

DAVE WELLS

MUSIC BIOGRAPHY

Those who have witnessed a Dave Wells performance are privy to the beguiling power of this most rare of musicians, whose command of song, voice and guitar captivates to the point of transcendence. While his full-band shows reveal the breadth and force of his writing, there's an otherworldly majesty at work when Wells stands alone.

The Hunter-based Australian singer-songwriter and recording artist has quietly built a catalogue shaped by instinct, empathy and a fascination with the complicated places people find themselves in. Moving between cinematic folk and expansive rock, Wells' songwriting unfolds through characters, memory and the emotional contradictions of everyday life, evocative stories with a life beyond the room.

Wells' self-titled debut album, featuring the single *'Run Free'*, introduced a songwriter with an ear for sonic detail, enduring melody and carefully shaped arrangements. *If We Had Our Time Again* turned inward, favouring space, restraint and emotional exposure. Rather than repeat himself, Wells has allowed each record to inhabit its own world.

That evolution is closely tied to his ongoing creative partnership with world-renowned producer and engineer Nick DiDia. After hearing Wells perform live and acoustic on ABC national radio, DiDia reached out directly. A coffee in Byron Bay became an ongoing collaboration across multiple recordings. DiDia's resume includes Bruce Springsteen, Pearl Jam, Powderfinger and Something for Kate, among others. Wells is now working with DiDia on his third studio album, an expansive, band-driven collection that pushes his songwriting into more anthemic and sonically ambitious territory.

Across his Australian live career, Wells has shared stages with The Whitlams, The Black Sorrows, Jim Moginie, Melody Pool and William Crichton, while *Wandering Boy* and *Hey Mate* have received national and international songwriting recognition. Integral to Wells' sound is a distinctive, expressive voice that moves effortlessly from intimate restraint to soaring intensity.

There is no question that Wells' storytelling tackles grand themes, situations and characters that speak to the essence of our shared humanity, painted in succinct, empathetic strokes. It is in these stories that Wells' range and depth as a songwriter become most apparent. His songs reward close listening, their emotional nuance emerging gradually rather than all at once. Wells' instinct has always been to serve the song first, allowing each song to find its own shape. The result is a body of work that resists easy definition and continues to unfold long after the first listen.

"Dave Wells has mastered the honest and beautiful. His songs soar, and his performances soothe."

KIM CHURCHILL

"Dave Wells is a rare talent. A composer of thoughtful and stirring melodic folk-rock tunes, with a voice to match."

BEN SALTER