

A detailed website for Hunter music became a labour of love, reports **Michelle Harris**.

Fuelled by love of music

SIX years ago Andrew Goodwin was eager to learn more about Newcastle's vibrant music scene.

He typed "Newcastle and music" into a search engine but was horrified when it returned only a handful of relevant sites.

"It was pretty surprising when Newcastle has so many great artists out there," Mr Goodwin said.

"You'd imagine there would be more a lot of information, so I thought something should be done to fix it."

The Newcastle resident set up the Newcastle Music Directory, a detailed resource site for artists and organisations.

The online site, www.newcastlelemusic.net, also provides the public with information about upcoming events and music news and showcases the music of artists from across the Hunter Region and the Central Coast.

Compiling information and regularly updating the site is a labour of love for Mr Goodwin, who has spent more than 3000 hours working on it.

He said his love of music fuelled his work with the site.

"It's an absorbing hobby. It's become a bit of an obsession really," he said.

Only about 50 artists were featured on the site when it was established.

Today it lists details of more than 1500 and has many links to recording studios and music organisations in the Hunter.

The site also provides a boost to

UNSUNG HERO

ANDREW GOODWIN

The Unsung Hero series acknowledges people who do good deeds in the Hunter. If you would like to nominate someone, phone 4979 5999 or send information to Unsung Hero, *The Herald*, PO Box 510, Newcastle 2300.

young artists trying to establish their music careers.

"I tried to keep the site really equal," Mr Goodwin said. "It's an egalitarian set-up. New artists have the same footing on the site as big groups like Silverchair."

"With the site, they can at least put info about themselves out there and hopefully it will help them along."

Mr Goodwin's work was recently commended by Newcastle City Council when he received a Newcastle Community Volunteers Award.

He has also been commended for his participation in an environmental study conducted by researchers at the University of Oxford in Britain.

Mr Goodwin, an environmental engineer, has used his computers to



VISION: Andrew Goodwin set up the Newcastle Music Directory for the Hunter Region and the Central Coast.

run simulated models on climate change for researchers.

The international study looks at

Directory that commands most of his attention.

"At first it was about the fact I was

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the rate of climate change.

He is Australia's top participant in the research and has been involved in it for more than a year.

But it is still the Newcastle Music

learning new skills, learning how to create a website," he said.

"But now I just want to watch it keep growing. I can't wait to see how it will look in a few years."