

MEGAreviews

Blues Portrait

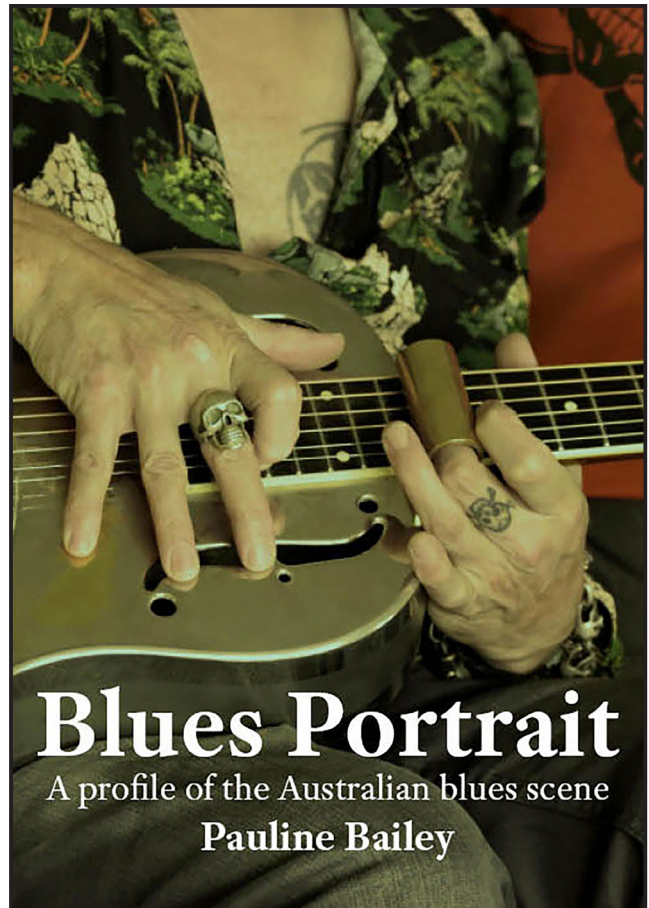
by Michelle McGoldrick

Blues Portrait - A Profile of the Australian blues scene was written for music buffs of every distinction who are interested in the journey of musicians who knowingly embrace blues music. The book is both a history and snapshot of Australia's blues music industry as recounted by musicians whose involvement in Australian blues music begins in 1946. The book takes the reader into the backrooms, the gigs, loungerooms and studios of musicians who share their lived experience of a music genre that **Max Crowdaddy** describes as "a universal experience [that] influences personal journeys."

Author **Pauline Bailey** spent two and a half years compiling and documenting forty six Australian performers who shared facts, poignant moments, tell-all tales and muso lingo to document a genre of Australian music that seemed to be missing from music archives. Pauline explained, "I began by asking a couple of musicians I knew and they thought the book was a great idea. So I got in touch with a few other musicians, and each person led me to someone else, so the book definitely took on a life of its own."

The book showcases known blues legends, but it also features some surprise additions like multi-facted musician **Shane O'Mara**, **Steve Lucas** from **X**, and **Hoodoo Guru** guitarist **Brad Shepherd**. Pauline said, "the book is not just for Blues purists, it's also about artists who have been influenced by blues music."

Blues Portrait is packed with fast facts: in 2001 Adelaide's **Gwyn Ashton** was voted number three "Guitarist of The Year" in France's **Guitar Part Magazine** behind **Jeff Beck** and **Gary Moore**. **Phil Manning** toured this year celebrating 50 years of **Chain**. Melbourne's **Fiona Boyes** is a **USA Blues Music Awards** multi-nominee. **Ross Wilson** was listening to **John Lee Hooker** records when he wrote **Eagle Rock**. **Midnight Oil** drummer **Rob Hirst** reckons he gets to play with the best Australian blues musicians around in



the **Backsliders**. **Kerri Simpson** was the first female Australian artist - and one of only a few Australian musicians at all - to perform at the **New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival**.

Guitarists may seemingly dominate the Blues persona, but the expectation that only the 'blues man chords' personify this genre is overridden in **Blues Portrait**. The book cracks open the expanses of Blues music through musicians like **Stuart Anderson** and **Ash Davies** who get down to their blues roots through their drumming; piano maestros like **Chuck Leavell** offer insights; as do bassists **Ben Wicks** and **Sweet Felicia**, and harmonica player **Dave Hogan**.

