

## 50 YEARS: AMAZING AUSSIE CLASSIC

by Jeff Jenkins



**If they ever made a Brian Mannix biopic, it would be a rollicking tale of sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll.**

"I collect adventures," Mannix wrote in the foreword of his autobiography. "I've sung at a Grand Final, and played gigs to just a handful of people, had sex at the MCG and on a pile of rubbish behind the Eureka Hotel. I've been shot at, arrested, overpaid, underpaid, ripped off, respected and ridiculed."

Mannix was planning to write a book about the '80s music scene called "People Never Fail To Disappoint Me". Then the working title became "Pop Stars, Roadies And ...". The proposed opening paragraph was: "There are three types of people in the music industry- pop stars, roadies and arseholes. Pop stars get the chicks, roadies get the drugs, and arseholes get the money."

**Amidst the debauchery, the centrepiece of the soundtrack to a Mannix movie would be a big ballad called 50 Years, which entered the Top 40 in 1985. The book was published 10 years ago.**

"It does not have the naughty and vulgar charm of the other songs," notes Red Symons who produced the song. "It is thoughtful and self-reflective."

Mannix says the song is "essentially about embracing the moment and living in the now, don't wreck the moment by overthinking."

The X-Men had a massive live following in Melbourne when they signed to Mushroom Records in 1982. But it wasn't a big record deal. "Our deal was for one live mini-album. If that did well, we would then be offered the standard Mushroom record contract. If it didn't, we were fucked."

When SaliveOne! ("It's a live one", geddit?) was released, Mannix would tell giggoers: "My mum needs an eye operation or she might die. The only way we can afford the operation is if you buy the record. So if you don't buy it, you'll be killing my mother!" The record hit the Top 40 nationally, and the X-Men got the go-ahead to make an album.

Mannix ended up becoming one of Countdown's biggest stars of the '80s, hosting the show eight times. Party became the band's first Top 20 hit.

I really liked a lot of those Rolling Stones ballads like If You Really Want To Be My Friend and Wild Horses so with 50 Years I was trying to write something like that," the singer explains. The song's introduction – the sound of church bells – was a nod to John Lennon's Mother

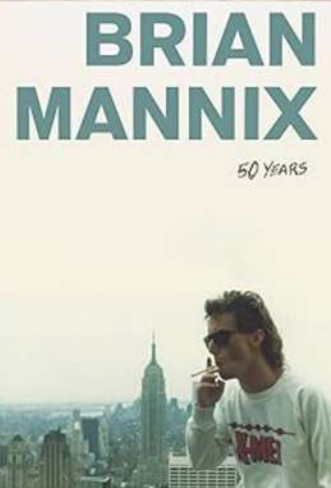
**Mannix loves the guitar solo.**

"A good guitar solo is a song within a song," Mannix believes. "It takes over from the vocals. It should be almost a standalone piece within the structures of the song."

The X-Men headed to the Gold Coast's Mermaid Beach to make the 50 Years video, with the theme being "man dwarfed by nature". The clip also included funeral scenes, shot at Melbourne's Fawkner Cemetery, which showed a darker side to the band.

When Countdown premiered the clip, it was a "number one prediction". The song didn't quite reach number one on the official ARIA charts—it peaked at four—but Mannix says, "I reckon they can suck it!"

He prefers to highlight the various radio and state charts around the nation that showed that 50 Years knocked off We Are The World to take top spot. "I'm going with the charts that were most flattering to us. guitar with a broken string!"



"What a great vibe it was to kick all of those fantastic superstars off the top of the perch with my little band and the pissy little song I wrote in my bedroom on an acoustic."

Rod Stewart's management wanted to look after the X-Men internationally. But the band declined the deal. "Not signing with Rod Stewart's management was a mistake," Mannix now admits.

Forty years after it was released, 50 Years is undeniably an Aussie classic. You just have to scan the YouTube comments to see how much the song has meant to people:

"Though, in hindsight, I wish I'd recorded it in G rather than C – it's a bit too high for me."



# DEBONAIRS



by Bob Pritchard

**The GoSet Club Gold Coast president, Bob Pritchard, represented Brian Cadd, the GoSet Club and the Los Angeles Debonaires at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the Debonaires at a capacity event in Melbourne last week.**

Twenty two years ago this month, Brian Cadd and twelve Melbourne Music Industry mates got together for a lunch at the Old Italian Waiters Club in the city. They did so because they were tired of never getting together socially due to work schedules. The lunch ended at 7pm and the Debonairs were born.

Next lunch we had about 16 attendees...and it slowly grew from there. There is now a Debonairs Lunch Group or derivatives of in most states around Australia with over 2,000 Industry luminaries on our databases. The GoSet Club on the Gold Coast is one of these lunch groups.

