

# SHOULDA BEEN HIGHER

A Celebration of 30 Year of Triple J's Hottest 100

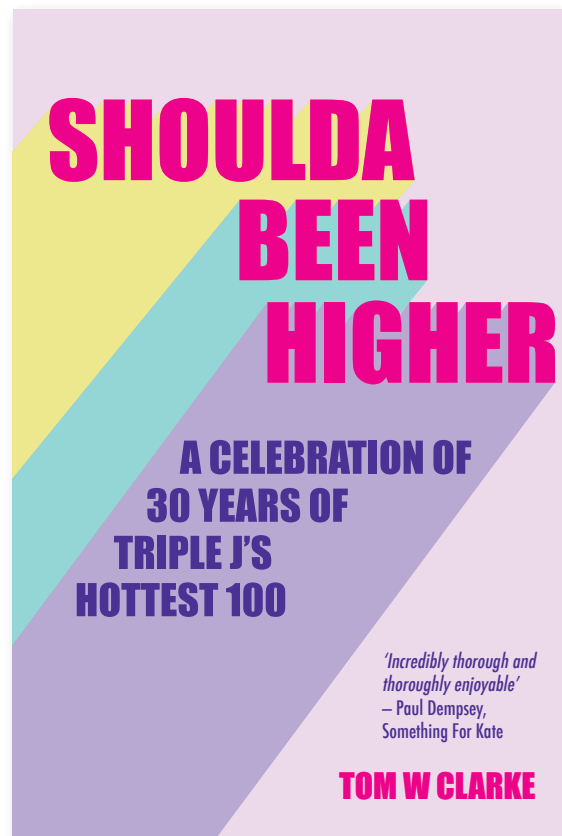
TOM W CLARKE

The Hottest 100 is a national institution.

Every year since 1993, Australia's national youth broadcaster triple j has held an annual countdown of listeners' 100 favourite songs of the year, as voted by the public. It's as iconic of modern Australia as sausage sizzles and leadership spills. It has become so much more than music. It's beaches, barbecues, and bonfires. It's joy and despair, drama and debate, friendship and community.

This book is a fun retrospective: an insightful, light-hearted and deeply respectful celebration of the colourful history of 'the world's greatest musical democracy'. Taking account of the thirty annual countdowns, the book traces the social, musical and cultural impacts of the Hottest 100 over the decades. Its jam packed with stats, stories, little-known facts, and the kinds of fiery debate-starting questions that make the Hottest 100 what it is.

This is the definitive account of the Hottest 100, a chronicle and a love letter – it's the complete picture from Augie March to Ziggy Alberts, 'Amazing' to 'Zombie'.



## The Author

Tom W Clarke is an Australian writer, comedian and podcaster. He is an obsessive music and sport nerd – he settled for writing about them because he can't play either.

He has performed stand up comedy around Australia, including a well-received run of solo shows at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival. He is currently performing across the country, driving around Australia in a campervan with his brilliant wife and sparkly young son.

*'A visual and hilarious detailing of Australian music history. Tom W Clarke is a madman and a historian'*  
– Odette, singer-songwriter

sample pages

| Mt Rushmore  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Powderfinger  |   |
| Resume   | Snapshot  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 22 appearances</li> <li>• Nine top-10 songs</li> <li>• Nine countdowns 1996–2009</li> <li>• Winner in 1999 and 2000</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1996 – ‘Pick Me Up’ – #6</li> <li>• 1999 – ‘These Days’ – #1</li> <li>• 2000 – ‘My Happiness’ – #1</li> <li>• 2007 – ‘Bless My Soul’ – #9</li> </ul> |
| <p>Bill Russell is the winningest athlete of all time. A towering basketballer with a towering resume – Russell won two NCAA Championships in college, then went to the NBA where he won a staggering 11 NBA Championships, five MVP awards and an Olympic gold medal.<sup>2</sup> Whether or not you believe he is the true GOAT, his resume will always keep him in the all-time great conversation.</p> <p>Powderfinger is the Bill Russell of the Hottest 100.</p> <p>Their record is damn near untouchable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They held the record for the most appearances for over a decade, and they achieved that number across just nine countdowns in 14 years. For comparison, to achieve the same number of appearances, Foo Fighters required 13 countdowns over 20 years, and Hilltop Hoods required 11 countdowns over 18 years (and neither of them ever had a winning song).</li> <li>• They have a record nine top-10 appearances, with only Hilltop Hoods, Flume and Tame Impala even within touching distance of that number.</li> <li>• Oh, and of course, until 2022 they were the only artist in history to win the Hottest 100 multiple times, going back-to-back in 1999 and 2000 (and producing the greatest ever Hottest 100-winning song, according to this very book).<sup>3</sup></li> </ul> <p>They may not be to your taste. You might think they’re boring or overrated or dad-rock at its most vanilla. But on the numbers, they’re the greatest of all time – and it’s not close.</p> |   |

