

AUSTRALIAN MUSIC BOOKS

Though this Australian Music Guide has a wealth of information on the who, what, when, where and why of our homegrown artists and businesses, we've assembled a list of books on the Australian music industry both recent and rare. Some may be hard to find but many are easy to source through online bookstores and the Australian music book sellers IMMEDIA! (www.immedia.com.au/books).

We appreciate the contributions of Australian authors to this list, most notably Stuart Coupe, Toby Creswell and Craig Mathieson as well as suggestions from Time Off Editor Matt Connors, Billboard Editor Christie Eliezer, Music Network Editor Stuart Clarke, Sunday Telegraph Music Writer Peter Holmes and former music journalist John Watson. They not only listed their favourite all around texts but also tipped some personal favourites that may be artist specific.

THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF AUSTRALIAN ROCK AND POP

By Ian McFarlane (*Allen & Unwin, 1999*)

The most exhaustive and wide-ranging encyclopedia of Australian music from the 1950s onwards. A definitive book on the artists and trends in Australian music.

WHO'S WHO OF AUSTRALIAN ROCK

Compiled by Chris Spencer, Zbig Nowara & Paul McHenry (*Five Mile Press, 2002 Revised 5th edition*)

More than 15,000 entries of Australian bands and artists, from the internationally famous to those who raised the smallest blip on the radar. Includes band members, discography and a useful artist index.

BLUNT - A BIASED HISTORY OF AUSTRALIAN ROCK

By Bob Blunt (*Prowling Tiger Press 2001*)

Looking at the Sydney and Melbourne underground scenes of the 80s and 90s, it comes with two discs and 44 songs. But it also brings out the history of venues such as The Annadale Hotel, The Landsdowne Hotel, Hopetoun Hotel and the one Bob was associated with, the Lewisham Hotel - all breeding grounds of the indies.

TOP 40 RESEARCH

By Jim Barnes & Steven Scanes (*Barscan Music Research*)

It's a historic look at the charts of Australia over the years. What would the record companies have to stress about or celebrate each week without them?! And how would radio know what to play?! From the top music stats experts.

STRANDED: THE SECRET HISTORY OF AUSTRALIAN INDEPENDENT MUSIC 1977 - 1991

By Clinton Walker (*Pan Macmillan, 1996*)

Opinionated, personalised account of the punk and post-punk years of Australian rock'n'roll. Said to be The Secret History of Australian Independent Music 1977-1991, it documents a seminal period of Australian independent music, from the success of bands such as The Saints and The Go-Betweens through to the indie invasion of RatCat et al in the early 90s.

ROCK'N'ROLL AUSTRALIA: THE AUSTRALIAN POP SCENE 1954-1964

By Bob Rogers and Denis O'Brien (*Cassell Australia, 1975*)

Large format, profusely illustrated book full of anecdotal yarns - but you need it for the hundreds of black and white photos that tell much more than the text ever could.

BURIED COUNTRY: THE STORY OF ABORIGINAL COUNTRY MUSIC

By Clinton Walker (*Pluto Press, 2000*)

Beautifully illustrated and informative about a music and artists that most Australians (embarrassingly so) know very little about. As important to Australian music history as Peter Guralnick and Robert Palmer's books on the blues.

THE PROMOTERS

By Stuart Coupe (*Hodder Headline, 2003*)

The inside story of the concert promotion business in Australia from the 1950s till the present day. The big and small tours and the promoters who made them happen.

WHEN THE WRIT HITS THE FAN!

By Phil Dwyer (*IMMEDIA! April 2004*)

Australia's toughest, best-known and most-loved music industry lawyer looks at the last 30 years of Australian music through a legal perspective but with a hilarious sense of humour. Through cases, threats and anecdotes of actual events and industry identities, Dwyer weaves a tapestry of torts into a rich fabric of music business truths.

MUSIC BUSINESS

By Shane Simpson (*Music Sales, 2003*)

Australian record and publishing deals aren't always identical to those in other countries and this is the definitive examination of how the business works in this country. A must-have for any professional wanting to do business with the Australian industry.

