

THE TEEN AND TWENTIES NEWSPAPER

KATH & KIM DIONNE'S LAST TIME THE WILD ONE MAX MERRITT JIM & KARIN KEAYS

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THE AUSSIE NATIONAL ANTHEM YOU'VE NEVER HEARD OF

By Jeff Jenkins



Grand Final Day, 1984. As Slim Dusty belts out the national anthem at the MCG before Essendon take on their '80s archrivals Hawthorn, Jon English's guitarist, Keith "Stretch" Kerwin, is back in his hotel room writing a new national anthem.

"Jon and the Fossies [English's band, the Foster Brothers] always had a big weekend at this time," Kerwin explains. "We usually played a very late gig on the Friday night, 3am finish, then a very early gig Saturday morning at the Fitzroy Lions champagne breakfast, 6am start. Consequently, we didn't sleep.

"Then, after the breakfast, stagger off, half tanked, to the Grand Final as guests of the club."

But on this one day in September, Kerwin – a Queenslander who prefers rugby – decided to give his ticket to a member of the crew and head back to the hotel for some sleep. But instead of going to bed, he picked up his guitar, and his mind wandered back to a strange conversation the band had at The Bert Newton Show a few months before.

At the Channel Nine studios in Melbourne, the musicians met Prince Leonard, the self-styled prince of the Hutt River Province, Australia's most famous "micronation".

"Have you got a national anthem?" Jon English asked the prince.

"No," he replied, "I've never really thought about it, to be honest."

"Oh well, then, why don't we write you one, and you can make us all knights?"

"That sounds like a great idea."

The Hutt River Province was formed in 1970 when the WA government introduced new quotas telling farmers how much wheat they could grow. Leonard Casley believed the new rules made his farm unviable, so he came up with a radical idea – seceding from Australia and starting his own nation.

Leonard became Prince Leonard, his wife became Princess Shirley, and the Hutt River Province – nearly 600km north of Perth – became a tourist attraction, with visitors crossing the border to get their passports stamped at the capital city, Nain.

They installed a ministry of foreign affairs, a diplomatic security force, and a non-combative defence force, and they created their own flag, stamps, and currency.

In 1977, when the Australian Tax Office said Prince Leonard owed them money, he was so angry that he declared war on Australia. In a telegram to the Governor-General, Sir John Kerr, he stated: "It is my official responsibility to declare that a state of war now exists between our respective countries, and diplomatic relations are at this time severed."

Two days later, Prince Leonard declared the conflict over, and Australia was obliged to recognise Hutt River's sovereignty as it was undefeated in war.

The principality had everything it needed – apart from a national anthem.

Strumming his guitar in his hotel room – as the Bombers powered to their 13th premiership, coming back from 23 points down at three-quarter time to win by four goals – Kerwin came up with the melody for the Hutt River anthem.

Then he moved on to the words. "Where are we again?" he asked himself.

"We're halfway up the coast of WA, pretty rugged ..."

Kerwin started singing: "It's a harsh land, but it's our land."

His original line for the chorus was: "Leonard is the Prince of the Hutt River Province", but he changed it to "God bless the Prince", "thinking it was a bit more anthem-ish".

"Basically, the rest just flowed like it was already written – it just had to be put on paper."

That night, before yet another gig, Kerwin told Jon and the band: "Hey guys, I've got an idea for that anthem thingy." They responded enthusiastically, and soon after, the band recorded the song at a studio in Perth, with English on lead vocals, Kerwin on acoustic guitar and backing vocals, John Dallimore on guitar and backing vocals, John Coker on bass and backing vocals, Peter Deacon on piano and synth, and Greg Henson on drums.

Continued page 2

THE PRINCE AND THE SONGSTER



Prince Leonard Monarch of Hutt River Province

Continued: "It's a hard land, but it's our own land," English sang. "Built with love and dedication/ Self-assured is our small nation/ One man's dream of independence/ God bless the Prince of the Hutt River Province/ God bless the man whose dream has come true/ God bless this land where dreams can come true."

Four decades on, Jon English is still not in the ARIA Hall of Fame, but he was knighted – by Prince Leonard.

In fact, the Prince knighted every member of the band. He also issued an official decree from "the Government of the Principality of Hutt River", apologising to Sir Keith.

