

10 QUESTIONS

We continue our series with **Seanna Cronin** delving into the lives of Gold Coast personalities. This week she speaks with Mt Tamborine-based singer/songwriter John Harley Weston

Mountain of reality

JOHN Harley Weston was raised in the countryside south of Glasgow, Scotland, as one of seven children.

His parents were both amateur singers and although his father was earmarked to study at the Glasgow Athenaeum of Music, he worked as a bricklayer and builder to support the family.

John's early interest in music was a natural

progression thanks to his parents' love of singing and the support of aunts and uncles who were professional musicians and music teachers.

By the age of seven he was recording a capella versions of his favourite songs and by 10 he learned to play the piano accordion, a grounding for the many instruments he would learn to play.

As a teen he was part of the Kilmarnock Accor-

dion Band, a group of 10 accordions, 10 guitars, bass and drums led by his high school music teacher.

John wrote his first song at 17 and by his early 20s was lead singer of the band Frontier, which enjoyed success in the UK in the early 1990s.

While fronting the band he met Susan, an Aussie hairdresser, and they fell in love over the coffees they shared whenever he wasn't on tour.

When the band split John and Susan moved to Australia in 1997 and in 2004 they settled at Mt Tamborine with their two-year-old daughter.



Taking the easy option... John Harley Weston

John set up a home recording studio and focused on his solo career, which received a boost when he won the Australian National Songwriting Contest in 2005 and Unisong International Songwriting Contest in 2006.

After a nerve-racking few weeks when the master disc of his second album was lost in the post John finished the album, which he engineered, produced and funded himself.

He will officially launch *Welcome Back to Reality* today as part of Cancer Council Queensland's Relay for Life event at Carrara Stadium.

John will perform at 7.30pm and will donate 20 per cent of CD sales on the day to the charity.

ern format. Good script, great acting and perfect comedic timing.

My favourite book is *High Voltage Rock 'N' Roll* by Christie Eliezer. It's an in-depth look at a few of the most influential people in the Aussie music industry. It's educational for an independent artist like myself. I like people who change the system even when the rules say you can't.

3 The secret to success is...

Pure hard work, attention to detail, networking, a sense of humour, continually educating yourself, having a 4WD when the road gets rough, unwavering self-belief, integrity, possessing delusions of grandeur, an understanding wife and

lots of credit cards. It's complex but common sense, at least that's what I tell my shrink.

4 If I could meet someone famous, dead or alive, it would be...

Definitely Elvis. I would ask him if I could support him in Las Vegas.

5 I love my job because...

I've never had so much fun making so little money.

6 The one thing I would do differently if I could is...

To have this much fun and make loads of money.

7 The craziest thing I have done is...

Re-mortgage my house (twice) to record another album. I know I sound like a nutter but the album sounds great and the feedback I'm getting is brilliant.

8 If I had \$1 million I would...

Buy a radio station so I can get some more airplay and pay off my growing mortgage.

9 My favourite childhood memory is...

I had a great childhood growing up in the Scottish countryside exploring castles, climbing trees, swinging ropes, roaming in the gloaming - that's why I love bushwalking in Australia. Mind you we didn't have snakes, mossies, spiders and leeches in

Scotland, but we did have to avoid the odd wild haggis. Even after living in Oz for 11 years, I still do the highland fling when a spider the size of my hand drops on my lap. My wife, Susan, has to rescue me.

10 My favourite place on the Gold Coast is...

The beach opposite Southport Surf Club, Main Beach. The sand is so clean it squeaks. I love the fact Mt Tamborine is a stone's throw from the Coast and I can live life like a highland recluse.

MainRoads

Notice to Motorists

TUGUN BYPASS COMMUNITY DAY AND OPENING CELEBRATION CHANGES TO PARKING

Parking arrangements for Sunday's Tugun Bypass Community Day and Opening Celebrations have changed due to wet weather.

Heavy rain has made the road to Leda's Cobaki Lakes development at Boyd Street, Tugun inaccessible and the parking area unsafe.

Alternative parking arrangements can be found at Tweed Heads Coursing Club- Border Park greyhound track, Binya Avenue, Tweed Heads*.

Free shuttle buses will operate from the car park to the bypass. Disabled parking and access available. *\$2.00 for parking

Please join us to celebrate on Sunday, 1 June 2008*

Wet weather may force the cancellation of the Tugun Bypass Community Day and Opening Celebrations. For updates on the Community Day and Opening Celebrations, call the PacificLink Alliance on 1800 209 020, listen to your local radio station or contact the Gold Coast's Traffic Management Centre on 13 19 40 or log on to www.131940.qld.gov.au.

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