

# South Wales ECHO

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The Voice of the Rugby World Cup

City Final • 30p

## David Young: Raise the roof and cheer Wales to glory

Echo columnist David Young tells fans how they have a big part to play tomorrow: Back Page



### Big-match draw from star Rolf

TIE the Wallabies down, sport, tie the Wallabies down...

That is what the nation will be hoping Henry's Heroes will do when they face Australia in the Rugby World Cup quarter-final at the Millennium Stadium tomorrow.

But the match looks an even contest judging by this cartoon - drawn exclusively for the Echo today by Rolf Harris.

The star will be at the game tomorrow and admits he will have divided loyalties. Although he is Australian his parents were both born in Cardiff. "Tomorrow will be a very emotionally-mixed feeling for me," he said.

■ Full Rolf interview: see pages 2 and 3.  
 ■ Other world cup news: see pages 4, 5 and 7 and Echo Sport.



WIN A SCHOOL TRIP TO FLORIDA TODAY'S TOKEN TOTAL 54

### NEWS

#### IN BRIEF

#### M&S decision could hit jobs

HUNDREDS of jobs at seven South Wales factories were under threat today after a clothing group lost a top contract with Marks & Spencer.

Staff at William Baird production centres in Merthyr, Bargoed, Maesteg, Pyle, New Tredegar, Port Talbot and Pontardawe could be hit by the decision to end the 30-year link.

M&S, which is going through its own troubles, made the announcement after a review of its supply chain.

Baird Clothing, which makes children's wear, lingerie and men's trousers for the High Street giant, will hold talks next week to look at the impact and discuss the question of compensation.



► **ENTERTAINER AND ARTIST** Rolf Harris will be attending the match at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium tomorrow. Inset, painting a mural at the children's ward at Prince Charles Hospital, Merthyr Tydfil, where his grandfather grew up before emigrating to Australia.

## Keeping a welcome in the Oz

AUSTRALIANS in town for Saturday's game can expect a warm welcome in the city centre Oz Bar - providing they can get in.

Rachel Owens, manager of the St Mary Street bar, said they had been packed during every Rugby World Cup game so far.

"There will be lots of Welsh fans here on Saturday but I'm sure we'll have a few Australians paying us a visit. "It will be first come, first served. But if any Australians come in, they'll definitely get a warm welcome from us," she said.

Rachel added: "We had an English fan in during one Welsh game and while there was lots of singing and banter going on, it was all light-hearted and he really enjoyed it."

The Yellow Kangaroo pub in Roath, Cardiff, is also hoping a few Aussies will drop in for tomorrow's game.

A number of Australians have been ringing up to find out more about the Elm Street pub because of its name.

The Kangaroo will be showing the Wales v Australia game live on a big screen.

# FOR WALES

**AUSSIE** Rolf Harris will be at the big game tomorrow to see Wales take on Australia.

But the bearded wonder, who seems to be everyone's childhood hero, says he will have very mixed feelings on which team to support.

For despite being born just outside Perth in Western Australia both his parents are Welsh.

And the Welsh connections do not stop there. His wife Alwen is named after the river of the same name in north Wales.

Rolf, whose television roles first as a children's entertainer and more recently with the BBC's award-winning Animal Hospital have made him a household name throughout Britain, told the Echo: "I am really looking forward to it. The last time I was in Cardiff for a rugby match was when Wales took on the All Blacks in the old Arms Park.

"The singing was absolutely marvellous. It was just wonderful. I cannot wait until Saturday to hear it again.

"I was born in Australia so I am obviously Australian but I have tremendous Welsh roots.

"I have a Welsh yearning every time I hear a choir sing and I am in tears immediately.

"Tomorrow will be a very emotionally-mixed feeling for me. I would just like to see a good game and see the best mob win.

"I do feel part Welsh and when I cross the border into Wales everything inside me

### 10 FACTS ON ROLF HARRIS

- Rolf has been awarded an MBE and an OBE and is a member of the Order of Australia.
- He is president of the charity PHAB (Physically disabled and able-bodied clubs throughout the country) and Patron of CHATA (Children in Hospital and Animal Therapy Association).
- He was a junior backstroke swimming champion in Australia in 1946.
- He performed live on stage at the Glastonbury festival.
- His first ever single was Tie Me Kangaroo Down Sport. Other well known hits include Jake the Peg, Two Little Boys and Sun Arise.
- He wrote a number-one bestselling book called True Animal Tales
- a humorous collection of animal stories from around the world with, of course, his own illustrations.
- Rolf's artistic streak came from his grandfather George Harris, himself a painter who sold three of his paintings to help pay for his passage to Australia in 1920.
- Rolf studied art in England but gave it up because he was broke.
- He has his own website on the Internet on [www.rolfharris.com](http://www.rolfharris.com)
- He has just released a new album called Bootleg 1, which features three tracks with songs from his Animal Hospital co-presenter Rhodri Williams. It is only available by ordering through his website and will not be in the shops.

By Leigh Powell

changes.

"I will be singing Calon Lan with all my heart. But if I had to choose I would want Australia to win."

Rolf - who spoke to the Echo during a break in filming at the RSPCA Animal Hospital in Putney - was born in Bassendean, about

seven miles outside Perth. His mother Agnes and his father Cromwell emigrated there just before World War I.

They were both born in Cardiff and lived opposite each other in Diana Street, Roath.

They moved to Sully and from there emigrated to

Australia. Shortly afterwards his father joined the Australian army.

Rolf's grandfather George Harris - himself an artist - was born in Birmingham but he too had Welsh connections as he grew up in Merthyr Tydfil.

Rolf, who is 69, recalls: "Living in Bassendean was almost like out in the country out there. We lived right alongside a river and I was almost never out of it. I became a very good swimmer and I actually became a junior Australian backstroke champion.

"I came to England to study painting and to become a portrait painter like my grandfather George Harris.

"But I just ran out of money and so I had to go into the entertainment industry. I started off doing children's television and drawings.

"Then in 1960 I went back out to Australia to run a children's programme. It was then that I recorded the song Tie me Kangaroo Down Sport. That got me into the recording game."

Rolf will be attending tomorrow's game with fellow Animal Hospital presenter Rhodri Williams.

Rhodri was given tickets by a friend and invited Rolf to join him.

**MORE WORLD CUP NEWS: SEE PAGES 4&5**