



2005 AUSTRALIAN FESTIVAL

*An Australian Celebration
in Nashville, Tennessee
September 9, 10 & 11, 2005*
9TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL
www.australianfestival.com



PRESS RELEASE

Australian Festival – P.O. Box 128156 – Nashville TN 37212 – 615 460-1401

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ross Wilson Booked For Australian Festival

Aussie Rock Legend to Make U.S. Solo Debut

NASHVILLE -- Australian Festival Director Peter Beare and Festival Music Director John Lomax III today announced that down under rock icon Ross Wilson will be the Festival headliner and will top the bill at "The Gathering: Australian Homecoming Concert" on Saturday, September 10.

Wilson, who began his career with a cover version of "Louie, Louie" in 1965, is a genuine Australian superstar and was one of the first artists inducted into the Australian Recording Industry Association (A.R.I.A.) Hall of Fame in 1989.

Over a 40 year career, Wilson has been successful as a singer, songwriter, producer and music publisher. His dynamic performance and classic rock vocals defined Daddy Cool, Australia's first hugely successful rock band.

In the '80s he penned and sang the chart topping songs for his next band, Mondo Rock. He has produced numerous albums by bands including Skyhooks, Jo Jo Zep & the Falcons and the Screaming Jets. Ross has even recorded with international superstars The Wiggles, performing as "King Mondo" with the band to the delight of millions of children (and parents!) worldwide. Over the years he has constantly reinvented his career and continues to write and record fantastic songs. This year he was invited to permanently display his rock & roll memorabilia at the Hard Rock Cafe in Melbourne and now a book and DVD celebrating his years with Daddy Cool and his huge contribution to Australian music are in preparation.

His best known composition, "Eagle Rock", was recently voted one of the top three most popular Australian songs of all time and was a major influence on Elton John's song, "Crocodile Rock". Ross's original '70s version will be featured in the fall Miramax Films release, Wolf Creek.

"It's a huge honor for us to be presenting the solo U.S. debut of an artist of Ross's magnitude", stated Festival Director Beare. "He's been a musical hero to millions of Australians for over 30 years", he said.



"And it's a great honor for 'Music City U.S.A.', Lomax added. "ASCAP is giving a special reception for Wilson to welcome him to Nashville. And he'll be talking with publishers and doing some co-writing". "The Gathering: An Australian Homecoming" will be held on Saturday September 10th from 7:30 to 10 p.m. and is a separately ticketed event. Maori soul /r'n'b singer Nessa Morgan will perform before Wilson takes the stage.

A multi-day, family-oriented event, The Australian Festival consists of 7 key areas - Kids Down Under, Music Down Under, Sports Down Under, Aussie Expo, G'Day Cafe, the Australian Pavilion (& Jackaroo's and the Woolshed). The Festival features Australian animals, music, merchandise & products & services, food & drinks, sports, games, events, clinics, demonstrations, workshops and concerts.

The Australian Festival will also be hosting the 2005 ANZACC National Conference (including Food, Wine, & Travel Trade Show), the Kanga Kids Walk, and the G'Day Mates Schools program.

For more information about Ross Wilson, please visit:

<http://www.rosswilson.com.au>

Festival Fact Sheet

2005 Australian Festival Dates & Times

September 9, 10 & 11, 2005

Friday - 3:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

(Gala event 7:30 - 10:00 p.m.)

Saturday - 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

(The Gathering concert 7:30 - 10:00 p.m.)

Sunday - 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Festival Admission Price:

Individual Ticket - \$5.00

Senior Citizens - \$3.00

Children 12 & under - \$3.00

Children 2 & under - FREE

Festival Location:

Centennial Park

2500 West End Avenue,

Nashville, Tennessee 37212

(615) 460-1401

ANZACC Conference Location:

Select Inn at Vanderbilt (Official Hotel)

2613 West End Avenue

Nashville, TN 37212

(615) 327-4704

"The Australian Festival consists of 6 key areas - Kids Down Under, Music Down Under, Sports Down Under, Aussie Expo, G'Day Café, the Australian Pavilion (& Jackaroo's and the Woolshed). The festival features Australian music, animals, merchandise, food & drink, sports, games, events, clinics & demonstrations, workshops, and concerts..."

Festival Key Events: (* Subject to change)

G'Day Nashville (Music) - Sept. 8, 2005

ANZACC Nat'l Conference - Sept. 9, 2005
 G'Day Mates Schools Prog. - Sept. 9, 2005
 Food, Wine, Travel Show - Sept. 9, 2005
 ANZACC Workshops - Sept. 9, 2005
 Music Down Under Concerts - Sept. 9, 2005
 Kids Down Under Events - Sept. 9, 2005
 Australian Expo - Sept. 9, 2005
 Gum Trees Gala - Sept. 9, 2005
 Kanga Kids Walk - Sept. 10, 2005
 The Gathering Concert - Sept. 10, 2005
 Music Down Under Concerts - Sept. 10 & 11, 2005
 Kids Down Under Events - Sept. 10 & 11, 2005
 Australian Expo - Sept. 10 & 11, 2005
 Woolshed Workshops - Sept. 10 & 11, 2005
 Australian Festival Cup – Sept. 10 & 11, 2005

Admission Price entitles you to access:

Tuckerbox Family Stage & Parthenon Stage (live music, storytelling, and entertainment), Australian Expo (Aussie Merchandise & Travel Down Under), Sports Down Under (Australian Football, Netball, Cricket, & Rugby Matches), Public Demonstrations including Sheep Herding and Boomerang throwing, General Workshops (Adult and Children), The Little Aussie Talent Show, The Pavlova Bake-off, The Dingo Dash, and kids' clinics including Aussie Rules, Netball, and Cricket.

** Additional tickets sold for Australian petting zoo, games, rides, clinics, merchandise, workshops, food, drink, and special events *

(CONTINUED)

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The Australian Festival thanks the following sponsors and partners for supporting this tremendous event:

Official Sponsors - The Australian Embassy Washington, DC, BHP Billiton, Hardy Wines, Southern Cross Travel & Down Under Answers, Party Place, BeareWare, Select Inn at Vanderbilt, West End Outback Steakhouse, Oldies 97

Official Partners – Nashville Kangaroos, Inc. (Festival Host), ANZACC National Body, Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, Monroe Carroll Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt, Kentucky Down Under

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

2005 Australian Festival - September 9, 10, & 11, 2005
 Centennial Park
 Nashville, Tennessee
www.australianfestival.com

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The Australian Festival is hosted by the Nashville Kangaroos, Inc. The Nashville Kangaroos, Inc. are a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization incorporated in 1998. The Nashville Kangaroos are dedicated to promoting Australian/American relations in Tennessee.