

# Leaving on a JET PLANE



## Marianne Mettes

Aussie pub-rock band **THE SCREAMING JETS** have been around for almost two decades and they have seen it all. Among other things, they were the first band to live-simulcast on the internet back in 1995 and they've been thrown out of an airplane for causing mischief.

"It's definitely been a fantastic ride, I just wish I could remember it all," says Dave Gleeson, frontman and guitarist of the band. "We've done so many things that people don't really talk about, I don't know why. It might be a reaction to my big mouth. But we know what we've done and that's one good thing about it."

Gleeson talks about how they took bands like Silverchair and Grinspoon on the road with them and gave them some encouraging words and insight. "I remember sitting backstage (with Silverchair) with their mothers and fathers for about an hour and half and having a yarn with them, telling them to be very careful of record companies and all that stuff."

But as Gleeson reveals, his words didn't always inspire good, especially in the beginning when he at times made controversial remarks at concerts. "Being from Newcastle, it didn't enter my mind that there was actually this whole other culture out there that I spent the next year or so bagging. We definitely got knocked down a few pegs from record companies which is unquantifiable in hindsight and it created a few more hurdles than we should have had back then. It was a case

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of growing up in public. I definitely have a different view point on that now. It's just one of those things you may say as a young feller and you regret saying, but you can never take it back. Instead of being some nitwit in a pub, talking to me five mates, I was a dickhead talking to 5000 people on stage. But hey, we live and learn."

But what is that special ingredient that has kept the band alive for so long? It's quite simple actually, like a good marriage, all you need is love. "We just love being in a band, we love touring and we love everything about it. We love staying up late, we love rocking the joint, we just love..." Gleeson pauses, as if reflecting on all his memories, "everything about it."

Gleeson explains that over the years people have tried to mould or manipulate them into being in fashion and how the Jets would never give in. "A lot of people try to second guess what the radios are going to play or what the new look is going to be or whatever. But essentially if you stay true to why you started doing it in the first place, then you can't fail. I'm sick of telling make-up chicks not to touch me anymore. They keep coming up, trying to buff your face up and spray a bit of glycerin on you, so it looks like your sweating... like, if you want me to sweat, I'll drop and give you 20! I'll work up my own sweat, thanks. I think that shows through in a lot that we do. We've kind of just blazed our own trail and done pretty much what we wanted to do and here we are 19 years later, when a lot of bands that have bent over and been told what to do and how to do it, are gone."

Gleeson ends with some words of advice: "Everything that you're about, everything that you give, everything that you do, has to be focused purely on being on stage. Not about coming off. And you have to deal with some shit later on or the fight you had in the band room before. When you're on stage, you're on stage, you're in front of the world, give it your all."

*The Screaming Jets' new album Do Ya is out now through Sony BMG.*

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