
GREG CHAMPION NEWSLETTER

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Friends of Greg Champion Newsletter

ISSUE 21AD

Dearly respected pals, we welcome you again to the news, compiled in Perth by Andrew & Del, as they have been kindly doing for around nine years.

My twentieth straight Tamworth Festival has passed. Post Tamworth Depression, as well as Pre Tamworth Tension, have been negotiated once again. I still feel it's the best fun of the year. It can sound cliché, that pleasure of catching up with once-yearly friends, but as time passes those friendships do become more and more special.

So on that note hello and love to June, Tracey & Lynette, Alison & Gloria, Grant, John, Rhonda & Greg, Gary, Rod, Ron, John, John and so on.

Highlights included playing at The Capitol Theatre, The Town Hall and the outdoor stage in the park on Saturday evening. And I get my kicks by going to watch Andy Baylor's Cajun Combo every day if possible. They're my favourite music-watching thrill. Sam Lemann's guitar playing sends me to heaven, and sends a few others also. And the youngster Tom on drums is a revelation.

Two nights ago I enjoyed sharing the compering of the Victorian & National County Music Awards with Felicity. It's always a happy friendly event, being a dinner in contrast to the Tamworth style of awards, and among the artists I was floored by the music of Sal Kimber. Watch out for that name.

STOP PRESS:

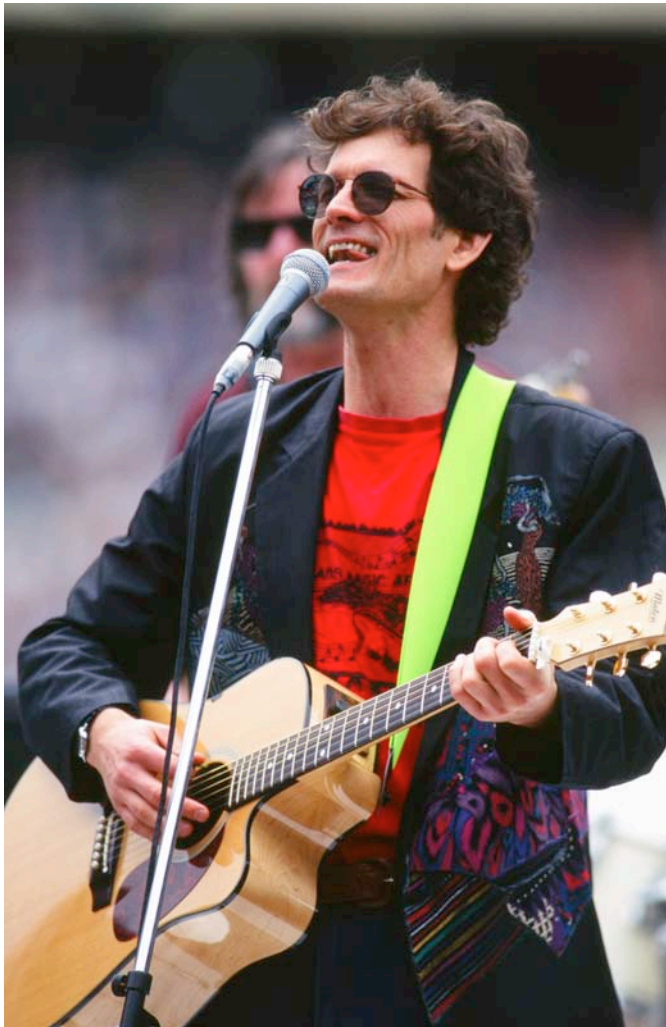
Last Saturday night 13 Feb, while compering the Victorian & National Country Music Awards - Champs won the Best Victorian Male Vocal Award for his song This Was My Town [Marysville]. The next day Greg said that this award meant more to him than the handful of others he had won in the past at these awards because he felt more strongly about the song, which was about the destruction of the town he loved, Marysville.



Champs and Troy Cassar-Daley performing an impromptu duet of a favourite Lefty Frizzell song at the People's Choice Awards

I was a finalist in three categories and brought home one gong in Male Vocal, for a song about Marysville. Of the four or five Victorian awards I've received in the past this would be the most special because I have been in love with the village of Marysville for thirty years, holidaying there countless times. When we heard the town was no longer there after the fires, well... we all struggled, and that song was my response.

In 2009 I recorded a duet with country singer Rodney Vincent for his new album, and ***Bit Of Dirt Never Hurt***, which I'd written some time ago, has made it to number 18 on the Country Tracks Chart.



