



Purple Haze



Purple Haze was a very popular and successful Perth cover band in the seventies - playing gigs for hotels and private functions. Now three of the band members live locally near Mandurah and have decided to reform the band to rock into the next decade.

What prompts a bunch of old rockers to come together again? "Well, I guess the main motivation for getting back together was loneliness!" joked drummer, Nigel Ridgway from Erskine. "Three of the guys have been performing for years as solo acts, or as part of a duo, with recorded backing making

them sound like a band, but lacking the charisma of a working band with all its personalities. We love working as a whole band", Mr Ridgway explained.

"Another factor helping us to make the decision is the way that DJ's have almost taken over live music. DJ's are great for certain venues, but there is nothing like the fun and action of a real band performing and reacting with an audience."

It all happened after Greg, the sax player, had his sixtieth birthday last year (the average age of the band is sixty). The guys brought their instruments along and played a few numbers – the first time back together for thirty-five years – and it just clicked. "After the party, we thought why not get back together again and do some gigs? We began rehearsing and soon built up a repertoire of songs from the late fifties, the sixties, seventies and a few from the eighties. We worked on harmonies and keys and tried to replicate the old numbers as closely as possible", explained Robbie Jones, the lead guitarist from Dawsville. "Some of the old songs are really melodic and we knew we would have an audience out there wanting to hear a real 'live' band playing this material. We're pretty versatile and feature sax and trumpet - we're not just a guitar band.



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We cover vintage rock 'n' roll, ballads, pop hits and a few jazz tunes. Having been around the Perth music scene for so long, it was great fun and easy to get the band back together."

Purple Haze originally formed in Port Hedland in the early seventies and was resident band at the Hedland Motor Hotel before heading to Perth to crack the city music scene. "We signed a contract to play from Wednesday through to Sunday at the Nookanburra Hotel in Nollamarra. It soon became one of Perth's most popular pub gigs and was packed nearly every night", remembers Greg Clarke of Safety Bay, the saxophonist with the band.

"We used to add an extra dimension to our performances with a floor-show on Saturday nights. Each guy would get out the front to be featured in comedy sketches or songs. Our lead singer at the time, Tony Tyler, did the best Elvis impersonation in town and it brought the house down!" recalls Greg.

The band name came from a Jimi Hendrix song but was a send-up of heavy metal bands of that era, "We were never heavy metal – nor are we now," explained Mr Allen, the bass player, "it was our little joke!"

The band didn't just perform in Perth but toured WA extensively – especially in the North West where it was chosen to entertain at the Broome Shinju Matsuri, Derby Boab, Port Hedland and Kununurra festivals over two years. "That was an incredible adventure for us – one year we drove right up to Darwin to fulfil a contract to play a circuit of five hotels. On the way we played wherever we could", recalls Mr Ridgway.

"We spent six weeks as resident band for the Silver Sands Hotel in Mandurah too. It was one of the most popular venues in town in those days".

Band members also worked in well-known Perth acts like The Rock 'n Roll Show, The Times, Mark 1V, The Soundell Revue and Rainbow Rock. Drummer Nigel moved into jazz and spent many years with the Storyville Jazzband. "My roots were always blues and rock 'n' roll, so it's great that we've reformed the Haze".

Robbie Jones, also has another exciting goal for this year. He is crafting a family trio to play jazz guitar classics in the Django Reinhardt gypsy style with a Chet Atkins twist. With his rock band gigs and solo work too, Robbie is going to have a busy year. Bass player, Harry Allen, lives in Perth but finds the drive to Mandurah easy on the new highway.

With three members of Purple Haze living locally, it was easy to get together for rehearsals and the guys are looking forward to playing gigs in and around Mandurah and Perth – especially for the growing number





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of baby boomers who love live music from the sixties and seventies. "There really are no venues in Mandurah – and few in Perth - catering for this demographic (except for things like New Year's Eve) and we are hoping that having a good local cover band will get people out and onto the dance floor! The over-35's and younger clientele can experience a change from the DJ and heavy metal scene too", said Mr Ridgway,

"Our music is great for weddings, functions and events as well as for pubs and hotels. Our reunion gig at Mandurah Quay Resort was a tremendous success. Since then we have performed at The Cut Golf Club, Mandurah Offshore Fishing and Sailing Club and for private functions. We're also after a once a month venue so fans of this music have a regular date to enjoy themselves."

For more information on Purple Haze cover band in perth along with more bands and musicians contact Perth Professional Entertainment Services on **08 93821894**.



