

Mick's train on track

Gold Coast singer and songwriter Mick Wilson has worked hard to bring his debut album to life, writes **Sam Cleveland**

MICK Wilson, who splits his time between a central Queensland gold mine and the Gold Coast's pub and club circuit, will launch his debut album at the Titanium Bar, in Surfers Paradise, on Wednesday (August 29).

The Banora Point troubadour has spent the past year working 'eight days on, six days off' at the Cracow gold mine while playing shows locally and putting together the self-funded record, *Blame Train*.

"Right now, the album owes me a small car - well, maybe a family-sized car when you add in the promo costs and other bits," he laughs.

After dipping his toes in the water with covers gigs in his old mining town of Lithgow, in NSW, Wilson moved to the Coast in 2001 to pursue music full-time.

He kept busy, but says the reality of working the pub and club circuit week to week wore him down. He took the Cracow job at the beginning of last year.

Blame Train's genesis began about three years ago, when Wilson started collecting all the song ideas and snatches of lyrics he'd written on scrap paper.

He turned them into original tracks and began sneaking his original tunes into his live sets.

An album worth of material started to gel, with Wilson's hunch he was on to a good thing confirmed when his song *Run Pigger Run* was named a Top 10 finalist in the Australian Songwriters Association's National Song Contest.

"Musically it's a bit of a ride," says Wilson of his original output.

"It's not easy to pigeonhole. It's adult contemporary, but

there's some blues and country and some hard rocking parts."

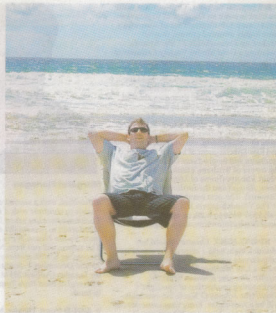
Music became part of Wilson's life nine years ago, when he learned three chords and wrote a song in secret to sing at his wedding. The tune - named *Jury*, after his bride Justine - went down a treat and didn't leave a dry eye in the house.

"I got up and did it - and thought 'wow, this is good fun'. So I got together with a couple of mates and started putting on shows in Lithgow," says Wilson.

"We'd work all week and play three gigs each weekend.

"It got pretty full-on."

► **Mick Wilson plays the Titanium Bar on Sunday at 2pm and launches *Blame Train* at the same venue on Wednesday (August 29) at 6.30pm. Entry to both shows is free.**



Gold Coast singer and songwriter Mick Wilson - flat out in the lead up to his album launch