

# Greg Champion Newsletter

## A Chat with Champs

Dear fellow plodders on the bush track of destiny,

Welcome to our fourth newsletter under the editorial control of Andrew and Del McGuiness of Perth, bless 'em!

How's your footy team going? Mine has seen better years (Adelaide). Is everybody still treating you alright? Myself - I can't complain. Any better, and I'd be up and about, as they say....

ABC radio is consuming more time lately. With Coodabeens programmes on Saturday (AFL states only) and Sunday (nationally), I can't sit around and rust away just yet.

There's also been some fun gigs to travel to. Since February I've seen some far off places like Mortlake (Festival), Merimbula, Caloundra, Canberra (Folk Festival), Launceston, Mount Beauty (Music Muster), Coleraine, Swan Hill, and Adelaide. At the Canberra Festival I had the pleasure of singing with Jane Saunders, as well as Robyn Martin, Andrew Clermont and Dave O'Neill. Jane joined us at the Mortlake Festival also.

Whilst it's mid-winter (in Melbourne, anyway), and things do slow up a bit, with the help of ABC music and books I've managed to release two CDs and a book this year. My latest Rod McCormack-produced album, *North & South* came out in January for Tamworth Festival.

May saw the release of my second Guru Bob book, *The Wisest Wisdom Of Guru Bob*. The Guru is an on-air character from our Saturday radio show who's been with us for sixteen years, and who says deep stuff like: "*if you step on people on your way to the top, you can step on them again on your way back down*", and "*you can't always get what you want, but you can get what you need - then you can swap it for what you want*".

Then in June ABC Music put together the two CDs I'd released before *North & South: Shady Tree* from '02, and *The Best Of* from '03, and combined them into a single CD package and price. Naturally I'm delighted to have three different ABC items out on the shelves in the past five months.

The next CD: my current notion is to do an acoustic/rootsy

*It matters not whether the glass is half full or half empty.....*

*What matters is how much is in the bottle next to the glass.*

**Guru Bob**

mainly duo album with long time musical ally Gary Carruthers, slightly in the Kieran Kane/Kevin Welch way. I also fancy inviting Ross Hannaford in on guitar. It might be entitled *Melbourne*. The newest song I've written for this project is called *I'm just a*



*outa luck desperado in Swan Hill, gotta make it to Mildura by the morning*, having been written in a Swan Hill motel room, with the above-mentioned Gary, on a recent trip there.

A song about footy I have written, *One True Religion*, appears about to become the ABC radio Grandstand AFL theme. Two members of Things Of Stone And Wood have played on the new recording.

Trips coming up include Hobart, Burnie, Launceston, Canberra, and Maldon Folk Festival (Vic.). Be seeing you somewhere along the road of song.

If you live in the South, may you ride out mid-winter happily. If you live where the winters aren't tough, LUCKY YOU! Good luck to your family. Say hi to your Mum for me.

Yours cheerfully,

greg

**FROM THE USA**

Greg,  
I am an Australian living in the USA. I have three kids, all of whom sadly have American accents. As part of my attempt to keep them Australianized I do various things eg feed them vegemite and make them watch AFL games. My latest thing is your song, *I scored a hundred in the backyard at Mums*. I can't remember the tune. Would you be able to send the sheet music (not available in the USA, I've tried). Thanks Regards

Graeme Silbert

**FROM DENILQUIN/PERTH**

Hi Greg,  
*All Australian Homes Need A Roof* which you sang on the radio on Sunday, was enjoyed by a live audience at the ABC auditorium in Perth in July 1991. My 3 children and I were privileged to be in the audience. During this visit to Perth you managed to fit in a recital at the Blarney Castle in Northbridge. My wife and I attended - you entertained a relatively small audience in a cosy venue for about 3 hours with only a very short interval. Thanks for the extra smiles on the week-ends.

Best wishes

Chris Watts

**FROM NEW ZEALAND**

TOWN & COUNTRY RADIO SHOW:

Hi Greg,  
I have two of your CDs. *Stand Back Australia* is a total hoot! Brilliant! *Shady Tree* is also excellent. Very excellent. There are truly sublime moments which bring tears to the eyes [but in a good way!] and moments which bring on the smiles.

We're proud to play your music on this side of the Tasman. Cheers

Eddie O'Strange

**FROM WA**

Hi Greg  
I'm a teacher at Aquinas College in Western Australia. Every year the students here put on

a House Concert. This year one group of students want to sing your song *I'd Like To See That*. They asked me if I could find the lyrics and chords for it. Is there any chance you could let us have them so that can perform it? Thanks

Stephen Moore.

**FROM COFFS HARBOUR:**

Hi Greg,  
I'm totally in love with your CD *North & South*. If I'm honest I guess I didn't really realise what a good song writer you are! Favourites at this stage are the duet with the beautiful Jane Saunders and *Think of Me* and *Too Many Bridges*. I wish you all the best with your release and I hope that many, many people come to realise what a talent you have. I have to ask, you seem to sing a fair bit with

Jane, do you know if she has any plans to release anything in the future? It's a shame that some of the best talent we have in Australia doesn't get the support and exposure they deserve

Trisha Duncan



**FROM CANBERRA**

Dear Greg,  
We got a CD from you a while ago to get your song, *See You Again Sometime*, that we have been playing at our gigs. We are a duo known as *DOUBLE LINES* and we are about to do a CD in Sydney. And I wanted to know if we could record that song of yours onto the CD. We play your song at the end, just about every night, and it goes over well.

