

PERFORMERS PROFILES

RUSSELL MORRIS - Russell has arrived at the third and final album in the series of Australian stories. Also produced by Mitch Cairns, this album is titled “Red Dirt – Red Heart”, and the name belies its subject matter – The Australian Interior. Any history of Australia albeit, very brief, has to include the people who have inhabited this wonderful country for at least 40,000 years. Stories of two bushrangers, a song about a beautiful town, a song about a loner, a recluse, and an escape artist (Gaal that is), a snake and the spectacular Nullalour. Also included is some of our great indigenous heroes in the hope that we can share their stories.

JEFF LANG - Australian-based musician Jeff Lang has earned worldwide acclaim as a virtuosic guitarist, a dynamic songwriter and a startlingly unique live performer. With a back catalogue of 27 albums, Jeff has been featured at major festivals, pubs, clubs, arts centres and venues internationally for the past decade. Blending rock, roots, folk, blues, ballads, instrumentals, improvisation and a devastatingly high level of musicality, Jeff Lang is a singularly unique performer in our world.

BACKSLIDERS - Over a century ago, north of the steamy Mississippi delta, up in the hill country surrounding it, a certain strain of the blues manifested, feeding off the hardship of the people who lived there, their lives and stories set to a sound now regarded as part of the blueprint for modern music. It's from this almost primeval sound that Australian blues stalwarts Backsliders take their sonic cues. Formed in 1986 by guitarist Dom Turner, Backsliders quickly became festival favourites, a tag they carry to this day, almost thirty years later. The line-up boasts the drumming talents of Rob Hirst, along with the alternating harmonica attack of Ian Collard, Joe Glover and Brod Smith backing Hirst and Turner to the hilt.

CYRIL B. BUNTER BAND featuring Mal Eastick - Houserocking together onstage! Sydney's legendary exponents of The Real Good Boogie who are currently riding high on the success of their LOCO•MOTIVE album, are teaming up once again for a further series of BLUES AND BOOGIE SHOWDOWN gigs with Oz blues guitar ace Mal Eastick. These shows are a sequel to the incendiary series of gigs which thrilled East Coast audiences last year, with Mal joining The Bunters onstage to showcase songs from both of their repertoires. It's gonna be one house rocking, funky, not-to-be-missed party of electric blues and boogie!

FIONA BOYES - an Australian blues guitarist, vocalist, and songwriter, recording and performing for more than 25 years, a career that has taken her to major festivals and stages around the world. A veteran recording artist. Australia's first lady of the Blues has been honoured with 7 USA Blues Music Award nominations in 5 different categories over the years, including 2 nominations in the 2017 USA Blues Music Awards – ‘Acoustic Artist of the Year’ and ‘Acoustic Album of the Year’ – for her latest release ‘Professin’ the Blues’. The album won 2017 Blues Blast Music Award ‘Acoustic Blues Album of the Year’ in the US. With more than 30 Australian music awards, spanning the blues, folk, jazz and Americana scenes.

19 TWENTY - The 19-Twenty lads have been performing their high-energy sonic-party nationally, headlining sell-out shows and festivals in all states and territories. Constantly on the road or in the sky, they have toured seven times around Oz and performed gigs throughout Europe including Belgium, The Netherlands, France, and a suite of gigs in London. Performing anywhere and everywhere, this straight-up 100% independent act have been blazing throughout Europe and Australia and gaining new music fans/fiends from their live shows.

GAIL PAGE AND THE STREAMLINERS - Gail now resides in South Australia and has been performing to sell out shows in local events including the Deep South Roots & Blues festival in Adelaide especially as key feature artists for the “Women Sing the Blues” boutique event. Recently she opened up for Robert Cray with The Streamliners as her backing band

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where Robert Cray commented on stage “...man, that opening band were on fire and they cooked this stage!!!” The Streamliners are renown for their incredibly fiery shows and musical madness that go way beyond their 7 studio albums. They're a “must see” live band, a mixed bag of soul, blues & roots music with comparisons to Albert King, The Allman Brothers, Grateful Dead & Van Morrison.

