

Friends of Greg Champion Newsletter

Issue 16AD

NEWSLETTER No. XVIIIBJGK

What self-respecting newsletter wouldn't start with the obligatory comment: "Gee, it's been a REAL busy time of late". So, here we go:

Gee – you know – it's been REAL busy lately. There, that's out of the way now.

Trusting that your chooks are well-fed, your heating bill is not too high (in the parts of Oz where you need heating), and that your kids are still turning up to school (if they're under 23).

My Coodabeen colleague Ian Cover suggested that I write a duet for Kamahl and myself. So I did, and Kamahl kindly embraced it, and then flew to Melbourne to come to my mate's garage studio with me and record *I was a mate of Don Bradman and the Don was a mate of mine*. It should be out in a few weeks.

I had never met Kamahl, and just phoned him and sang him the song. He was instantly keen. I met him at the airport, drove him across town to the studio, drove him back again at the end of the day, and all the while he cracked jokes and was great company. You had to pinch yourself and stop and wonder: what am I doing recording a duet with....the great Kamahl!?



Champs with Kamahl and Darren James

The photo on page 2, of *The Maniac Rockers From Hell*, was taken on May 31 when our old rock band reformed to raise funds for former long time roadie Neville. Nev has been given two years to live and he's only 48. He has a lovely family and he hasn't been able to work for a year. So we put on a gig to give Nev and family a night to remember, and we raised some dough. In the band photo, L to R, is Wayne Burt [Jo jo Zep, Black Sorrows], Tony Thornton [Paul Kelly], (obscured) Wayne Duncan [Daddy Cool] and Ross Hannaford [Daddy Cool]. We had as much fun as we could in the circumstances, and re-lived old times.

The new CD I'm making is half done. I've been to the NSW studios of Stuie French and of Rod McCormack, and we're getting closer.

I've just had the pleasure of going to Mt. Gambier to meet Dairy Farmers at a Dairy SA event. And I'm hoping to be at the famous Birdsville Races to perform in September. Now that would be one beaut destination to pop on the CV. And the charming Maldon Folk Festival in November, has accepted me again, poor blighters....

A bit further afield, I'm going to spend two weeks in Northern India in a coupla months. I plan to have a real good look at those Himalayas, and to come back seated permanently in the lotus position.

Lots of warm wishes to you, if you're shivering in the cold. If the creeks don't rise [and they're not likely in this climate-changed El Nino-ed Wide Brownd-off Land Of Ours], I'll see you in the fullness of time,

yours respectfully, greg



**- The Music behind the Champ -
some behind the scenes insights into
the musician who is the Champ
The editor asks Greg -**

What is your personal favourite album from another artist that you like to play on the turntable?

I don't think i have a personal favourite CD. I might have to name about ten. **Willie Nelson & Leon Russell** did a double collaboration of mostly Forties tunes. Ranks highly. You know, instrumental albums aren't big with me, but **Chester & Lester**, by Chet Atkins and Les Paul, from the Seventies, surely is one of the finest albums ever made. Two Dylan albums from 1990 and 1997, **Oh Mercy** and **Time Out Of Mind**, can sustain unlimited re-playing.

Which songwriters do you admire?

Cole Porter, Colin Buchanan, John Williamson, Dylan, Joni Mitchell, James Taylor, Gordon Lightfoot, Ian Tyson, Brian Wilson, Neil Young

Who would you like to next work with on an album?

Ross Hannaford [Daddy Cool guitarist]. For a rootsy album, he may have no peer for the raw soul and honesty in his playing - and i've spoken with him about doing a CD together after the one in progress

Who do you think has influenced your style of music?

John Williamson, Dan Hicks, Jonathan Richman, Ian Tyson, The Seekers, Peter Paul & Mary, Dylan
[who hasn't he influenced?]



“?”

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


LETTERS


REAL ESTATE AGENTS ARE PEOPLE TOO:

I have been searching for a copy of a song that you played on your Sunday night show last year. It was called something like "Real Estate Agents are people too". My fiance and I are both Real Estate Agents and are getting married in March and would like to play that song on the night. Please, please tell me where I can source the CD. Thanks, Joanne Wenck Queensland *[emailed the live radio version]*

FROM LONDON:

G'day mate, I got the CD's in the mail and they have been getting a fair old work out on the sound system at home. Not so sure that the flat mates enjoy it quite so much as me, but then again their approval has never been high on my agenda!....and if you ever need anything from London (ie crap weather, weird women, polish labourers etc) then give me a holler, Dave.

