

Congratulations

VICTORIAN & NATIONAL COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS 2008
WINNER
BLUEGRASS AND TRADITIONAL COUNTRY
GREG CHAMPION
Undying flower



At the glittering annual Awards night for Victorian and National Country Music artists at Whittlesea near Melbourne on Feb. 8, Champs was up for six nominations in the categories of Heritage, Bluegrass & Traditional, Best Song, Best Independent release, Vic. male vocalist and Vic. album.

Greg took home one gong, Best Traditional & Bluegrass song, for Undying Flower, from his latest release The Shack Tapes. Champs performed a duet at the awards with Penny Burke.



NEWSLETTER # XIVZFKWJ

greg champion

Dear reader, welcome to our 2008 newsletter. May your new year be your best year yet. I have resolved to make it The Year Of Songwriting. After a couple of unsettled years, that is my new mission.

Tamworth Festival has passed by again. It's still the highlight of the year, and still more fun than you can handle. The friendships do get more important each year, just as people say they do. Friends like Grant Luhrs, Michael Fix, Beccy, Mike Smith, June Smyth....and those special regulars who come each year from Cessnock, Portland, Canberra, Naracoorte and elsewhere.

Our group played two Longyard Shows, marking eighteen straight years at that venue - plus The Last Roundup concert at the Entertainment Centre where the Gold Guitar Awards are staged the night before. And along with Gina Geffreys I co-compered the Songwriters Awards. Our line-up included long time band members Gary Carruthers and Robyn Martin, plus duet partner Penny Burke, and a guest appearance from the ever likeable Michael Fix.

I was cleverly tricked at the Peoples Choice awards. They asked me to present an award and sing a song, which I did. They then asked if I'd hang about and present another one. While we were waiting they presented another award - to which I wasn't paying attention - and they announced MY name.

Now, I knew I wasn't nominated for any awards, so your first thought is - are there TWO Greg Champions - or has there been a complete mistake?? But it was a 'Career Achievement Award' - for which there are no nominations - just a surprised winner.

So they got me a good one there....



I have had a message from a military source enquiring if I would be interested in entertaining troops overseas. This was quite a surprise. I have had discussions with the 'appropriate personnel', and we'll see what transpires.

2008 will also be the year to make a new CD. It's two years now since the release of The Shack Tapes - so it's time. This album will be more light-hearted humourous Australiana in style, after three slightly more 'serious' CDs.

Happy travels and may your rivers flow with healthy rain that washes down from the inland and flushes our Great River and breaths life back into her ailing watercourse.

Be seeing you along the track, yours cheerfully,

greg

Letters



FROM WHEELERS HILL, VIC

Dear Champs I have a copy of your Greg Champion 1990 album on cassette and was rapt to find out that it has been re-released on CD. I bought our copy when our young family (3 kids under 10) was living on an Aboriginal community in the Northern Territory. Our community, Kalkarindji, was on the northern edge of the Tanami and was 4 hours drive from Katherine, our nearest town. Every time we drove into town we played and sang your album over and over again. One of our favourites was Back to Glen Waverley for Christmas as we had come from Glen Waverley! Our kids now are grown up and have left the nest and I'd love to have the CD for old time sake, and to play at get-togethers. I continue to listen the The Coodabeens regularly on radio. Many many thanks Andrew Bamber

FROM LOUISVILLE KENTUCKY

You and your fellow Coodabeens might be interested to know that when I moved to the States almost 14 years ago (my wife is from Louisville), one of the handful of CD's that I brought with me on that first trip over was the Coodabeens "Live" album. And so for years now I've been playing cuts off that album to family and friends here who ask me about the Australian sense of humour (especially "The French Song" and "If It's Not Country, What Is It?"). "May Your Fridge Be Full Of Coldies" is another tune that gets a good reception, as do the Christmas albums of course. Best regards, Matthew

Long time Champs supporter Rhonda Astill with Greg and Penny at the Longyard Hotel, Tamworth 2008

SANTA CLAUS HAS GOT A NEW TRUCK

Could I kindly ask you for the words to "Santa Clause has got a new truck." please? My daughters and I heard this song on the way to school this morning and now the girls are keen to sing it at our family christmas dinner. Alison Coote Orange

FROM BOORT, VIC

Saw you at the closing ceremony at TREC Tamworth and enjoyed your time on stage immensely. You have crossed our radar before but have never really taken much notice, sorry....I suspect it has something to do with surviving on the fringe of the mallee. Not much time for entertainment. We saved for this trip and had a great time in the last week of the festival. Regards Di Walsh.

**If you have any questions for Champs - just send them to
andrew@rellamusic.net
And we will put them to the Champs!**

Song lyrics of the month

UNDYING FLOWER

greg champion

my love is as sure as the falseness of time
which seeks only beauty and itself to devour
my love is as bold as the power of rhyme
it sits in the soul like the undying flower



in richness in suffering in illness and health
in lowly abode or the highest of towers
the Masters of Faith or the servants of wealth
or bow to the grace of the undying flower

deep in the green leaves the blue satin bird
for its lover, has built there a bower
and throughout the woodland its call may be heard
the call to the undying flower

oh far may we fly from the fancies of those
who'd only betray us in this darkest of hours
to look on your face in its morning repose
confirms in my heart there the undying flower

in these hills with their colours of auburn and gold
will I stumble in some godly hour
Be it far in the forest or here in the soul
On the source of the undying flower

oh come forth good winter there's food for
the fire
while trees freeze in silence and kneel to the
power
that warms in our hearts golden springs of
desire
and draws us to gaze on the undying flower

