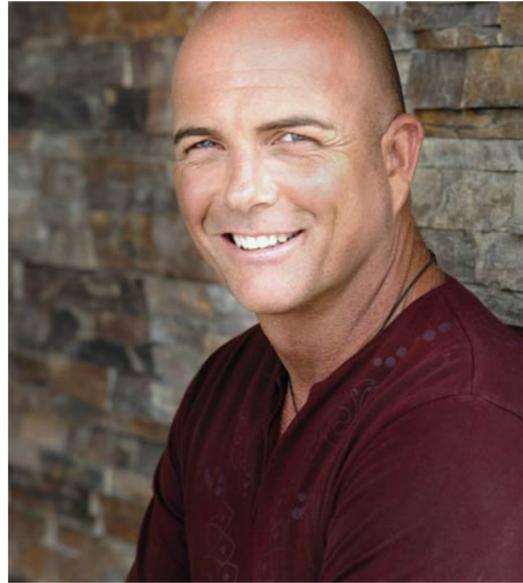


James Blundell Moves Into Politics



James Blundell the singer has announced he is moving into politics and will represent **Bob Katter's Australian Party** for the **Queensland** region when the country goes to the polls in September.

Blundell says of his career change, "My music has always been my outlet but I just feel that there is such profound public fatigue with party political processes, that it would help for the community to hear some independent thinking." However, he admits the world of politics is "pretty daunting."

Blundell - brother of Southern Downs Mayor Peter Blundell - said his entry into politics was as unintentional as his music career.

"I got into music out of the sheer need to make a livelihood and after 28 years of touring I got to the point where I wanted to spend time at home," he said.

"But being home made me aware of the issues facing regional Australia."

Blundell said circumstances had aligned and allowed him to get to know an intelligent man - **Bob Katter**.

"I was dragged kicking and screaming saying I don't want to do this," he said. "But Bob said I shouldn't let go of this opportunity to speak on a broad platform about things I had already been speaking about for 30 years."

Blundell said there were two reasons that prompted him to choose KAP.

"If it had been either of the majors I would have flatly refused... as they have ground themselves to a halt."

"Bob is the only federal minister who has done nothing but champion the bush his entire political career."

Blundell said his family had always been politically active and recalled attending National Party meetings with his father. He said while his choice of political party may have stunned friends and family the dust would soon settle.

With the bush close to his heart Blundell is also set to campaign for the rural Australian.

"I concur with the aims of the party to stabilise and improve regional Australia's livelihood and income stream and to support family growth," he said. "I would also like to see music put firmly forward as an Australian export."

Public Comment

- He must be joking, look at his brother's track record as our Mayor; do we really need two of them? James was a one hit one wonder in the music world and now he is not making a living from that, he is looking for some other way to get his bread and butter.
- Geez ... you're a bit hard on these two blokes tryin' to make a living. They were lousy farmers, so give them a go at politics. They've tried everything else.

Source: www.contactmusic.com



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Surgery for Troy

Country music star **Troy Cassar-Daley** received throat surgery in the US after being diagnosed with nodules and severe vocal cord ruptures.

The Brisbane-based singer is now home recuperating. Troy noticed a reduced capacity in his vocal range while touring Australia to promote his album **Home**.

"I love my job as a singer so much, and at first I was scared of how it would all unfold."

Troy was ordered to rest his voice for a further six weeks, but is confident of returning to performing.

He was treated in Boston by surgeon Steven Zeitels, who in recent years has operated on singers John Mayer, Adele, Roger Daltrey and Keith Urban.