

blues & roots

OUR BUDDY

Buddy Knox is one of Australia's unsung musical heroes. He began playing with his father Roger Knox in the band Euraba in the early '80s. Euraba's extensive touring included a Correctional Services sponsored tour of Australian prisons, which led to a six-week tour of Canada performing to native Americans in Canadian prisons. Since then Buddy Knox has toured as a member of the Warumpi Band and played guitar for Vic Simms, Jimmy Little, Paul Kelly, Kev Carmody and many, many others. Delving deep into his love of old-school blues, he has formed the Buddy Knox Blues Band and recorded a new album, *got da blues*, that he's launching at The Factory Theatre this Friday.

How long have you been working on *got da blues*?
"Oh... twenty-five years [laughs]. I've stepped out in front of my own band in only the last twelve months and I wanted to get a product to take with me to establish myself as an artist. So I've been working on it for a while but actually working on it for three months before. And it took us two weeks from start to finish once we got in there."

How did the Buddy Knox Blues Band all get together?

"Oh well the drummer is my brother and the rhythm guitar player is my son. And a guy called Darren Clarke is playing some bass for me."

How did you go about choosing songs for the album?

"Just some old blues men to get me rolling at first. So I do a Robert Johnson, an Albert Collins song, Junior Wells, Buddy Guy... yeah just some old blues men to get me going."

Do you have a favourite era of blues or do you like it all?

"I like it all, yeah. Oh my favourite is probably early '70s, late '60s, when you had funky players like Freddy King come around and Albert Collins and Albert King. Muddy was still around and also BB King, but that was probably my favourite era. I love that rockin' blues. But it all comes from the old guys. My favourite old one is Robert Johnson."

How did you first get into blues? Through your father?



Buddy Knox

"I don't know, it's just what I liked to do when I was young. My father, he was a country artist and when he started out he was into rock'n'roll; he was into some of that when he was younger, [like] Chuck Berry and Jerry Lee Lewis. And I liked that and I remember being a young kid at school wishing I could play like Chuck Berry. So it came from there and I just felt the blues feel - I don't know why. I didn't listen to BB King or any of them when I was young. I listened to them mainly in the last four or five years. So even with my father I just played them blues feels. I don't know I just felt better doing that than playing the country feels or country licks."

Tell us about the support you have lined up for your album launch.

"Oh yeah, there's a whole country Koori, or

Aboriginal Country Legends. My father will be playing and my mother in law was playing, her name's Auriel Andrew, plus Col Hardy and an old rocker called Vic Simms, so they're gonna get up and be there and I'm gonna headline it. So the old legends... I've played and backed all of them over the years and they're there to play and support me and help it to be a good night. It's going to be a big night and something for everybody. Also on that night, I mentioned Auriel Andrew my mother in law, she can't make it so what's gonna happen is my daughter is going to step in and do a couple of songs on the night."

That's three generations on stage at once!

"[Laughs] Oh yeah, I love it."