



THE HOBART SMITHS - OLD TIME BLUES

**Album Launch – Sunday 4th March, 1pm
Pooley Wines Belmont Vineyard, 1431 Richmond Rd, Richmond**

The Coal River Valley is well known for producing fine vintage wines, less known however, is the superb vintage music that is also being produced in this region. *Old Time Blues* is the debut album from 'The Hobart Smiths', an unusual and masterful acoustic roots trio hailing from the villages of Richmond and Colebrook in the Coal River Valley.

The Hobart Smiths perform a unique blend of traditional ballads and early country blues music. The band formed in 2008 when highly regarded finger-picking blues soloist and Republic Bar resident, Gerry Balding (Balding & Croft), joined forces with folklorist and old-time banjo and mandolin exponent, Fred Pribac (Fred & Friends, Headbelly Buzzard, Coyote Serenade, original creator of The HOT String Band) to explore the cross-over links between old-time folk and early blues music. Rachael Gates (The Original Cutouts, The Rusticators) brings an infectious touch of jug band energy to the band on double bass and banjo ukulele. Together the Hobart Smiths reinterpret the masterpieces and rarities of an earlier formative era. The Hobart Smiths have become favourites at festivals such as The Taste of Tasmania, The Cygnet Folk Festival and The Adventure Bay Blues Festival, as well as appearing regularly at venues around Hobart.

This album launch has been organised to coincide with the Southern Open Wine Weekend. On Sunday 4th March let your senses soak in the best sounds and tastes of the Coal River Valley in picturesque and historic Belmont Vineyard. BYO picnic rug or chair. Wine and cheese plates available for purchase. Vineyard open from 10am, with music from 1pm. Free Entry.

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CD title: Old Time Blues