

A humble life for this country music singer



COUNTY CHAT with GT

THERE is no humble country music artist than Robinvale singer/songwriter Paul Costa.

The farmer's son grew up in Robinvale, close to the Victorian/NSW border with a population of about 1800.

Known for citrus fruits, vegetables, almonds and some great country music talent including Sara Storer.

Paul recalls his school days with Sara Storer at primary school.

He burst onto the scene in 2004 with his debut album *Walkin' in*

These Shoes and recently signed to Compass Brothers Record and released his new album *In This Life* (Compass).

"*In This Life* is the song I wanted the whole album to be about," Paul said.

"It's about life from where I see it - the many choices and goals we have and being aware that it's OK to have dreams and be different."

Paul started playing the guitar aged seven and singing around the house.

"I went with my father to the Melbourne market and dad used to play Slim Dusty, Johnny Cash and Chad Morgan along the way.

"Growing up as a teenager I listened to Elvis, the Beatles, Del Shannon, Slim Dusty and Johnny Cash.

"My first songbook was Slim Dusty's album *Lights on the Hill* and I learnt every song in the book."

Paul played in a band with his brothers Don, Anthony and Noel playing along the Murray.

Don Costa is now an established country music artist living in Queensland, Anthony is working in IT and Noel works in accounting.

The road has been long for Paul as he tried to get a recording contract.

He wrote five songs and presented them to Compass Bros last year before signing up with Compass at

Tamworth this year.

Compass Bros chief Graham Thompson said "We're thrilled to have Paul on the Compass label.

"Paul is warm, sincere and engaging and writes songs that appeal to the heartland.

"He has worked hard building a rapport with fans and the industry and we are looking forward to helping him take it up a notch or two".

All 14 songs on this album have been co-written by Paul with the help of friends like Gina Jeffreys, Matt Scullion, Sara Storer, Rod McCormack and brother Noel Costa.

"I caught up with Sara Storer for a coffee and we talked about our school days at Robinvale High School and decided to write a song together, a song about our hometown".

The result was track 13 *One Big Circle*.

Other tracks include *Hello Smile* which is basically a person saying goodbye to my broken heart and hello to good times.

A favourite song of wife Susie who has been a huge support for Paul and Paul quips, "Susie also helps to manage Paul Costa".

With Rod McCormack producing the album you can guarantee the best musicians in town including Rod on guitar, Michel Rose (steel pedal), Jeff McCormack (bass) and the legendary Mick Al-



Paul Costa has just released his new album, 'In This Life'.

beck (fiddle).

The highlights of his career include playing at the Norfolk Island Country Music Festival and entertaining the troops in East Timor.

"I would love to do some more work entertaining our troops serving overseas," added Paul.

What about the CD stacker in Paul's car?

"I am listening to the Road Hammers, Brooks and Dunn, George Strait, Alan Jackson and Brad Paisley."

"I am looking forward to touring and promoting my album and putting my music in front of as

many people as I can.

"I love writing and recording and could hang around in the recording studio all day."

Best tracks on the album include *In This Life*, *Hello Smile*, *Love Like That*, *Why Me*, *Band of Brothers*, *Big Time in a Small Town*, *One Big Circle* and my favourite, *How'd I Fall For That*.

Paul Costa's new album *In This Life* (Compass) in all record stores.

Visit www.paulcosta.com.au, www.myspace.com/paulcosta, www.compassbros.com.au and www.myspace.com/countrymusic

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GT's Hot Country Albums

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|---|--|
| Measure of a Man - Don Costa | Reneance - Renee Geyer (Liberation) |
| Life at a Million Miles - Jetty Road (Compass) | Together Through Life - Bob Dylan (Columbia) |
| John Nutting's Saturday Night Country - Various (ABC/Universal) | Australia Folk Songs and Bush Verse - Warren Fahey (ABC) |
| 9 to 5 and Odd Jobs - Dolly Parton (Sony) | Album of the Week |
| I'm a Big Girl Now - Kellie Anne Brandt (The Valley) | <i>In This Life</i> - Paul Costa (Compass Bros) |
| Shea - Shea Fisher (ABC/Universal) | Top Five Country Singles 1976 |
| I Love This Place - Troy Cassar-Daley (Liberation) | Teddy Bear - Red Sovine |
| Hit Country Love Songs - Various (ABC/Universal) | Golden Ring - George Jones & Tammy Wynette |
| Hell of a Ride - Adam Brand (Compass) | El Paso City - Marty Robbins |
| Branches - Karl Broadie (ABC/Universal) | Good Hearted Woman - Waylon & Willie |
| | The Roots of My Raising - Merle Haggard |