ANNA SCIONTI - Melbourne Blues Songstress Anna Scionti (pronounced Shon-tee) is a singer- songwriter, guitarist and slide guitar player. On cigar box guitar, resonator, lap steel and stomp you will be immersed deep into her world of electrified dirty rhythmic blues. Scionti's uninhibited foot stomping blues is honest and raw. Having represented Melbourne in Memphis, Tennessee at the 2016 International Blues Challenge as vocalist and guitarist for Miss Whiskey, and playing at blues festivals both in Victoria and interstate, this blues woman is one to watch.

DANCING IN THE SHADOWS - This All Star band features a bevy of Australia's most accomplished singers and musicians playing classic Motown hits from The Temptations, Stevie Wonder, The Supremes, Marvin Gaye, Martha and The Vandellas, Four Tops, Jackson Five, Edwin Star and many more. Groove and sing along to classic hits. Kimi Tupaea, Evelyn Dupra & Franchesca Appolis – Vocals, Matt Roberts - Guitar/Vocals, Jason Bruer - Sax, Adrian Veale - Trumpet, Sam Boyd – Keyboards, Craig Bodinnar - Producer/Bass and Andy Byrns on Drums .

GWYN ASHTON - Toting a hot new album and smashing stages worldwide, Aussie axeman Gwyn Ashton has reinvented himself as a one-man progressive alt. blues band and is now on his current solo elektro tour. In two hours Ashton takes us on an eclectic mesmerising musical journey of his own original material plus some choice covers; from acoustic roots, blues and world music to a set of electric hard-edged rockin' blues, 60s-style fuzz garage rock and Brit-voiced psychedelia on an array of instruments, including his custom-made Italian Liutart signature model guitar.

HARRY BRUS - The Harry Brus Band will debut a brand new line-up for the Thredbo Blues Festival 2019. Get ready for a soulful, funky ride featuring the honey-vocals of Eric Rasmussen; Franco Raggatt, one of Australia's most soulful guitar players; Groove Master Calvin Welch on drums and Hammond King Sam Boyd, all powered along with the ever funky Harry Brus laying down solid bass grooves. The Harry Brus Band promises to be a powerhouse outfit delivering soulful blues grooves with an abundance of funk and original tunes to keep you dancing all night.

HEY GRINGO - “Smokin Rhythm & Blues and Seriously Funky Grooves” Al Hensley RHYTHMS MAGAZINE Formed by Singer, Songwriter Daryl Roberts (Spectrum, American Blues Legend Jimmy Witherspoon, Blackfeather), Hey Gringo takes you on a journey to all corner the roots music world with smoking organ, scorching sax, haunting harmonica, boogie piano, tasteful guitar on a layer of irresistible rhythm and blues performing songs from their 7th album hitting #2 Oz Blues & Roots Charts album “Not The Same Planet” (“One of The Best Albums of The Year” Barry Maxwell).

HUSSY HICKS - Hussy Hicks have a unique musical approach that spans many genres – from boisterous blues and roots, to contemporary folk fortified with delicious vocal harmonies; alt country inspired tales from the road to 80's style power ballads. The girls, Julz Parker and Leesa Gentz are highly regarded for their musicality by their fellow musicians and punters alike, you can expect lots of interactive jamming, killer guitar licks and soaring vocals, an approach that has seen them on stage in Jams with everyone from Michael Franti and Edward Sharp to John Butler and the Indigo Girls

IVOR SK - Hailing from Sydney Australia, Ivor Simpson Kennedy is one of a new generation of exciting young blues talents to emerge from Down Under. Owning a dark, smoke filled voice and liquid smooth guitar stylings, he utilises these inherit skills to give his compositions a striking originality, paying homage to generations past while bringing a remarkably fresh approach to the table. Ivor also performs all the instruments on his releases, lending his sound a uniquely personal touch. A deliciously deep groove runs through his barebones approach, with strains of reggae, soul, and rock vying for their moment in a bevy of blues.

