

with Shane O'Donohue

► in good nick

THE Anyones' Nick Murphy (right) had been kicking around the idea of a solo album for a while.

So when the band took a break after returning from a US tour supporting Jet in late 2004, he started work on what would become *Breaking the Light*.

"A couple of the songs I hadn't used for the Anyones because they didn't really fit into the format of the band, even though we're an amazingly eclectic psychedelic pop rock band," he says.

"(That was) the stuff that came from sources like Townes Van Zandt, Elliott Smith or Nick Drake, it was more individually me rather than reflective of the collective of the band."

Murphy's country tendencies get a fair airing on *Breaking the Light*, with an amazing roll call of guests helping him flesh out the sounds.

Players on the album include his Anyones bandmates Marcel Borrack, Chris Brodie and members of Snout, Motor Ace and the Smallgoods.

"The thing about country music is it's a technical field to play in," Murphy says.

"It's not as if you can pick up a banjo — well, I don't think it is — or pedal steel and just strum it and get nice sounds out of it."

One of the album's best tracks is *Arrival*, sung by Underground Lovers' Philippa Nihill.

"I wrote it on the piano, and I thought: 'How will I make this song work?'" Murphy says.

"I guess using Philippa was coming from a love of the Carpenters. It's such a different song for me, I was feeling my way with that one. It wasn't a strummy guitar song."

After launching *Breaking the Light* this weekend, Murphy will convene with the rest of the Anyones to finish album No.3.

"There's the big anthemic choruses and lots of harmonies and dynamics, because we love the Pixies," he says.

Nick Murphy, Northcote Social Club, 301 High St, tomorrow 9.30pm



check 1, 2

1 PLAY ON

The Casanovas headline the latest Push Play concert in the Arts Centre's very comfortable Black Box this Saturday from 2pm. Also playing the alcohol-free, all-ages event are symphonic guitar rockers the Five Venoms and Showcard. Tickets are \$12 at the door.

2 TO WHIT

Aussie bluesman Jeff Lang releases *Dislocation Blues*, his collaboration with US singer/songwriter Chris Whitley, on August 12. The pair recorded the album in Melbourne last year, seven months before Whitley's death from lung

Rock 'n' roll garage sale, Spanish Club, 59 Johnston St, Fitzroy, Sat 11am-5pm

► budd wiser

AFTER making the move to Melbourne from Brisbane last year, Budd founding member Jeremy Finlayson hooked up with Ricaine's Tom Jackman and Dern Rutledge/Christbait's Craig Westwood.

The trio have been writing new material and perform Budd's first Melbourne show since 1999 tomorrow night at the East Brunswick Club.

Budd, East Brunswick Club, 280 Lygon St, tomorrow 8.30pm

► watts goes on

OFFSTAGE, Cosmic Psychos' Robbie Watts was a quiet, unassuming guy, but one hell of a racket will be raised in his honour at the Corner Hotel on Saturday.

The guitarist, who also spent time in *I Spit On Your Gravy* and the Quivering Quims, died unexpectedly earlier this month, at