

Luthiers too Coole for words

 arts
JENNY D'ANGER

WHEN Fremantle musician Jon Cope needed his beloved 1937 Martin guitar repaired for an upcoming gig he looked no further than O'Connor luthier Ross Coole.

Coole made Cope's partner Emma Birkett's ukulele and the couple were so impressed with his work they named their duo Martin and Coole.

String

Fremantle has a fine tradition of luthiers and there's a small enclave in O'Connor made up of Coole and near neighbours Rad Brashaw and Simon Rovis-Hermann.

Put the three together and any hope of an interview all but disappears as they talk a language almost incomprehensible to those not involved in the art of string instrument making.

All have been in the business for 30 years or more: "You need to be at it for 30 years or so before people trust you with any



• Ross Coole, Rad Brashaw, Simon Rovis-Hermann and Jon Cope. Photo by Steve Grant

seriousness," Coole says.

A French polisher by trade a career change came after he started playing music and found locally made instruments weren't

up to scratch.

"[I thought] how am I going to get what I want and that was the start of it, aged 16."

Rad Bradshaw doesn't

play an instrument, but he knows a good one when he hears it.

He repairs and build acoustic and electric guitars. But don't bother

taking a cheap Chinese import to him: "They are unrepairable. A good-quality acoustic guitar is made to pull apart."

Unemployed a couple

A good-quality acoustic guitar is made to pull apart

of decades ago he heard renown luthier Scott Weiss was setting up a workshop in Subiaco.

"I walked in and seven years later I left because I wanted to pursue a career building guitars."

Simon Rovis-Hermann makes beautiful handcrafted classical and 19th century reproduction instruments.

He went to the music conservatory but it was making guitars that really interested him: "[Inspired] by sound and how it works."

His dad was a carpenter: "So I grew up with timber and tools."

Cope was elated at the restoration of his Martin to its former glory.

"To me these guys are magicians. Once you play a really handcrafted instrument you can't go back."

You can catch Martin and Coole, with banjo maestro Ian Simpson, Laura Mitchell, John Perry and special guests Ziao Xuan, Merlin Ma and Malcolm Mah at the Fly By Night Saturday September 9.

UK keen to recruit Perth teachers for British schools

"Many schools in England are keen to employ WA teachers, as they have a very good reputation and have undergone excellent teacher training."

Perth schools have enjoyed an oversupply of teachers in the past five years, making it difficult for teaching graduates to land their first job. Many qualified teachers face years of casual relief teaching while they build up their resumes, in the hope of landing a permanent role.

However, over in the UK, things could not be more different, with an estimated shortage of over 20,000 teachers. For this reason, teaching graduates have been heading to England to combine getting valuable classroom experience with the travel adventures that have become a rite of passage for young Australians.

Now leading education recruitment agency Teach In is making things even easier for Perth teachers to find their ideal teaching jobs, by bringing UK School Principals out to Australia for

face-to-face job interviews. Gemma Yates of UK teacher-recruitment agency Teach In explains: "Many schools in England are keen to employ WA teachers, as they have a very good reputation and have undergone excellent teacher training."

"Interviewing face-to-face, rather than via Skype, gives teachers a better opportunity to build rapport with the hiring Principals, as well as to ask detailed questions and get a feel for the school and its leadership. It's also a chance to find out more about the local area, for people make sure they are going to a teaching job and location they will be happy in," Ms Yates added.

Teachers attending these interviews are also able to attend free professional development workshops in classroom and behaviour management. These workshops are particularly useful for

teaching graduates who have limited experience in dealing with various behaviour issues in the classroom.

The benefits of international teaching are not just travel and adventure. When Aussie teachers return home, they usually find local schools are more willing to hiring them, due to their experience gained in the UK. Additionally, Teach In offer incentives such as free flights to Australian teachers, to give them a financial head start when moving across the world.

Teach In is hosting interviews between UK Principals and Perth teachers (and teaching graduates) on the 25th & 26th September, for Early Childhood, Primary, Secondary and Special Needs teaching positions. To apply visit www.teachin.co.uk/principal-interviews/ or contact Gemma for more information.



Interviews in Perth CBD

Monday 24th September
9am - 8pm

Tuesday 25th September
9am - 6pm

To apply visit

www.teachin.co.uk/principal-interviews

Free PD session Monday 24th September 6-7pm

13/114 William Street Melbourne

Phone 0449 790 334

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www.teachin.co.uk/principal-interviews