

Greg Champion Newsletter

Issue 12AD
February 2007

NEWSLETTER
XIVGRGCHMN

Well G'day again you fine upstanding Australians, and citizens of the World.

Welcome to newsletter number twenty-ish, put together by highly-treasured Perth pair, Andrew & Del McGuinness.

Another summer of cricket songs and Country Music Festivals comes and goes. That's now seventeen straight Tamworth Festivals I've been to, and they've all been joyful. Hi to those perennial Tamworth friends who come from all over Oz, and whom you may only see once a year, like Tracey & Lynette (the twins), John & Yvonne, the Durkin family, Graeme & kids(Canberra), Gloria & Alison (Portland), and Greg & Rhonda (Cessnock).

This year I even copped a 'gong' in the TIARA awards, the ones for Independent Artists, for the song *Been There Done That(like to do it again)*. It's been a while since a gong came along – so happy to have one.

Earlier in the summer my Pommy singing friend Brooksy and I sang at four of the five Ashes Tests, which meant we got to see some fine Test cricket. One highlight was the view of the cricket from the Bill O'Reilly Stand at the SCG, with The Barmy Army in full voice nearby.

I'm delighted to be going to Sydney for a Gold Guitar Winners Concert at Penrith Leagues on March 22, at which John Williamson, Troy Cassar-Daley and others will perform, to raise money for the Country Music Association. Prior to that we're off to Port Fairy Folk Festival for an ABC broadcast with The Coodabeens on March 11, then to Murraylands Country Music Festival [Tailem Bend, S.A.] on March 23, then on to Darwin on March 25 for the local football league Awards Night.

It's been a sizzling summer down south, and apart from the fact that we're all cracking up, drying out and running out of water....I'm loving the heat.

May your seasons be all that you want them to be – cool, warm, wet, all of those combined, whatever suits you, and see you down the track, yours cheerfully, greg



Congratulations on the Tiara Award at Tamworth Champs!

THE WINNING SET LIST

Rhonda and Greg Astill, Cessnock NSW

- Come this far
- Too Many Bridges
- Banks of the Condamine
- Walk Along Side of You
- Been There Done That
- North Bourke Bridge
- Cooe Motel
- Further Up The Mountain
- Jesus Knockin
- Singing Bird
- Walk Across The Line
- Stoney Ground
- See You Again Sometime



Greg and contest winners Rhonda and Greg Astill

A Thank You Note from the Competition Winners

Dear Greg,

A big thank you to you and Andrew for the fantastic competition for your best songlist, I really enjoyed trawling through all your cds to come up with the ones I loved the best.

We loved the show in Canberra with you, Jane Saunders and Michael Fix. All the songs were great but we particularly enjoyed the three of you harmonizing the Seekers songs.

It was lovely to catch up with you again and enjoyable having dinner with the three of you before the show.

Thanks again, best wishes

Rhonda Astill—Cessnock NSW



Greg, Rhonda, Jane and Michael

Letters Letters Letters Letters Letters



TIDEWATER:

Hi Greg, I'm looking at buying an old vinyl LP called Tidewater by a country rock outfit called Wild Horse Plains. They're selling it as an 'Australian rarity' and quite pricy, would you recommend. Thanks Ross

[Greg answered: "I would recommend giving this LP as wide a berth as possible".

It didn't help. He bought it anyway. The band was Tidewater, Greg's first band in 1976, and the title Wild Horse Plains]

SHEEP WITH FOUR BELLIES:

I was listening to an album by Champs which features the classic "May your fridge be full of Coldies" and after hearing the line "May your Sheep have full bellies", my daughter (18yo) said don't they just have one, its cows that have four?? She thought the line said "May Your Sheep have 4 Bellies" and we all know thats not true!
Lance from Syndal, Vic.

A WEDDING MESSAGE:

Hi Greg I know this is a long shot, but.... I am best man on the 4th January 2007 for my best mate of 20 odd years. I thought this was a long time but I reckon he has been a fan of yours for longer. I know he has all your CDs in his collection. Anyhow he is finally walking down the aisle on the 4th January. He has even agreed to have the wedding in Adelaide to suit his wife to be!! Anyhow I thought it might be a great surprise if he actually received an email from you wishing him well on his marriage. I will be reading out these messages

Cheers Tim North-Coombes [message sent]

UPPER KUMBUCKNA/BUCKENYAMA

Howdy Greg, I would love to get the words and chords to "barkenyarma farmer", as I heard you perform it several times at Maldon folk fest last year. I looked on your website but could not see it, or didn't recognise it as I don't know the name of the song. Would appreciate any help cheers Dave Williamson

[the song is about the towns of Upper Kumbuckna and Buckenyama]

FROM MANCHESTER:

G'day , just returned from Munchesterrrr, England. My favourite moment while in the Lancashire metropolis was turning on the TV in my hotel room, on my last day there and seeing Champs belting out his musical retort to the Barmy Army on UK Sky TV News, with that fellow from the Music Men. Your appearance on UK TV was my magic moment for the month Cheers Michael Walker



THE SINGING BIRD:

hi greg i googled some lyrics ..keep a green bough in your heart..from a song i heard on a folk music show and thank you very much, up came your site...didnt seem to be on any others. is "the singing bird" the usual title? is it your song? its a pearler. I would love to have the chords if you are willing to part with them? if the song is not your own, whose is it and who else has recorded it? i also saw your song about ball tampering, to the tune of tangled up in blue..most amusing!
Thanks michelle t

[“keep a green bough in your heart and the singing bird will come” is a Chinese saying which Greg used as the chorus for his song]

FROM THE MELBOURNE SUBURBS:

Hi Greg, could you please help me locate a copy of cricket songs that we had in the 80's on cassette. I have 4 children who grew up on these songs (even the girls!) and have misplaced it years ago. These songs are truly part of our family history. It is my son Trent's 21st on 16th Jan, 07 and I would dearly love to present this to him. Some of the songs were Shane Warne, Big Merv, Down at the West Indies, Everybody loves to watch the cricket and of course I made 100 in the backyard at Mums. Look forward to hearing from you, Jenny Alexander [CD supplied]



MANIAC ROCKERS FROM HELL:

Hi Greg, love your latest stuff - my initiation to your music dates back to Maniac Rockers days with Wayne, Wayne and Tony. Are you still in touch with them at all? Was particularly fond of New Boundary Hotel gigs, but one of the best gigs was the night I met my future wife over summer of 86/87 at Harp Hotel in Kew. What a night-dancing on tables - you went up a notch that night. You entertained us with excellent music and lots of laughs - hard thing to do. Are there any live recordings of the Maniacs in existence? Finally, what was the band you also played with prior to Maniacs (Wayne played too - I've heard the vinyl years ago - 2 girls sang? One song was called "I Knew This Would Happen To Me") Any info you can provide would be appreciated. Gary [the two bands were Maniac Rockers From Hell & The Fabulaires]

'TEDDY BEAR MAGIC' (AGAIN):

Hi Greg, I have looking for a copy of "Teddy Bear Magic". I had a copy that has worn out after my continually playing of it to my daughter (she's only 7 months old) to calm her down in the car. I have tried others but your teddy bear songs are perfect and calm her down. I was wondering if you would know where I could find a copy of this very much loved collection of songs. I have tried a number of places and have been unable to find a copy. The copy I had was my younger cousin's who loved it and we used to dance etc to it with her when she was younger. Thanks Melinda Stack

ABOUT... "THE GUY WHO NOBODY CAN SPELL THE NAME OF"...

Hello. My name is Warren French. I was at a party and I heard some of your footy songs, like dirmit beriton is a hood and the song about the guy who nobody can spell the name of he use to also play for Hawthorn. My question Gregg is where can I get this cd from please? I've tried the a b c shops no luck and I went to a few smaller independent second hand record stores, hoping to find anything, but found nothing. Any help is most genuinely appreciated and my sincere thank you to you in advance. Warren French [Enquiry answered. The player referred to is Dipierdomenico]

FROM THE PYRENEES -- VIC.

Greg - Hi, we're a pair of greypowers who've been long-time followers and listeners from our beautiful but tiny rabbit-infested weekender-vineyard in the Pyrenees. The 'littleun' is now 30 and resides in a garret in Paris avec son chere fille and about to briefly visit. We think your French song might not only amuse this austrophile but his jeune fille as well. You can't imagine the trouble I have had tracking it down. Broad-band neglectitus' it is called. Then the trusty telephone to the erstewhile trusty ABC shop elicited little else but snooty unhelpful advice. So i googled you. Please, where can i get the CD which has the French song on it? Cheers Noreen [CD supplied]

INDIAN VIDEO

Hello Greg, I'm Karthik, from Chennai. I heard your song 'I made a hundred in the backyard at mum's'; and I loved it to bits. I had shot lots of footage of my friend Abhishek batting in my other friend Rajesh's driveway, where we play some intensely fought out underarm test matches. I came across your song quite accidentally, on the internet, and I downloaded it. Despite the fact that Abhishek isn't quite capable of scoring hundreds, the song seemed to fit the overall feel of the video, in an ironical manner. I suppose you could say this is a tribute to him for continuing to love the game, and keep competing hard despite not being too good at it. I've uploaded it on google video, and if you're interested in taking a look at it, here's a link:

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-4398015384552734456>

I'm the chap in the black T shirt, by the way. Anyway, I'm really sorry for having used the song without your permission, and I hope you won't look too unkindly upon what I did with it. Thanking you, with another apology thrown in, Karthik



Letters Letters Letters Letters Letters

SONG LYRICS OF THE MONTH

UPPER KUMBUCKNA

greg champion

1.

she was from Upper Kumbuckna
he from Buckenyama
they met beneath the town hall lights
at a dance in Unda Gumbunga
she was the local netball star
he a long-legged farmer
when the Upper Kumbuckna Belle she fell
for the Buckenyama charmer

2.

she was a drop dead gorgeous sort
a dead set perfect ten
and she fancied the Buckenyama bloke
the minute he walked in
she locked her eyes upon him
he asked her for a dance
and so began the Upper Kumbuckna Buckenyama
romance

CH.

He was awful nervous
And she was kinda coy
When the Upper Kumbuckna beauty fell
for the lucky Buckenyama boy

3.

at a chapel in Upta Gumbunga
the lovestruck couple were wed
the party ran till daylight in
the Unda Gumbunga woolshed
he had a grin from ear to ear
she looked queen of the world
when the Buckenyama farmer wed the Upper Kum-
buckna girl

4.

from Bunjalunga and Porepunkah
from parts of Congupna they came
from Dumbuganuckya and Rubadubduckya
and places too lengthy to name
and soon there were three little rugrats
in no time at all there were seven
for the Upper Kumbuckna Buckenyama marriage
made in heaven

CH.

The stars shone down upon them
The heavens danced with joy
When the Upper Kumbuckna beauty wed the lucky
Buckenyama boy

travel dates

11 March

Port Fairy Folk Festival

21 March

Clifton Hill Hotel, Melbourne

22 March

Penrith Leagues, Sydney
Gold Guitar Winners Concert

23-24 March

Murraylands Country Music Festival
Tailem Bend, SA

25 March

Darwin NTFL
Awards Show

19 April

Dookie Football Club, Victoria



Tamworth 2007