



Style

North Shore Times

Cover story: Words and music



Words and music

They say music is in your soul, or perhaps your bones, but for writer Debbie Kruger it must be in her keyboard weary fingers

WORDS

Mary Powis

PHOTO

Amly Harding

SOMETIMES life leads you to certain people or projects, and for author Debbie Kruger it led her to write about the people behind some of our favourite pop songs.

"Life is often this way," she said.

"You don't know until you look back, but every little step along the way leads to the next part of the big picture."

From her music-mad teenage years at Lindfield - while a student at Killara High School - to a four-year stint writing for *Variety* magazine, to time spent in Los Angeles and then three years as the public relations manager for the Australian Performing Rights Association, Kruger has been in constant contact with showbusiness people, especially songwriters.

Her first book, *Songwriters Speak*, was launched at the Byron Bay Writers' Festival, last week.

Kruger began writing the book four years ago and has been working on it fulltime for the past two years.

In compiling research for the book, Kruger interviewed song-writers face-to-face, travelling to England, the US, New Zealand and along the east coast of Australia from Melbourne to Mackay in far north Queensland.

Kruger said one of her most memorable moments was interviewing Todd Hunter who, with wife Johanna Pigott, wrote the John Farnham hit *Age of Reason*.



Former Killara High School student Debbie Kruger has penned a book about the people behind some of Australia's greatest hits.

"I interviewed Rolf Harris, who lives in a house by the River Thames in England," she said.

"Whenever I asked him a question, he answered by singing songs to me.

"He is a true entertainer and he entertained me for three hours."

Kruger said Iva Davies, of Icehouse, used to live in Tryon Rd, at Lindfield.

She also interviewed Daniel Johns, Glenn Shorrock, Tim Finn, Nick Cave, Christina Amphlett and Deborah Conway and the songwriters behind bands including The Seekers, Cold Chisel, Midnight Oil, Mental As Anything, Australian Crawl and INXS.

» *Songwriters Speak*, \$49.95, is published by Limelight Press.