

Greg Champion Newsletter

Issue 10AD
July 2006

**Win a free flight to
see Champs live—
to play your set!**

See page 2

Greetings from the Champ

Hello, how ya been, and nice to be with you again dear Newsletter reader.

You know how every singer's newsletter starts with "it's been a real busy time lately"? Well, I'm not going to say that...but lately it HAS been a REAL busy time.

A huge hello to constant correspondents Clare in WA, Joe in Mosman, Lance from Hectorville, Penny in Albury and Rhonda & Greg in Cessnock. I trust your winter is tolerable. Here, I'm not so sure. On the bright side, I happen to barrack for a really good football team at the moment [Adelaide Crows].

One of the highlights of the year so far has been meeting and co-writing with Keith Potger, of The Seekers. This fella is a living legend in my mind, and I grew up idolising him, identifying with him especially among The Seekers. To be co-writing with him just floors me.

Since we last spoke, we went to Port Fairy Folk Festival in March, an event almost equal to Tamworth for fun. Just like the previous Port Fairy, I was blessed to have Gary Carruthers, Robyn Martin and Rod McCormack in our band. James Gillard also spent some time with us, as he, Gary and Rod all backed up Bill Chambers there too.

Tailem Bend country Music Festival followed, where I sang with my singing friend of thirty years, Margie Russell. I love that part of SA – and all other parts....

In April I played a Flying Doctor fundraiser show in Bordertown with country singers John O'Dea and Penny Burke. Then came the National Folk Festival in Canberra, always a hoot, performing with Jane Saunders, Michael Fix and Gary Carruthers. While in Canberra I snuck over to the National Masters Athletics Championships, doing long jump and high jump, coming second and third. Then back to the Festival for more fun and music.



Greg and Grace on stage

Shows in Warnambool, Penguin in Tassie, Sydney and Adelaide took us through to July. The Adelaide City Muster is next up, where I'll compere a show with Sara Storer, Pete Murray, Cat Southern and Lee Kernaghan. I'll sing at The National Folk Convention in Canberra in August, then I'm delighted to be performing in Tumby Bay in September, as I just adore that region. Shows at the Royal Adelaide Show and Gundagai Folk Festival will fill out September. I'm also rapt to be going to Maldon Folk Festival again in early November.

I may be asked by the powers-that-be to put out some targetted cricket songs for the upcoming Ashes Series. Will keep you informed.

Until then, may all your breaths be good breaths, may your average days get happier, and your good days become wonderful ones.

Happy travels, see you along the track, Greg

Shack Tapes Review — Lyle Stone
Ducks Crossing Publications, Trad & Now

THE SHACK TAPES - Greg Champion

The Shack Tapes is the latest album from the legendary singer, songwriter and media personality Greg Champion.

Greg's songs have come to form part of the soundtrack of our lives, especially if, like me, you happen to be a bit a cricket tragic.

The bulk of the album was recorded at a remote beach shack in Victoria's South Gippsland (hence the title).

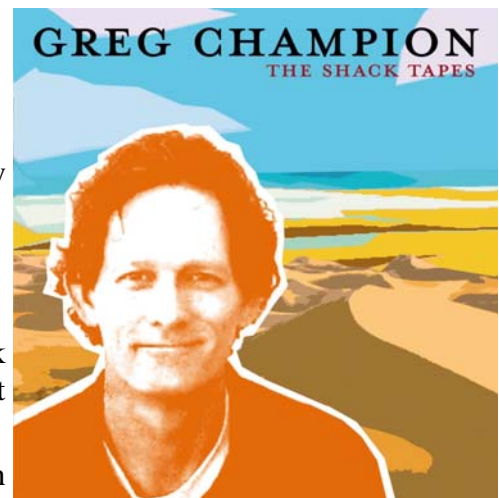
Further overdubs (including some stunning electric guitar playing from the equally legendary Ross Hannaford, ex-Daddy Cool) were laid down at producer Rod McCormack's studio on the Central Coast of New South Wales.

Songs which struck a special chord with me were the two songs written from Greg's perspective as a parent, "Walk Alongside of You" and "Somebody Needs Me".

The sound of the album is hard to categorise, moving easily across country, folk, blues and Australiana (in the sense of being an Australian version of Americana!) Greg's distinctive voice (both literally, as a singer, and more broadly, as an observer of the Australian way of life) shines through on this album, which although less slick (deliberately) than some of his other work, is up there with the best of it.

This album makes delightful listening for Greg's many fans around Australia.

Ian Dearden



Don't forget ...

entries for the Champs Set List Competition are due in by the end of this month.

Put together your dream show of Champ's songs. Select your favourite songs that you would like Champs to perform at a show, then place them in order of performance – make it about 12 songs.

