



LOUD AND PROUD

The Screaming Jets have released their first album in eight years and hard-rockin' frontman Dave Gleeson wants to lead the band back to the top of Australia's pub-rock scene, reports **Sally Browne**

WHILE Silverchair were still hitting triangles in primary school, another band was blasting a path out of Newcastle into the mainstream charts.

They were called the Screaming Jets and they 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 again — including a performance at today's Indy — with a new album *Do Ya*, their first in eight years.

The Jets (what other band could compete with the roar of engines?) have lost none of their fire — frontman Dave Gleeson is as loud on and off the mic as ever.

In a climate where Australian music has gone a bit "wishy-washy", according to Gleeson, the Jets are proudly waving the flag for that endangered species in music, solid Aussie rock.

Gleeson says the band hopes to fill that niche.

"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 about three years to make and it's an album the hard-working rockers are proud of. A few things conspired to delay the

release, such as the departure of principal band member Grant Walmsley, the legalities that followed another change in management ("we're a band that can't be managed," Gleeson says) and a bit of sticky indecision over the title.

After tossing pages of notes, they settled on the very Aussie sounding *Do Ya*, the lead single written by guitarist Izzy Osmanovich.

"Finally we're here and actually I went to buy the album the other day because I just wanted to walk into a shop and see a new Screaming Jets album there," Gleeson says from his new home in Adelaide.

The charismatic frontman, no-

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table for his distinctive curly locks, was met with a few funny looks when he tried to move the album into a more prominent position.

"I ended up backing out and just buying the album anyway."

Gleeson wrote the bulk of the tracks on *Do Ya*, which cover all sorts of issues from personal to global.

He may be loud on stage, but Gleeson also has a big mouth when it comes to opinion. His blog is full of funny asides on everything from Amy Winehouse to Kevin Rudd,

and his concerns are also reflected in songs like *Change the World* and *Supersize*: "The amount of corporate involvement in everyday life has increased exponentially to the extent where corporations tell governments what to do, governments don't tell corporations what to do, and that can only be a bad thing.

"Not to get on a roll but the thing with climate change, everyone's going, 'But what are the economic impacts going to be of that?' It's like, you're missing the point. If you're going to describe how we're going to fix this problem as long it's economically viable, then we're already doomed. Every time anyone talks about it, whether it be a car manufacturer or government or big industry, they say, 'We will change stuff but only when we know it's not going to hurt us economically'. Well, bring on the band to play *God Save the Queen*."

Gleeson moved from Sydney to his wife's hometown, Adelaide, three years ago after the birth of their first child.

He hasn't looked back: "Since I've moved to Adelaide, I wouldn't say I'm on the A list but I'm at least on the B list. Me and my wife get invited to movie premieres and all these parties, which is kind of cool, because living in Sydney you go from A to about F in six months."

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



Chain gang: The Screaming Jets frontman Dave Gleeson (centre) takes up the slack for Oz rock