FROM PERTH:

I am a film and tv student at Curtin university in Perth. I am putting forward a treatment for a 10 minute student documentary, which I would like to call 'That's what I like about football' and (apart from pinching your line) I was wondering if I could use excerpts from your song of the same name? I saw you at the Longyard in 1999 when I was in Tamworth as a starmaker finalist and love your music - Cheers Kate Hart *[yes, no worries Kate]*

YOUR PIZZAS ARE READY:

Hi Greg, I once lived in Adelaide (but now live in Melbourne), and about twenty years ago I visited this lass here (I was keen on her) who took me to see you at some comedy venue. I was so impressed that I bought your tape. I can still remember "Your Pizzas Are Ready". Cheers, Dave *[your pizzas are ready was indeed on Greg's first "commercially released" solo cassette in 1986]*

MOBILE RINGTONES!:

Hi Greg I would like to use 2 of your songs as mobile phone ring tones. *That's The Thing About Football* and *Cricket's On The Radio*. Please advise if there is somewhere I can purchase/download these songs as MP3's or in mobile phone ringtone format. **Simon (in Adelaide)** *[Not really, sorry Simon! Have the CDs though]*

LOVE, MICK:

Dear Greg, Feel like i know you Suppose you get this all the time Been hearing you for over twenty years 1st on RRR with the coodabeens, on Saturdays i think Reason for email heard your song on abc radio last night Hand on your heart I have recently started to learn the guitar Thought song sounded great played by you on acoustic guitar Could you send words chords and strumming please cheers and good luck love Mick *[chords supplied]*

FROM ALBANY, WA:

The local ABC does not play your songs nearly often enough for my liking in spite of requests at various times, so it was a nice surprise to hear 'See You Again Sometime' on the radio yesterday morning. It was a surprise when the announcer went on to explain that the song had been suggested by a listener regarding possible songs for playing at funerals! That connection has never occurred to me before, I would rather have When I Kick the Bucket.... nice to know I'm not your only fan in Albany. Clare

TIDEWATER IN THE SHED:

Hi Greg, I have a copy of your Tidewater LP, Wild Horse Plains [1976!]. It's just one of the obscure items of a recorded nature that I have in my shed, many of them being from my days as a country radio DJ at 5AU in the Iron Triangle. Eamon, Strathalbyn SA. *[That was Champs' first ever album, made with his country rock band Tidewater in 1976]*

LOLA/FAST BOWLER:

In the summer of 1990/91, I had the radio on in the background and gradually became aware of the tune to Lola being sung with words about Merv the fast bowler. I've always maintained that this was the most hilarious of your songs that I have heard. It made me a keen regular listener to your Saturday footy show ever since. I'd love to hear it again, and if possible, get a recording of it. You might have an old cassette lying around somewhere, which I would be very happy to provide a loving home to. Rohan Nelson Kambah ACT *[Yes, still have the cassettes!]*



Greg with Normie Rowe and the Coodabeens

HAND ON YOUR HEART:

Dear Greg, I just heard your song 'Put your hand on your heart' on ABC radio. I think it is one of the loveliest songs I have ever heard. I went straight to the website and looked for the lyrics or the chords. No luck!! You said it's not on CD. Any change that the lyrics and or chords might end up on the website? Scott *[chords & lyrics supplied]*

SONG LYRICS OF THE MONTH

Sleep On The Stony Ground

From the album Shady Tree

© Greg Champion

I may live in a palace of stone
I may have fine things all of my own
Blessed with the finest shoes on my feet
And on my table good things to eat
Out in the woods the wild dogs howl
And you may hear the call of the owl
Calling you out to sleep on the stony ground

CH.
Sleep on the stony ground
Lay myself gladly down
Pray God I'm ready, if I should have to
Sleep on the stony ground
Sleep on the stony ground
My time will come around
When I will have to sleep on the stony ground

Down in the back streets under the stairs
The ones with the shadowy eyes live there
And I know my time is gonna come when
I'll have to take my place among them
Out in the woods the wild dogs howl
And you may hear the call of the owl
Calling you out to sleep on the stony ground

