



BY JASON WALLACE

Aussie rocker stands test of time

FATHERHOOD has not quietened one of the notoriously loud men of classic Aussie rock.

The Screaming Jets frontman Dave Gleeson has had to creep around the house since the arrival of his second child a little over four months ago.

But he told *The Border Watch* he made up for it by "making as much noise as I want" when he gets together to jam with his Adelaide mates.

Loud rock anthems propelled by Gleeson's classic rock voice, such as *Better* and *Helping Hand*, made the Jets and their iconic singer household names across the nation in the 90s.

Now living in Adelaide, communicating with other band members in Melbourne, Sydney and Newcastle, the Jets moved aside from being the key driver of Gleeson's life.

But the Jets are now back on the national scene with a new album and tour and are about to deliver their popular sound to an eager public in Mount Gambier.

"It all feels fresh again," said Gleeson, who returned to the fore when the band reformed in 2004 after taking a break in 2001 following a lukewarm response to their fifth album and facing management changes.

"We were in the studio last week relearning songs, which was exciting and fun and everyone is putting a lot of work in - we're having a good time."

He said he was confident the band's new material, featured on album *Do Ya*, was as catchy as the

band's past hits, but admitted the world of rock had changed.

"There is a lot of traffic out there from Australian Idol and the Pussycat Dolls to everything in between - it's out of control with things like YouTube," he said.

"If you get an unreleased single on an international ad campaign your fate is sealed and you can sell millions of records - it's all geared to that now."

While the Jets and other major Australian rock bands of the time forged success through recording albums and touring relentlessly both domestically and overseas, Gleeson said today's music market seemed more focused on snippets of sound.

"Rather than buy albums the kids download single songs and you have to make that work to your advantage and move with the times," he said.

"The biggest thing is not letting it affect the music because if you wrote to market for advertising you might as well write jingles."

Instead, the band remains intently focused on its professional classic rock sound with the prowess of dual guitarists Scotty Kingman and Izmet Osmanovich and a solid rhythm section of drummer Mick Sayers and bassist Paul Woseen, who is the only remaining founding member alongside Gleeson.

Although the band has had line-up changes and a break, Gleeson said he was proud to have survived two decades of changing trends, watching the "sandshoe gazing and mumbling" days of

grunge pass and guitar-based rock survive.

"We kind of hang our hat on being the real deal, true rock band," he said.

"We get everyone rocking, not wondering - part of our mission is to show kids as well as people our age rock still exists with great playing and doesn't have to be watered down."

It is a mission Gleeson is not sorry to pursue, stating he still loves to rock out, party and tour with mates.

"I love it all - we're always going to record albums and have always been stuck in the reality of rock," he said.

Next month's show won't be the first time the Jets have performed in Mount Gambier.

They previously stopped off on the long drive between Adelaide and Melbourne to perform shows, often appearing alongside iconic acts such as The Angels and Divinyls in the early 90s.

Gleeson said he looked forward to returning to regional South Australia and promised to feature the band's classic hits in the show.

"I'm a punter like everyone else and if I see AC/DC and they don't do *Hell's Bells*, then I'm pissed," he said.

"We do the old songs for what they are, which is a great way to get a crowd rocking."

The Screaming Jets will headline with *The Butterfly Effect* when the *Long Road Tour* arrives at the Mount Gambier Showgrounds on Friday, October 3



*Screaming jets frontman Dave Gleeson pictured rocking out with his band.



Border Watch
Thursday 25/9/2008
Page: 13
Section: General News
Region: Mt Gambier SA Circulation: 7,433
Type: Regional
Size: 31.76 sq.cms.
Published: -TWTF--

Brief: ROCK BANDS

Concert after party jam session

SOUTH East musicians will have the chance to jam with nationally acclaimed rockers, including Kevin Borich and members of the Screaming Jets, early next month.

An after party has been

organised at the South Eastern Hotel for the Mount Gambier Long Road Tour show on October 3.

Local musicians will run a jam session at the hotel after the Friday night concert at the showgrounds



Border Watch
Thursday 25/9/2008
Page: 13
Section: General News
Region: Mt Gambier SA Circulation: 7,433
Type: Regional
Size: 81.86 sq.cms.
Published: -TWTF--

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Early ticket purchase urged

PROMOTERS of the upcoming Long Road Tour show at Mount Gambier's showgrounds have urged music fans to buy tickets early so the mammoth day of entertainment can go ahead.

"A show of this size needs early sales or will have to be cancelled," said Channel Events managing director Hugh Jones.

"We want to invest in regional tours, but people are not buying tickets in advance and expect to rock up at the door, which we can't do when there is a big budget of around \$600,000 at stake for the tour."

Mr Jones said the upcoming

show, featuring headline acts The Screaming Jets and Butterfly Effect, was hoped to be the start of regular major tours to the area operated by the Adelaide company

"We want to do shows two to three times a year in Mount Gambier if we can cover our costs for the first show," he said.

"We are keen to invest in regional communities and use skills in the areas to do the shows with local support, but need pre-sale tickets to make it work."

He said interest in the show had been "phenomenal", but at least 1000 tickets needed to be sold for the event to be a success.



Rock tour excitement builds

EXCITEMENT about the looming Long Road Tour day of rock at the Mount Gambier showgrounds hall has prompted a former Mount Gambier rock promoter to step back into the scene and help with the event.

Sharon Phelan, who formerly worked with major Australian acts, such as Angry Anderson, left the industry to raise a family, but has now become the Mount Gambier representative for Channel Events.

"I got behind this because I think it is a great idea," she said.

"I believe in what they are trying to do, which is bring all-ages concert events to town"

Ms Phelan is leading the Mount Gambier contingent of workers delivering the show locally as the tour moves through Mount Gambier, Port Augusta and Kalgoorlie.

She said an employment agency was being used to source 25 workers, including bar staff, for the event.

"It's not just a whole bunch of people coming from the city

and running the show," she said, adding Channel Events managing director Hugh Jones had lived in Mount Gambier as a child.

"We are looking to use as many local people as we can and things like the Rotary Club pizza van will also be involved."

Mount Gambier band Blame Johnny has also been added to the bill to include South East talent in the performance, which will also feature The Screaming Jets, Butterfly Effect, Kevin and Lucius Borich and Lawless Breed.

"I'm just really glad to see some big acts coming to Mount Gambier," Blame Johnny singer Haylie Gregor said.

"Everyone is always complaining we don't get anything happening down here and now we have something worthwhile for all age groups, not just a select group, and if it is supported there will be more tours."

Locals have also been involved in promoting the

event, with people employed by Channel Events travelling across western Victoria and throughout the South East, heading beyond Robe, Bordertown and Casterton, to raise awareness of the show.

"Normally people around the area travel to Adelaide or Melbourne for these types of shows, so we are hoping to attract at least 1000 to Mount Gambier and can cater for 2000," Ms Phelan said.

Ms Phelan said she believed the \$85 ticket fee was reasonable considering the depth of talent that would be featured in Mount Gambier.

"It costs a lot of money to get these guys all together with two headline acts and people should consider what you would pay for each on their own and the fact they are all coming to Mount Gambier," she said.

Tickets are on sale at the Sir Robert Helpmann Theatre box office in Mount Gambier and online from VenueTix for the October 3 show.



Channel Events Mount Gambier representative Sharon Phelan and Blame Johnny singer Haylie Gregor practice their air guitar moves as excitement grows over the upcoming day of rock at the showgrounds.