

= Australian Crawl =

Australian Crawl (often called Aussie Crawl or The Crawl by fans) were an Australian rock band founded by James Reyne (lead vocals / piano) , Brad Robinson (rhythm guitar) , Paul Williams (bass) , Simon Binks (lead guitar) and David Reyne (drums) in 1978 . David Reyne soon left and was replaced by Bill McDonough (drums , percussion) . They were later joined by his brother Guy McDonough (vocals , rhythm guitar) . The band was named after the front crawl swimming style also known as the Australian crawl .

Australian Crawl were associated with surf music and sponsored a surfing competition in 1984 . However , they also handled broader social issues such as shallow materialism , alcoholism , car accidents , and cautionary tales of romance .

After their 1980 debut album , The Boys Light Up reached No. 4 , Australian Crawl had two No. 1 albums ; 1981 's Sirocco and 1982 's Sons of Beaches . Their early singles reached the top 25 but none broke into the Top Ten ; their best performing single was No. 1 hit " Reckless " which showed a more mature approach than earlier hits , and came from their 1983 Semantics EP .

Upheaval within the band occurred from 1983 onwards . First Bill McDonough left , then his brother Guy McDonough died in 1984 , then various other members left . Their 1985 release Between a Rock and a Hard Place was expensive but sales were disappointing ; and they disbanded early in 1986 . The band 's status as an icon on the Australian music scene was acknowledged by induction into the 1996 Australian Recording Industry Association (ARIA) Hall of Fame . Founding guitarist Brad Robinson was unable to attend the Hall of Fame induction in person , as he was hospitalised with lymphoma and died two weeks later .

= = Biography = =

= = = 1975 ? 1979 = = =

The band Spiff Rouch formed in 1976 in the Mornington Peninsula suburb of Mount Eliza on the outskirts of Melbourne . The group lineup featured James Reyne , brothers Bill and Guy McDonough , Paul Williams , Robert Walker and Simon Binks . Reyne had previously played drums for Archie Slammit and the Doors .

By early 1978 Spiff Rouch had separated into two groups : The Flatheads (including the McDonough brothers and Walker , along with Sean Higgins and Nigel Spencer) and Australian Crawl . The original lineup for the latter was Reyne as vocalist , Binks on lead guitar , Williams on bass guitar , along with Reyne 's younger brother David Reyne on drums and schoolmate Brad Robinson on rhythm guitar . Australian Crawl performed their first live gig in October 1978 and toured the pub circuit .

David Reyne left the group in 1979 to finish his acting course , later becoming an actor and TV presenter as well as drumming for Cats Under Pressure and the Chantoozies (1986 ? 1990) . He was replaced in Australian Crawl by Bill McDonough . The group 's popularity in the Mornington Peninsula area increased with further pub gigs , then they gained audiences with university students and inner city residents .

Once the band 's escalating popularity brought them into Melbourne they caught the attention of Little River Band 's guitarist David Briggs , who helped them gain a recording contract with EMI and he produced their first single . " Beautiful People " (1979) reached No. 22 on the National charts . Reyne had co - written the song with guitarist Mark Hudson in 1975 . The track included references to the shallow materialism of residents of Toorak and to the Bombay Rock night club in Brunswick .

Just days before recording " Beautiful People " Reyne had been hit by a car in Swanston Street , Melbourne , breaking bones in both wrists , an episode later chronicled in the track " Indisposed " . Australian Crawl made one of the most memorable debuts on Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) TV series Countdown performing " Beautiful People " as Reyne still had both arms encased in

plaster . " Beautiful People " remains one of their most popular songs according to listeners of Triple M in 2007 .

== = 1980 == =

Australian Crawl 's debut album The Boys Light Up (1980) , also produced by Briggs for EMI , had a number of hit singles with songwriting shared around the group and beyond . Tracks from this album included the previously released single " Beautiful People " , the title track (written by Reyne and Mark Hudson) ; " Indisposed " (Brad Robinson , James Robinson , Reyne , Bill McDonough) and " Downhearted " (Sean Higgins , Guy McDonough , Bill McDonough) (from The Flatheads) . Brad Robinson 's father James Robinson was a Federal Arbitration Court Justice .

" The Boys Light Up " , their second single , was almost banned from radio play due to its explicit lyrics . Many listeners believed the chorus lyrics were about smoking marijuana but Reyne has stated that it was about smoking tobacco cigarettes at school . It also reached No. 22 on the National charts and became their signature song and their most popular track especially live . Their third single " Downhearted " charted higher at # 12 and was a cautionary tale of romance gone wrong .

