

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? - THE CHOIRBOYS

On Sydney's Northern Beaches in 1979 four guys got together and started jamming and writing songs together. Those four lads were singer Mark Gable, bassist Ian Hulme, drummer Lindsay Tebbutt and guitarist Brad Carr. But it wasn't until four years later that one of their demos landed in the hands of former Easybeat George Young. George, along with his recording partner Harry Vanda took the Choirboys into the studio to record their first album. The same studio as the pioneering duo had used to record early AC/DC and Rose Tattoo albums.

That debut album spawned the single "Never Gonna Die" which peaked at Number 21 on the Australian chart. Molly Meldrum hailed the debut effort as "destined to become an Aussie classic". Their success looked guaranteed when they scored the support slot for the almighty Cold Chisel "Last Stand" tour.

With the Choirboys future looking bright fate stepped in and delivered a crushing blow. Singer Mark Gable severely damaged his vocal chords during 1983 and the band were unable to perform until 1986 when they supported Deep Purple on the Australian leg of their world tour. With Gable fully healed the group went into preproduction for their second album. During this time guitarist Brad Carr left the group. Brett Williams was brought in as his replacement and the recording of "Big Bad Noise" ensued. The album featured the hugely successful first single "Run To Paradise" and two more Top 10 chart successes, "Boys Will Be Boys" and "Struggle Town". The album achieved double platinum sales figures and the Choirboys looked to be back bigger than before.

But for all the success of their sophomore album the Choirboys next release didn't come for another four years. 1991's "Midnight Sun" was a big budget production recorded in Los Angeles with producer Marc Tanner. It did deliver Top 40 hits "Empire" and "Rendezvous" but was unable to mimic the success of "Big Bad Noise".

Another five years went by before the Choirboys began work on their next album. During this time guitarist Brett Williams left the group. As the band prepared to head to Germany to record "Yo-Yo" founding guitarist Brad Carr was asked to re-join the group. This reformation proved to be shortlived and Richard Lara, straight from the Screaming Jets was brought in to complete the album. This from Choirboys frontman Mark Gable:

We had him back in the band for a few months and were going to do an album with him (Yo-Yo) but he shot through and went walkabout - so we replaced him with Richard Lara.

Following the release of "Yo-Yo" the group returned to Australia to support Cheap Trick on the Australian leg of their 1996 world tour. Despite this lucrative slot "Yo-Yo" was less than successful commercially but the Choirboys continued. Another little mentioned album was actually released in 1996 prior to "Yo-Yo". That thirteen-track album is "Dancing On The Grave of Rock and Roll".

Richard Lara was sacked from the band and the Choirboys went to a three-piece. No commercial output was made before Lindsay Tebutt left the group, to be replaced by Barton Price on drums and guitarist Johnny Ghiselli was enlisted. Barton Price's tenure was short-lived, his replacement Richard Coleman.

To 2003 and a new Choirboys album, "Evolver", will have it's release date set any day now. As far as current events, about an hour after this newsletter goes out the Choirboys will be appearing on Channel 10. 12 noon AEST on Saturday, August 30th. They are currently on their Great Pub Rock Tour 2003 playing the Mildura Workingmans Club tonight (August 30th) before working their way through SA in September and back into New South Wales at the beginning of October.

MARK GABLE

Mark Gable still fronts the Choirboys and, along with fellow founding member Ian Hulme, are the force behind group's longevity.

IAN HULME

Still at it with Mark in the Choirboys.

LINDSAY TEBUTT

Lindsay works as a dot etcher in the print trade. The last sighting we know of him playing live was at the Sydney City Lexus Corporate Countdown in May of this year in the Microsoft band. The "Corporate Countdown" is a charity function where a bunch of corporate companies have their staff play a couple of songs under the moniker of their employer. Sometimes the bands are given assistance by name musicians such as former Doobie Brother Jeff "Skunk" Baxter, Lee Kernaghan and Richard Clapton.

Update: 14th March 2005

Lindsay is now back playing music with "The Amigos" :

<http://www.users.bigpond.net.au/rr/amigos/>




Bookings:

Lindsay - 0421 271 417

Rene - 0418 451 588

Mark - 0411 252425

 [email the amigos](mailto:the.amigos@bigpond.net.au)

BRAD CARR

Brad Carr had a short stint in the Party Boys following his first departure from the Choirboys. All we know of Brad Carr's movements these days is that he "hangs around Manly somewhere".

BRETT WILLIAMS

Brett was also spotted in the Microsoft band at the Sydney City Lexus Corporate Countdown with Lindsay Tebutt. We believe he's done the odd bit of guest and session work around the place but have few specifics. If anyone knows what Brett has been up to let us know.

2003

Microsoft®

> TECHS AND BUGS AND ROCK'N'ROLL'



After portraying a more funky/motown feel in last year's Sydney City Lexus Corporate Countdown, the Microsoft band returned this year with an edgier line-up belting out classic guitar-loaded tracks from the 60s & 70s.

Performed: The Boys Are Back In Town, Stone Free

Performers: Chriss Ridd, vocals/guitar
Bon Mileo, guitar
Andrew Maggio, bass
Lindsay Tebutt, drums
Brett Williams, guitar

Brett Williams Web Site



<http://www.twistedpear.com.au/bretsong/contact.htm>

RICHARD LARA STILL SEARCHING!

Let us know if you know anything about the whereabouts of Richard Lara these days. There are a great many rumours around but we've been unable to confirm any of them. Seems his head pops up all over the place, if everything we've heard is true. I think he actually walked into a music store I was working in about 8 or 9 years ago looking to buy an old Maton CW80 we had hanging up. He said that's who he was but maybe he's an imposter and he's responsible for all the Richard Lara stories we hear. Anyhow, he stumbled out of an old green HQ with another guy, neither of them what you'd call sober. He played the Maton, reasonably competently, then whipped a credit card that didn't work. Never saw him again.

Update: 14th March 2005

The Skeleton Crew

Name of track: Revenge Town: Brisbane Genre: Metal, Rock

Bio:

Band Bio: Been together in different combos for about 7yrs.

Richard Lara, X Screaming Jets, Choirboys

recorded with us on this track.

Still writing and preparing tracks for a album.

Members:

JOHNO BASS AND VOCALS

STU ECKELS GUITAR

RYAN DRUMS

RICHARD LEAD GUITAR

BARTON PRICE

Barton Price's claim to fame prior to the Choirboys was his role in legendary Australian group The Models. Price has been involved with many bands since his time in the Models and the Choirboys was merely one of them. His bread and butter these days is divided between session drumming work (he is one of Australia's most successful studio drummers) and programming commercial MIDI drum tracks.

Update: 14th March 2005

Late 2004 advertisement....

rosie westbrook's
waveband

featuring:

josie jason - guitar

gareth skinner - cello

sean kelly - guitar

phil bywater - saxophone

barton price - drums & percussion

rosie westbrook-guitar & double bass

thursday 2nd sept
8pm...at brightspace
8 martin street
st kilda, 3182

www.brightspace.com.au 9593 9366

