

# Album and NZ Tour

## Rufous Whistler Releases Title Track "National Panic" Ahead of Debut Album & New Zealand Tour

*"Australia's most compelling new voices in contemporary folk."* – Countrytown AU

*"One of the country's finest songsters."* – Post to Wire

*"Totally enthralling - a simply must-see live act."* - Ewan Cloonan

Electronic Press Kit: [rufouswhistler.com/epk](http://rufouswhistler.com/epk)

[Rufous Whistler - High res press photo](#)

### April 2025 — New Zealand May/June Tour

Fresh off a sold-out Australian tour and the release of their debut album *National Panic* — which debuted at #2 on the ARIA Country Albums chart and was named ABC Country's Feature Album of the Week — Rufous Whistler is heading across the ditch for their first-ever New Zealand tour.



Hailing from Northeast Victoria (Wiradjuri Country), Rufous Whistler is fast becoming a standout name in modern folk and alt-country. Their sound weaves raw storytelling through rich, harmony-driven arrangements — think the haunting precision of I'm With Her, the lyrical grit of Gillian Welch, and the unrelenting drive of Trampled by Turtles.



Led by singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Vinny Russell, he brings together some of Australia's most dynamic acoustic musicians for this debut NZ tour: Lucy McKenzie-McHarg (fiddle, mandolin, vocals, guitar), Dylan Knur (mandolin, fiddle, banjo, vocals). Together, they deliver a live show that's both intimate and explosive — earthy and electrifying in equal measure.

Following international airplay, AMRAP charting, and over 30,000 streams across breakout singles like *River Gum Tree*, *Honey*, and *I Mean It*, the full-length album *National Panic* offers an unflinching look at collective anxiety, personal unrest, and the deep need for connection — wrapped in vibrant instrumentation and soaring harmony.

Their first New Zealand shows will roll out through April and May 2025 — dates as follows or at [rufouswhistler.com/tour](https://rufouswhistler.com/tour)

- **Thurs 22 May – Globe Theatre, Palmerston North ^**
- **Fri 23 May – Welly Bluegrass Society, Wellington ^**
- **Sat 24 May – Ruby Bay Store, Ruby Bay**
- **Sun 25 May – Fairfield House, Nelson**
- **Weds 28 May – Wunderbar, Christchurch ^**
- **Thurs 29 May – Pearl Diver, Dunedin ^ +**
- **Fri 30 May – Tussock Country Music Fest, Gore**
- **Sat 31 May – Waikaka Hotel, Gore**
- **Weds 4 June – Movespace, Auckland \***
- **Thurs 5 June – Whangateau Hall, Whangateau**
- **Fri 6 June – Katikati Folk Club, Katikati**

📍 **Sat 7 June – Taranaki Pop-Up Gigs, New Plymouth**

📍 **Sun 8 June – Ohau Hall, Levin**

**^ with *Butter Wouldn't Melt***

**+ with *Lara Rose***

**\* with Soft Punchline (*Chris Dent of Albi & the Wolves*)**

**We're currently booking interviews and seeking feature opportunities** to introduce Rufous Whistler to Aotearoa's vibrant folk, country and Americana audiences.

Let us know if you'd like to chat with the band or cover the tour — we'd love to connect.

For interview requests, press materials, or booking inquiries, please contact:

**Vinny Russell – [friendlybookings@gmail.com](mailto:friendlybookings@gmail.com)**

**Rufous Whistler – Folk & alt-country that hits home.**