



## James Blundell

Country music legend James Blundell, who hails from Stanthorpe, got his early musical education at Toowoomba Boys Prep. "We were blessed to have an incredible good choir master who had come over from Germany. He taught me a profound love of complex music and I look back on that time as the real starting point for my music."

Those early years on the family farm in the Granite Belt high country are the birthplace of many of James' lyrics. "Dad taught me about writing. He always had scraps of paper about where he scribbled ideas and thoughts. His father was the same. It is a family habit."

James is one of Australia's country music's true success stories and his early success paved the way for Kasey Chambers and Keith Urban. The demands of a career that has earned him nine Golden Guitars in Tamworth force James and his young family to live in Sydney.

"I'll get back to the farm as often as I can. I worried my kids might grow up knowing nothing about the sticks but the minute they're home they go feral! It's just perfect... As much as I love travel I miss the bush. I miss the peace and space of the space and freedom of the family farm."

Words and image - JOHN EVERT