A pleasant album of genuine country music, produced simply with acoustic guitar, fiddle, steele and dobro, sung by two people who complement each other in every way."

**Frank Bradshaw, UK April '99**

**Rhythms Magazine**

**Sunday Herald Sun**

"Bill Chambers is the musical backbone of the Dead Ringer Band. His love for country music of the golden era of the late 1940s and early '50s is given full rein in this independent project with partner Audrey Auld. Despite her comparatively tender years Audrey is a thoroughly modern retro gal and the pair rejoice in the sassy type of duets we used to hear from the likes of Ernest Tubbs and Loretta Lynn. Or maybe - closer to home - Rick and (the late) Thel Carey, to whom this album is dedicated.

When blending voices on songs such as 'Sugar Daddy', 'Honky Tonk Fool', 'Road of Regret' and 'What's In our Hearts' they are at their best. All these songs are originals of the highest order of real country. That is, simple, heartfelt and direct songs of deceptive subtlety.

Bill and Audrey's own songs are so much better for the genuine emotion they can bring to them - they overshadow the non originals such as 'Honky Tonk Merry Go Round', 'We'll Sweep Out the Ashes in the Morning' and 'You Are My Sunshine'. That takes some doing. Along with great but spare musicianship on display here are apt period photos and graphics that mark this album as a real contender for Australian indie country release of the year. In a contemporary twist, the easiest way to buy it is on the internet at [www.recklessrecords.com](http://www.recklessrecords.com)

**Keith Glass 1999**

**Capital News**

"In this day and age of techno, overproduced Country there is a definite place for some real Country Music - just witness Vince Gill's and Dolly Parton's latest albums, the tradition-laden works of Steve Earle, the rootsiness of the Dead Ringers and the cries of "too much rock 'n' roll" at the Tamworth festival.

Bill & Audrey deliver the real goods on this album without any apologies for the retro sounds - heck that's what it's all about. From covers that include Audrey's delivery of the Kitty Wells hit Searching (For Someone Like You) to Honky Tonk Merry Go Round, onto the delightful duets like

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Looking Back To See and It Was the Whiskey Talking (Not Me) and originals like Sugar Daddy, You Opened My Eyes, Losing Side Of Love and Meet Me Up There, this set reeks of honky tonkin', hillbilly sassiness and genuine Country heart and soul.

Bill & Audrey co-produced with Nash Chambers at the Beach House Studio and this meant the ready accessibility of players like Mick Albeck and Rod McCormack as well as BJ Barker from the Ringers. Michel Rose, Michael Vidale, Nash, Bill and Audrey fill out the instrumental duties and Les Scott joins in on vocal harmonies on Meet Me Up There.

If you've been to one of Bill & Audrey's Hillbilly Jams - either in Sydney or at the Tamworth festival - you'll be right into this album and if you miss the sounds of real Country Music, in the style of Hank Williams and the greats of the '40s, '50s and '60s, you'll love Looking Back To See.

Maybe some of our current so-called stars could take some paraphrased advise and Look Back To Hear where your heart and soul should be."

**Jon Farkas Aust. 1999**

**Stock Journal**

"I have recently spent two weekends working at Festivals with Bill and Audrey and I am pleased to report that they are a great act. I introduced them as the act that was putting country back into country music and they are certainly doing that. Bill is of course Bill Chambers from the Dead Ringer Band, a man who has enough golden Guitars to start his own foundry, and Audrey is very popular Tasmanian singer Audrey Auld.

Together on stage they weave a very special magic as they introduce the old style of music that made Hank Williams so very famous. To support their new act, Bill and Audrey have released a new recording called "Looking Back To See", an old Rick and Thel tune, which has 14 great country songs on it, half of which they wrote themselves. I love the album and I already have money on it going gold for them in Tamworth next year. They have really introduced a great basic country sound, which has been missing in so many of the records being released lately and the production is first class.

I would give this album full marks and recommend that if you like good country it is a must for your collection. It is on a new label called Reckless Records. Well done Bill and Audrey!"

**Wally Sparrow 1999**

**Country Update**

"Someone in the country music industry said something to me recently that made me think. Perhaps I knew it all along but had not thought about it too much. This person said how much they like Bill and Audrey and their new independent album **"Looking Back To See"** because it 'sounded like real country music and there was not a lot around lately.' Yes this album follows country music traditions, particularly American, but may not be easily accepted by some of today's listeners...

These are songs that have been around for a while and some are brand new but they all have that unmistakable sound that it is a country record full of true country songs. There's love and heartache and even death in the songs that cover the whole range of what life can throw at us. This is a 'true country' album,...."

*[see complete article "Nutting Off" on page 32 of Country Update, April '99 for discussion on the validity of Shania Twain and Faith Hill as pop artists appearing on the country charts]*

"Here we are then with an album at the top of the charts ('Come On Over' by Shania Twain) that is not really a country album keeping a real country album like Bill and Audrey's out of the charts. Not a lot of real country around at the moment? Have a listen, I am sure you will come to the same conclusion."

**John Nutting, ABC Radio 'Saturday Night Country' 1999**

**Country Update**

"Here's a little beauty for fans of the old honky tonk style of traditional American music, when country meant Hank Williams and Rose Maddox. ....the right mix of pedal steel, fiddle and upright bass give it a deliberate feel from the fifties while still very much set in the nineties.... for traditional country lovers, it's right on the money."

**Rosie Adsett 1999**