



# Jets fire up Aussie rock

**W**HILE members of Silverchair were still hitting musical triangles in primary school, another band was blasting a path out of Newcastle into the mainstream charts.

The Screaming Jets had hits with songs such as *Better*, *Helping Hand* and a cover of the Birthday Party song *Shivers*.

Now they're back revving their engines, including a performance at today's Indy 300 in Brisbane, with a new album *Do Ya* — their first in eight years.

The Jets have lost none of their fire, and frontman Dave Gleeson is as loud — on and off the microphone — as ever. In a climate where Australian music has gone a bit “wishy-washy”, according to Gleeson, the Jets are waving the flag for that endangered species — solid Aussie rock.

“That’s where we hope we can come back and fill a niche,” Gleeson says.

“The biggest rock guitars you hear on radio at the moment are on

Kelly Clarkson and Pink songs, so that should be a slap in the face for anyone who thinks they’re a rock band.”

*Do Ya* took three years to make and it’s an album the band’s proud of.

A few things delayed its release, such as the departure of band member Grant Walmsley, a management change and indecision about the album’s title.

They settled on the Aussie sounding *Do Ya*, which is the lead single written by guitarist Izzy Osmanovich.

“We were looking to get it out in 2005 or 2006, but as William H. Bonney said in *Young Guns*, ‘There’s many a slip twixt the cup and the lip’,” Gleeson says from his new home in Adelaide.

Gleeson says he went into a shop just to see the new album on the stands.

**T**HE charismatic frontman was met with a few funny looks when he tried to move it into a more prominent position.

“I ended up backing out and just buying the album anyway,” he says.

Gleeson wrote the bulk of the tracks which cover

all sorts of issues — from personal to global.

“It’s always been easy to write the Jets off as a farcical bunch of rude rockers,” he says.

“But all our albums contain songs that are heartfelt about the human condition, about social structures we find ourselves in, about relationships we’ve been in.”

Gleeson moved from the rat race of Sydney to his wife’s home town of Adelaide three years ago, following the birth of their first child.

“Me and my wife get invited to movie premieres and parties which is kind of cool, because living in Sydney you go from A (list) to about F in six months.”

***Do Ya is out now.***

SALLY BROWNE



**Rocker:** Dave Gleeson entertains Jets fans.