The Boys Light Up reached No. 4 on the Australian album charts and remained in the charts for an unbroken 101 weeks . It sold five times platinum : over 280 @, @ 000 copies , and became one of the biggest Australian albums of the 1980s . Singer / guitarist / songwriter Guy McDonough (ex @-@ The Flatheads and Bill 's younger brother) joined the group in October 1980 .

Rock journalist and commentator , Glenn A. Baker compared Australian Crawl with various fellow Australian bands :

Australian Crawl seemed to step out of a tourism poster ... Spruce , lean , tanned and young ... They swam , they surfed , they radiated a healthy , wholly Australian aura ... If Skyhooks has personified the bodgie larrikin and Cold Chisel the hard drinking working class man , Australian Crawl turned the bronzed lifesaver into a pop idol ... Crawl songs seemed to eulogise hedonism , adventure and the great outdoors for an audience that couldn 't be bothered with Midnight Oil 's politics .

However , according to James Reyne some people accused them of being demonic . He said whenever you bumped into the member of Little River Band who had found God , he 'd tell him " you shouldn 't be playing that , it 's demonic " .

== = 1981 ? 1982 == =

In 1981 , Australian Crawl recorded their second album , Sirocco with producer Peter Dawkins in Sydney . Named for Errol Flynn 's yacht , the album peaked at No. 1 on the Australian album chart on 3 August and remained there for six weeks . At about this time Robinson was married to actress Kerry Armstrong , later an Australian Film Institute Award winner , who co @-@ wrote a track " Easy On Your Own " for the album .

Sirocco spawned the hit singles " Things Don 't Seem " (May , No. 11 National charts) and " Errol " (August , # 18) . It also included " Oh No Not You Again " (November) . Of these , " Errol " about womanising Tasmanian @-@ born actor Flynn is the band 's third most popular song of all . Another track from the album , " Lakeside " , became a popular radio inclusion . 1981 Australian End of Year Album Charts has Sirocco at No. 2 behind Double Fantasy by John Lennon and ahead of AC / DC 's Back in Black making it the best charting album by an Australian act .

Another track on this album , Unpublished Critics has been compared several times to the later song " Sweet Child o ' Mine " by US band Guns N ' Roses as acknowledged , by its writer , James Reyne . He was responding to media comments in May 2015 about the possibility of plagiarism by the American band .

On the wave of this popularity the band toured extensively playing to huge crowds at Melbourne 's Myer Music Bowl (100 @, @ 000) , Sydney 's Domain (90 @, @ 000) , the Narara Rock festival (70 @, @ 000) , smashing attendance records at indoor venues in Brisbane and Perth . They were

voted Countdown 1981 Most Popular Group , and James Reyne was voted 1980 and 1981 Most Popular Male Performer .

Sons of Beaches (1982) was recorded in Hawaii with expatriate Australian Mike Chapman producing . The album had a rougher , rock ' n ' roll edge than its glossy pop rock predecessors and featured the No. 17 hit " Shut Down " (June) . It also included a re @-@ recorded version of " Downhearted " and became their second album to reach No. 1 on the Australian albums chart and remained there for five weeks . EMI issued the album in the USA . Two further singles , " Daughters of the Northern Coast " (August) and " Runaway Girls " (November) failed to reach the Australian Top 40 .

Over 1982 ? 1983 Reyne was filmed with Australian actresses Rebecca Gilling and Wendy Hughes in the television miniseries Return to Eden , which was screened in September 1983 . For Reyne 's role of playboy tennis professional Greg Marsden , he was given the 1984 " Most Popular New Talent Award " at the TV Week Logie Awards . Reyne later declared he was not very good in the part , declining many acting offers since . During breaks in filming , the singer accepted an offer from Paul Christie (Mondo Rock) and Kevin Borich to join their part @-@ time band The Party Boys with Harvey James from Sherbet and Graham Bidstrup from The Angels . The group played a short run of shows around Sydney venues and played covers exclusively . The resultant album , Live at Several 21sts , peaked at No. 9 on the national chart .

