

Singer digs deep, so get on board

AFTER 15 years of working in mines, Banora Point resident Mick Wilson has made a huge career change, one far removed from the hectic world of digging for gold.

Mick has made the transition to songwriting and singing and is about to release his debut album, *Blame Train*, where he hopes to seek further riches.

The passport stamp on the front cover of the album is a telling clue because *Blame Train* opens the book on one man's many journeys.

Every passport needs a photograph but trying to identify Mick amongst the album's artwork can be something of a challenge.

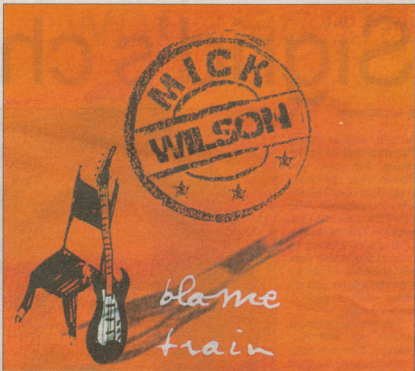
"I started writing songs three years ago and it's just gone on from there," Mick said.

"It was a big change for me from mining to music but it's going well so far."

During the recording of *Blame Train* many heads were scratched trying to pigeonhole Mick's music, he says.

"In every song, there is a phrase, a word, an audible emotion that will touch someone somewhere. And that's where the honesty comes in. You can't have good music without it."

Blame Train is easy-listening and Mick says this comes from a lot of time spent just with his guitar,



BLAME Train is the debut from miner turned singer Mick Wilson of Banora Point.

stranded on what seemed another planet.

"The songs I wrote were a lifeline to everything I left at home - my wife, my passions - and perhaps more importantly, a means to vent my frustrations," he said.

"If you want to experience the troughs, listen to Black Dog and Justy, they are favourites."

In 2001 Mick left the mining industry and moved with his wife to the Tweed Heads region and began taking guitar lessons but was put off by

a technically focused teacher when all he wanted to do was strum some songs around a campfire.

He learnt a few chords and wrote a song for his wedding and there wasn't a dry eye in the house.

Mick, 40, admits to doing the hard yards, playing covers at pubs and classy venues and "being ripped off" by unscrupulous agents and venue managers.

In 2006 he began laying the tracks for his debut album in studio one at

Bignote Productions in Burleigh Heads.

"To actually realise my first album is an amazing dream come true."

"This experience has shown me that no matter who or what we are, you can achieve anything as long as you believe in yourself," Mick adds.

Mick's album, *Blame Train* will be officially launched at the Titanium Bar in Surfers Paradise on Wednesday, August 29 from 7.15pm with a live show featuring Mick and a four piece band.