

review the week gone...

Sunday:

■ Rescuers cut free a Russian mini-submarine ensnared in deep sea cables, saving its crew of seven after a three-day ordeal at the bottom of the Pacific.

■ The All Breeds Championship Dog Show, billed as a howling success, finishes in Albury today.

Monday:

■ *The Border Mail* reports on a boom in gas conversions on the Border as petrol prices are tipped to reach a \$1.25 this week.

■ A Lavington man who twice allegedly fled from police and assaulted woman is released on bail.

■ Japan's Prime Minister Junichiro



Koizumi dissolves Parliament for a snap general election.

Tuesday:

■ Space shuttle Discovery make a safe landing in California after a drama-packed 14-day mission.

■ A hailstorm leaves much of the city of Albury blanketed in ice.

■ Schapelle Corby's lawyers ask the Indonesian Supreme Court to help re-open her trial.

■ Wangaratta High School and Ovens College release plans to merge by 2007.

■ Nagasaki, Japan, holds a peace ceremony to commemorate 60 years since the US dropped the plutonium bomb Fat Man, killing 80,000 people.

Wednesday:

■ Two men, 21 and 19, both of Beechworth are killed in a car crash on the Beechworth-Wangaratta road.

■ West Albury preschoolers are devastated to find their pet rabbit, Louis, has been stolen by vandals who broke into their school.

■ Freak snowfalls hit south-east Australia as Mt Hotham records its coldest day for a Victorian town, a top temperature of minus 7.1 degrees.

Thursday:

■ Sixtieth anniversary of the end of World War II.

■ Meat supplier Kennedy's, of Wodonga, announces it will open an outlet in Urana Rd, Albury.



Friday:

■ Police appeal to drivers to respect the weather conditions after Tuesday night's double fatality on the Beechworth to Wangaratta road took the number of dead in the North East to four in the past 10 days.

■ Louis the rabbit stolen from Albury West Preschool is returned.



Neil Finn



Deborah Conway



Paul Kelly



Kasey Chambers



Nick Cave

On song writing

What is it that brings a song from the heart into reality?
Jamie Horne talks to a woman who found out.

DID you know that The Seekers' Bruce Woodley is one of the few folks to pen a song alongside Paul Simon?

Or that LRB's Graeham Gobel truly believes in song writing angels who deliver him songs in his sleep?

Sydney-based journalist Debbie Kruger uncovers these and numerous equally curious facts in her new book *Songwriters Speak*.

The book, released last week, gives an honest insight into some of Australia and New Zealand's most creative musical minds, including the Finn brothers, Nick Cave, Glenn Shorrock, Darren Hayes and Daniel Johns.

"Nobody approaches their work like Daniel Johns," Kruger said of the former silverchair frontman.

"He's one of a kind and I'm really glad it's a book of Q&A's because if I'd had to actually explain in my own words how Daniel Johns writes songs, I don't know if I could."

A four-year project, Kruger, who also describes herself as a PR whiz, broadcaster, jetsetter and homebody, sat at length with 45 homegrown songsmiths after taking inspiration from a similar book on US artists by Paul Zollo, *Songwriters on Songwriting*.

"It occurred to me — why shouldn't we have a book like this for Australian and New Zealand songwriters?" she said.

"Once I decided to do it, it was complete compulsion, I was very driven and focused for the whole four years."

Kruger said the lengthy process had been helped along by some eager subjects.

"They were pretty enthusiastic," she said.

"They're often asked to talk about the history of Australian music and their place in the history of Australian music a-la *A Long Way To The Top* from a performance point of view, but other than a small handful such as Neil Finn, Paul Kelly and Nick Cave, very few of them are asked to talk about the process of creating songs."



WIN!WIN!WIN!

PULSE, along with *Progressive PR*, have five copies of the *Songwriters Speak* companion CD to give away.

The double-disc compilation features 38 tracks from Australian and New Zealand artists including Sherbet, Split Enz and silverchair.

For a chance to win, tell us which moody rocker Debbie Kruger travelled to England to interview for her book.

Put your answer, along with your name, address and contact phone number on the back of an envelope and send, by next weekend, to: **Pulse/Songwriters Speak Competition, PO Box 346, Wodonga, VIC, 3689 NSW permit no.: TPL 05/06482.**

Trust was also an issue that was quickly overcome as Kruger attempted to lower the fence that protected many of her celebrity interviewees.

"Some of them stayed a little bit guarded, which was fine because I stayed very much on topic, I wasn't there to dig up dirt about their personal life," Kruger said.

"If in the process, some of them talked quite deeply about their lives and relationships or internal band politics, that was great and it certainly added to the flavour and colour of the stories behind the songs."

"They opened up very easily because they recognised the amount of preparation and research I had done and the respect with which I was treating their work, whether I was genuinely a fan of their music or not."

"Every single songwriter I treated with immense respect and I did an awful lot of research — sometimes it was like studying for a university exam, particularly with someone like Nick Cave."

And it was Cave, the former Wangaratta High student with the colourful past, who left a

lasting impression on the author who travelled half-way across the world to meet him.

"I was never daunted in that 'Oh my God, Nick Cave's famous, I am not worthy', I'm never daunted by somebody's celebrity or stature," Kruger said.

"What can daunt you is knowing that somebody like Nick Cave doesn't suffer fools gladly, does a lot of interviews but doesn't enjoy them and cuts his very short."

"I wanted to make an impression on him so he would open up and I did because I went all the way to England to see him, he recognised immediately what the project was all about and he had the American book, *Songwriters On Songwriting*, on his bookshelf and said 'Are you doing a local version of that?, Oh fantastic'."

"His assistant had told me I could have one hour with him and he gave me three hours."

Cave revealed to Kruger, among other things, that he revels in reading the thesaurus and, as her journey continued, similarly quirky stories continued to be unearthed, such as how the original opening line to

Ian Moss' solo smash *Tucker's Daughter* could well have spelt disaster with regards to radio broadcast.

Kruger also details the occasion INXS guitarist Tim Farriss bumped into the legendary Rolf Harris on a flight, enthusing he had wanted to name his son Rolf Farriss.

But the author says her favourite story from *Songwriters Speak* involves the Tina Turner hit *What's Love Got to do with It?*, a track penned by Aussie Terry Britten and originally recorded by flamboyant British pop act Buck's Fizz.

"When Terry Britten told me that story, it didn't seem like that big of a story for him," she said

"As he was saying it, I thought, 'This is incredible, this just isn't a well-known fact'."

"Tina Turner would never have had her comeback if Buck's Fizz had released that song."

Kruger also found time to be a fan among all the hard work, eager to discover the beginnings of her favourite Sherbet tracks and quiz the reclusive John Farrer about his involvement with some of Olivia Newton John's most famous hits.

"I was really excited about meeting John Farrer," she said.

"He was the guy who wrote all of Olivia Newton John's biggest hits, including those two big songs from *Grease*."

"He's a very shy and modest man but it was even more fabulous to meet him than what I had hoped because for someone like that to open up, when he is so guarded and so shy — I actually found it quite a moving experience talking to him."

Likewise, she says, for Sherbet's Garth Porter.

"I knew Garth anyway and I'd been a Sherbet fan since the 1970s and had followed them around, been a fan and had known him professionally for a few years," Kruger said.

"We must have spent four or five hours together and I asked him all the deep questions I wanted to ask about all those Sherbet songs. It was terrific fun."