"For many, many years, an injustice has been done to a great musician, that musician being guitarist, vocalist and composer Keith Kerwin, or as he should more correctly be called, Sir Keith Kerwin.

"The injustice being that, until recently, Sir Jon English has – incorrectly, as it turned out – been given the accolades and recognition for composing the principality's national anthem when, in fact, it was Sir Keith, not Sir Jon, who wrote both the music and the lyrics to this wonderful and moving anthem.

"The principality wishes to correct this long-standing misunderstanding and apologise to Sir Keith for seemingly ignoring his great effort and attributing his work to another, something that should never occur and is a great insult. We are very thankful that Sir Keith understands how the error came to be."

Prince Leonard changed the province's name to the Principality of Hutt River in 2006.

Sadly, Sir Jon English died in 2016, aged 66. But his work lives on. In fact, Ambition Records has just released the box set Jon English – The Rock Show, where he tells the history of rock via two CDs and two DVDs.

English's footy team, Fitzroy, no longer exists. They merged with the Brisbane Bears in 1996 to form the Brisbane Lions, who thrashed the Sydney Swans to take out the 2024 AFL Grand Final before 100,000 people.

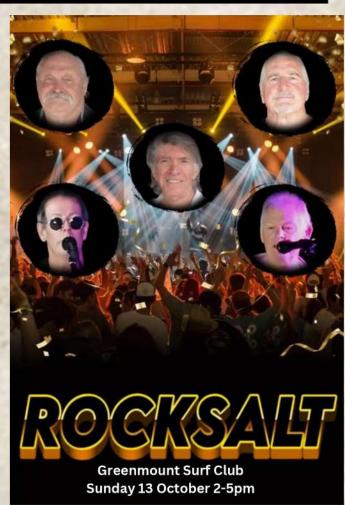
In 2017, 91-year-old Prince Leonard abdicated, with his youngest son, Prince Graeme, becoming the new monarch. Prince Leonard died two years later.

After 50 years, Hutt River again became part of Australia in 2020.

With the Tax Office arguing that the principality owed nearly \$3 million in back taxes, Prince Leonard's children decided it was best to dissolve the principality and return to Australia. "No one wanted to undo what Dad did," his daughter, Princess Sherryl, said. "But like a band, when the lead singer leaves, it never sounds the same."

But Sir Keith remains rightly proud of his Hutt River national anthem. "We resisted the urge to stick a blazing heavy metal guitar solo in it," he smiles. "Maybe if we do an updated version for the 40th anniversary?"





KATH & KIM GO GAGA



By Mary Varvaris

Kath & Kim fans who watched Lady Gaga's latest video on TikTok have been expressing shock as she sings the theme song from the iconic Australian comedy series.

The Joker, originally written by Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley for the 1964 musical, The Roar Of The Greasepaint – The Smell Of The Crowd, and most famously performed by Shirley Bassey in 1968, was the opening theme to Kath & Kim, even appearing on the 2004 soundtrack album Kath & Kim's Party Tape.

The version that appeared on Kath & Kim was sung by Gina Riley, who portrayed Kim Craig in the sitcom series.

Lady Gaga's rendition of The Joker is dramatic, showing off her diverse and strong vocal range and singing impressive runs. Her cover of the track will appear on the album Harlequin, Gaga's companion album to the forthcoming film Joker: Folie à Deux which will premiere in cinemas next month. It stars Gaga as Harley Quinn and Joaquin Phoenix as the titular villain.

The film is expected to include 15 musical numbers, many of which are preexisting songs set to align with the movie's themes. One or two original tracks will also be featured in the film.

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Seriously helpful.



Dionne Warwick's One Last Time tour is your last chance to see this extraordinary singer, the second-most charted female vocalist during1955–1999. She is also one of the most-charted vocalists of all time, with 56 of her singles making the Hot 100 between 1962 and 1998 ranks number 74 on the Billboard Hot 100's "Greatest Artists of all time".

Warwick's legendary career has spanned more than six decades, spawning 30 hit singles, 20 best-selling albums, and five Grammy Awards.

Her catalogue includes classics like Walk on By, Say a Little Prayer, Anyone Who Had a Heart, A House is Not a Home, Alfie, and I'll Never Fall in Love Again.

Last year was a massive year for the legendary singer. It saw the launch of career-spanning documentary Dionne Warwick: Don't Make Me Over, and together with long-time collaborator Burt Bacharach, Warwick was inducted into the American Jazz Hall of Fame.

