

Spending time on *The River* improves flow

MAKING her latest EP has been a learning process for former Tasmanian singer-songwriter Anita George and part of that process has been learning to listen to her own music without being overly critical.

George has been busy in Melbourne with her band Northbound, working on a new five-track EP of her sultry blues-folk music. The EP is tentatively called *The River* and is scheduled for release in July.

"It's the first time I've actually really enjoyed listening to one of our CDs," she said.

"Normally I've been really critical, I can't really listen to anything we've done in the past but this one has got cello and lap steel guitar and is a really good acoustic recording. It's quite organic."

George said recording *The River* was a step up from her band's previous efforts, the *Northbound* EP and the album *Shooting for the Moon*.

"We're learning what it's important to focus on and learning to spend a lot of time on the recording," she said. "Often I'm quite impatient and just want to get it done and get it out there. This time I've spent six months intensively trying to get the recording right and putting a lot of detail into it."

"Every time we do one we learn a little bit more."

Before heading off on a tour of Australia's east coast with Australian finger-style guitar champion Dale Willis, Anita George returns to play at the Republic Bar in North Hobart from 8.30pm on Sunday along with

Daniel McCracken Hewson on cello and Jed Rowe on lap steel guitar. Entry is free.

George, who works as a human rights lawyer by day, is also in the process of organising a benefit concert to be held on Asylum Seeker Independence Day (ASID) in August. The concert has attracted the support of Jeff Lang, TZU, John Butler and Xavier Rudd, and will assist asylum seekers who hold a Bridging Visa E, which prevents them from working in Australia or getting access to Medicare and Centrelink benefits.

Anyone interested in supporting the benefit gig can learn more from her website www.anitageorge.com.au



KANE YOUNG

ANITA GEORGE: "Normally I've been really critical."