THE SELL-IN: HOW THE MUSIC BUSINESS SEDUCED ALTERNATIVE ROCK

By Craig Mathieson (*Allen & Unwin, 2000*)

A clever, pithy and provocative examination of the relationship between indie rock and major record labels in Australia. "A juicy look at the Australian music scene in the 90s, the decade when a generation of independent-minded Australian musicians found themselves the target of a mainstream music industry." Recommended for fans of Silverchair, Powderfinger, The Living End and so forth as well as conspiracy theorists of music business intrigue.

SEX, DRUGS & MUM IN THE FRONT ROW

By Evan Kanarakis (*Allen & Unwin, 2003*)

Subtitled "The Trials And Tribulations Of The Pub Rock Band" that's exactly what this is - stories from the beer-soaked trenches of working the unforgiving pub rock'n'roll circuit in Australia. Funny as hell too!

GLAD ALL OVER: THE COUNTDOWN YEARS 1974 - 1987

By Peter Wilmoth (*McPhee Gribble, 1993*)

Before MTV there was an Australian pop/rock'n'roll television show that stopped a national audience for half an hour every Sunday evening. A fascinating examination of the era and show that encapsulated mainstream contemporary music.

THE REAL THING: ADVENTURES IN AUSTRALIAN ROCK & ROLL

By Toby Creswell and Martin Fabinyi (*Random House, 1999*)

Comparable to The Rolling Stone Illustrated History Of Rock'n'Roll - although not exactly as authoritative in tone. This tells in words and pictures the story of Australian popular music from 1957 until the end of the last decade. You could call it Australian Rock'n'Roll For Dummies!

LOVE IS IN THE AIR

By Toby Creswell (*ABC BOOKS 2003*)

Oral history of Australian pop from 1950s to the present covers a lot of ground and accompanies a television program of the same title.

THE NEW ROCK'N'ROLL

By Stuart Coupe and Glenn A. Baker (*Omnibus Press, 1983*)

An encyclopedia of punk and post-punk artists that works on the assumption that Australian music of the era was the equal of anything coming from other countries at the time - which means it includes a mound of information on artists that most non-Australians have never heard of!

HI FI DAYS

By Craig Mathieson (*Allen & Unwin 1996*)

Excellent overview of alternative rock in Australia from the point of view of the major bands - Silverchair, You Am I and others.

YOUR NAME'S ON THE DOOR: TEN YEARS OF AUSTRALIAN MUSIC

by Tracee Hutchison (*ABC Books, Sydney, 1992.*)

A year-by-year chronicle by Australian rock in the 1980s, drawing heavily on interviews with musicians.

THE WILD ONE: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JOHNNY O'KEEFE

By Damian Johnstone (*Allen & Unwin, 2001*)

A marvelously detailed and incisive portrait of the most important figure in the early days of Australian rock'n'roll. Also includes a mound of fascinating information about the intersection of early rock'n'rollers from overseas and the Antipodes.

I AM THE VOICE LEFT FROM DRINKING

By James Freud (*Harper Collins, 2002*)

A warts and all look at the Australian rock'n'roll scene in the 1980s and '90s from a member of The Models. Lotsa down'n'dirty stories of being in a band and touring with the likes of INXS, David Bowie and so forth. A great evocation of the eras.

CROWDED HOUSE: SOMETHING SO STRONG

Chris Bourke (*MacMillan 1997*)

New Zealand journalist Chris Bourke's biography claims to be the "true story of Crowded House", and comes pretty close. He carefully traces the Aussie/Kiwi band's history via interviews with members, their management team, and most tellingly, record company personnel. The chapters on why this band didn't maintain their success in the USA is intriguing, and a must read for anyone trying to crack the American market.

TOMORROW NEVER KNOWS: THE SILVERCHAIR STORY

By Jeff Apter (*Coulomb Communications May 2003*)

They were the most successful Australian rock band in the USA during the mid to late 1990s. Their debut album Frogstomp sold more than two million copies in the USA and yet they were only teenagers.

WILLIE'S BAR & GRILL

By Rob Hirst (*Picador 2003*)

Excellent narrative memoir about arguably Australia's greatest band - Midnight Oil - with interesting insights into the perspective of Australian musicians in general and how they relate to Americans.