**The Debonaires in Los Angeles was established by Dom Barbuto and was presided over by the late Max Merritt. Gavin Wood, Maurice Rinaldi, Brett Allen, Rod Hardy and Bob Pritchard were, or are still an integral part of the LA Debonairs.**

Dom started convening the Melbourne lunch in 2004 when Brian left Melbourne told Dom to run with it. Over the past 22 years we've held our lunches at some 20 venues around Melbourne. (They've been kicked out of a couple after a number of indiscretions by some of the gang LOL).

They've all added to the amazing history of the Debonairs

However the other reason for the Debs existing is perhaps even more commendable than a great lunch...In the past 22 years here in Melbourne we have helped raise over half a million dollars for Support Act by having a boozy lunch, ten times a year whilst Supporting music professionals who are facing hardship due to illness, injury or some other crisis that impacts on their ability to work in music.

Here's some Info on how the Debonairs got it's name, courtesy of Brian Cadd. It's an old vaudeville joke in America called The Aristocrats

"The Aristocrats" is a taboo-defying off-color joke that has been told by numerous stand-up comedians since the vaudeville era. The joke was the subject of a 2005 documentary film of the same name. It received publicity when it was used by Gilbert Gottfried during the Friars' Club roast of Hugh Hefner in September 2001.

This joke almost always has these elements—alternative versions may change this form.

1.Setup: A family act going in to see a talent agent; either the whole family or just one family member (usually the father).

The agent asks what they do.

2.Act: It is described in as much detail as the teller prefers.

While most tellings follow one of a few basic forms, the description of the act is meant to be an ad lib.

Traditionally, the description is tasteless and ribald.

3.Punch line: The shocked (or intrigued) agent asks what the act is called, and the proud answer (sometimes delivered with a flourish) is most times "The Aristocrats!";

The humor comes from the contrast between the refined name and the depraved act described.

A variation of the joke was originally told by Gavin Wood at one of the first Debonairs lunches. We then did the T-shirt and added it to the logo design.

Here's Gavin's version: A man gets caught committing an act of bestiality with a goat...

He confides in his lawyer who tells him not to worry because he'll take the case and he's never lost because he can always pick the most sympathetic juries.

It's the day of the trial and the farmer takes the stand and says "I seen this guy hop over my fence, positioned his' self behind one of my goats, commenced to unbuckle his belt, dropped his pants, then done the deed for five or so minutes. Then he fell on his back, belly all covered in seminal fluid. It's about that time the goat turned around and started to lick him clean."

One juror turns to the other and says "a good goat will do that!"

**So that explains that tag on the Debonair's logo.**





# BRIAN CADD UPDATE



As we've noted in the Debonaires story, Brian was instrumental (excuse the pun) in starting the Debonaires in Melbourne 22 years ago.

He has just sent this message for their anniversary. *"It is fabulous to see so many of our peers meeting, 22 years after a few muso mates and I met over a 7 hour lunch that has grown to become the multi chapter Debonaires. I am very proud to have been a part of forming a community that comes together with a common theme of a love of music and the enjoyment of being with each other."*

Rosie added *"As you know, Brian is having intensive therapy and is making gains every day. The reality is that life will never be the same for him, but he is surrounded with the love of friends and family and that makes him a fortunate man in any circumstance."*

## Debonaires Anniversary Melbourne



22 years after a boozy lunch started our sister club Debonaires, they're still rocking.

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# VALE MARCIE JONES

MARCIE JONES



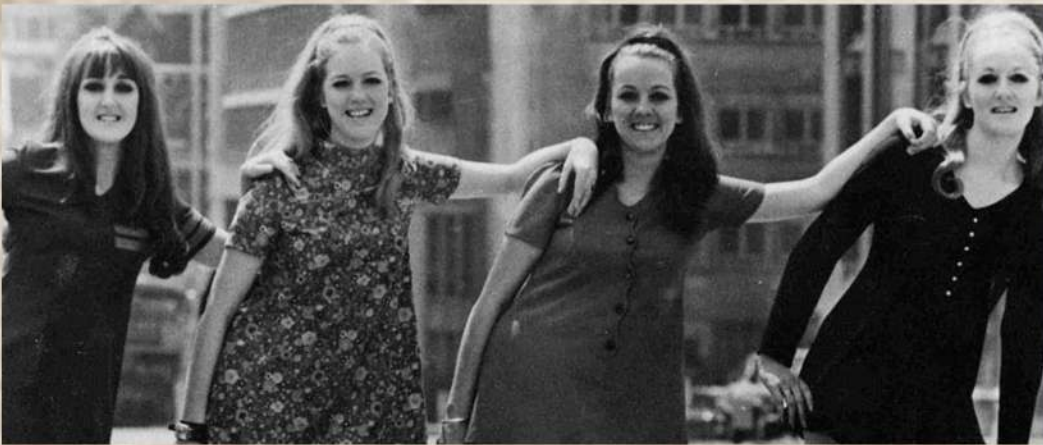
The day after her fabulous GoSet lunch appearance, Marcie found out that she had been diagnosed with leukemia.

Now we have heard with great sadness that our friend Marcie Jones passed away on 31st May after her heart gave way during her treatment for aggressive cancer. She was in good spirits and positive until the end.

