



# Hits & pieces

**JEFF CRAWFORD**



THE Screaming Jets took a long and tortuous route in completing their sixth studio album, *Do Ya*.

Singer Dave Gleeson, who has been based in Adelaide for the past four years ("And loving it"), calls the project "a mammoth task" that tested the band's resolve.

The Jets' previous album, *Scam*, was unleashed in 2000 and there were no intentions at that time to take an eight-year break between releases.

But fate intervened, with the Newcastle band forced to change managers and self-finance the new album, followed by an acrimonious split with founding guitarist Grant Walmsley.

"We were on hiatus for two and a half years, then the last four years have been building towards getting this album ready," Gleeson says. "The EP (2004's *Heart of the Matter*) was a precursor to the album: The Jets are back, here's the EP, album next year. Then we started recording the album and the manager we had lost interest in it, so he went and we had to get another manager."

Self-financing an album for the first time was also a shock to the system, as the sessions morphed from an economic approach into "a money pit".

Walmsley had completed a teaching degree during the Jets' hiatus, which relegated him to a part-time role the others weren't willing to accept.

"There was a lot of legal stuff that had to get signed off on there. It didn't need to go to legal representation but there was a bit of acrimony there. In the end, no one won out of it.

"We had to make a decision. Grant had other priorities that were conflicting with the band's touring schedule. He should have jumped but he got pushed."

■ *Do Ya* is now available.

Read Jeff's musicblog at  
>> [citymessenger.com.au](http://citymessenger.com.au)