

FACT SHEET

1970s Australian artists

Skyhooks

The first band to sing about Australian themes, Skyhooks' debut album sold over 300,000 copies. The band pioneered pub rock with a strong blues element which they combined with a theatrical live act.

Sherbet

Sherbet were crowned the 'Kings of Pop' for five years running from 1973. Although they never enjoyed success in the US, they enjoyed success in Europe with 'Howzat'.

Nick Cave

Nick Cave came to world attention performing heavy, blues-based music at odds with the 1980s music mainstream. As Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds, he has continued to write and perform serious, challenging music which is highly theatrical and imaginative, such as the music found on his album *Murder Ballads*.

Little River Band

Little River Band were the masters of close harmony country and easy listening songs. Their hits include 'Home On A Monday', 'Cool Change', 'Curiosity Killed The Cat' and 'Help Is On Its Way'.

Split Enz

With a slightly bizarre look borne from the alternative art movement in New Zealand, Split Enz performed post-Beatles progressive rock. They enjoyed great success in the US, and had the dubious honour of having their song 'Six Months In A Leaky Boat' banned by the British Royal Navy during the Falklands War.

1980s pub rock artists

Cold Chisel

Fronted by arguably Australia's most popular rock singer, Jimmy Barnes, Cold Chisel were inspired by Deep Purple and Led Zeppelin. From Adelaide, the band had hits including 'Khe Sanh', 'Goodbye, My Baby' and 'Forever Now'.

INXS

Australia's most successful international act, INXS featured well-crafted rock songs and imaginative videos. Their success arose from hard work as a pub rock band in the late 1970s, and their hits include 'Need You Tonight', 'Original Sin', 'Good Times', 'Never Tear Us Apart' and 'What You Need'.

Hunters & Collectors

A strong pub rock band, they relocated to the UK in 1983, reduced their line-up and slowly developed a following in Europe. They enjoyed international recognition, but have really only been acknowledged in Australia since they broke up. Their hits include 'Throw Your Arms Around Me', 'Talking To A Stranger' and 'Do You See What I See'.

Crowded House

Formed by Neil Finn from Splitz Enz, the band enjoyed success with their mix of ballads and commercial rock. Hits include 'Don't Dream It's Over', 'Something So Strong', 'Fraction Too Much Friction' and 'Better Be Home Soon'.

Did you know?

One reason attributed to the continuing Australian interest in guitar-based rock is the role of music videos by the children's entertainers The Wiggles. Many Wiggles songs are blues-based.