

Texas on the coast

By **BOB HEFNER**

I MET Texas Dave McGarry on one of those glorious July days that made it seem more like spring than winter in Moruya.

He walked a friend and me to our car, and as we were saying our good-byes his fidgety young son inadvertently stepped on my friend's foot.

Dave gave his son a look of mild reproof and said, "That's not the sort of thing they'd do in Texas, is it?"

"My whole life revolves around Texas music," said Texas Dave, an Englishman who migrated to the "big blue skies" of Australia about 20 years ago and has been living in Moruya with his family for 10 years.

"Twenty years ago I was looking for something new in music. I'd always been a Dave Bromberg fan, and then I discovered Doug Sahm and the wonderful music of Texas. Like boom, it just hit me and touched my soul. I'd never heard anything like it before. I was off on the Texas trail."

And though he has never actually been to Texas himself, he has managed (in cooperation with country musician Keith Glass) to put a few talented Texas troubadours on the trail to Moruya, including Butch Hancock and Jimmie Dale Gilmore, who performed to a full house at the Moruya Memorial RSL Hall earlier this year.

And tomorrow night the legendary Texas songwriter Townes Van Zandt (*White Freightliner Blues*) will perform in Moruya, again with the help of Keith Glass, who brought Van Zandt to Australia, and who will open the show at 8pm.

"I'd like this to be a community thing," Texas Dave explained. "And it will be an ongoing thing. We'll get whoever comes out here from Texas. Instead of having to travel to Sydney and Melbourne, people can have their Texas music here."

Tickets (\$15) will be available at the door, and all profits will go to the Moruya Preschool.