



# Track side

Reports of The Screaming Jets' demise are premature, writes **Sam Cleveland**

**A**USSIE pub rock stayers The Screaming Jets will let the world know they're still very much alive at two cranked-up Indy shows this weekend.

On Sunday, they perform their single *Do Ya* – which kicks off their new album of the same name – from the starting line of the Surfers Paradise Indy 300.

They warm up with a Saturday night stand at the Hard Rock Cafe.

*Do Ya* is the band's first full-length studio album in eight years and outspoken frontman Dave Gleeson says his outfit is revved up to be back in the arena.

"A lot of people think we're dead and buried or broken up," he laughs.

"So this is a great way for us to announce to the world not only that we're still here, but that we've got a new album and we're pumped and ready to go."

The Hard Rock Cafe hosts rock 'n' roll shows on each night of the Indy Carnival, including gigs by Gold Coast rock acts Bowser and Enacio.

The Jets expect to shoot fish in a barrel at their Indy dates, where they'll 'turn it up to at least 11' for fans.

"We're the ultimate suburban band and our people will converge from all over Australia on the Gold Coast for the race," says Gleeson.

"We've just got to make sure we play louder than the cars."

Gleeson says production on *Do Ya* was delayed as cash dribbled in from band tours.

"We had a fair whack of cash, but after three weeks in the studio it was like 'we need more money', and we went back on the road."

With the new album up their sleeve and a fresh swing in their step, Gleeson says the Jets want to get back to regularly recording and touring new records.

"You need to get an album together so you can continue to tour and hopefully we're back to the stage where we can get a bit of a run on," says the singer, who's made ends meet in the leaner years performing on *It Takes Two* and *The Footy Show*.

"We should be working on the next album by mid next year."

Progress on *Do Ya* also wobbled after the acrimonious departure of founding guitarist Grant Walmsley. The split marks the end of one of the most successful partnerships in Australian pub rock history.

Neither side will open up too much about the root of the problem.

"Grant played on the album and left after we'd finished recording. We left him on the album, so he still gets his cut," offers Gleeson, adding that the pair haven't spoken for 18 months.

"We went to high school together. We were in our first band together, but that's the way it goes in rock 'n' roll.

"One day we might bury the hatchet – maybe in each other's heads."

**Bowser, Concrete Street and 1989 play the Hard Rock Cafe tonight; Misdirection, Enacio and Le Belle play tomorrow; The Screaming Jets play Saturday. Doors open at 10pm.**



The Screaming Jets