



THREE CHORDS & A VOW

BY **DEBORAH MINTER**

Ten years ago, MICK WILSON, a mine mechanic based in Lithgow, surprised his new bride Justy with a song he had written for their wedding. It was a shaky start, but it sparked a passion for music.

MICK WILSON first went underground as a 16 year old fresh from school. He always had a yearning to play guitar, but an early incident with a finicky purist of a tutor took the gloss off the idea. But when the love song invaded his thoughts, he knew he had to give it another try. "I really wanted to express my love for Justy," he said. "I kept on practicing those three chords. I love her with my all, nothing more nothing less.

"On the day, playing that scratchy song I called 'Justy' to 120 friends and family there was not a dry eye in the house. A real feeling of 'I can do this' came over me and has stayed quietly with me ever since."

Mick kept practicing, working at the mine for seventeen years before the couple decided on a sea change. Justy took a Paramedic job in Tweed Heads. It was a break that Mick took full advantage of.

"I went full time playing as a solo artist doing covers and some of my own songs at various clubs, pubs and private functions all over the Gold Coast," he said. It was not always smooth sailing. "Setting up for a gig at this Hotel (which shall remain nameless) there was a general feeling of agro in the air. It wasn't too long before a fight broke out in the bar and suddenly it was like a Wild West movie. Security could not contain it. Speakers and gear got knocked over and smashed glass went everywhere. Like Snagglepuss, I made a quick exit - stage left!"

With a delivery and songwriting style reminiscent of other non-related Wilson-namesakes, **BRIAN WILSON (BEACH BOYS)** and **ROSS WILSON (DADDY COOL)**, Mick finds it hard to pigeonhole his music. "All I do is transpose my real experiences into words and music. All my songs represent my life."

In 2006, Mick's wife Justy surprised him with a birthday gift of a day at Bignote Productions to record his first song. "I came out of

there on such a high it was all or nothing from then."

After that it was a simple step to decide to record a full album. "I needed the extra cash flow to fund the album so I am currently back in the mining industry at Cracow Gold Mine, 154 kilometres south east of Biloela in Queensland working as a maintenance supervisor," Mick said.

"I work 96 hours in eight days and go home for six, flying in and out from the Gold Coast. I still do gigs on my days off and I am very busy indeed!"

The album, **Blame Train**, has just been released, along with the first single **Run Piggy Run**. "It's a true story about a guy I work with at the mine, Trace Cronin," Mick said.

"He has been a professional pig and roo shooter for twenty years; not one of those irresponsible louts who give shooters a bad rep. I went on a couple of pig hunting adventures with Trace and saw how efficient and professional he is at his craft. The Channel 7 TV show **Queensland Weekender** featured me playing the song on the veranda of the Cracow Pub. That was great."

The song recently was awarded 4th place at the prestigious 2007 International / Australian Songwriting Competition.

"Talk about an amazing time!" Mick said. "For someone like me to be considered and judged by music industry leaders in a positive way did absolute wonders for my confidence."

Mick Wilson is the perfect example of focus, personal development and team building. "My advice is; Get a good team around you and let them do the stuff they are good at. Drop your ego and listen to another opinion and you may find you learn something. Don't forget to be thankful for the wonderful people in your life. Put your heart and soul into everything you do. And last, but not least, don't find the time to give up."