



**Newcastle Herald**  
**Wednesday 25/11/2009**

Page: 12  
 Section: General News  
 Region: Newcastle NSW, AU  
 Circulation: 49880  
 Type: Regional  
 Size: 541.45 sq.cms.



**slice**  
 slicemedia.com

press clip



the **word**  
 with Amy Edwards

# Singing neighbour



IT'S day one of **Sam Clark's** new music career and the bright lights of *Neighbours* already seem a world away.

The *Neighbours* actor, who has taken three months off the popular soapie to pursue his music, is in a van loaded with band gear 565 kilometres from Sydney.

He's been driving all day in his own van, along with fellow band members, and his body is aching from being cooped up.

"I'm not running away from *Neighbours*. I just want to put myself out there as an artist. As an independent artist I have to do a lot more hard yards in terms of promotion," the 21-year-old said.

Clark, who has released his first

single *Broken*, is doing a bunch of in-store performances around the country, including *Sanity*, Newcastle, at 4pm on Friday, after visiting *Merewether High School* at midday.

He will also perform at *Sanity*, Greenhills Maitland, at 1pm on Saturday.

Despite Clark's character (Ringo) in *Neighbours* being named after a Beatle and music icon, the lad claims it was pure coincidence.

"Ringo was always going to be the name of the character on the show," he told *The Word*.

The actor gained his *Neighbours* role through a *Dolly* magazine search-for-a-star competition.

"I didn't make it clear to anyone involved in the competition at the time that I played music."

He had been singing and playing guitar since the age of 15. He can also play keyboard and clarinet.

Clark has co-written the bulk of his album, due next year.

His music career may have just taken off but he is already battling the instant preconceptions that come from following the "well-worn path" from Ramsay Street to the recording studio.

**Kylie Minogue, Delta Goodrem, Jason Donovan, Holly Valance and Natalie Imbruglia** are among other *Neighbours* cast members who have tried their hands at pop careers.