

A Gomeri man born in Goondiwindi, Queensland, Buddy is one of seven children of Roger and Vivian Knox.

“Because my father was a singer and player, all us kids wanted to do that, to be just like him, but today, only me and my brother Gene are making a living from music,” Buddy said.

In an ironic twist, it was when his father’s life almost ended in a plane crash that Buddy’s career began.

Because of extensive burns to his hands, Roger told Buddy he would have to step up and learn to play guitar.

“Daddy was away quite a lot in the early days and mummy showed me my first chords – D, A and then G,” he said.

About 1979, Buddy, who was busting to play like his hero, **CHUCK BERRY**, jumped at the chance to ditch school (which he hated) and hit the road in the Euraba band.

He played with Euraba throughout the 1980s and early 1990s and also backed many artists of the day including **BOBBY MCLEOD, GORDON PARSONS, VIC SIMMS, NOEL DOBELL, BRIAN YOUNG, UNCLE JIMMY LITTLE, MUM AURIEL ANDREW, STAN COSTER** and **WAYNE HORSBURGH**.

Like his father before him, Buddy went on the Brian Young tour in 1990-91, which **TROY CASSAR-DALEY** was a part of.

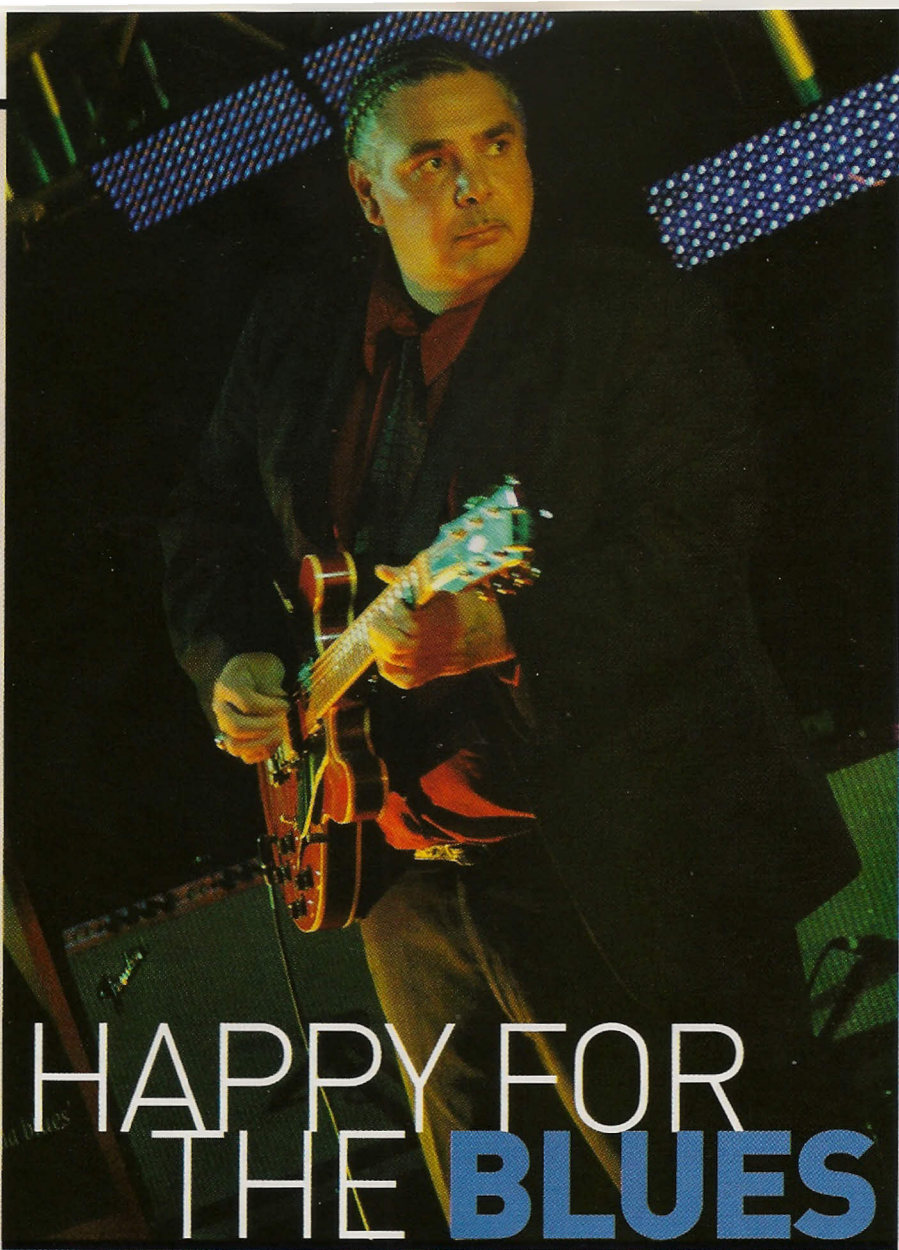
In 1992 Buddy got an offer too good to refuse – to fill in with the **WARUMPI BAND**. He continued playing in both bands for the next eight years until his next learning curve: playing guitar for Australia’s queen of honky tonk, **WANITA**.

“I cut my teeth on country with daddy, then Koori rock with the Warumpi Band and Wanita had me playing something different again – rockabilly, western swing, honky tonk and more – and she would rock on, too.”

In 2006, Buddy met **FIONA PETERS** and fate stepped in. “Fiona believed in me enough to help me get my own band up and running,” he said.

What followed in the next six years was quite extraordinary. With his first recording Buddy won Best New Talent at the Blues Music Awards; he played three consecutive years at Bluesfest and numerous other blues festivals country-wide.

He recently won the Male Vocalist of the



HAPPY FOR THE BLUES

BY ANNA ROSE

Widely acknowledged as one of Australia’s premier blues exponents, **BUDDY KNOX** made his first steps onto the stage as a country guitarist in his father, **ROGER KNOX**’s band, **EURABA**.

Year at the Chain Blues Music Awards and was the chosen artist to play at the 2011 Deadly Awards after-party.

“Having my son **TEANGI KNOX** as part of the band makes this all the more special,” Buddy said. “My father set me up for my musical career and I’m doing that now with Teangi and my kids.

“I couldn’t do any of it though without Fiona. She’s the one who made it all happen.”

The absolute highlight and lowest ebb of Buddy’s solo career came out of one incredible moment.

After winning the Sydney Blues Society 2011 Blues Performer of the Year and the right to compete against the world’s best blues musicians in Memphis, Tennessee, a delay securing Buddy’s visa meant he missed the chance to be the first indigenous Australian to ever compete in that event.

“It was like a death in the family; the absolute lowest point, but you can’t give up; never,” Buddy said.

“We’re going to try out again - and win. When we do, we will know what to expect. It’s a little tough being an Indigenous artist but it’s not as hard as it was for my father. “It’s not as hard as it was for my father.”