

MC – ANDY ALBERTS

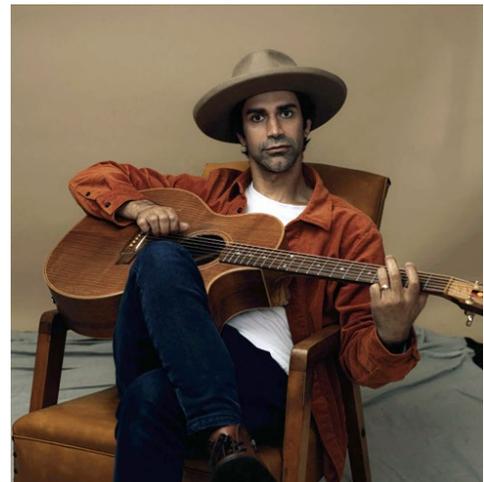
Andy Alberts is a Gunditjmara Koorie singer / songwriter from Warrnambool in the South West region of Victoria in Australia. He has travelled Australia playing various festivals and venues, both as a solo artist and his band The Walkabouts. Andy Alberts is passionate about five things: his culture, his land, his people, his family and his music. He is proud of his heritage and draws on the strength of his ancestors.



His third album "Life and Land" featured collaborations with Shane Howard and Robbie Bundle and guest vocals by Archie Roach along with Andy's band "The Walkabouts". His debut album "Gunditjmara Land" produced by "Goanna" front man Shane Howard in 1998 picked up two Australian Roots Music awards in 1999 for best Album and Song. His 2001 EP titled "Close to Home" featured two tracks produced by the late Paul Hester from "Crowded House".

PIRRITU

Ngiyampaa man and First Nations singer-songwriter Pirritu's (Brett Lee) music is gentle, honest and from the heart. Strange and melodic chords frame this songwriters vocals that weave around his lyrics like a gentle wind, enticing you into the depths of his personal journey, singing you a story of both sadness, love and hope.



Pirritu (meaning 'Brett' in Ngiyampaa Language) was adopted by a non-Aboriginal couple as a newborn baby and raised to be proud of his Aboriginality, to follow his cultural journey and to connect back to family, culture and language - a journey he began when he was 14 years old. Two things drive his continual thirst to connect to his people, country, language and culture - his one year old daughter and his passion for music.

To deepen his understanding of his mother tongue, Pirritu volunteers with the **Ngiyampaa Language Project** to test materials being created for the purpose of updating the Ngiyampaa Grammar written by Tamisin Donaldson in the 1970's.

www.pirritu.com

HEART SONGS

Sometimes there's no need to ask questions, or figure out reasons why things work. They just....do!

Rose Bygrave, Dave Steel and Wayne Jury share quite a few musical friends..., and ideals. They write and sing songs about people, present and passed, songs about the heart, for the heart and from the heart.

In each of their own ways they have achieved success and are well respected. Now it is connection they seek; to each other, connection to community, (connection to people) and to country. The vehicle is music, be it their own, or borrowed from their favourite artists or past collaborators, the goal is to express and share sensitivity. (feelings), the depth of which produces their fine vocal blend and instrumental finesse. It may be joy and happiness, it may be sorrow, love, hate, fear or loss, but it is aimed truly at connecting with the heart.



Rose Bygrave began playing music professionally in Goanna in 1978, the achievements of which are well known. Then again in 2022 she toured the country with Goanna to celebrate the 40th anniversary of their triple ARIA awarded record Spirit of Place. Apart from countless performances, with Goanna and as a duo with her friend Marcia Howard, she has performed as a soloist and with many other artists, has been a choir director, producer and mentor.

Rose is known for passionate songwriting - reflecting on place, love, and issues of indigenous and social justice. She has released 4 CDs, a duo CD with Marcia and has contributed to many projects including work with her old friend Dave Steel. She has shared stages with some incredible artists. In 2020 she released The Yabby Catcher. She is currently finishing another batch of songs to be released in 2025.

'The Victorian writes songs that radiate intelligence and sensitivity and she sings them in a crystalline voice with impeccable enunciation. The dozen numbers that make up North, come straight from the heart.' Tony Hillier; *Rhythms Magazine*

'The beautifully crafted songs of love and experiences require a fine and skilled voice to carry them. As is well recognized, Bygrave has that voice... a prize-winning listening experience.' Peter Dougherty; *Australian Musician*.

<https://www.facebook.com/rose.bygrave/>

Dave Steel is a singer/songwriter, multi-instrumentalist and producer with an extensive history in the roots music scene in Australia. As a founding member of Weddings Parties Anything he contributed songs and instrumental skills to their first two albums. He has made nine solo albums, received several ARIA nominations, and worked as a sideman and session musician with many of Australia's finest performers including Archie Roach and Ruby Hunter, Rose Bygrave and Marcia Howard, and Kavisha Mazella, amongst many others. Dave also has extensive experience as a producer/engineer, and regularly records and mixes music in his home studio for various artists.

