Coast guitar master outlines album trek

THE road to his first solo album has been a long and challenging one, but Gold Coast musician Bill Palmer has finally reached his destination.

The guitar master and music teacher is this month taking his album *Outlines*, a mix of rock, jazz and ambient styles, on the road in southeast Queensland.

Palmer has some strong support from industry heavyweights such as US guitar virtuoso TJ Helmerich, who mixed and mastered the album, Shania Twain band member Randall Waller and *Australian Idol* judge Mark Holden.

A foster child from the age of seven, Palmer discovered music at 15 when he picked up the guitar of a foster father. Without formal training he began to express the many ups and downs of his tumultuous childhood through the guitar.

At 18 he followed his passion and moved from regional NSW to Sydney where he began taking formal music lessons.

"At the time it wasn't really a choice, it was just something I felt I had to do," Palmer said.

"I knew I wanted music to be my life and I knew that I needed to get some formal training so I enrolled at the Australian Institute of Music."

He played covers at small gigs at pubs, clubs and dinner venues and taught music privately to pay for his studies.

As his training progressed Palmer became known amongst his peers and students as a guitar player who could easily shift in and out of different styles, with a particular strength in jazz.

Somehow he also found time to write and self-publish his first book *Concepts of Jazz*, a self-help guide for would-be jazz musicians.

He met his wife Ali in 1997 and in 2001 the couple moved to Adelaide where Palmer was accepted into the Elder Conservatorium of Music. He later completed a Bachelor of Music in jazz performance.

The couple and their two children then returned to Sydney, where Bill began writing and recording *Outlines* in his home garage studio.

"When I was writing I thought about my music and my life so the different songs and tempos are a reflection of that. They are my life journey so far," he said.

The family has since relocated to the Gold Coast, which is why Bill has decided to launch his tour in southeast Queensland.

His debut album is already available online through Tone Freak Records, by request at music retailers nationwide and at iTunes.

A brand new Ernie Ball Music Man Silhouette special guitar will also be given away to a person who buys the album before June 30.

Palmer plays a few free gigs throughout the region ahead of his performance at the Home Grown in the Valley Music Festival at Currumbin in July.

Visit www.tonefreakrecords.com for more information on Palmer and his coming tour dates.

— SEANNA CRONIN

Bill Palmer's debut solo album is a mix of rock, jazz and ambient styles

Bee Gees on Coast

IF Wintersun isn't your scene, then see The Bee Gees Experience playing tomorrow night at the Currumbin RSL.

The acclaimed tribute band bear an uncanny on-stage resemblance to the brothers Gibb, who founded the Bee Gees 40 years ago.

To celebrate the anniversary the three-piece tribute band has embarked on its national *Night Fever* tour.

The show's playlist emulates the Bee Gee's *One Night Only* tour and features songs such as *Lonely Days*, *To Love Somebody*, *Words*, *Spicks and Specks*, *Tragedy*, *I Started a Joke* and *How Deep Is Your Love*.

All three band members, David Thompson as Barry Gibb, Greg Wain as Maurice and Rusty Davey as Robin, have gone all out to capture the look, sound and personality of their original counterparts.

The Bee Gees Experience plays at Currumbin RSL tomorrow night at 7pm. Tickets are $45 and include a two-course meal.

Eureka disc hits No. 1

AUSSIE songwriter Pete Murray has debuted at No. 1 on the Australian charts with his self-produced, homemade album *Summer At Eureka*.

The disc is also on track for a strong showing in Holland where it's already top 10 on that country's iTunes chart.

Previous albums *Feeler* and *See The Sun* hit No. 1 and combined sales of almost one million copies. His new release has also attracted the strongest reviews of his career.

In addition, tickets for Murray's *Eureka Tour* have been bought in quick time. Shows in Perth and Brisbane have already sold out with extra dates added for August 6 and September 7, respectively.

The *Eureka Tour* is his first Australian concert run in more than two years. The Audreys will support him in all capital city shows.