

BONDI CIGARS CELEBRATE 25 YEARS...NO HITS

“If anyone had told me back in 1989 when I first jammed with Al Britton, Lez Karski, Al Britton and Ace Follington, that the band we formed would still be active well into the 21st century, I would have laughed my head off and had them committed. Yet here we are, 25 years later bloodied, but unbowed.

Quite a few have passed through the ranks, some fleetingly, some incredibly hard to get rid of, but all have made contributions one way or another. If pressed as to why the band is still around, I would have to say stubbornness is a major factor, as well as a strong work ethic (we toured nationally. And I mean nationally - not just major cities, right from the start) and a real commitment to playing original material.

We have done this with very little mainstream media support, but one must doff ones cap to local and street press, the ABC and Community Radio. Despite this we can still out-draw high-profile acts in many areas, a fact of which we are quite rightly proud.

The music we choose to play is tricky to get a foothold with in Australia, but we have somehow managed to stake a place in an incredibly parochial and occasionally purist scene. We enter our quarter of a century still playing at a high energy level and possibly enjoying it more than ever...who needs a hit?” - Shane Pacey

No hits maybe, but the Bondi Cigars are an Australian musical institution and 25 years deserves to be celebrated. It’s a milestone that the band have earned with grit, determination, humour, sheer bloody talent (and sometimes sheer bloody mindedness), great music, stellar live shows – and most importantly, with the support of the many fans who turn out to see them, year after year.



Image features (l to r): Lez Karski, Ace Follington, Alan Britton & Shane Pacey.

Circa 1990-something.