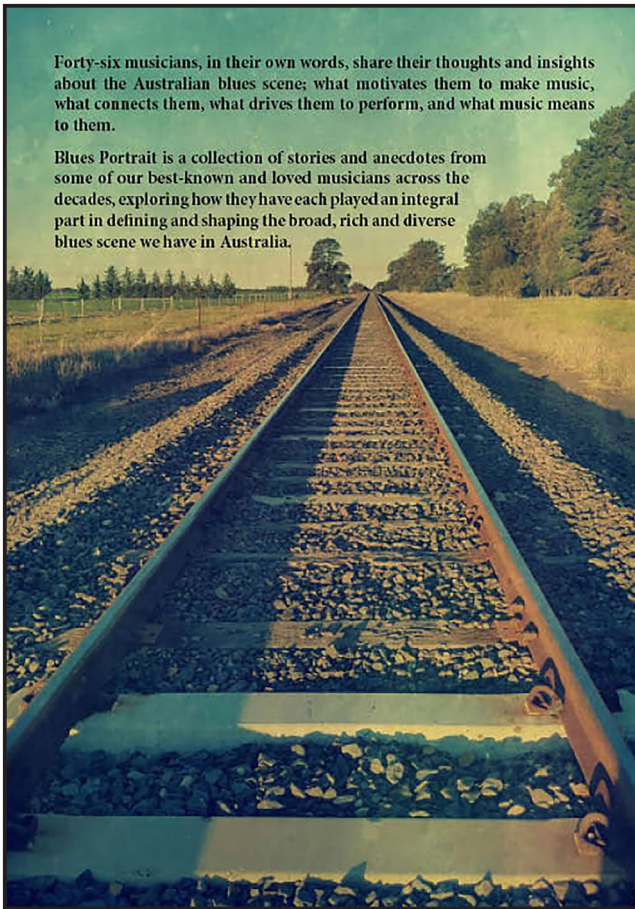
Pauline's journey granted her one of the last interviews with **Chris Wilson**, "I was very fortunate to interview Chris for the book nine days before he passed away.

I am so grateful to his family for giving me that opportunity. He was a humble man, such a nice man. His wife Sarah has written a beautiful tribute to him in the book which is very special.”

Blues Portrait could easily become a literary resource on blues music in Australia as it unpacks the journey of blues music throughout Australian music scenes over a period of time. If, as Max Crowdaddy says, the heart of any blues song is the story telling; then this is the unique character of Australian blues music - the music is doing the talking.



Pauline and family - Dave, Shane, Melissa, Pauline
Photo: Nora Howard



Forty-six musicians, in their own words, share their thoughts and insights about the Australian blues scene; what motivates them to make music, what connects them, what drives them to perform, and what music means to them.

Blues Portrait is a collection of stories and anecdotes from some of our best-known and loved musicians across the decades, exploring how they have each played an integral part in defining and shaping the broad, rich and diverse blues scene we have in Australia.

The back cover of Blues Portrait

To order your copy of Blues Portrait go to:
Online store: <https://store15455084.ecwid.com/>
Book details: 7 x 10 inch softcover
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\$39.00 plus \$10 postage

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Email: baileypauline38@gmail.com
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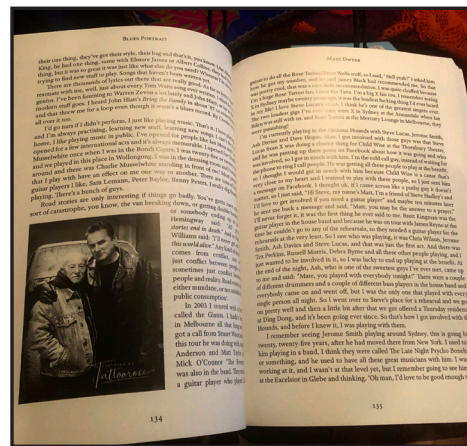
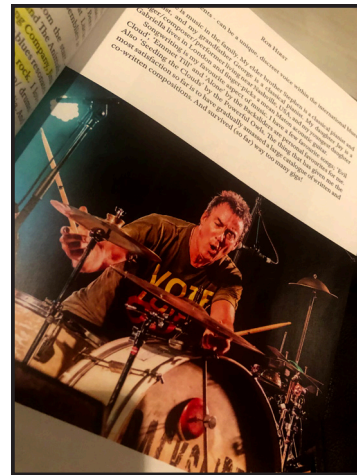


Photo: Major Think Photography

Blues Portrait Book Launch

Sunday 10th November 2019 @ Rainbow Hotel

“Blues Portrait” book launch was at The Rainbow Hotel in Fitzroy, Victoria on Sunday 10th November with live music from Checkerboard Lounge. All photos supplied by Pauline and used with permission.