He has toured Australia, North America, Europe and Asia. For twenty years he has been instrumentalist and co-producer for singer/songwriter Tiffany Eckhardt. He now performs as a solo act, in a couple of collaborative lineups, or with his band on the festival circuit and in the folk/roots scene.

Dave has recently completed a stint as a tutor in the songwriting stream of the degree course at UTAS, and he has now relocated back to Victoria. He has a new album called *Wooden Music* - recorded live in the studio (with minimal overdubs) in the Huon Valley in Lutruwita (Tasmania).

'Dave Steel is the kind of artist who will be keeping Australian music honest long after the latest pop sensation is forgotten...' Jeff Jenkins, *The Age*

<https://davesteelmusic.com>

Wayne Juryis a songwriter - signed to J Albert and Son Publishing, home of AC/DC, Rose Tattoo, Easybeats et al since 1994, with a catalogue of original songs, including a top 10 hit for Alesha Rome with 'Search My Heaven' and co-writes with 'The Angels' John Brewster. He has released 3 solo albums, 2 solo EPs, CDs with Drybones, Black Cat Moan, Bridie King, Jenny Marie Lang, Bob Spencer (The Angels, Skyhooks) and The Foreday Riders. Early days saw him supporting touring bands such as AC/DC, Ayres Rock, Little River Band, Cold Chisel, Dragon. He has opened for blues greats *Robert Cray, Albert Collins, Canned Heat, BB King, Chris Cain* and *Buddy Guy*. Wayne has been called photon by some iconic bands when they're missing their lead singer: for Nathan Cavaleri when vocalist Andrew Strong was unable to tour Australia - that led to 7 years on the road with Nathan: filling in for Doc Neeson (the Angels) in the Moonshine Jug and String Band and as temporary replacement for Mark Callahan with Gangajang. He has mentored performance programs - Blues Boot Camp, Youth in Blues and has been the Director of the Queenscliff based Tides of Welcome Choir since 2019.

"Wayne Jury's music can evoke strong emotions. His exceptional voice has the power, the technical strength and the main ingredient - absolutely heartfelt soul." Frankie Lee, *ABC Sydney*.

"Singing the blues with nothing but a guitar and a passion, he's all grass roots and heart - somewhat like the late Dutch Tilders". CHRIS LAMBIE *Rhythms Magazine*.

<https://waynejury.com.au>

CHARLIE NEEDS BRACES

LIVE LOOPING SISTER DUO

GuriNgai sisters Charlie and Miri from Live Looping act Charlie Needs Braces have drawn in audiences across Australia, their energetic musical landscapes weaving together stories and language. In 2022 they came first place in the Upstart Awards, and won the Archie Roach Award for Emerging Talent in 2023 through Music Victoria Awards.



Charlie Woods, one half of the sister duo, is known for their work with Casey Donovan, The Teskey Brothers, The Seven Ups, and Tek Tek Ensemble.

The duo's debut album, *Saltwater People*, featured the single and video 'Daryung', which was showcased on RAGE, earned them triple j Unearthed Artists of the Week, and was featured in the ABC documentary '*Changing Tides*' as part of a NAIDOC Week special.

Their latest album, NYAA WA, has further expanded their reach, with music videos landing in the top 50 for 2024 on Rage and receiving editorial praise across platforms like ABC News, Women In Pop, Spotify's Big Ancestor Energy, and Apple's FIRST.

The album's title, NYAA WA, meaning 'take care' in the language of their mob, the GuriNgai peoples language, reflects the duo's deep connection to the land, waterways, wildlife, and cultural preservation.

The songs highlight the importance of protecting sacred sites, nurturing cultural heritage, and sharing the stories of their people, emphasizing the need to keep culture alive and protect these sacred places from development.

The two piece have performed across Australia at several festivals including the Share the Spirit Festival, Woodford Folk Festival, Burramatta Festival, St Kilda Festival, Queenscliffe Music Festival, Port Fairy Folk Festival, the National Folk Festival, Planting Festival, Wandiligong Nut Festival, The Town Folk Festival, Clarence Jazz Festival and supported The Teskey Brothers on their national tour with A Day on the Green January 2025.

<https://charlieneedsbraces.com>

STRETCH & THE TRUTH

Early Life & Roots in the Bush

Born in the 1960s in Coonabarabran, New South Wales, Stephen Teakle's childhood in the bush left a profound mark on him. Although his family moved to suburban Sydney when he was in primary school, he frequently returned "to the bush" by striking a deal with his parents—he'd move to the city as long as he could spend every holiday back on the land.



He absorbed the essence of rural life—working as a stockman in the Kimberley region, sheep-shearing in western NSW, and growing up with bush culture deeply influenced his creative sensibilities.

He's a multi-instrumentalist, playing instruments like percussion, bass, piano, organ, accordion, and even the "Louisiana Rub Board."

