

Barmera girl suddenly a rising star

By PAMELA PERRE

If anyone told Kelly Menhennett she would be supporting international touring artists or performing original music in Adelaide venues a couple of years ago she would have laughed and told them to "not be silly".

The 29-year-old Barmera born and bred woman has been making music since a young age and is now getting ready to release her first album.

"I was blessed to be brought up in an environment where there was always an eclectic mix of music belting out of the record player, a mum who was always singing in the shower and instruments at home that we were able to play with," she said.

Kelly started off singing in various pubs and clubs, announcing meal orders in between each song.

"My music performance began as a hobby, it was my social outlet whilst also working at the time as a winemaker," she said.

"Through my continual performance, the gratification I received from my audience and the support from family and friends I've maintained my drive and kept going. Without them I really wouldn't be where I am."

Kelly said her main instruments are her voice and her guitar, but she has also been known to dabble with harmonica, piano and violin.

"I love making music that lyrically connects with people, words that they can relate to," she said.

"I'm continually inspired by life and I find the songwriting, music making process all the more exciting as I love exploring life and the world and there will always be something to inspire me for my next song.

"I love making music that can transport people away from their daily worries and put a smile on their face, get their toes tapping.

"I also love collaborating with other musicians and look forward to doing



Barmera singing export Kelly Menhennett...."I think all the bird poos that have landed on me in the last 29 years are starting to pay off."

more of this as I continue to meet people on my journey."

Kelly said she felt "blessed" to have reached this point in her music career.

"I think all the bird poos that have landed on me in the last 29 years are starting to pay off," she said.

"I've discovered that slogging it out as a self-managed artist in the music industry isn't for the faint hearted and I'm very lucky that I have been able to pursue my passion whilst spreading my song to a wider audience.

"I'm continually surprised and humbled by the doors that keep opening for me."

Kelly finds it difficult to describe the type of music she plays.

"It's sort of alternative folk, with a bit of blues,

a bit rootsy, a bit gypsy, jazzy, some worldly influence, all with a laid back feel," she said.

"I've been told that my sound is uniquely Kelly."

She said she was excited to be releasing her first album.

"This album has been in the works for over two years now so I cannot wait to have the finished product in my hands," she said.

Kelly will launch the album in the Riverland on Sunday, November 14.

"The album launch shows will also see me accompanied with a band, something I'm very excited about as I've been a solo performer to date," she said.

Kelly has a busy year ahead of her, with performances at the Daniel O'Connell Hotel in North Adelaide, the Bay

Bar and Bistro in Glenelg and the Winehouse in Langhorne Creek.

"I'll continue to perform in Adelaide and about the state this year, but I plan to tour with my album next year, perform at festivals and in the meantime start writing for the second album," she said.

Kelly said while it is not always easy working in the music industry, she will continue to look forward in her career.

"Like every job you have your bad days but I've had a fabulous journey so far and I'm loving the ride on this musical roller-coaster," she said.

All the details for Kelly's performances for the rest of the year are kept updated on her Myspace page (www.myspace.com/kellymenhennett) or Facebook music page.

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