

It's not just the fact that aside from his solo album *Adrift* he's also released a collection, *Arrow*, from the four member group **BRADY, STEWART, GREEN & YOUNG** – it's the breadth of the music and the inclusion of an impressive cast of musicians and collaborators that really defines Stephen's vision of the musical landscape.

The scope of the selections for both albums is driven by a simple desire for great songs, and the collections includes an amazing diversity – ranging from **NEIL YOUNG, CHERYL WHEELER, GRAEME CONNORS** and **PAUL KELLY** to the likes of **LENNON** and **MCCARTNEY**. But it's the musical treatments that really define both albums.

"We have a preference for essentially acoustic instrumentation and we like a broad range of musical styles that are all a part of the greater country music umbrella," explains Stephen. "We also like to give a country treatment to some of the popular songs such as by the **BEACH BOYS** and **BEATLES**.

"I am a devout fan of all of the sub-genres of what would be considered traditional country music, but I do have an appreciation for other styles of music such as '60s pop songs and I like to include them in our repertoire."

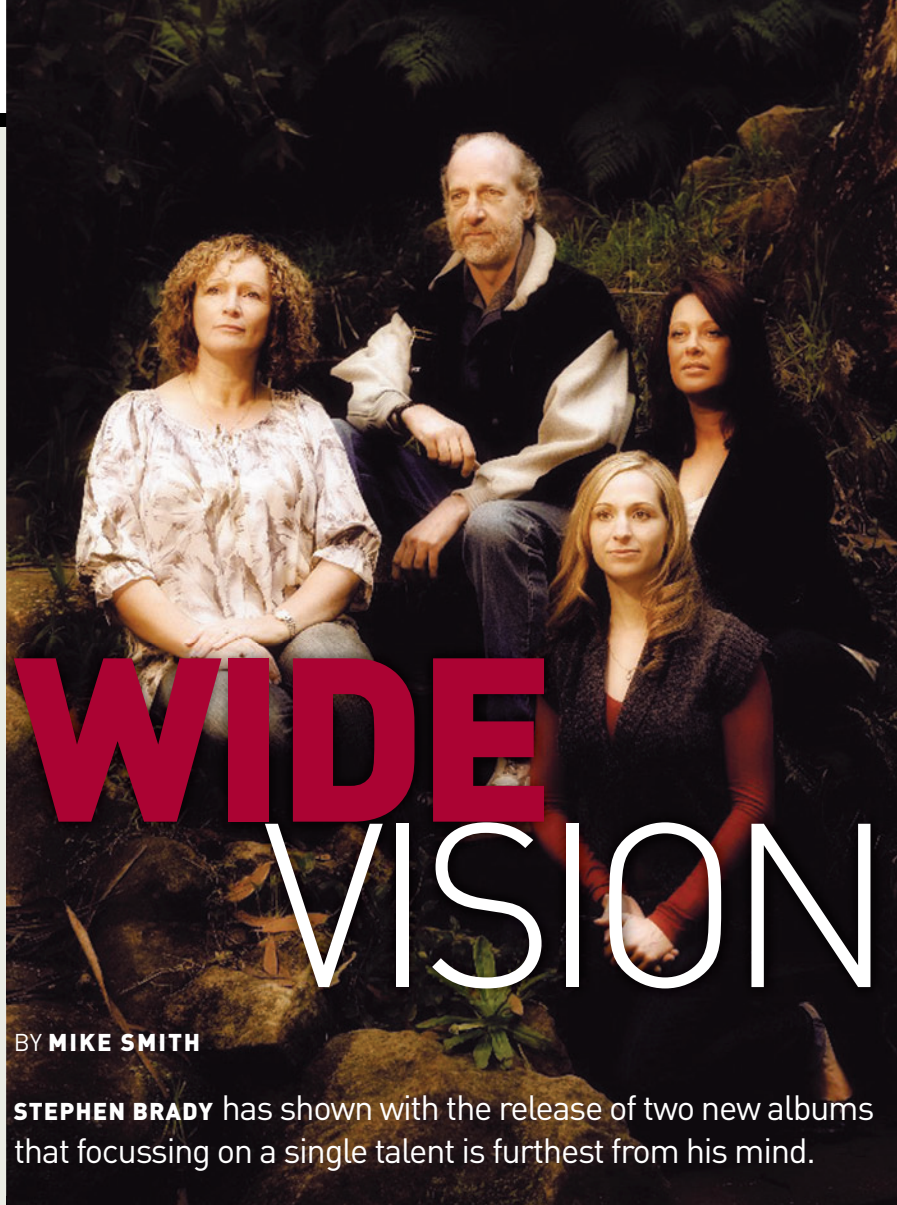
The history of the group goes back to 1981 when Stephen and Liz (Green) started performing together under the name of **CASCADE**. We performed together with Sandra (Young) on an intermittent basis.

"When I left the Blue Mountains Mountains and Liz married, our musical aspirations were put on hold, although it took me a lot longer than expected to revive them," says Stephen. "Many years of shift work and overseas travel delayed our re-activation, and when we decided to get back together we invited Alissa (Stewart) to join our group and become a quartet."

That rebirth was also accompanied by the formation of Blue Shamrock Music.

"I had a long-held desire to start up my own label, both as a vehicle for our own albums as well as intending to sign up other artists in the near future and to license existing albums for distribution," says Stephen.

But back to that word "diversity" – and



BY **MIKE SMITH**

STEPHEN BRADY has shown with the release of two new albums that focussing on a single talent is furthest from his mind.

one obvious question – why bring out a solo album at the same time as the quartet offering?

"I also decided to release my own album as a vehicle for material that perhaps wasn't suited to a treatment by our quartet," clarifies Stephen.

But that "solo" aspect is considerably enhanced by the appearance of a host of vocal collaborators.

"I love collaborating and harmonising and I like the variety and surprise element of shared lead vocals," says Stephen.

"Although *Adrift* is essentially a solo album, I enjoyed the opportunity to harmonise and collaborate with several friends – the likes of **LIANNA ROSE,**

VICTORIA BAILLIE, BARBARA BAILLIE,

BEC WILLIS, JENNY MARIE LANG, KAREN O'SHEA and **ANTHONY TAYLOR**, who is one of the best and most genuine country vocalists in Australia."

Collectively the two albums also have an almost intimidating array of musicians and guests.

"I planned to include as great a variety as was possible of players and instruments to give individual colour and character to each separate track," explains Stephen. "A total of 38 musicians and five engineers worked on the two albums which were recorded both in Sydney and Melbourne as well as Nashville and San Francisco.

"Being able to secure the involvement of such superbly talented and revered musicians, both here and in the U.S. was amazing and an experience I will always treasure. I also like to cross-pollinate the music with unusual instrumentation that would not normally be considered for country music."

With producer **SEAN RUDD**, Stephen Brady has certainly achieved those unique visions he holds for his music, and with the wide radio acceptance of the first group single, *This Old House*, and the recent issue of his first sole offering, *Below*, the wider audience can now share in that vision.