Kind Regards

Laurie Stephenson

**FROM VICTORIA**

I just stumbled across your theme for Channel 7 *The Thing About Football*. I loved the song in the past, and just thought you'd like to know that I have again found my love of all things football, thanks in no small part to your song.

Yours

Scott

**LEYLAND P76**

Greg,  
I love your work!! I have been trying without success in getting a copy of *P76*. Is it available? Even a copy of the lyrics would be appreciated. Many thanks for many a smile you've brought to my face over the years.

Roger Schulz

**P76 AGAIN [BUNDABERG]**

Hi there,  
A few weeks ago, on an ABC program, I think Macca's Sunday morning, there was a song played that was about the ugliest car that apparently came from you. It was a terrific song, and listed heaps of cars, most of which we have owned at some time, but I can't remember what the ugliest car was. I was trying to remember to tell my husband, because I think we have owned one of the ugly ones too, but I can't remember. Is there any chance of sending me a copy of the words, or at least the name of the ugly car?

Christine Dalgliesh  
[curiosity alleviated.....the song was *Leyland P76*]

**CRIMES OF A PAST LIFE**

Hi,  
After a move interstate a couple of years ago - some mongrel stole most of my Vinyl collection, among them *The Fabulaires Apocalypse* EP, and a few *Young Homebuyers* EPs. Luckily I had them copied on high quality cassette, from which I have made CDs for my own use - but I can't seem to find images of the covers. And the records themselves would be near impossible to find - so I was wondering if you had copies of the cover art?

Best regards

David Richards  
[Greg was once in these two bands]

We have a problem! We bought a cassette ages ago and its worn out. We would dearly love to get *Champs* on a CD it is so Australian & easy to listen to. I have even written to the ABC music no response yet. Looking forward to receiving email soon from you.

Regards

Christine & Family



**BACKYARD AT MUM'S**

G'day Greg,

I am a student teacher currently putting together a unit of work for the creative arts to be taught to primary age kids. I was hoping to use your track *I made a hundred in the backyard at Mum's* as the basis of this unit. I was wondering how I could get hold of an actual copy of the music. As someone who was brought up on a childhood of backyard cricket, I can relate to your track.

Yours hopefully

Ian Wheatley

**FROM NSW**

During a cold winter in London in 1988, we were kept constantly amused by a Coodabeen tape, left in the house by an itinerant guest...can't remember the title of the album, but some of the songs featured were *Screamer*, *Ischenko*, *Dougie Hawkins*, and *Punch Three Times*. Would it be possible to get a copy of the tape from somewhere for a reunion planned for later in the year? Cheers

Duncan Ford



*If at first you don't succeed,  
try doing it the way your wife first suggested.*

*Guru Bob*



? To Champs - any thoughts of a live album?

Not really. My voice needs all the help it can get in the studio. Dunno if people are quite ready for my voice without all that make-up!

? To Champs - how do you come up with such different albums as *shady tree* and *north&south*?

I put it down to failure to harness my mind properly....! I've always thought up too many songs in too many different styles. This can be a hindrance rather than a help, because people can't as easily identify in you one particular style. Since *North&South* I'm trying harder to address that. Now, if I think of writing a song in yet another diverse style, I'll stop myself before I start, in the hope of focusing my songwriting towards a more homogenous sound.

? To Champs - do you have any videos available?

I think I've made 3 videos since 1986. That year, it was *I made a 100 in the backyard at mum's*. In 1993 ABC Landline made a quite basic video at Toowoomba Country Music Festival of myself and friends doing *may your fridge be full of coldies*, and bingo, it somehow won the inaugural gold guitar for video in the next year at Tamworth. Never won another one since. In 1997 I made a clip for *Cooee Motel* at that very motel in Gilgandra.

? To Champs - any dvds coming?

Bought my first DVD player 8 weeks ago, and I'm too chicken to get it out of the box. I believe there's a plan for the Coodabeens to release a DVD of a proposed live concert next year, celebrating our 25th year on radio.



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



*travel dates*

**July 27**  
Melbourne Zoo  
Vic

**July 28**  
Vermont Football Club  
Melbourne

**July 31**  
Blackburn Private School Hall  
Melbourne

**August 1**  
RACV Club  
Melbourne

**August 7**  
Panton Hill Hotel  
Melbourne

**August 21**  
Telstra Stadium  
Sydney

**August 25**  
Rod Laver Arena  
Melbourne

**August 27**  
Crown Hotel  
Melbourne

**September 7**  
Wrest Point Casino  
Tasmania

**September 11**  
Burnie  
Tasmania

**September 17**  
Frankston Community Centre  
Melbourne

**September 18**  
Launceston  
Tasmania

**September 25**  
Canberra  
ACT

**October 9**  
Caulfield Racecourse  
Melbourne

**October 9**  
Launceston Casino  
Tasmania

**October 12**  
Eltham Community Centre  
Melbourne