JED ROWE - is an acclaimed singer/songwriter and guitarist from Melbourne. His music walks the line between folk, blues and country, and his 4th album A Foreign Country is a richly told collection of stories of Australian life. The songs were finished in a rented apartment above the street in Northern Germany while Rowe was on tour, and recorded by multiple ARIA award winner Jeff Lang. Nominated for Best Folk or Roots Album in 2017. Rowe's sublime slide guitar playing and emotive vocal delivery have earned him a reputation as a standout live performer.

NICK CHARLES with special guest Pete Fidler - Known internationally as “Australia's virtuoso of acoustic roots and blues”, Nick's music draws from a career spanning over 30 years, 20 albums, a dozen US tours and festivals the world over. It's fingerpicking roots magic inspired by the likes of Blake, Broonzy, Fuller, Watson, Travis and Hurt but also with stylish nods to sophisticated melody via literate songwriting of the highest order. This year Nick brings his long time occasional comrade Pete Fidler on dobro, mandolin and second guitar to colour and orchestrate an impressive catalogue.

RICHARD PERSO - Richard Perso, being an only child, always had to make up for his isolation by creating the same amount of mess as 3 kids. It was only a natural progression that led him to making as much noise as a 3-piece band. He doesn't seem to have enough arms, legs or lungs to pull off such a physically demanding performance but that doesn't stop him from playing 3 didgeridoos, driving a weapons cache of overdriven acoustic guitars and somehow managing to replace the roll of a drummer with little more than his 2 feet.

SAMMY OWEN BLUES BAND - He comes on givin' lip like your younger brother after a night on the turps. He's all cheek and twists and a wry smile to keep you fooled. Then he launches into some of the best driving blues you'll hear in yonks. Sammy Owen - he jumps and jives like a young George Thorogood, with guitar influences like Buddy Guy and Albert King... he shreds that thing. Toungue in cheek lyrics and a fresh approach to original blues songs, which featured on the debut release “real people, real stories”. The new line up which injects even more fuel to the fire features - Lefty Mick on Bass, Jesse Psycho Bates on Drums and Tom Maige on Keys.

THE SHANE PACEY TRIO - The Shane Pacey Trio consists of Shane on guitar/vox, Paul Blasi on bass and Dave Fester on drums. Although Shane's other band, The Bondi Cigars is still very much a going concern, Shane recently felt the strong urge to revisit the music that turned him on when he first started playing, such as the guitar playing/singing of Peter Green and the short sharp style coming out of Chess Records in the 50's and 60s. Shane states “The main aim is to create something totally different to The Cigars”, a no-nonsense trip through the Blues back pages, all played with Shane's customary attack and passion.

THE JORDAN THOMAS TRIO - Taking influence from the sights and sounds of the dance halls and juke joints of the mid-century, the Jordan Thomas Trio are an exciting and dynamic alt country/roots rock and roll group that hail from the Blue Mountains of NSW, Australia. Jordan has taken his music all over the world –The band features Jordan Thomas (guitar/vocals), Craig Renneberg (double bass/vocals) and Matt Morrison (drums/vocals).

THE EXCELLENT SMITHERS - The Excellent Smithers play a hot pot of honky tonk and blues music that'll make you feel like you dunked your head in an Tennessee whiskey barrel and went back for more. A regular gig will involve shredding telecasters, harmonica solos and flawless singing led by the sweet baritone vocal pipes of James Cisco. Expect to hear equal elements of tasty shufflin' blues, heartbreak honky tonk and break ...neck speed-country train feels. Strap yourself in for one of the most legitimate incarnations of a whiskey soaked, hickory smoked, American honky tonk band in Australia today.

NEW SOUTH - The New South Trio have established themselves as highly regarded musicians playing blues, jazz, soul and funk. The youth of Harry and Aidan is complemented with the incredible experience of Ed Rodrigues on drums. The result is vibrant, exciting and exuberant performances with a jaw dropping quality. Harry and Aidan are just eighteen but can be regularly found in Sydney's best venues playing with the best local blues musicians. They feel especially privileged to be back at Thredbo for the third year. As far as the band is concerned the last two years have been a rehearsal for 2019.

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