

Guest Artist Night, October 2018

MAIN ACT: Me 'N Me Mates. This energetic trio, comprising Russell, Eddy and Chris, put on a fantastic performance of true blue Aussie songs, rhyme and tall stories. Their dog Blue sat to one side of the stage and kept a close eye on their performance. The group from South Australia offers a mixture of self-written songs as well as poetry and stories by well-known Australians.

With Chris on lagerphone, Eddy on bass and Russell on guitar, the mates launched into their first song about the problems faced in the bush: unless we have *Another Fall of Rain*. Then a *Song to Explain Everything*. Next up a song of transportation, *Jim Jones*, with the audience enthusiastically joining in the chorus. Our MC, Don, was ushered to the forefront to act the part of Michael McGee as the mates acted out the poem, *A Bush Christening*—an 1893 gem from Banjo Paterson. Then *I've been Everywhere*, written in 1959 by Geoff Mack - a truly Aussie song picked up by many international performers, including Johnny Cash and Rolf Harris. The conversation was peppered with old Aussie comments: ugly as a busted windmill, he's a head like a half stuffed mango, useless as a glass door on a dunny, etc. One of their own songs with a good tempo, *There ain't nothin' in the world I wouldn't do for you*, was followed by a rollicking version of *Ryebuck Shearer*. Slowing down a little, they sang one of their own songs: *He's a battler-she's a battler...* No time for sadness as they sang Paul Kelly's great song, *To her Door*. Next a short discussion about the fact that Aussies' nicknames have a particular ironic flavour of their own. Bluey is a redhead, Tiny is very tall, bald chaps are usually named Curly, etc. This discussion led into a song about a small baby born into the Head family named Richard Head. A tribute song to ever popular Ned Kelly finished with "Tell 'em I died game, retribution comes to all, such is life."



Then a travelling song: *There You Go*. Chris took the time to sing the praises of the faithful Blue, still sitting quietly nearby—he gets the paper, picks up the mail and accompanies them to the pub, but he doesn't drink 'cause he has to drive them home. What a mate! Next a spirited performance of *Maggie May* with the audience singing along with gusto. Then a bright and bouncy travelling song of their own. *It's a Long Long Way to Jingalingalong* was followed by a yodelling song, *Bushland*

Boogie. Mick Kearon stepped up with his bodhran to accompany the mates in their finale: *Wild Rover*. The audience refused to let the night end, demanding an encore. So we all joined in a medley of *Road to Gundagai/I'm going back to Yarrowonga*.

Thus ended one of the liveliest, most enjoyable evenings seen at the Club for many years. We offer our heartfelt thanks to 'Me 'n Me Mates' and hope that we see them again in the near future. A big thank you to all of the regular volunteers who helped with so many small and large jobs during the evening.

Next month: The Neon Effect

- report by Bette Martin ; photos by Trevor Voake

