

## Rory Ellis pays tribute to Bitumen Cowboys in Tarcutta

Newcastle singer-songwriter Rory Ellis will pay tribute to truck drivers past and present and their loved ones at this month's Australian Truck Drivers' Memorial service in Tarcutta.

Ellis has just released his ninth studio album, Inner Outlaw, including the track, Bitumen Cowboys, which he will feature at the memorial service on October 26. The album charted at No. 7.

Performing the song for the people it was written about is an honour not lost on the Americana artist.

"I have had a few experiences over the years, where I've written emotional songs about memorable places and special people, and have been lucky enough to be invited to perform the songs at the actual locations, both here in Australia and in Germany," Ellis said.

"The reaction from the audiences was very moving for me.

"It's quite spellbinding to perform a song you've written on an actual memorial site, so to be able to perform Bitumen Cowboys in front of the truckies and their families, at their very personal memorial service, with a song that's distinctly written about truck driving and the loneliness of truck driving, is a real honour."

Ellis said he hoped the song would mean a lot to the truckies and their loved ones.

"There has been a lot of loss in the trucking industry and there is a line in the song, 'if you're talking to God in the passenger seat, it's the last mile' that recognises that," he said.

"To be able to share that song with the people who have lost and who are still out on the road, is a real honour to even be considered to do that."

The purpose of the song is to highlight the loneliness and life that truck drivers and their families face everyday, and Ellis said there were some similarities between the lives of truckies and musicians.

"Musicians, when touring, are also doing thousands of kilometres on the road," he said.

"When you're out on the road, there's always the potential of loss with the long hours and the risks you have to take to do what you have to do, so it's a similar lifestyle in a way and it's why I found it important to write, as I could personally relate to it."

Ellis wants to be able to share this song with as many truckies as he can.

"Whether that be in this country or elsewhere, I'm hoping it resonates with truck drivers and truck drivers' families all over the world," he said.

Bitumen Cowboys is sure to evoke plenty of emotion from the crowd in Tarcutta as Ellis performs at the memorial service and the later dinner, as well as a variety of his other songs from Inner Outlaw and previous offerings.

Ellis will perform in Tarcutta on October 26, following the release of Inner Outlaw.

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