



ROARING BACK

Jets' labour of love

By Jeff Crawford

THE Screaming Jets (pictured) 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, 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," 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".

"At the start of it, we got 30 grand together and said 'let's go and record an album'. Nah. That was the first three-week session we

did and there were another eight weeks of sessions after that. It became a bit of 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.

"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.

