

# TEMUJIN

An interview with Karl Lean from Australian band Temujin

## What is the line-up of Temujin?

"For writing and recording we work as a 2 piece. Kelly handles vocals and keyboards. I handle the guitars, bass and drums.

"For live work we use session musicians and play as a 5 piece."

## When was the band formed?

"It was a gradual progression from 'project' to 'band'. We formally launched the myspace site in December 2006, so that's probably as good a date as any to mark the "official" start of the band."

## How did you meet?

"Mutual friends, shared interests. I'd been looking to work on some new material for a while, but needed a vocalist to really get things moving. Kelly came for a jam, the songwriting just took off from there. She has an amazing ability to write melodies in just a few minutes, and it makes the songwriting process a real pleasure!"

## Whose idea was it to form the band?

"Not so much an idea as a inevitable next step. The songs we were writing were coming together so well that it became obvious we needed to take this further."

## How would you describe the Temujin sound?

"Most people seem to tag us as some variation of gothic metal, or gothic rock, or folk metal, or ... something. We're happy with any tag really, as long as people can find what they like in our music. The 'gothic' label sits well with us since we try to emphasise the 'mood' of our songs.

"We try to keep things fairly simple in basic construction, then allow subtle changes and additions to give the sound its depth. We have plenty of strong guitar parts, but we like to build the atmosphere and impact through the interaction of the different instruments and vocals rather than a simple straight forward sonic assault."

## Who are the bands main influences?

"We often list our influences and people find them a little strange, since we don't really sound like these bands. But that's because the influence is more upon our attitude and songwriting techniques rather than on actual sound.

"Disturbed are a major influence, because of their intensity. Bad Religion because they write lyrics that actually are worth thinking about. Rammstein because they build songs so well - the whole is always greater than the esum of the parts."

## Why the name Temujin and what does it mean?

"We've been asked this more than once, so we've decided to make a movie that explains the name : <http://www.mongolmovie.com>

"We recommend that everyone check out the movie (it's actually a very good movie by the way - we liked it!) and then get back to us if there's any more detail needed!"

## What's the music scene like over in Australia at the moment and where do Temujin fit into it?

"The Australian music scene has always been 'conservative' in many ways - it's not a huge market, so local companies have less ability to 'experiment', and focus a lot on making sure they will get a return on their investment of time and money. This leaves not much support for metal or other 'less popular' genres.

"We've been committed right from the start on having a 'global' view rather than a local view, and I think that's paid off with things like our support and sales into the UK, and our signing a US distribution deal."

**Your current album 1000 Tears quite deservedly got a rave review in Insomnia and we absolutely love it - have you pleased with the response to the album by both the press and the public alike?**

"Yes, it's been as good as we could have expected I think. We have had plenty of reviews, and they range from 'amazing' to 'worth a listen'. Not one has been damning - I think that says something. The support from the public has been even better - we are wrapt by the response so far, and we've been through two repressings of the CD so far. With the CD now available in the US through retail stores we hope it will continue to build."

## Did you share writing duties on the album?

"I tend to work on the music mostly, with input from Kelly as we refine and expand a track. Kelly writes almost all the lyrics, with occasional suggestions from me. It's a good balance, and enables us to work fairly quickly once we get started!"

## What are the main subjects of Temujin lyrics?

"A question best answered by Kelly I suppose ... she doesn't even tell me what its all about, so I spend time guessing just like anyone else! She likes to write from a combination of experience and observation. I think she does a wonderful job of reflecting the 'tone' of people's lives in her lyrics. And she tends to keep things short and to the point - saying a lot with few words."

## Do you have any plans to visit us over here in the UK in the near future?

"Not at this stage, no. We tried to set a few things up earlier in the year but the focus had to switch to the US once the distribution deal with Renaissance Records was signed. And that kind of killed off those preliminary plans. It's a pity, because we have been getting a huge amount of support from the UK, and we sell a lot on CDs via mail order into the UK. We're hopefully that something might come together for early 2009. We're working on it ..."

## In the meantime where can people check out Temujin?

"The best thing about the web is that it allows us to keep in touch with people all around the world. Feel free to join our mailing list at the band web site [www.temujinband.com](http://www.temujinband.com) and we have plenty of web sites for people to check out. There are two free mp3 files to download at any of the following sites"

[www.myspace.com/temujin1](http://www.myspace.com/temujin1)

[www.bebo.com/temujinoz](http://www.bebo.com/temujinoz)

[www.revebnation.com/temujin](http://www.revebnation.com/temujin)

[www.facebook.com/pages/Temujin/6582397028](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Temujin/6582397028)

[www.renaissancerecordsus.com/temujin](http://www.renaissancerecordsus.com/temujin)