Rounding out the year, she was named in the 46th Kennedy Centre Honours - celebrating her lifetime contribution to American culture.

In addition to her musical achievements, Warwick has made a major mark as a humanitarian and activist and is a long-time campaigner for AIDS awareness, The Starlight Foundation, children's hospitals, and music education. In addition to her musical achievements, Warwick has made a major mark as a humanitarian and activist and is a long-time campaigner for AIDS awareness, The Starlight Foundation, children's hospitals, and music education.

She performed in the all-star charity single; We Are the World and at Live Aid.

She also joined Gladys Knight, Elton John, and Stevie Wonder for number one hit That's What Friends Are For, with the song's first recording dedicated to raising AIDS awareness.



Saturday, January 11th Riverside Theatre, Perth WA

Tuesday, January 14th QPAC Concert Hall, Brisbane

Wednesday, January 15th Twin Towns Showroom, Tweed Heads

Thursday, January 16th Hamer Hall, Melbourne

Saturday, January 18th The Star Event Centre, Sydney

Sunday, January 19th Canberra Theatre, Canberra ACT

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JOHNNY O'KEEFE

THE WILD ONE

Remember the golden days of rock 'n' roll? When the music was raw, the rhythms were wild, and the performers were larger than life? If you do, then you surely remember Johnny O'Keefe, the Australian icon who blazed a trail for rock music Down Under.

Born in 1935 in Bondi Junction, Johnny O'Keefe - affectionately known as J.O.K. or The Wild One - wasn't just another musician. He was a force of nature who shaped the landscape of Australian rock 'n' roll in the 1950s and 60s.

Picture this: It's 1955, and young Johnny has just watched "Blackboard Jungle" featuring Bill Haley's "Rock Around The Clock." That moment changed everything. Inspired, he formed his first band, the Dee Jays, and began electrifying audiences with his powerhouse performances.

Remember those outrageous outfits? Gold lamé jackets, brightly coloured suits trimmed with fake fur – O'Keefe was as much a visual spectacle as he was a musical sensation.

His career skyrocketed with hits like "She's My Baby," "Shout," and his signature tune "Wild One." His infectious energy and unstoppable ambition led him to host "Six O'Clock Rock" on ABC, making him a household name.

Always reaching for the stars, Johnny set his sights on America. While his U.S. tours didn't achieve the success he hoped for, they showcased his determination and passion. His song "It's Too Late" even hit number 1 in New Orleans!

Life wasn't always easy for our Wild One. A near-fatal car accident in 1960 left him critically injured, but true to his indomitable spirit, he was back on "Six O'Clock Rock" just six weeks later.

Shaping Australian Music

Johnny O'Keefe's impact on Australian music cannot be overstated. He was the first Australian rock 'n' roll performer to tour the United States, paving the way for future generations of Aussie artists to dream big.

His influence extended far beyond his own performances. As the host of "Six O'Clock Rock" and later "Sing, Sing, Sing," J.O.K. provided a platform for emerging Australian talent. Many young artists, including a young Billy Thorpe, got their first big break on his shows.

O'Keefe was also instrumental in developing the local music industry. He encouraged Australian songwriters and producers, helping to create a distinctly Australian sound in rock 'n' roll. His hit "Wild One," co-written with Australian songwriter Johnny Greenan, became an anthem for the emerging youth culture of the late 1950s.

Moreover, J.O.K.'s success proved that Australian artists could compete on the world stage. He showed that you didn't need to be American to make great rock 'n' roll, inspiring countless Aussie musicians to follow in his footsteps.



A Lasting Legacy

As the 60s rolled on and musical tastes changed, J.O.K. adapted, hosting TV shows and touring tirelessly. His 1974 duet "Mockingbird" with Margaret McLaren proved he still had what it took to top the charts.

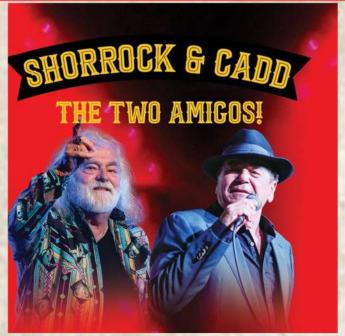
Johnny O'Keefe's final performance was in September 1978, just days before his untimely passing. But his legacy lives on. He paved the way for generations of Australian musicians, showing that rock 'n' roll wasn't just an American phenomenon - it had a home in the heart of every Aussie who dared to dream big.

