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*Incorporating Olympic Communicators  
Under licence from the Australian Olympic Committee*

# The Coodabeen Champions

## The History So Far

**Before Roy and HG... before Pixie Anne Wheatley...before Elle McFeast there came The Coodabeen Champions.**

The originators of satirical, irreverent and unconventional sporting commentary in this country, the Coodabeen Champions have been on the airways for more than a decade now. Not a bad innings for the group of mates who met at University and decided that they "could have been champions" if only they'd the talent.

The Coodabeen's-Journalist and Member of Parliament Ian Cover, Ex-Public Servant and Broadcaster Tony Leonard, Lawyer Simon Whelan, Computer Education Lecturer Jeff Richardson and Musician Greg Champion opted for the studio rather than the stadium and have become heroes in the process.

Starting out broadcasting on Melbourne's 3RRR each Saturday the Coodabeens quickly gained a cult following their humorous and off-the-wall discourse on the days then VFL matches.

Seven years down the track, ABC Radio 3LO in Melbourne lured the Coodabeens across and they were soon broadcasting both the Coodabeens' Saturday footy show and a new Sunday evening variety program. In 1989 the Coodabeens' Sunday three hour evening show went national and was heard on more that 110 ABC Stations across the country with an estimated total audience of approximately 300,000.

In 1994 the Coodabeens left 3RRR for commercial radio with Melbourne's 3AW to present Melbourne's top rating Saturday morning Sports and general entertainment program.

More recently, the Coodabeen's have returned to ABC Local Radio to present on Saturdays from noon-1pm. They also broadcast nationally on Sunday nights from 7-9pm.

The Coodabeen Champions' 23rd year on radio has also been marked by their induction into the MCG Media Hall of Fame. The induction recognises outstanding service by sporting journalists and photographers in their coverage of major sport at the MCG for more than 20 years.

The Coodabeen Champion's show is totally unscripted, unrehearsed and incomparable. Listeners call in and chat, Greg Champion performs his witty original songs and the Coodabeens clown about like mates at a barbie, sharing a laugh or two and a beer or three with all their special regular guests.

It's a format that has established them as one of the great long-term success stories of Australian Radio.

### **THE COODABEEN CHAMPIONS ARE REGULARS AT CORPORATE FUNCTIONS:**

Ian Cover/Tony Leonard/Jeff Richardson - MC & Comedian  
Greg Champion - Musician & Humorist

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