

# Tamborine man's Oz adventure

By Ian Russell

**AWARD-winning singer/songwriter John Harley Weston is celebrating the release of his new album.**

The man from Stewarton, now based near Tamborine Mountain, Australia, is hoping for big things from *Welcome Back To Reality*, where he says the emphasis is on songwriting, strong melodies, teasing hooks and coherent lyrics.

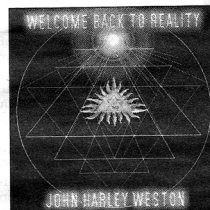
John's writing is reminiscent of the message songs of Ben Harper and Bernard Fanning. From the cajun-flavoured first single *Whatever Makes You Happy* to the Sheryl Crowesque *Believe In Yourself* on to the epic self-discovery title track. Then there's the Johnny Cash styled *Righteous Son* about Australian Van Nguyen, who was hanged in Singapore for carrying drugs. The album also includes an intimate cover version of the Aussie 'classic' *Waltzing Matilda...honestly*.

A multi-instrumentalist, JHW engineered, produced and performed 90 per cent of the album himself — and funded it in its entirety too.

The album's artwork comes courtesy of a 10,000-year-old mandala from the dawn of civilisation symbolising balance and harmony.

There was loads of critical acclaim for the set, even before its official release.

Said Tony Beard, drummer/guitarist with Crosby, Stills & Nash, the Bee Gees, Daryl Hall, Jeff Beck, Wyckle Jean, Madonna and Paul McCartney:



**ANCIENT ART:** John Harley Weston says the album cover symbolises balance and harmony.

"The new single *Whatever Makes You Happy* is a hit and a great metaphor."

The album is available to buy right now from [www.johnharleyweston.com](http://www.johnharleyweston.com) as well as iTunes and hundreds of other digital download websites.

It will be officially launched at the end of the month with a Cancer Council fundraising event in Queensland where John and others will perform in front of 2000 people.

John says he had been planning the 'usual' album launch in a dark room somewhere in the Valley where he stays when he was approached by the Cancer Council to release his album at their event because the lyrics in many of the songs are so uplifting.

He said: "Being able to play for free and give 20 per cent of CD sales on the day to the Cancer Council, Queensland, gives the process of releasing a new album more purpose."

## Hectic year for MSP

KILMARNOCK and Loudoun MSP Willie Coffey is celebrating a year in power.

The MSP said: "The first year has flown by and I think we have shown in government that the SNP is delivering for the people of Kilmarnock and Loudoun."

He lists his party achievements as a freeze on council tax; cuts in prescription charges; scrapping of the graduate endowments; increased help with central heating for those in need and reduced rates for small businesses. Top political

figures including the First Minister Alex Salmond have visited Kilmarnock in the past year.

Mr Coffey said: "I tell all of my colleagues in Edinburgh that Kilmarnock and Loudoun is the beating heart of Scotland."

"This is the place to live, to work and to visit. I have always believed that."

"And some of them are beginning to sit up and take notice."

Mr Coffey believes the SNP must keep up the good work if they are to achieve their goal of independence.

### SHERIFF COURT REPORTS

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