

VOLUME

MICK WILSON ON MINING AND MUSIC

Local troubadour Mick Wilson's tale is outside the average — he's a miner who turned his back on a fat salary to slug it out in RSLs for years, 'playing to the poker machines' as he puts it. Now he's come good with a debut album, *Blame Train* — a document of his trials and tribulations.

TRIPPER — So, how's things?

Mick — "Yeah, going well mate. No problems at all. My CD launch at Titanium Bar was sensational. Had more than 100 people there. I think they were pretty blown away with the amount of effort I put in, the production, the lot. We set up three video cameras and we recorded the lot to put out on a live DVD as well."

TRIPPER — When did you first pick up a guitar?

Mick — "About nine years ago. I learnt a few chords and wrote a song for my wedding in secret, which actually ended up on the album. It really inspired me to get out there and have a crack at it. My background is that I spent 17 years underground in the coal mining industry outside of the Blue Mountains. I'm still in the industry at the moment. I wear two hats. I work 96 hours in eight days then I come home and play gigs and write songs on the weekend."

TRIPPER — Is it possible to overproduce things?

Mick — "I'd have to say it is. I went can in hand to the guys at



Mick Wilson

Burleigh Heads with a demo. I asked them if it was worth pursuing and the guys at the studio liked what I was doing and we workshoped them together. The process changed. We're already talking about my next album, which will be bare-boned acoustic stuff. I like the Australian storytelling side of things."

TRIPPER — What has been the reaction to the album?

Mick — "People have said nice things that they didn't have to say. I'm really happy with the new stuff I'm writing. It's been an amazing journey. One bloke said it would go over well in Tamworth and that I was the next Shannon Noll. He was giving me shit, but Shannon Noll is raking it in

TRIPPER — What drew you to the Gold Coast?

Mick — "My wife is a paramedic and she got a transfer to Tweed Heads. I was working 10km down and I got a phone call. She said she got the job and asked what did we want to do. I said 'we're f@#\$in' goin', we're out of here!' Everyone told me I was mad to give away such a well-paying gig, but I like the change. The Coast is so vibrant."

TRIPPER — Where do you go to chill out?

Mick — "Anywhere I can get the wind in my face. I like the beach and the bush. That's where I get most of my inspiration."

TRIPPER — Where do you see yourself in 20 years time?

Mick — "To be honest, this album journey has been so quick that I hope I can replicate the past 12 to 18 months. I see myself touring full time, doing festivals and that sort of thing. I'm actually in the process of getting a record label together with the guys from Bignote Productions. That's going to be our baby. Hopefully, I'll be out of the mining industry playing music full time and supporting young artists coming through — to create a support service for the artists."

Blame Train is out now independently. Go to www.mickwilson.com.au for details.