Today, Johnny O'Keefe is remembered not just for his music, but for his role in shaping Australian popular culture. He was inducted into the ARIA Hall of Fame in 1988, and his life story has been immortalized in stage shows and documentaries. The annual J Award, presented by Triple J radio for the Australian Album of the Year, is named in his honor, ensuring that new generations of music lovers remember the Wild One's contributions.

So, the next time you hear "Shout" or "Wild One," remember the man who brought rock 'n' roll to Australia. Remember Johnny O'Keefe - the one, the only, Wild One - and the indelible mark he left on Australian music.



A SHOW NOT TO BE MISSED!



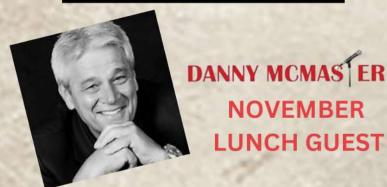
Aussie music legends, Glenn Shorrock and our President Brian Cadd have reunited on stage over the past few years with sellout shows across the east coast.

Our very own "Two Amigos" will be joined onstage by their 5piece band to present an evening full of wonderful music, poignant memories and loads of laughs guaranteeing that this will be far more than your average stroll down memory lane.

Shorrock and Cadd will be performing hit after hit after hit including Little Ray of Sunshine, Reminiscing, Ginger Man, Arkansas Grass, Cool Change, Help is on its Way and Don't You Know It's Magic from their past supergroups – The Twilights, The Groop, Axiom, The Bootleg Family, and Little River Band.

The Two Amigos! GLENN SHORROCK and BRIAN CADD are two of Australia's most successful and internationally renowned music legends.

TWIN TOWNS SATURDAY 16 NOVEMBER. 8PM QLD TIME 1800 014 014 OR BOOK ONLINE

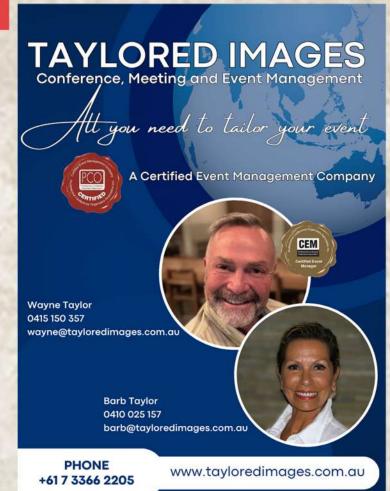


Our Danny McMaster has shared the stage with various big names as Mary Wilson (The Supremes), Don McLean (American Pie), Glenn Shorrock (Little River Band), The Barron Knights (UK), Col Elliott (legendary Oz comic) and Sammy Davis Jnr., to name but a few.

Danny has worked the great showrooms, five-star hotels, pubs and clubs of Australia, Vietnam, New Zealand, New Guinea, Hong Kong, Japan, Tahiti, Fiji, New York, Chicago, Washington, Florida, Pennsylvania and Las Vegas, in front of politicians, heads of industry, the public and his peers.

And now he gets to give us his best at our November 19 lunch. Bookings are strictly limited!

Tuesday 19 November. Look Out!



PROUDLY Supporting

GoSet applauds the work of Love Your Sister (LYS). LYS's mission is to ensure precision treatment for all new cancer patients, whatever the cancer, regardless of location, age, income or status. It is LYS's vision that patients are offered the right treatment, first time, every time. And that, at the cusp of a post-genome revolution, Australia can show the world how Precision Medicine is done. Note: The GoSet committee intends to donate part of GoSet's entry fees (after expenses) to LYS. GoSet is a voluntary donor to LYS and is not associated with, governed by, or administered by Love Your Sister.





REMEMBERING MAX MERRITT

Merritt was a venerable pioneer of rock in Australasia who produced crowd-pleasing shows for more than 50 years. He engendered respect and affection over generations of performers. This was evident at the 2007 Concert for Max which was organised to provide financial support for him after it announced he had Goodpasture's syndrome, a rare autoimmune disease.

Born in New Zealand, Merritt was interested in music from an early age and started guitar lessons at 12. By 1955 he encountered the rock and roll of Bill Haley and Elvis Presley. After leaving school in 1956, aged 15, Merritt formed the Meteors with friends, and they played dances and local charity concerts.

