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THE FIRST thing I notice about Sue-Anne Stewart is her eyes. They are the colour of opals, in milky shades of blue and green. With her tanned skin and sun-bleached hair, she has natural good looks that would cause promoters to rub their hands with glee. Her eyes reveal more than good looks, though. They are the eyes of a soul searcher... someone driven by her heart.

Born in Gladstone, Sue-Anne's early years were spent moving up and down the Queensland coast as her stepfather followed work building roads.

"I went to 13 schools growing up," she reflects. "There were lots of things I hated about it, but when I look back on my childhood, I think I was pretty lucky, really... we went to some amazing places."

Sue-Anne didn't meet her birth father, Shelton, until she was 11. He bought her a guitar, and her love of music began to blossom. Before long, they were jamming together, and their common love of music helped to open doors on their new-found relationship.

When Sue-Anne was 13, her father lost his hearing in a freak accident. Not long afterwards, she decided to move in with him on his farm near Lowmead, west of Agnes Water. Shelton's loss of hearing didn't prevent him from playing music,

and through her teenage years, the pair continued to jam together.

"We were always playing Bob Dylan, Neil Young, Cat Stevens, Pink Floyd – all the old classics – and because my dad couldn't hear and we didn't have electricity on the farm, we spent most of our time playing music together. It was amazing."

"As I embrace this moment, I embrace all the beauty in my life and I release, all the things that keep me from flying, flying, fly, fly flyin'..."

– from the title track to her new EP, Embrace

By her late teens, Sue-Anne had started writing her own songs, and had begun to develop her own style of acoustic

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