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Achy Breaky Heart (Billy Ray Cyrus) Nige
Angel (Elvis) – Harry (C)
Apache (Shadows) (Am)_
At the Hop (Danny & the Juniors)-Nige (A)
Bad Moon Rising (Credence)– Bazz (D)
Be My Baby Tonight (Burl Ives) – Harry (C)
Blue Bayou (Roy Orbison) – Bazz (D)
Blueberry Hill (Fats Domino) – Bazz –trumpet (C)
Brown Eyed Girl (Van Morrison) – Robbie (G)
Burning Love (Elvis) – Robbie (C)
But I Do (Clarence Frogman) Robbie (Bb)
Call the Breeze – Harry (E)
California Blue (Willberries) – Bazz – (D)
Can I Have This Dance? (Waltz - Ann Murray) Robbie (F)
Candida (D) Harry / Cracklin’ Rosie (Diamond) (medley) (D)
Cho Cho Cha Boogie (Louis Jordan) Nige (F)
Come Back Again (Daddy Cool) Robbie (A)
Dead Flowers(Dylan) Harry (D)
Don’t Be Cruel (Elvis) Bazz (D)

Dream Lover (Bobby Darin) – Harry (G)
Everley Brothers Tribute (acoustics – all) Bye Bye Love (A), When Will I be Loved? (A) Walk Right Back (A) Dream, Dream (D) and Wake Up Little Susie (C)
Eagle Rock (Daddy Cool) Robbie (A)
FBI (Shadows) – guitar Robbie (A)
Flip Flop (C)
Fun! Fun! Fun! (Beach Boys) Bazz (D)
Good Luck Charm (Elvis) – Harry (G)
Goodnight Sweetheart (The Spaniels) (a capella)
Have You Ever Seen the Rain (Credence) – Bazz (C)
Honey Don’t (Beatles) (E)
Hooked On a Feeling (Harry)
I Feel Fine (Beatles) (G)
Judy (Elvis) – Harry (G)
La Bamba (Ritchie Valens) – Robbie (C)
Lay Down Sally (Eric Clapton) – Robbie (A)
Little Darling (The Diamonds) Bazz (F#)
Little Sister (Elvis) (E)

Living Doll (Cliff Richard) – Robbie (A)
Mack the Knife – (Louis A) Bazz (C)
Magnolia (JJ Cale) Harry (Fm7th)
Midnight Special (Credence) – Robbie (D)
Mustang Sally (Wilson Pickett) – Harry (C)
My Baby Just Cares for Me (Nina Simone) Robbie (A)
Never Can Tell (Chuck Berry) Robbie (D)
Oh Boy! (Buddy Holly) – Bazz (A)
Oop La Di, La Da (Beatles) – Robbie (G)
Over the Rainbow (Garland) – Robbie (E)
Peaceful Easy Feeling (Eagles) Robbie (E)
Rise and Fall of Fingle Bunt (Shadows) - Robbie (C)
Rock ‘n’ Roll Girl (Jon Foggit) Bazz (E)
Rock Around the Clock (Bill Hayley) Nige (A)
Runaway (Del Shannon) Bazz
Saturday Night At the Movies (The Drifters) – Bazz (Eb)
See You Later Aligator (Bill Hayley) – Nige (C)
Sentimental Me (Elvis) – Bazz (C)



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- Shake Rattle 'n' Roll (Bill Hayley)
– Nige (C)
- Sleepwalk (Shadows) – guitar –
Robbie (C)
- Still Call Australia Home (Peter
Allen) Robbie (F)
- Stranger on the Shore (Acker
Bilk) (alto solo, Bazz)
- Stuck in the Middle (Steelers
Wheel) – Harry (D)
- Summertime (Sam Cook) jazz
feel Harry (Em)
- Suspicious Minds (Elvis) – Rob-
bie (G)
- Sweet Little 16 (Chuck Berry)
- The Sultans of Swing (Mark
Knoffler) Robbie (Dm)
- There's a Reason (Belamy Bros) –
Bazz (D)
- Unchain My Heart (Joe Cocker)
– Harry (Gm)
- Under the Boardwalk (BB King)
– Robbie (F)
- Walk in the Room (Searchers) –
Harry (A)
- When the Girl in Your Arms (Cliff
Richard – waltz) Harry (A)
- Who'll Stop the Rain (Credence)
– Bazz (G)
- Wonderful World (Louis A.) -
Bazz (F)



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