When the Christchurch Railway Hall into a music venue, The Teenage Club, they hired Merritt and the Meteors. The Teenage Club drew hundreds of locals and increased their popularity in the city when most businesses and public venues closed until late on Sunday afternoon.

Merritt borrowed players from other bands if a Meteors' member was unavailable and one such band was Ray Columbus & the Invaders. In January 1959, New Zealand's top rocker, Johnny Devlin, saw Merritt at a "Rock'n'Roll Jamboree" charity concert where Devlin's manager Graham Dent was impressed enough to praise their performance to Auckland promoter Harry M. Miller who then added the Meteors to Johnny O'Keefe's 1959 tour of New Zealand.

Merritt's band became the second most popular band in New Zealand behind the Invaders which played a beat pop style while the Meteors tackled rock and roll, soul and R&B. They relocated to Sydney in December 1964.and made their first Australian television appearance on Johnny O'Keefe's Sing Sing Sing. By April 1965, the second Meteors' album was finally released on RCA Records and contained a range of styles, including the single "So Long Babe".

During February 1966, visiting UK acts the Rolling Stones and the Searchers were supported on tour by Max Merritt and The Meteors. Merritt heard Otis Redding's version of "Try a Little Tenderness" and recorded his own cover in 1967. Turmoil within the Meteors saw a rapid turnover of members and by May, Merritt with Bob Bertles on saxophone, Stewie Speer on drums and John "Yuk" Harrison on bass guitar, decided to relocate to Melbourne where they initially found it difficult obtaining regular gigs and so travelled widely through the state.

In June 1967 the van they were travelling in collided head-on with a car, Bertles suffered a broken leg, Speer had both legs crushed, broke both arms and lost the tops off several fingers. Merrit lost his right eye and had his face scarred. It took the band nearly a year to recover and in July 1968 they competed in Hoadley's Battle of the Sounds, finishing behind winners the Groove, the Masters Apprentices and Doug Parkinson.

In 1969 the group was re-signed by RCA and they released their first single for over two years, "Hey, Western Union Man", which reached No. 13 on the Australian singles charts. In early 1970 their third album, Max Merritt and the Meteors, was released with six original tracks and five covers. It reached No. 8 on the national albums chart.

The band was asked by the ABCTV to provide a four-part series called Max Merritt and the Meteors in Concert. In late 1970 they released Stray Cats and followed with the singles "Good Feelin" and "Hello LA, Bye Bye Birmingham" in 1971 and "Let it Slide" in 1972. Neither the album nor the singles charted well. By that time, Merritt had relocated again – this time to England.

In London from early 1971, the group played the UK pub circuit, initially with little success but their popularity slowly grew and they supported Slade and the Moody Blues on their tours in 1975. "Slippin' Away" was their second single from the album and captured the attention of radio listeners in both Australia and New Zealand, reaching No. 2 in Australia and No. 5 in New Zealand.

Merritt relocated to Nashville, Tennessee, in 1977 and signed as a solo artist with Polydor Records, which released Keeping in Touch in 1979. He then moved to Los Angeles, where he continued to reside. He toured Australia in 1979 and 1980. This was Merritt and Speer's last major tour together: Speer died of a heart attack on 16 September 1986.

He toured Australia in 1991 with Brian Cadd in the Brian Cadd and Max Merritt Band. In late 1996, Merritt returned to Australia to tour the club and pub circuit.

Merritt toured Australia on a short club circuit in 2001 along with Doug Parkinson, a fellow veteran rocker from the 1960s. This marked a resurgence of interest for Merritt and April and May were spent touring Australia under the banner "The Heart & Soul of Rock & Roll" with Parkinson; August and September 2002 was the Long Way To The Top concert tour. After that, whenever Merritt returned to Australia, a reformed Max Merritt & The Meteors were in demand for special events and music festivals.

In mid-April 2007, Merritt was admitted to a Los Angeles hospital with symptoms of kidney failure. He was diagnosed with Goodpasture syndrome, a rare autoimmune disorder that affects the kidneys and lungs. Merritt was struggling with his health and finances, so his manager Wal Bishop and Australian music industry friends, organised a Concert for Max benefit held at the Palais Theatre which raised \$200,000. On 1 July 2008, Merritt was inducted into the ARIA Hall of Fame and was joined on stage by Kasey Chambers and Bill Chambers to perform "Slipping Away".

