



A fun night in Perth with Jack Johnson

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TOP SHOW: Jack Johnson gets his groove on at NIB Stadium. Picture: Ernie McIntock Source: PerthNow

IT'S hard not to like Jack Johnson.

The chilled-out Hawaiian not only creates soulful music that has captured the attention of people around the world, but he uses his multiplatinum success to promote environmental awareness and works with his wife Kim to raise money for not-for-profit charities.

Kicking off his Australian tour at nib Stadium in Perth last night, Johnson took the stage in jeans and a T-shirt. Looking ever so relaxed, sporting a beard and his scruffy mop of

brown hair, the passionate surfer and songwriter was flanked by band members Zach Gill on piano, Adam Topol on drums and Merlo Podlewski on bass.

Opening the set with Taylor from his 2003 album *On and On*, the handsome frontman immediately engaged the audience and had them singing along with him.

“This going to be a fun night,” Johnson said, and he was right.

The evening served-up a feast of Johnson’s signature folk-inspired tunes.

Working his way through his back catalogue, Johnson serenaded the crowd with more than 20 songs including *Sitting, Waiting, Wishing* and *You and Your Heart*, a new track from his album *To the Sea* which was released this year.

Flake from his 2001 debut album got a huge response from the audience and was followed by a cover of the Steve Miller Band’s 1970’s hit *The Joker*.

Upside Down, a track Johnson wrote for the animated film *Curious George* was dedicated “to anyone who brought their kids” to the show.

The audience was an interesting mix of young and old. Children and their parents, Babyboomers and Gen X and Y stood side by side as they listened to Johnson.



EARLIER YESTERDAY: Musician Jack Johnson helps to clean up Cottesloe beach as a part of the Tangaroa Blue Ocean Care Society campaign . Picture: Tangaroa Blue Source: PerthNow

A medley of *The Horizon Has Been Deflated*, *Badfish*, *Boss DJ* and *Inaudible Melodies* was followed by new songs, *Pictures of People Taking Pictures* and *Red Wine*, *Mistakes*, *Mythology* which lead into the UB40 hit *Red Red Wine*.

The crowd sang along with *Bubble Toes* before Johnson welcomed Australian blues musician (and support act) Ash Grunwald to the stage. The 2010 ARIA winner brought his steel guitar with him and assisted Johnson with *Rodeo Clowns*.

Banana Pancakes, *Breakdown*, *Mudfootball*, *Good People* and *At or With Me* rounded out the set.

“I know sometimes I don’t talk too much but I really appreciate you all being here,” Johnson said.

The feeling was mutual and the devoted audience yelled for Johnson to return to the stage. He obliged.

The encore included *Do You Remember*, a track Johnson said he wrote for his wife on the day of their wedding anniversary after he’d forgotten to buy her a present.

Without the aid of his band Johnson performed *Angel*, *Constellations* and an adapted version of the Christmas carol, *Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer*. The band members were invited back for the heart-felt *Better Together*, which completed what was a magical evening.

Thank you Jack Johnson.

In 2008, 100 per cent of Johnson’s tour profits were used to establish the Johnson Ohana Charitable Foundation, a charity founded by Johnson to support environmental, music and art education. This year Johnson will again donate 100 per cent of his tour profits to charity.

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