== = 1983 ? 1984 == =

Soon after Reyne finished acting for Return to Eden , Bill McDonough left due to tensions within the band . The remaining members then recorded the EP Semantics (1983) with Bidstrup (from The Party Boys , later a founder of GANGgajang) on drums . The four track EP contained their best @-@ known song , " Reckless " (aka " Don 't Be So Reckless " , " She Don 't Like That ") which was written by Reyne , and went to No. 1 on the Australian singles chart on 28 November . John Watson (Kevin Borich Express) then came in as a permanent replacement for McDonough . The live album Phalanx was something of a stop @-@ gap measure between studio albums , nevertheless it reached No. 4 during December . The band 's biggest overseas break came when Duran Duran took the band as support on certain legs of their " Sing Blue Silver " tour of the UK .

US label Geffen Records signed Australian Crawl and issued Semantics (1984) as an album (with the four songs from the EP and re @-@ recordings of tracks from past Australian records) for the American market . In April 1984 Australian Crawl became the first Australian band to sponsor an ASP surfing competition . The Rip Curl / Australian Crawl Bell 's Beach Surfing Festival was won by Australian surfer , Cheyne Horan .

In June 1984 the band was forced off the road when Guy McDonough was admitted to hospital in Melbourne ; he died soon after of viral pneumonia . Australian Crawl regrouped with Mark Greig on guitar (ex @-@ Runners) for a series of live performances in late 1984 . Prior to Guy 's death , he had recorded demos with his brother Bill McDonough (drums , percussion) , Sean Higgins (synthesisers) and Nigel Spencer (bass , synthesisers) , (all former The Flatheads) ; and Mick Hauser (saxophone) and Michael Bright (guitar) . Bill McDonough assembled the tapes and produced Guy McDonough 's posthumous album My Place on Wheatley Records in April 1985 . Singles " My Place " / " Things Don 't Seem " and " What 's in it For Me " / " Hook , Line and Sinker " were also released . " Things Don 't Seem " written by Guy McDonough and Sean Higgins , had been released as an Australian Crawl single in 1981 off Sirocco . Tracks from these sessions were re @-@ mastered and released on Lost & Found in 1996 .

== = 1985 ? 1986 == =

By 1985 the group recorded their last studio album , Between a Rock and a Hard Place , with English producer Adam Kidron . It was released in Australia on Australian Crawl 's own label Freestyle Records . The album , which allegedly cost \$ 400 @,@ 000 to record , was a mishmash of styles and a commercial disaster (it peaked at No. 12 in August 1985 but slipped out of the Top 40

two weeks later) . None of the singles had any Top 40 chart success . Harry Brus (Kevin Borich Express) replaced long @-@ standing bass player Paul Williams in May 1985 . The band performed three songs for the July 1985 Oz for Africa concert ? part of the global Live Aid program ? " Reckless (Don 't Be So) " , " Two Can Play " and " The Boys Light Up " . It was broadcast in Australia (on both Seven Network and Nine Network) and on MTV in the US .

When the album virtually failed to chart , the band was ready to split but had to go out on tour to pay off its debts . On 27 January 1986 , their final Melbourne concert was recorded and released as the live album The Final Wave in October . The band performed its final concert on 1 February at the Perth Entertainment Centre .

We really enjoy Perth , and have a lot of friends there , so it was a conscious decision to play our final show there . Besides , everybody expected us to play the last show back in Melbourne , so stuff ' em .

In seven years , Australian Crawl had sold over a million records in Australia , with five of its albums and an EP reaching the Australian Top 5 Album Charts , two of which had been No. 1 hits . A cumulative total of eleven weeks at Number 1 on the Albums Charts places them equal fourth for Australian groups behind Skyhooks , The Seekers and Midnight Oil .

= = = Post 1986 = = =

In 1985 , Lin Buckfield (Electric Pandas) and Reyne released a duet single " R.O.C.K. " / " Under My Thumb " . After Australian Crawl disbanded , Reyne went on to a solo career . His first few singles failed to chart but 1987 's " Fall of Rome " and the self @-@ titled album that followed were the beginning of a string of hits that lasted until the early 1990s . In 1992 he and James Blundell had a hit with a cover of The Dingoes ' " Way Out West " (# 2 , May 1992) . Reyne also formed Company of Strangers that year with former Sherbet lead singer Daryl Braithwaite , Simon Hussey and Jef Scott . Company of Strangers only released one self @-@ titled album , Company of Strangers in 1992 , which produced the hits " Motor City (I Get Lost) " (# 26 , September 1992) , " Sweet Love " (# 21 , January 1993) and " Daddy 's Gonna Make You a Star " (# 35 , March 1993) .