Merritt was moved to tears by the tribute and his speech was high on emotion.

Merritt died in Los Angeles, California, on 24 September 2020, at age 79, 13-years after being diagnosed with Goodpasture syndrome.

Prior to his death, Merritt had recorded a new album, titled I Can Dream. The album was released on 27 November 2020.





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WORST ALBUM COVERS



IT STARTED WITH AN INSANE DARE





Connie Johnson dared her brother Samuel to unicyclearound the countryto remind every mum in the land to be breast aware and raise \$1M for cancer research

Samuel completed the challenge, broke the world record for longdistance unicycling and helped raise \$1.4M for research.

Samuel was expecting pat on the back when he returned. Connie was quick to remind him "It's not over when you get off the unicycle. It's not over when I die. It's over when we stop losing mums to cancer." Samuel promised on the spot to raise their fundraising goal to \$10M.

Connie died before the ten-million-dollar promise could be kept, but she knew Samuel was good for it. Connie started something special. The Love Your Sister village is a magnificent place. We now fight all cancers because, it's a place where families are paramount, and love is everything.

Samuel Johnson OAM has been working in the entertainment industry for more than 20 years as an actor, radio presenter and voiceover arPst. Previously he was best known for his role in the cult hit The Secret Life of Us, for which he won an AFI Best Actor Award. More recently, he has become known for hisportrayal of Ian"Molly" Meldrumin Seven'sraPngs smash Molly, for which he won the 2017 Gold Logie for Most Popular Personality on Television, Silver Logie Award for Best Actor and the 2016 AACTA Best Actor Award for Best Lead Actor.

IT'S BECAUSE I LOVE YOU



A Real-Life Rock 'n' Roll Love Story

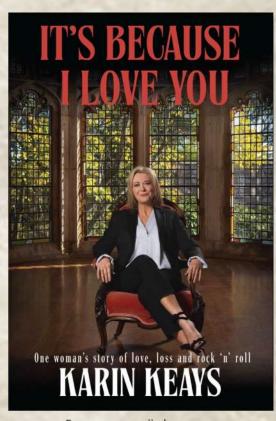
IT'S BECAUSE I LOVE YOU is the story of our Karin Keays' real-life rock 'n' roll romance and possibly the first such book to be written from the unique perspective of a woman who has lived and worked for 35 years in the inner sanctum of rock and roll royalty.

Karin arrived in Melbourne in 1998 on the first step of her lifelong dream to travel overseas, find excitement and maybe even romance. The path to that dream took an unexpected twist when, only hours after arriving, she met Jim Keays. A devastatingly handsome rockstar and music legend, Jim fell instantly in love when he opened his front door to the beautiful young woman from the Gold Coast.

IT'S BECAUSE I LOVE YOU has been described as an amusing, fascinating, insightful, and deeply tragic. It is the story of a fairytale life that goes suddenly and shockingly wrong, turning into a nightmare of maternal loss and grief.

Set amidst the dizzying highs and devastating lows of life in the Australian music industry, Karin's is an inspirational story of healing and redemption woven throughout a true love story for all time.

Russell Morris and Sahara Herald (Frontier Touring) have written forewords and testimonials, with more high-profile testimonials to come.



For more: www.jimkeays.com www.karinkeays.com

AROUND TOWN



Noriko blooming at her Garden Club



Shanyn taking time out for a beach read at Burleigh Heads



All smiles . . . Steve Dann and Danny McMaster



Sue and Debbie at Tony Worsley's Whisky Lounge Show



At Normie and Samantha's for gourmet dinner





Ted Hansen and Gael Chudleigh at Bee Gees Star Casino show



Secret women's business?

SEPTEMBER LUNCH

Our September lunch was a hoot with resident scallywag Brian Mannix detailing his exploits on and off the field with the more than entertaining Craig Bennett

Pics by: Shanyn Azmar



Brian with Steve and GO!! Kommotion signing



Denise Bellmaine and Brian



The Craigs and the other fella



Rosie and her Brian



Giselle aka Princess Mermaid



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Annie Pritchard with author Rose Jason and Debbie



Denise, Shanyn and Giselle



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HAS PAUL MC.CARTNEY HAD IT THIS TIME?

IAN MELDRUM REPORTS - PG. 3