2 Russell also served a three-season stint as player-coach for the Boston Celtics, becoming the first black coach in North American professional sports and the first to win a championship.  
3 See Chapter 10.

THE GENRE HEROES

Each artist was given four points per winning song, three points for a top-10 song, two points for a top-25 song and one point for every other appearance in annual Hottest 100s.

| Rock      |                          |    | Pop        |                        |    |
|-----------|--------------------------|----|------------|------------------------|----|
| 1         | Powderfinger             | 45 | 1          | Tame Impala            | 32 |
| 2         | Foo Fighters             | 36 | 2          | Billie Eilish          | 27 |
| 3         | Spacey Jane              | 27 | 3          | Lime Cordale           | 26 |
| 4         | Silverchair              | 26 | 4          | Lorde                  | 23 |
| 5         | Grinspoon                | 24 | 5          | Ball Park Music        | 21 |
| 6         | The Living End           | 24 | 6          | Florence + The Machine | 19 |
| 7         | The Wombats              | 24 | 7          | Ben Folds              | 19 |
| 8         | Red Hot Chili Peppers    | 22 | 8          | G Flip                 | 18 |
| 9         | The White Stripes        | 20 | 9          | The Jungle Giants      | 16 |
| 10        | You Am I                 | 19 | 10         | Weezer                 | 13 |
| Folk      |                          |    | Hip-Hop    |                        |    |
| 1         | John Butler Trio         | 27 | 1          | Hilltop Hoods          | 42 |
| 2         | Ocean Alley              | 23 | 2          | Kanye West             | 25 |
| 3         | Vance Joy                | 19 | 3          | Illy                   | 19 |
| 4         | The Cat Empire           | 14 | 4          | Kendrick Lamar         | 18 |
| 5         | Angus & Julia Stone      | 14 | 5          | Thundamentals          | 13 |
| 6         | Missy Higgins            | 13 | 6          | Bliss n Eso            | 11 |
| 7         | Ben Lee                  | 13 | 7          | Drake                  | 11 |
| 8         | Ben Harper               | 12 | 8          | Doja Cat               | 10 |
| 9         | Boy & Bear               | 12 | 9          | Childish Gambino       | 10 |
| 10        | Thelma Plum              | 11 | 10         | 360                    | 10 |
| Hard Rock |                          |    | Electronic |                        |    |
| 1         | Muse                     | 26 | 1          | Flume                  | 42 |
| 2         | Pearl Jam                | 18 | 2          | Chet Faker             | 20 |
| 3         | Spiderbait               | 18 | 3          | Regurgitator           | 20 |
| 4         | The Smashing Pumpkins    | 16 | 4          | Rufus Du Sol           | 20 |
| 5         | Wolfmother               | 16 | 5          | Peking Duk             | 19 |
| 6         | Rage Against the Machine | 16 | 6          | Gorillaz               | 17 |
| 7         | The Amity Affliction     | 14 | 7          | Daft Punk              | 16 |
| 8         | Queens of the Stone Age  | 14 | 8          | Glass Animals          | 15 |
| 9         | Bring Me the Horizon     | 13 | 9          | The Presets            | 13 |
| 10        | Violent Soho             | 12 | 10         | The Chemical Brothers  | 12 |