

Keith's a **NO-SHOW** at Nicole's birthday party

AS if turning 40 isn't bad enough! Nicole Kidman gamely smiled through an early birthday bash in Australia – while her husband was 7,000 miles away!

Thirty pals toasted Nic at a Sydney restaurant on June 16, four days before her actual birthday. But her country superstar hubby Keith Urban was in Los Angeles with his band, say sources.

"With Keith on tour while she films the new Baz Luhrmann epic in the Australian outback, Nicole hasn't seen much of Keith," said an insider.

"She made the best of it, but it was obvious she missed him."

Nicole is still committed to her marriage despite Keith's struggle with alcohol abuse.

Two days after the party,

‘She made the best of it, but it was obvious she missed him’

Nicole's hidden tears turned to joy when Keith flew to her side on the set of "Australia" in the remote Down Under town of Bowen.

The award-winning musician – who's been battling his booze and drug demons since they wed –



Nicole celebrated her birthday with friends on June 16 in Australia (above), while Keith was at a car show in Beverly Hills on June 17 (left)



arrived just in time for Nic's actual birthday on June 20.

"Keith organized a magnificent fireworks display for Nicole's birthday. They watched the show from a hillside with a group of friends," continued the insider.

"The extravaganza also featured a flaming 'Happy Birthday, Nicole' set on a grid close to the ground.

"Nicole was delighted by Keith's romantic gesture. She's been through the wringer with him, but his tender and touching efforts reassure her that their marriage can last."

by **ROBIN MIZRAHI**