

Surfing and music combine in guitarist's ultimate gig

BET you didn't know the small wooden hall at Bilambil had a secret life.

Late last year, the lovely piece of local history doubled as a recording studio for Tweed musician Isaac Paddon and his band The Tides.

The group brought in everything from mixing desks to lava lamps to a large Hammond organ to record Paddon's third album, *Where We Once Stood*, a mellow collection of locally written and produced tunes.

While the former window-washer has not given up his day job in a surf store, the album is enhancing Paddon's reputation as one of the leading local lights in the new "surf music" genre, led by Jack Johnson, Donavan Frankenrichter and Pete Murray.

Paddon will be one of the main attractions at November's Kirra Surfstock festival.

The best thing is the father of two will hardly even have to leave home for the gig.

"This is the closest gig ever for me," the Tweed-Coolangatta-based singer and songwriter laughed.

"I think I'll get the boys to take the gear up and I'll ride my pushy up!"

It is also Paddon's kind of gig – a combination of surfing through the day and playing at night – perfect for the Sydney-born former Elanora High boy.

"They are my two favourite

Big line-up for surf celebration

KIRRA Surfstock will be held at Kirra from November 6 to 8.

The three-day celebration of all things surfing and musical will include everything from the Bikinis and Martinis Surfrider Fundraiser at 6pm on the Friday to beach volleyball, the Kirra Junior Teams Event and an Australian Surf Movie Festival.

Some of the region's best bands – all with a surfing connection – will play in front of the Kirra Surf Club from midday to 6pm on the Sunday. Joining Isaac Paddon on the bill will be Max Judo – back from another tour through America – as well as Tokyo Beef, Dan Hannaford and the Dave Murray Band, The Genes, Peter Howe and Tim Gaze, and Minus Equilibrium.

things – surfing and playing music," he said.

However, playing music was not Paddon's first real job.

"I didn't seriously get into music until I was 16 and I joined a high school band at Elanora.

"But I just used to sing, I didn't play guitar in the group."

It was another five years before Paddon started his own band and began taking his music more seriously.

"I sold my window-cleaning business and decided to do some travelling for a bit," he said.

"I spent three months travelling in southern Australia and was thinking of moving to Tasmania.

"But I came home and met my wife and nine months later we were married."

Paddon said it was his wife Kelly who encouraged him to

really put everything into his music.

"I think she sometimes regrets that," he laughed.

With a mother from Trinidad and a father who was into Neil Young, Paddon probably had little choice but to develop a love of music.

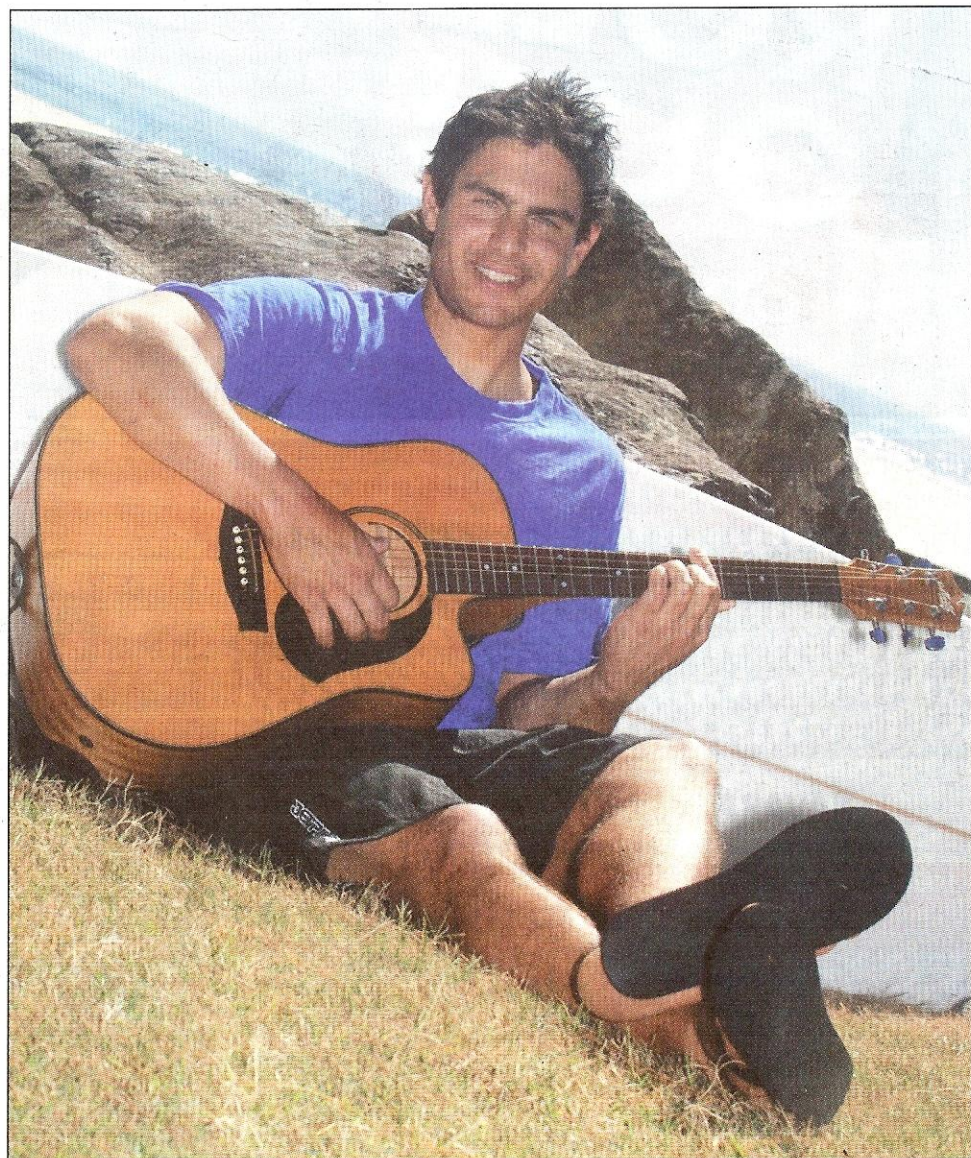
"My mum's family come from the Caribbean and they play a lot of percussion," he said.

Even now, Paddon's uncle will sometimes bring along the steel drums and congas and sit in with his nephew's band.

"My mum doesn't play anything but she was always singing around the house," Paddon said.

The 31-year-old is obviously passing on his love of music to his little boys, aged 18 months and four.

"They love strumming and drumming," Paddon laughed.



ISAAC Paddon is performing at Kirra Surfstock.

Photo: FELICIA KOSEGI