

Home state beckons for band

ALTHOUGH they're based in Melbourne these days, the members of the Anita George Band still proudly call themselves a Tasmanian band.

"We're originally from Tassie and we still come back often to play," singer Anita George said.

"Tassie's still probably our favourite place to play. Mum and Dad always come along and Mum always gets out on the dance floor."

The blues-folk band started out as a duo in 2002, George pairing up with guitarist Garth Heron.

They later moved to Melbourne and were joined by Heron's brother Tristan Heron on drums and Melbourne local Daniel McCracken-Hewfon on cello.

George said the Melbourne music scene was quite different from Hobart, with a stronger emphasis on original music.

"We've played in cover

bands before, in Tassie you have to play a lot of cover songs to support yourself and squeeze in a few originals wherever you can," she said.

"But it's the exact opposite in Melbourne, you're expected to do mainly original stuff because audiences don't want to hear covers.

"And Melbourne audiences are a lot more reserved, they tend to just sit and listen, while in Tassie they want to get up and dance."

The Anita George Band are supporting Epicure for both of their Republic Bar gigs on August 19 and 20 and are using the opportunity to launch their new CD *Shooting for the Moon*, with all original music.

The new CD was financed by the sales of the group's earlier EP.

George said the band was excited to be supporting Epicure, having played after them at last year's Falls Festival.

"After they finished



ORIGINAL: Anita George, right, and her band.

playing they had 1000 people in the audience but by the time we got out there they'd all gone to see Spiderbait and Xavier Rudd," she laughed. "But this time we've got the audience captive."

TIM MARTAIN

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