From the creator of the internationally travelled Organ Salesman Barry Morgan comes Stretch who presents songs born in the bush and brewed in the city."

Stretch's performance merges poetic storytelling with exceptional musicianship and folk, blues, and country inspired songs.

In 2022, Stretch & The Truth released a toe-tapping country single titled There's Nothing Wrong With Coal If You Leave It In The Ground.

Stretch is a singer songwriter, a musician and an outback storyteller.

<https://www.facebook.com/stretchandthetruth/>

Website:stretchandthetruth.com.au

TRUDY FATNOWNA EDGELEY

Trudy Fatnowna Edgeley is a multidisciplinary artist of Yidinji & South Sea Islander descent, currently based on Wadawurrung Country. Her practice is grounded in a deep love of Country and a commitment to sharing cultural stories through music, visual art and theatre.



Trudy has spent recent years touring as part of the duo Phil and Trudy Edgeley, performing across Australia, the UK and the USA. Her haunting vocals, tropical tempos and tribal beats reflect a desire to honour her heritage – from the shores of the South Pacific and Jamaica to the canefields of North Queensland. Her songs are carefully crafted and often draw on powerful, seldom-told stories from Australian history.

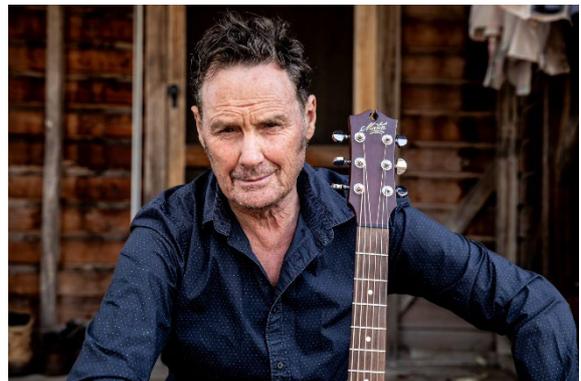
Trudy's debut solo album I AM HERE was released in late September 2024. It was recorded and mixed by three-time ARIA Award winner Jeff Lang and mastered by Colin Wynne at Thirty Mill Studios, Moonee Ponds. She has been a Special Guests for Liz Stringer returning from European Tour (August 2023), Neil Murray (Warumpi Band) on his Keep Rollin' On (2022) and The Telling (2023/24) tours, Stiff Gins (Crossroads Tour (July 2025)) and performed alongside Kavisha Mazzella.

<https://www.linktr.ee/trudyfatnownaedgeley>

NEIL MURRAY

"Neil Murray's life and work will remain relevant while ever Australians ask the question – what in truth does it mean to call Australia home?" - Martin Flanagan, The Age

Maverick songman Neil Murray originally sprang from Victoria's western district, but in the late 1970's with guitar in hand he set course for the Northern Territory. He emerged at Papunya in 1980 as a founding member of the pioneering Warumpi Band, which over three albums (Big Name No Blankets, Go Bush and Too much Humbug) and twenty years of performing, thrust contemporary indigenous music into mainstream Australia, yielding such classic songs as My Island Home, Blackfella Whitefella, Fitzroy Crossing, Jailanguru Pakarnu, Stompin Ground, From The Bush and Waru.



"One of the finest songwriters this country has ever produced." - Rhythms

neilmurray.com.au / youtube.com/neilmurraymusic

RUBY LOU BAND

Somewhere in between the nameless, underlying consensus anxiety attack we all are quietly having from day to day, and the high wire act that is lead singer Ruby Lou's crowd work, is the music of the Ruby Lou Band - magically brokering the deal between all the heart break and love you feel in this world, till a kind of beautiful wordless truth is discovered inside of yourself. In tales of Orcas and dragons, little nightmare girls with evil intentions, or profoundly comforting assurances that a wrongness about the world can be righted just through the act of loving yourself, Ruby Lou sings you through the warmest, kindest corner of the universe. Backed by her incredible band, finding the funkier beats in the folkier songs, and placing a sonic halo atop Ruby's delicate guitar work. The end result being a musical prayer, salute, love letter, sermon, to nature and the natural world, to humans and humanity, to pain and the beauty that lies there-in. She also blows a pretty mean sax to boot.



<https://www.instagram.com/rubylouband/>

<https://www.youtube.com/@RubyLouBand>

<https://rubylouband.bandcamp.com/album/underworld-etiquette>

GANGA GIRI BAND

From festival stages to global dance floors The Ganga Giri Band has captivated crowds worldwide, performing at iconic festivals and outdoor events from Australia to Europe, Asia, and beyond. Their unique blend of tribal-tech beats and ancientmodern fusion creates a powerful, unforgettable live show that ignites audiences and unites hearts through rhythm.

<https://gangagiri.com/offerings/ganga-giri-band/>

Website: www.gangagiri.com