Send your list to
andrewm@arach.net.au

or post it to
“Champs Set List Competition”
Champs Newsletter,
PO Box 110 Como WA 6952

Your Letters

FROM THE USA:

Greetings. I've been trying to locate one of your albums—Stand Back Australia—here in the USA. I've tried all of the standard houses, Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Buy.com, and E-Baay—no luck. Would you be able to suggest a source? Appreciate any help. Vernon Wissmann

[happily we were able to post Vernon a copy]

FROM THE BLUE MOUNTAINS:

What have I been missing?!! Until we saw you perform at the opening concert at Tamworth, I had never heard of you (as I embarrassingly told you as you signed your cd for me). But I did recognise talent when I saw it and we headed out to the Longyard to see you that weekend. It was just a totally wonderful experience. You are exceptional on stage - really connecting with your audience and taking them with you. Your songs are so enjoyable, both the music and the lyrics. There would not have been one person that left that performance that didn't walk out with a smile on their face and a lightness of heart. Thank you once again for sharing your music and talent with us at Tamworth. Jill Gaibor

FROM QLD:

G'day cobber, How about you come to Queensland ie Brisbane or Twin Towns for a performance real soon. Loved your show at the Longyard in Tamworth, been there, done that, gotta do it again.

Regards, Eddie Machura.

FROM ADELAIDE:

Dear Greg, Keith absolutely loved the cd, said it was the best birthday present he'd ever received. (Think that was largely because of your help in making it all work). And absolutely loved the burping segment, glad you didn't edit that out!

Best regards Marilyn



Greg and Keith

FROM FRANCE:

Dear Gregoire, your excellent new album is so different from your previous ones. I'll be featuring it in my radio show on RCF-Rouen. Lyrically speaking I just love "Undying Flower" it's great poetry sounding a bit like Shelley. You're a great poet Greg & I like the way you sit your songs in your land. No Texas here just good old Oz. Roland

FROM PERTH:

Greg,

My name is Wouter Moormann, I'm a 19 year old Perth lad who loves your music, i've been intrigued ever since I heard "The thing about football" all those years ago on channel 7. Me and my band play a regular gig in a beer garden near where I live on a Sunday arvo, we wanted permis-

sion to play your song "the thing about football". Yours sincerely (and keep up the good work),
Wouter Moormann

Hi Greg,

Absolutely loved the 2 Christmas CD's that are showing on your web page. A friend lent them to me this last Christmas and I was over the moon to have something uniquely Australian. Would it be possible for me to get these from you. Many Regards Julia Zammit.

FROM HORSHAM:

Hi,

I **MUST** have the words to the Port Power song you performed this morning. We have the misfortune to be friends (and I use the term loosely) with fanatical port supporters so you can imagine my delight to hear your song. **PLEASE** can you send the words to your port song, it is brilliant. Thank you the years of entertainment, you do a great job. Pam Clarke

FROM FERNTREE GULLY [re the ABC radio show]:

Hey you guys,

That song that Greg just sang "Move forward with love in your heart" is so beautiful. I'm going to add it to my list of very special songs that add meaning to my life. I'm glad I'm alive and have heard that song. Thankyou Greg and thankyou guys for adding such a lot of cheer to Sunday evenings. Isabel

FROM QLD:

G'day Greg,

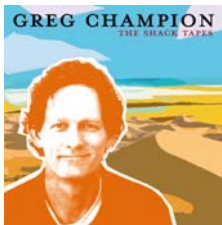
Huge fan mate. Just been checking out the gig guide and it left me wondering if and when you're coming up to Queensland? My mates and I all live in Brisby and all listen to 98.9 FM (Murri Country). We've heard a few of your songs and would like to see your show when you're next in town or nearbyish (we are a bit short of bread at the moment to come down to Melbourne). Cheers, Pat

FROM S.A.:

Hiya

In the car listening to the ABC coverage of the game we heard the Crows song being played. I've always been led to believe that Greg Champion does lead vocals in the Crows song. Am I right or is it just someone who sounds a lot like him?





GREG CHAMPION

THE SHACK TAPES

THE SHACK TAPES, Greg Champion

BETWEEN madly barracking for the Adelaide Crows, appearing on the radio program Coodabeen Champions, and performing at various venues around the country, the irrepressible Greg Champion found time to slip into the studio during 2005 to record his latest album, The Shack Tapes. Champion roped in a few mates for the recording including Ross Hannaford and producer Rod McCormack. Another guest, Gina Jeffreys provides backing vocals for Melbourne Town, a song that is a virtual tourist guide to the Victorian capital, even giving hints at where to find laundromats and buy the best falafels. In his own light-hearted fashion, Champion travels further afield on Been There, Done That, and cruises the highway on Somebody Needs Me. But all the songs are fresh and evocative, and Champion delivers them in usual laid-back style. A delightful album, it's distributed through MGM.

Greg Bush

Music Writer

Australian Ute/Big Rigs



The Corporate Champs

travel dates

July 20

APRA Presents
Gouter Café
North Adelaide

July 22

Adelaide City Muster
Entertainment Centre

August 4

Mitcham Primary
School Dinner Show
Melbourne

August 25

Concert at the
National Folk Convention
Canberra

August 27

Epping Football Club
Melbourne

September 3

Tumby Bay
South Australia

September 23

Gundagai Folk Festival
New South Wales

October 4

Clifton Hill Hotel
Melbourne

November 3—6

Maldon Folk Festival
Victoria

November 18

Southern Cross Club
Canberra

November 19

Wollongong Ex Services Club

December 10

Encounter Bay Football Club
South Australia

To email Champs
champs@gregchampion.com.au

To keep your finger on the pulse
www.gregchampion.com.au
www.coodabeens.com.au