

BUDDY AT BLUESFEST

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 including 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 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, Buddy has formed the Buddy Knox Blues Band and recorded an album *got da blues*. The band just triumphed at the Australian Blues Music Festival in Goulburn, where they not only performed sizzling shows, but walked away with the Chain Award for New Talent Of The Year. And now they're coming to Byron!

Tell us a bit about your new CD *got da blues*. How long have you been working on it and what were you aiming for with this CD?

Oh... twenty-five years (laughs). I've stepped out in front of my own band... 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.

Do you have a favourite style 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 Albert 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?

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 and roll, he was into some

of that when he was younger. 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.

Have you been aware of developing your own style?

It's developing all the time. It's just happening. You think you like playing this way and then something else comes along and you go 'I'd like to play like that' and it just evolves all the time with what I do.

In your travels have you found that the blues is thriving in rural and outback Australia?

No, not much blues, no. It's all mainly country. You might get the odd artist doing a couple of blues songs, but there's no blues out there. I'm the only man out this way, I'm the only one that's doing this type of stuff. And there's no real blues scenes out in the country... I try to bring it to them. That's what I want to do.

Got Da Blues is available through Buddy's MySpace site. Catch Buddy Knox Blues Band at this year's Byron Bluesfest.

