



THE SCREAMING JETS

Does it feel like a long time between drinks?
 "For sure," Dave agrees. "It's been eight years since the last studio album came out, but this one was like three-and-a-half years in the making, which was like giving birth to an elephant. It's great to finally have it out there."

Is it harder to get everyone together at the same time to start making music again?

"Our manager has a mammoth task organising this. Obviously I live in Adelaide, but the rest of the band join us from all around Australia, with two guys in Sydney, one in Melbourne and one in Newcastle. It is a logistical nightmare but one of those things in that you have to learn good time management - even in a rock band."

How does the creative process work with everyone living in different states?

"It does work in a few ways, mainly in isolation jotting down a few ideas. Paul [Woseen], our bass player, writes lots of songs on his own and he's churning out five a day. We also make the time to get together to collaborate on songs together, especially when we're on tour. There's a lot of sitting in hotel rooms writing songs together, so it all comes together from different parts of the creative process."

When an album such as *Do Ya* takes so long to come to fruition, does self-doubt set in or the prospect of the band breaking up enter the thought process?

"When we started recording this album it was the first time we were 100 percent independent," Dave mentions. "We needed to make sure that every song was done as best as we can, as this one would be judged quite harshly after not having an album out in nearly eight years. However, having said that we have changed managers when we were recording and we had also split up with our guitarist [Grant Walmsley] who had been in the band since the very beginning. These were two obstacles that we didn't see coming that knocked the wind out of our sails a bit. Anyway, roll with the punches and here we are with a new album ready to go."

Did these obstacles add any level of frustration to the mix?

"The frustration is the time that it takes to detach yourself from people. The strange thing about the music industry is that people don't go away and all this crap goes on. If you're out of the team, you're out of the team! The good thing about getting new people on board - and we've done that a bit over the years - is that it reignites and gives the band a bit of a spark. I don't know whether that's because there's a new creative force coming into the band or whether it's us trying to impress the new guy or the new guy trying to impress us. There are times where you think, 'Oh no, this is the end', but it has been good to have a new spark in the band, whether that's a new player or management. More often than not it inspires the band to bigger things."

Was the direction always clear for *Do Ya* or does it take shape in the studio?

"It's a bit of that. We went in with 22 or 23 songs

and we worked with each one on its merits and got them up to a certain level. Then songs started to fall away, which weren't shining as much as the others. The main beef we had when we went into the studio - no matter whether a song has got a bit of a country flavour, jazz or whatever - it all has to be approached as a rock band doing these different styles. There aren't many rock bands out there at the moment but ours is a true rock album. It has light and shade in it but it's all rock!"

"THERE AREN'T MANY ROCK BANDS OUT THERE AT THE MOMENT BUT OURS IS A TRUE ROCK ALBUM. IT HAS LIGHT AND SHADE IN IT BUT IT'S ALL ROCK!"

The album bio talks about the timing of *Do Ya* being critical for this album given the state of rock'n'roll in Australia - what's your take on that?

"There's too much of this mamby pambly stuff going on," Dave asserts. "Rock is an unadulterated celebration of live music, big drums and choruses. With bands like Coldplay winning awards for best rock band it makes me want to tear my vas deferens out. I'm not saying that everyone has to sound like AC/DC, but if you're a rock band you need to have big fat guitars, stomping drums, driving bass and that's the rock that is real to me. Some of these bands that think they have a guitar lead break like Thirsty Merc think they're a rock band. What's the deal with that?"

What do you think about these big music festivals such as the Big Day Out and the lack of rock acts on them?

"Yeah, well, everyone is making a big deal of The Prodigy being on it. Neil Young is kind of rock, but he's 60. It's lovely for him to be out here doing it but it certainly has gone away from it being a rock show. We wear the rock badge with pride and that's what we hang our hat on because we are a rock band."

Do Ya is out now through StockXchange Music and distributed by Sony/BMG.



DAVE AND THE JETS
by Rob Lyon

The Screaming Jets are back! Yep, it's great to see that there is still some great rock'n'roll bands left that actually play rock'n'roll music. Legendary Jets frontman Dave Cleeson (who now lives in Adelaide and stars on Channel Seven's hit reality show *It Takes Two*) took time out to talk about making their sixth studio album *Do Ya* and the state of rock music in Australia.