

MEDIA RELEASE: 'Shane Howard goes Deeper South'

DATE: January 29th, 2015

Shane Howard releases his 13th solo album 'Deeper South' in February 2015.

Just like the sky and waters of the Great Southern Ocean, where Shane Howard was raised and resides, his latest CD, 'Deeper South', features songs full of music and poetry that are deep and dark, yet illuminated by great shafts of light.

For 35 years Shane Howard's songs have mapped the human spirit and the Australian landscape. That landscape has been populated with rivers; raging rivers in flood, desert rivers running dry, deep rivers winding or forging their way to the sea. With *'Deeper South'*, these rivers are unbound and finally find their way to the sea. The musical landscape is as vast, mysterious and powerful as the Southern Ocean and Howard has found his true musical home. He is at his best.

This is an album that redefines the boundaries of Australian folk music and reinvigorates it with poetic and musical mastery. The musical influences are as diverse as jazz, blues, country, Australian folk music and the deep well of traditional Celtic music.

On his 13th solo album, Howard's musicality and skill as a guitarist are also on display and are enriched by the accomplished playing of **John Hudson** (*guitar, dobro, mandolin*) and **Ewen Baker** (*fiddle, mandolin*). Recorded in Howard's home studio, the trio played and played, to capture a live performance, rather than constructing studio tracks. With the live tracks down, long term music collaborator **Ruben Shannon** added Acoustic Bass and special musical guests, **Peter Grayling** and **Rosie Luby** added Cello, **Tommy Carty**, Bouzouki and **Andy Richardson**, Flute.

Some tracks rock and roll, like a boat ploughing deep into Antarctic waters, set free from the troubles that beset the land, sailing wildly into the tempest of mighty squalls. Other songs are deeply meditative, like the calm, glassy, seas of Summer. Irish and Scottish tunes flow in and out of the entire record, like ocean currents.

Lyricaly, Howard sets out on a complex and diverse voyage through the human experience with meditations on the writings of St Paul, songs inspired from Sufi poetry, meditations on grief, songs set to the words of John Shaw Neilsen's poetry and a pirate murder ballad set in the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Stories with biting social commentary and dark satire sit alongside praise poems to both the feminine and the divine, like the hauntingly beautiful, *'You're The Love'*, co-written with Russ Kunkel during the Carole King tour. Songs of tenderness and mercy stand beside tales of murder. In *'Deeper South'* there is loss and longing, and love, in many forms and hues. There is raw power, subtlety and at times, the sublime.

'Deeper South' is a created world of powerful imagining and the music that propels the words and the narrative is equally masterful. This is true folk music, but not as we know it.

'Deeper South' is released on Howard's own **Goanna Arts** label and will be available from February 6th online at www.shanehoward.com.au The recording process for *'Deeper South'* was funded through Australian crowd funding platform, OzCrowd.

Link to promotional pictures, EPK, media release: www.shanehoward.com.au/media



Tour Dates

Howard will tour the new songs from '**Deeper South**' around the country (dates below) and will be joined on stage by long term musical friends John Hudson and Ewen Baker.

Friday, Feb 6th - Lighthouse Theatre, Warrnambool, VIC

Saturday, Feb 7th - Robe Institute, Mundy Terrace , Robe, SA

Sunday, Feb 8th - Church of the Trinity, Clarence Park SA

Friday, Feb 13 - Sutherland Entertainment Centre, Sutherland, NSW

Saturday, Feb 14 - Fairlight Folk Acoustic Lounge, Fairlight, NSW

Wednesday, Feb 25 -The Melbourne Folk Club, Carlton, VIC

Friday Feb 27 - The Flying Saucer Club, Elsternwick, VIC

Saturday, Feb 28 - Montrose Town Centre, Montrose, VIC

Mar 6th -Mon 9th - Port Fairy Folk Festival, Port Fairy, VIC

April 3rd - 6th - National Folk Festival, Canberra, ACT

**More dates to be announced soon*

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Goanna Arts

"We Are The Music Makers and We Are The Dreamers Of Dreams"