In 1993 Reyne appeared as Tina Turner 's manager Roger Davies in What 's Love Got to do With It ? . He featured in twelve episodes of State Coroner during 1998 and in 2003 's The Postcard Bandit . Reyne lives on the Mornington Peninsula with his partner , Tina , and a daughter . He has released his eighth solo studio album , Every Man a King (2007) and still performs occasionally .

Almost immediately after the split Robinson became manager of Chantoozies (with early Crawl drummer David Reyne) . Their first single , " The Witch Queen of New Orleans " (1986) , a cover of Redbone 's song , reached No. 4 on the National charts . Robinson then moved into a career in television (with Network Ten 's Page One) and as a co @-@ producer of documentaries . In the 1990s he became the manager for the Reyne brothers and worked as an agent for the Advantage Sports Management Group . This included managing Australian tennis player Mark Philippoussis . Three years after being diagnosed with lymphoma , Robinson died on 13 October 1996 . The band was inducted into the ARIA Hall of Fame in 1996 , weeks before Robinson 's death .

Binks played in the Broderick Smith Band in 1988 . He was injured in a 1995 car crash at a council roadworks that left him slightly brain @-@ damaged . A court in 2006 awarded him \$ 330 @, @ 253 in damages , down from an estimated \$ 750 @, @ 000 because he was said to be over the legal limit . Binks later disputed the alcohol reading as belonging to another driver and stated the remuneration mostly went to his lawyers . A 2007 appeal by the council , saw amount awarded further reduced to \$ 304 @, @ 750 .

Australian Crawl compilation Lost & Found was released in 1996 and contained seven of the tracks from Guy McDonough 's solo album My Place which were remastered . Compilers and producers of Lost & Found were Bill McDonough and Peter Blyton . Lost & Found tracks from My Place include " Too Many People " a duet sung by Guy McDonough with Colin Hay of Men at Work . Some My Place tracks used on Lost & Found have Reyne singing backing vocals . As of 2007 , Bill McDonough was working in the construction industry .

Williams who had left the band in 1985 , was working in music @-@ related retail .

In 2001 the Australian Performing Right Association (APRA) , as part of its 75th Anniversary celebrations , compiled a list of the Top 30 Australian songs , with " Reckless (Don 't Be So) " coming in at number nineteen .

On 14 October 2002 , EMI released a two @-@ CD Greatest Hits package called The Definitive Collection , which contained songs from the band and from James Reyne 's solo career .

In October 2007 , eleven Australian Crawl tracks were featured in the Triple M Essential 2007 Countdown of songs (positions are voted by listeners out of the best 2007 songs of all time) . They were " Hoochie Gucci Fioruci Mama " # 1673 ; " Lakeside " # 1354 ; " Indisposed " # 956 ; " Downhearted " # 728 ; " Oh No Not You Again " # 587 ; " Shut Down " # 415 ; " Things Don 't Seem " # 371 ; " Boys Light Up " # 305 ; " Errol " # 227 ; " Beautiful People " # 153 ; and " Reckless " # 39 .

= = Members = =

Chronological list :

Simon Binks ? guitars (1978 ? 1984 , 1985 ? 1986)

David Reyne ? drums (1978)

James Reyne ? vocals , guitars , keyboards , harmonica (1978 ? 1986)

Brad Robinson (d . 1996) ? guitars , keyboards (1978 ? 1986)

Paul Williams ? bass guitar (1978 ? 1985)

Bill McDonough ? drums (replaced David Reyne) (1978 ? 1983)

Guy McDonough (d . 1984) ? vocals , guitar (1980 ? 1984)

Graham " Buzz " Bidstrup ? drums (replaced Bill McDonough) (1983)

John Watson ? drums (replaced Bidstrup) (1983 ? 1986)

Mark Greig ? guitars (replaced Guy McDonough) (1984 ? 1986)

Simon Hussey ? guitars , keyboards (replaced Binks on Between a Rock and a Hard Place) (1984)

Harry Brus ? bass guitar (replaced Williams) (1985 ? 1986)

= = Discography = =

= = = Studio albums and EP = = =

The Boys Light Up (1980)

Sirocco (1981)

Sons of Beaches (1982)

Semantics (EP) (1983)

Semantics (US LP) (1984)

Between a Rock and a Hard Place (1985)

= = = Live recordings = = =

Phalanx (1983)

The Final Wave (1986)

= = = Compilations = = =

Crawl File (1984)

Lost & Found (1996)

More Wharf : Greatest Hits (1998)

Reckless : 1979 @-@ 1995 credited to Australian Crawl and James Reyne (2000)

The Definitive Collection (2002)

The Greatest Hits (2014)