

MEDIA RELEASE



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Cold Chisel in the 21st Century

Cold Chisel, one of Australia's most revered and acclaimed rock & roll bands, announced today that it has formed a new management relationship with John Watson and John O'Donnell.

In early September, the band's previous manager Rod Willis resigned after 32 years of working with the band. During their long and proud relationship, Cold Chisel and Willis enjoyed incredible success together and re-wrote many of the rules of the music business. "When we joined up with Rod we were an unknown band," said Don Walker. "Rod has been like a brother to us for thirty two years".

Some weeks after this news, the band approached John O'Donnell and John Watson separately to discuss management of the group. O'Donnell was most recently the CEO of EMI Music Australia after stints at Rolling Stone Magazine and Murmur/Sony Music. Watson's current management roster includes Silverchair, Missy Higgins, Pete Murray and Little Birdy plus he operates the successful label, Eleven: A Music Company. The pair are long time friends and colleagues and they saw this as a unique opportunity to join forces to work with a band that they have loved and respected since their early teens.

"Cold Chisel loom incredibly large in the history of Australian music and in our lives," said John Watson. "Their songs and their collective legacy have only grown in stature over the years and to work with them now, at a time of so much change in the music industry, opens up an exciting new set of challenges and opportunities."

"As a kid from the 'burbs, Cold Chisel were the authentic and dominant soundtrack of my youth," said John O'Donnell. "To be working with a band and a catalogue that is arguably the best in Australian music history and teaming up with Watson to help steer them into the future is a great honour."

In September, Cold Chisel announced they were reforming for a one-off show at the V8 Supercars inaugural Sydney Telstra 500 race on Saturday, December 5. As the band's legendary frontman Jimmy Barnes said when this one-off show was announced: "Cold Chisel is the best band I have ever played with. When we get together sparks fly and something beautiful happens."

At this stage, the band has no further touring or recording plans. However, the individual members will continue to pursue their own projects. Their existing management structures for those solo activities will not be affected in any way by the appointment of Watson and O'Donnell who will only be involved with Cold Chisel as a group.

Cold Chisel has new management.

Cold Chisel...Watch this space.

About Cold Chisel

Cold Chisel was formed by Jimmy Barnes, Ian Moss, Steve Prestwich, Don Walker and Les Kaczmarek in Adelaide in 1973. Phil Small replaced Les two years later. They went on to become the biggest band in the land before they split in 1983 at the height of their success. During that time they left a legacy that resonates to this day, via landmark albums such as *East*, *Twentieth Century* and *Swingshift* and a reputation for the best and wildest live shows on the planet. Since 1983, the band has reunited twice, once in 1998 for the # 1 album *The Last Wave of Summer* and a massive national tour and then again in 2003 for the innovative *Ringside* tour. *Khe Sanh*, *Flame Trees*, *Cheap Wine*, *Forever Now*, *Choir Girl*, *You Got Nothing I Want*, *My Baby* and *Bow River* are just some of the dozens of Cold Chisel songs that have etched themselves into the fabric of Australian life. Cold Chisel were one of the first groups ever inducted into the ARIA Hall Of Fame and they are the only band in history to have hit songs written by each of their five members. The band's catalogue of seven studio albums plus several compilations and live releases has sold well over 3 million copies in Australia. Interestingly most of those sales occurred *after* Cold Chisel's initial breakup as their music has been discovered and embraced by new generations of fans.

About John Watson

John Watson Management is one of Australia's leading artist management companies. In John's teens he played in indie bands, worked in record stores and dabbled in music journalism before spending five years doing A&R and international marketing for Sony Music. He left that company to manage Silverchair in 1995 and in 2000 he founded his own record label Eleven: a music company to which most of his management clients are signed. John has gone on to oversee the careers of major local artists such as Missy Higgins, Little Birdy, Pete Murray, Kisschasy and Paul Mac. His company also managed Wolfmother from 2005 until they stood down from the role in early 2009. John Watson Management clients have won more than 30 ARIA Awards and have sold more than 10 million albums globally.

About John O'Donnell

After a career in music journalism, as Music Editor at Rolling Stone magazine and Editor of Juice magazine, John joined Sony Music in 1994 and started the internationally successful Murmur label, signing Silverchair (with John Watson), *Something For Kate*, *Jebediah* and more. In 2002, John joined EMI Music as CEO of Australia/NZ, working closely with *Empire of the Sun*, Silverchair, Kasey Chambers, *Crowded House* and others. John left EMI in late 2008 to start his own music consulting business. He was a member of the ARIA Board from 2002 - 2008 and was Chairman of PPCA from 2005 - 2008.