Checkerboard Lounge
Photo: Pauline Bailey



Jerome Smith & Max Crawdaddy
Photo: Max Crawdaddy



Dave Hogan & Pauline Bailey
Photo: Max Crawdaddy



Phil Manning & Dave Hogan
Photo: Major Think Photography



Max Crawdaddy & Jeff Lang
Photo: Max Crawdaddy



Speeches
Photo: Major Think Photography



Kim Volkman
Photo: Major Think Photography



Manny Gauci and Dave Hogan
Photo: Max Crawdaddy



Checkerboard Lounge
Photo: Stuart Anderson Photography



Photo: Major Think Photography



Checkerboard Lounge
Photo: Stuart Anderson Photography



Pauline signing books
Photo: Major Think Photography



Pauline Bailey & Phil Manning
Photo: Philippa Riddiford



Photo: Major Think Photography

Pauline Bailey

By Michelle McGoldrick

Born in Oakleigh, Victoria, **Pauline Bailey** is an artist best known for her depictions of Melbourne buildings and its' live music venues. Pauline is also a music fan with a deep love of the blues and Australian music. In 2017 Pauline collaborated with **Kim Volkman** to edit and publish Kim's autobiography, **"The Devil Won't Take Charity"**, and in 2019 they collaborated again on Kim's second book, **"For Those That Dance With The Skeleton"**.

"Blues Portrait" is Pauline's first book.

"I'm foremost a painter but I'm always working on something whether it be painting, drawing, photography or writing. I get a great deal of enjoyment from making art and although the book was a completely different medium, I enjoyed it as much as I enjoy painting. To me, it was another way of painting a portrait except using words instead of paint! Writing is a new venture for me."

It was after completing the first two books with Kim that Pauline decided to write Blues Portrait and quickly the book took on a life of its' own. "The book evolved as it went along after I began asking people that I knew for their input, they thought it was a great idea. I contacted more people, and each person led me to someone else. There was no big plan at the start of it, I kept digging deeper into our local blues scene for insights from our musicians in Australia. It was important to me to consider not only blues purists but also people who were influenced by the blues who have taken it somewhere else to show how broad the scene is."

"I began interviewing musicians and compiling their stories with a view to put them into book form. I think we have an amazing amount of talent in Australia and whilst blues music is very popular it's often overlooked. As the project progressed I had more and more interest from musicians and I ended up with forty-six contributors."

Pauline's labour of love ran over two years to completion and was not without its' challenges, "the book took two and a half



Pauline Bailey

years to complete. I did everything myself including the interviews, transcribing, editing, photo layout and cover, promotion, etc. It was a massive project, I didn't realise it would grow to the size it did. The greatest challenge was transcribing the interviews which can be very time consuming and then, of course, the process of sending the transcriptions back and forth for any alterations/edits. I wanted the contributors to be 100% happy with their finished piece as I wrangled forty-six people and having forty-six chapters in various stages of completion."

"The other challenge was making the decision to stop collecting material and actually get the book finished, edited and published - especially as I still had a list of people I hadn't been able to interview, so I had to make the decision to cap it at forty-six."

Blues Portrait is now cited as documenting a last interview with **Chris Wilson**. Pauline is both grateful and heartfelt for the honour, "speaking to Chris on the phone nine days before he passed away will stay with me forever. His wife Sarah has written a beautiful tribute to him in the book which is very special."

Not surprising; Pauline has loved blues music most of her life, “I realise now most of the music I like features slide guitar. **Pete Wells** remains my favourite artist. **Southern Lightning** band ... I remember hearing them for the first time and to me it was such an authentic blues sound - **Dave Hogan’s** voice was like nothing I’d heard before with beautiful slide guitar from **Manny Gauci**. Then I went on to discover people like **Johnny Winter**, **Ronnie Wood with the Faces**, **Keith Richards**, **Kevin Borich**, **Dave Hole**.”

“I’ve been going to see **Rose Tattoo** for almost forty years. The current line-up includes **Mark Evans** and **Bob Spencer**, so it’s a totally different band to what it was but it’s still a powerful, rockin’ band and it’s great to see them touring here and overseas. I’m very happy to have Pete Well’s partner **Lucy Desoto** included in the book, it’s nice to have that connection [in the book] with people who are no longer with us.”

Pauline noted special inclusions in her book that have particular relevance to her, “**Billy Thorpe** and **Lobby Loyde** get a mention in the book as two of our most influential guitarists. I was lucky to see perform together in Churchill not long before they passed away. My son and daughter were with me – they were only little at the time and they got to meet them both which was pretty special. The night before that gig I was at the **Ian Rilen Benefit** at the prince in St Kilda. **Rose Tattoo** headlined and **Billy Thorpe** joined the Tatts for the **Don Nix** tune “**Going Down**” and **Chrissie Amphlett** got up with **The Hoodoo Gurus** and sang “**I’ll Make You Happy**”.

Blues Portrait is a concise and thoughtful construct of blues music in Australia and Pauline has plans for a second book, “there are many more people I could interview so I’m now in the process of working on a second volume to hopefully include these people,” Pauline said. “I want to see some of these artists get the recognition they deserve.”



Klm Volkman resonator
Photo: Major Think Photography