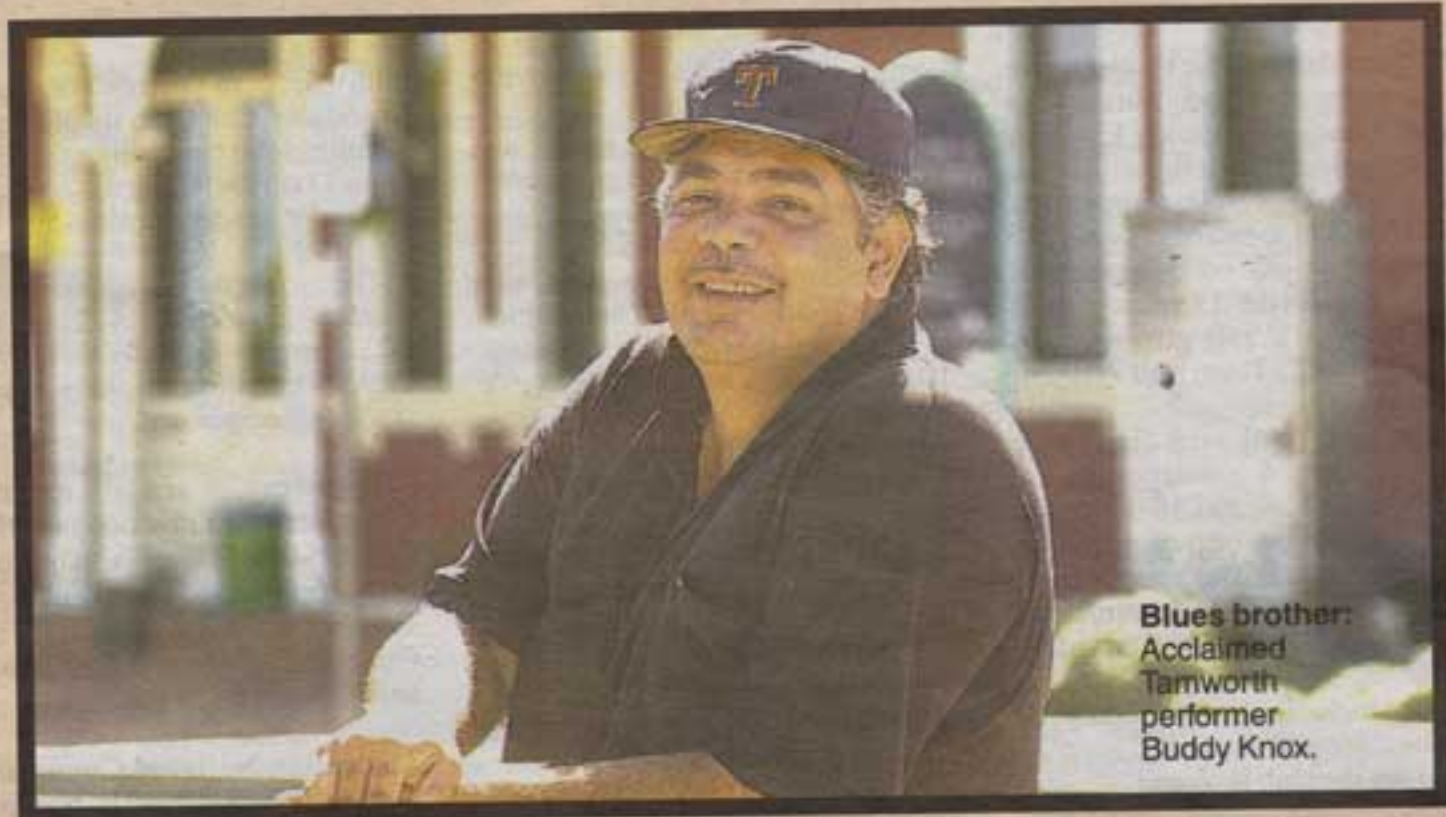


Knox ready to 'smoke boots'



Blues brother:
Acclaimed
Tamworth
performer
Buddy Knox.

THE blues explosion to shake a nation. That is the vision of Buddy Knox, a Tamworth-based artist who has performed around the musical spectrum with his family and friends, in Australia and overseas.

At the ripe age of 38 with influences like Chuck Berry and Freddy King, Buddy is preparing to don his fedora and take his brand of blues to the Australian public.

Armed with his rare Gibson guitar, Buddy has collected impressive playing partners from Paul Kelly to Stan Coster, playing at festivals like Sydney's Big Day Out and the Nashville Cultural Fair. But this is his first foray into full-time blues.

Buddy said he had played some of his more memorable performances with father and figurehead in the Tamworth music scene, Roger Knox.

In the mid-eighties Buddy and Roger were both members of Euraba, a band that was invited to perform for inmates in correctional centres and detention centres across Australia.

For Buddy, a highlight of those shows was the audience interaction.

"It's a different crowd when you go there," he said.

"What you are doing really makes a difference and they want to be a part of the show and sing and clap along," he said.

More recently Buddy has performed in the 2007 Country Music Festival in Tamworth where he and his band "smoked everyone's boots" with two lively and passionate performances.

He believes the blues have been under-appreciated, especially in inland Australia.

"There are only a few people playing the blues in Australia

right now. It is my style of music and it is going to be big," he said.

Fellow musician and manager Fiona Peters has played with Buddy in the past and seen him sketch his plan for a full-scale blues show.

"He wants the whole blues feel, dressed the part and that soulful performance that comes alive at the microphone," she said.

National domination is an aspiration for Buddy who, following in the footsteps of many blues artists before him, wants to become a household name. He will continue to perform with his talented children, Quarralia and Teangi while he expands his loyal audience.

You can catch Buddy and his band playing The Armidale Club on April 20.