A recently discovered photo of Greg performing at the MCG in the 1995 Grand Final

Your Letters to Champs

FROM NEPAL:

Hi Greg, We are a bunch of volunteers in Nepal. On 24th November we have decided to play a short few minutes of cricket on the Australian Embassy lawn at a party given by the Ambassador to farewell young Nepalis going to Australia to study. We are borrowing the gear from the Nepali Cricket Association. We would like to read out the words of your song. Any chance we could have the words? Best wishes, Susan

[Words happily supplied, and subsequent dialogue enjoyed between Nepal and Greg]

I MADE A 100 IN THE BACKYARD IN NEW ZEALAND:

hi greg , sending this message from new zealand, we visited some friends in australia recently, heard this song, I scored a hundred in the back yard at mums, is this song on some tape or video in new zealand, regards murray [CD supplied]



Greg introduces a performer at the Young Guns Concert, Tamworth

SANTA CLAUS HAS GOT A NEW TRUCK:

my daughter is disabled but before she would sort of sing your song Santa Claus has got a New Truck a few years ago. She has since had a stroke But when she heard a part of it on the radio she remembered and that's a first for her.. she started trying to hum and rocking to the beat and let me know she knew it !!! Or at least i think thats what she was doing so i want it for her .. I will be so happy if i can get a copy its a great song..

AND SUBSEQUENTLY:

She loves it she smiles when we play it... I am so happy.. I have put it her ipod with other songs but she smiles and drools with excitement !!! when it gets to that song !!! I like to believe she knows so again thank you. Have a lovely Christmas you have given

Continued...

FROM SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS:

have a favor to ask. I sing in a place that is not union and thus only allows songs which are traditional to be sung unless there is specific permission by the author. May I have permission to sing your songs there? I love your words and the songs are so much fun!! Thank you so much for your consideration. Kathryn

AND SUBSEQUENTLY:

Thank you so much for your permission!! The CDs which I have are the Christmas ones. They are a hoot. And they go over so well here (in Springfield, IL). My personal favorite is Merry Christmas Everywhere. It's lovely. The looks I get with the beginning of "There's Nothing More like Christmas" are wonderful!! People here seem to forget it's summer now for y'all. It's a great reminder. Kathryn

SEE YOU AGAIN SOMETIME

in regards to the CD's I purchased from you...As I mentioned the uncanny Shane Howard theme that I stumbled across in regards to "see you again sometime" was well worth the price for myself as I've had it on high rotation ever since, it's a treasure. To single out a few favourites over the three albums that I really liked are "next thing I do", "I'll go to Kakadu", "more bad weather", "love in the heart", "come this far", "rough with the smooth" and the list goes on. To hear the two sides of your music from your more light and comedic to your positive and heartfelt numbers is something that keeps it fresh, knowing whatever you produce is going to be a good musical experience, keep up the good work. Regards Andrew



Champs and a guest at his Tamworth Capitol Theatre concert



Champs with country music stalwart, Bob Kirchner

DYING OF EMBARRASSMENT IN JB HI-FI:

I had a tape of cricket songs back in the 90's and my autistic son adored (he can still sing the bola song and recite Tony and Pik from South Africa). I have been trying to find a copy as the tape broke from constant use. JB Hi Fi guy had never heard of it. I gave him a rendition of bola, but my 13year old daughter dragged me out dying of embarrassment !! My son is now 16 and I would love to get him a copy of the tape, can you let me knowhow? Geraldine [tape supplied]

JUST THE BALD FACTS:

hello my name is melissa i like to know now to buy the original cd of bucko & champ the one with santa cluas has got a new truck on it plz i have one but got lost thankyou

FIZZBALL McCANN:

Listening to those old cassettes again, has been great. One of my favourites is "Fizzball McCann". I love waltzes! Although it did appear on a later cd, too.

Estelle [The Story of Fizzball McCann comes off the cricket CD of 1995]

SOMETHING'S GOTTA BE DONE

I tuned in just in time to hear the song about the Murray Darling basin and it stopped me in my tracks. I would love to get a copy if possible??? It was great!!! Zoe
[Song supplied. It's Greg's new one about the Murray River]



SONG LYRICS OF THE MONTH

(she lives right out on the) MOONBI RANGE

greg champion

she lives right out on the Moonbi Range
where the nights are still but for mountain sounds
and the air is fresh as April rain
and a long day's ride for a man in town

her hair is red as the Waratah
as in old paintings that I have seen
her eyes as clear as the Moonbi stars
like drops of dew in fields of green

around her neck is a silver chain
a gift from one who placed it there
she vows that there it will remain
until her Moonbi home we share



she lives right out on the Moonbi Range
far from the lights and the noise of town
if I ride hard 'cross the Moonbi plains
I'll reach her home, 'fore the sun goes down

*Champs performs at The Pinnacles festival at Axedale,
near Bendigo, May 2009*

When the hills turn green where now so brown
And the evenings cool with the season's change
On the highest hill we'll be settled down
By a homestead fire on the Moonbi Range
