

The New Cool

It was inevitable, really.

The strong 'everything old is new again' trend that's seen Tom Jones and Tony Bennett seduce another generation with The New Cool is ripe for the return of Australian rock'n'roll icon Col Joye.

And what a return it'll be. Col's soon to hit the stage again to treat his audiences to the distinct brand of rock'n'roll that he calls 'country music with a back beat'; and with a few surprises thrown in, too.

'Nothing beats taking the music to your audience,' Col says, 'and I'm really looking forward to touring again, because it's been a while since I was out on the road.'

Col's shows will feature his well-loved No 1 hits like *Oh Yeah Uh Huh* and *Bye Bye Baby*, and tracks from his soon-to-be released retrospective CD *Along the Way*. 'I'm quite excited about this CD,' says Col, 'as none of these tracks has been released on any of my previous albums.'

A feast for rock'n'roll purists, *Along the Way* boasts medleys of hits from Buddy Holly, Bill Haley and The King, Elvis Presley; mellow ballads like *Diana*, and *Love is Blind*, a brand new track penned by Col's longtime friends The Bee Gees. More than a tribute to a vast career in entertainment, *Along the Way* is a great rock'n'roll trip in its own right, with broad musical appeal.

The present resurgence of stripped-back blues and rock'n'roll that's given rise to young rockers like Jet and The White Stripes owes much to the trails blazed by early masters like Col Joye and his contemporaries. Perhaps Mum and Dad were on to something after all.

It's ironic that rock'n'roll – once called 'the devil's music' and portrayed as driving a wedge between the generations - stands firmly on common ground these days.

So while you're at the show rocking the night away to Col Joye's old favourites and new, keep a lookout for the kids they'll probably be there too.