

Rolf yearns for the land of his fathers

ZANY Australian Rolf Harris has been talking about his Welsh links and his secret ambition . . . to star in Neighbours!

He confessed: "Every time I come over the Severn Bridge I have this funny feeling — I can feel the Welshness rise up within me."

Those of you who thought Rolf the archetypal Aussie are in for a shock — he believes he is more Welsh than anything else.

Certainly his pedigree can't be disputed:

His great-grandfather, Bertam Harris, was a photographer and painter based in Merthyr Tydfil;

His grandfather, George Harris, was a portrait painter based in Cardiff and studied at the same Paris art school as Monet;

His father, Cromwell, was a turbine operator in Cardiff and his mother, Agnes, went to Cardiff High School; and

And his wife, Alwen, comes from Merioneth in North Wales.

The Aussie connection came when his parents emi-

grated in 1921 — before Rolf was born.

Now the man famous for putting the didgerdoo and the song Two Little Boys on the map has confessed he wouldn't mind moving to Wales when he gets older.

He said: "My wife would love to have Welsh mountains surrounding her. And every time I hear a Welsh choir I'm almost in tears."

"I suppose when I get older it would be nice to get back to my family's roots. I have tried to trace my family tree several times but I'm always stumped after I get past Merthyr."

"Wales is very important to me and recently I have even had a bash at learning the language. But it has been quite difficult. The only thing I really know in Welsh are a couple of songs."

Rolf is currently making a series of programmes for HTV called Rolf's Cartoon Time.

But he revealed to me his secret ambition.

"I wouldn't mind playing a part in Neighbours. After all, it's supposed to be about life in Australia."

"Mind you, I wouldn't like to play a fictional part. I'd like to play myself!"

Colin Macfarlane

