

# Muso's comeback album

EMILY BURLEY

TROUBLED musician and former Silverchair frontman Daniel Johns has released his comeback album on the same day he exited rehab.

FutureNever was released on streaming platforms on Friday with physical copies of the record "coming soon".

FutureNever features 12 tracks with song titles including Cocaine Killa and Someone Call an Ambulance.

There was doubt whether the album would be completed after being pushed back amid the artist's unexpected stint in rehab. Johns had been receiving treatment for mental health and alcohol issues. He used Instagram during his stay to provide his 100,000 followers with an insight into his mindset.

"My drinking had become a bigger problem than I had even realised, and how I have used it to help numb a range of deeper psychological issues that I have been living with since my childhood," Johns posted last week.

Johns has pleaded guilty to drink driving after he crashed on March 23. He will be sentenced in June.

# Truck crash mystery

POLICE are seeking witnesses to a two-truck crash in the South-East on Thursday.

A light truck ended up on its side and a B-double rolled on to its roof following the collision on the Princes Highway, at Hatherleigh, at 1.50pm.

The three people involved in the crash were not seriously injured and were taken to the local hospital for treatment.

Traffic was diverted and the highway was closed for several hours while police investigated the crash.

Anyone who may have seen either truck before the crash is asked to call 131 444.

# BACK FROM BLINKY BILL

**MATT DEIGHTON**

A CRACK team of South Australian experts has embarked on a radical plan to create a new breed of koala to protect the future of the threatened species.

Playfully referred to as a "Super Koala", the new breed would be free of debilitating disease, such as chlamydia and retrovirus.

"We're actually talking about the future of a species here," leading SA scientist and conservationist Chris Daniels says in an in-depth interview in Saturday's SA Weekend, which goes inside the project and mission.

Across the east coast, koalas are dying at alarming rates because of a combination of land clearing, climate change and disease.

The crisis peaked in February this year when they were declared an endangered species in Queensland, NSW and the ACT.

In SA, the healthiest population was decimated by the 2020-21 Kangaroo Island bushfires and those remaining are largely inbred and susceptible to disease.

The group, Koala Life, aims to create an "insurance population" for the whole country.

The program kicked off when 28 healthy koalas were taken from KI in the wake of the fires and housed at Cleland Wildlife Park.

They became known as "The Golden Children".

Then four disease-free male koalas were rushed across the SA-Victoria border from the Strzelecki Ranges in December last year to breed at Cleland.

They were called "The Strzelecki Boys".

By combining both groups the plan is to create a new, disease-free koala at Cleland, which would be the first of its kind in the world.

Flinders University's Corey Bradshaw, a world-renowned expert on genetic modelling, has embarked on a four-year, \$750,000 project funded by the Australian Research Council to answer key questions around the mission.

He agrees it is complicated, and there are many unknowns, but he is confident.

The potential payoff, however, is enormous. If successful it would be "sold to the top scientists in the world (as a) model for genetic rescue across marsupials".

Environment and Climate Minister Susan Close said the project was important for SA on a number of fronts.

"The project is significant in that you've got a species that is under clear and present risk of becoming extinct in some parts of the country," she said.

"And you have the capacity to use science and effort to protect the species."

It would also help people better understand biodiversity and ecosystems, Ms Close said.

**PAGE 32: EDITORIAL**



Apollo the koala is part of a group from Victoria's Strzelecki Ranges now homed at Cleland. Picture Tom Huntley



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