Marcie would have celebrated her 80th birthday in a few weeks.

Marcie and the Cookies toured parts of SE Asia and then went onto work in UK even recording in the famous Abbey Road Studios. In 1967 Marcie together with the Cook sisters Margaret, Beverley and Wendy formed 'Marcie and the Cookies' which became the top female singing group in Australia.

Marcie, you made a lot of people happy, including all of your Gold Coast GoSet friends.





# MARCIE JONES LUNCH

Our May guest was Marcie Jones who with interviewer Normie Rowe gave us a great insight into her life and career memories. even more poignant for us all now. Marcie told us about kicking off in the 1960s, performing with The Thunderbirds and later joining Normie Rowe and The Playboys. Her national recognition started with appearances on The Go Show. When she formed the all-female vocal group Marcie and The Cookies, they toured internationally with artists like Cliff Richard and The Monkees. By the 1970s, as a solo artist, success came with her album That Girl Jones and the single Gonna Get Married.

Over the decades, she continued to perform and record, earning accolades for her contributions to Australian music.





# NO! THEY DIDN'T!

## Scratch and Sniff Vinyl that smells like Gweneth Paltrow's Vagina



This article requires a deep (and probably weird) sense of humour and irony. You don't have to read it - but if you do, blame Gwentyth Paltrow and her Goop products, not us.

Private Function is a Melbourne punk group. They have released four studio albums and are known for their larrikin humor, high-energy live performance style and unorthodox marketing gimmicks. In previous years, Private Function have made headlines for the unique vinyl variants they have released for each of their albums.

2020's *Whose line Is It Anyway?* featured bags of white powder inside the record while their 2022 album was issued as a liquid disc containing the bands' urine inside.

Last week the band released details of the "Goopy" edition vinyl of their new album.

Guitarist Lauren Hester explained that Gweneth Paltrow was selling a candle that smells like her vagina. They sell for over \$1100 AUD each. The band immediately tried to buy one but due to the overwhelming demand, Paltrow and Goop sold out instantly.

As Hester explains, the group then decided to duplicate the smell to create the world's first scratch and sniff vinyl record. "\$1100 to smell Gwyneth Paltrow's vagina is quite frankly classist and we at Private Function think that every working class person deserves to have access to the smell 24 hours a day."

Copies of the "Goopy" vinyl are sold out. But if you scored one you now have a scratch and sniff record that smells like Gweneth Paltrow's vagina.

Now are you sorry you read this article?,



Private Function have just announced an Australian Tour to support their new album.

Saturday, May 31st – Gang Gang Bar & Café, Canberra, ACT  
Saturday, June 7th – Crowbar, Sydney, NSW  
Sunday, June 8th – La La Las, Wollongong, NSW  
Friday, June 20th – Brightside, Brisbane, QLD  
Saturday, June 21st – Vinnies, Gold Coast, QLD

# YES THEY DID



## Brian Cadd Portrait arrives on the Gold Coast



The nearly 3 square metre portrait of Brian Cadd by renown Australian artist, Robyn Ross has arrived on the Gold Coast in preparation for its presentation to Brian's partner Dr. Rosie Adsett at today's June GoSet Luncheon. Robyn is Past President of Portrait Artists Australia and has been invited to exhibit in Australia, New Zealand, The United Kingdom, Italy, France, Germany, Brazil and the UAE.

The painting was delivered to the D'Arcy Arms by GoSet Club President Bob Pritchard and Donna Tunbridge who organized the painting with Robyn Ross. Now for the commencement of the arduous unpacking process of the masterpiece.

At the lunch today ... if you are one of the lucky ones attending .... all will be revealed and we promise you will not be disappointed.

GoSet Club members who donated to bring the painting to the GC for Brian are listed below.

**Thank you all for making this presentation possible.**

Raylene Drysdale  
Sue Kirkby  
Diane Meline  
Debbie & Peter Miller  
Lissa & Hans Morris  
Somer Peeters  
Barry & Shirley Pierce  
Bob & Anne Pritchard  
Loretta & Michael Rymer  
Stephen Sim  
Barb & Wayne Taylor  
David Gordon & Donna Tunbridge  
Anne & Tony Worsley



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Don't miss our exclusive interview with legendary singer-songwriter Ray Burton as he reflects on the stories behind his biggest hits and career milestones. From co-writing the iconic "I Am Woman" to shaping decades of music, Ray shares insights, memories, and the passion that's defined his remarkable journey.

**Book Now!**

**GoSet**

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## "I'M BLOWN AWAY!" SAYS RUSSELL MORRIS

Due to incredible demand, Russell has just added brand-new shows in Geelong, Tweed and Bendigo—and a third show in Melbourne, which will be a special afternoon performance.



**NEW SHOWS ADDED**  
"My huge thanks for all your support; it genuinely means the world. We're busy putting together the song list right now, and I promise—it's going to be amazing! Can't wait to see you there."

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