

20TH BIRTHDAY ISSUE

WILD  
TURKEY

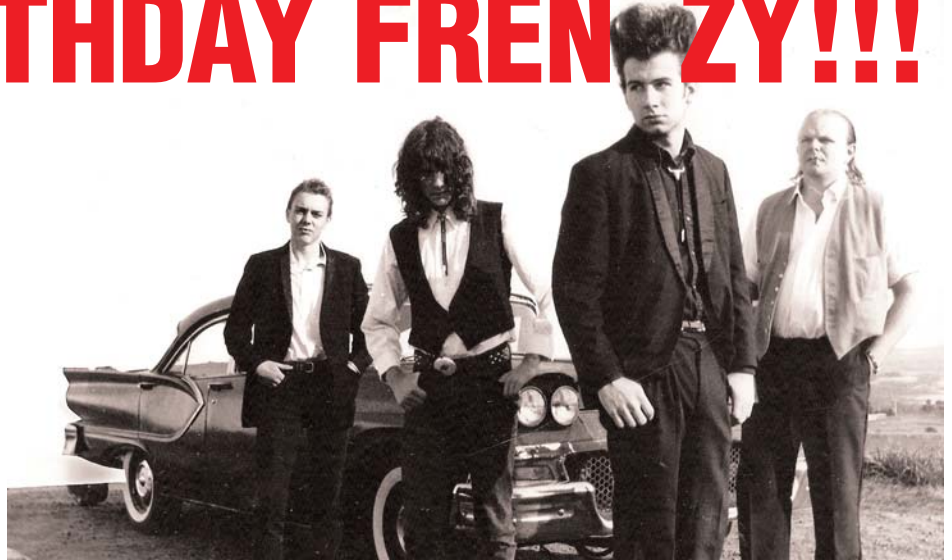
wildturkeymusic.com www.myspace.com/wildturkeymusic  
Mobile: 0438 008 390

# MULE SKINNER NEWS!

## 20TH BIRTHDAY FRENZY!!!



WILD TURKEY'S 20TH  
BIRTHDAY SPECIAL EDITION  
MULESKINNER NEWS!



### 20 YEARS ROCKIN' AND WRECKIN' YEHAH!

On the 20th of August 1988, Melbourne Rockabilly and Psychobilly outfit **Wild Turkey** performed their first gig under that name! The band had been using "**The Deviates**" as their name prior to that.

Originally a four piece line up, with **John Marsden** as the lead singer and guitarist, **Matt Walker** as lead guitarist, **Matt Ralph** - bass and **Chris Latham** on drums. Wild Turkey had several drummer changes in the first 18 months, until **Kirk Syrett** joined the band. **Phil Smith** became our bassist about twelve months later.

Our debut CD "**I Drove all Day**" (distributed by MDS) was released in 1993. We recorded the CD at the **David Briggs Production Workshop** and David has recorded and produced with us all our studio recordings ever since!

The debut CD launch was at **The Punters Club** and we had **The Living End** in their early days and **Chiaroscuro** (Andrew Wilkie's band - he also played bass for us at one stage! RIP) as special guest acts. What a gig! We even played live at **Brashes** in the city and were the loudest band to have played there at the time - they booked us thinking we were "Unplugged"! (quote of the manager "oh my God, we thought The Sharp were loud last week but you are

way wilder" Ha Ha Ha)

Work started on our debut album and shortly after the first sessions **Matt Walker** left the group to pursue his solo career and we became a trio!

In the time recording "**Love That Kills**" we had **Phil Smith** leave the band. **Paul Mileham** played bass for a year then also left (1996). **John** had a brief brush with cancer and had an operation and chemotherapy and just as all this was happening, we met **Guy Lawson** who joined the band and has been our rock solid double bass player ever since!

"**Love That Kills**" (distributed by Newmarket Music) was finally launched at The Esplanade Hotel St Kilda in 1997 with special guests **The Exotics** and **Oozin Blues**.

The CD received a lot of independent airplay and also had many tracks from it featured in the TV Shows "**Good Guys Bad Guys**" and "**Stingers**" (**John** also worked on **Stingers** in every episode from series 4 until it ended as an "undercover" extra and also had small parts including getting shot!)

It was through **John** and **Kirk** working in the film industry that we made the contacts to get our songs in the soundtracks.

We were gigging regularly at great pubs such as the **Espy**, **St Andrews** and **The Flinders Hotel** - one gig we even had the entire dance floor collapse into a disused cellar full of rancid water during our last song! We played on until someone realized the power leads were in the drink!

We decided to record a "live" album at The **Espy** where **Rob Stead** had a great set up for recording shows there.

"**Surfin Hearse**" (distributed by Newmarket Music) was recorded in two nights and was released in 2001.

The launch was at The **Espy** with special guests **The Satellites** and **The Mess Hall**.

At this point work on the next album had begun and we had built up a regular tour circuit with annual tours of Tasmania and some top music festivals such as **Great Southern Blues and Rockabilly Festival** - Narooma NSW and **The Australian Blues Music Festival** - Goulburn NSW. We were also a regular fixture at the **International 500cc Motor Cycle Grand Prix** at Phillip Island which we have played at every year since 1996.

We are regular performers in the Hotrod and Custom Car scene - performed at the

**MULESKINNER CULL!** If you want to continue to receive the newsletter please fill in and mail back to stay on the list!

To be on the Official Wild Turkey "**MULESKINNER**" mailing list, please fill us in: (please print clearly!)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**POST TO: WILD TURKEY, PO BOX 120, KALLISTA VIC, 3791 or email: turkey\_wild@hotmail.com**

# MULE SKINNER NEWS!



**All American Car Display** in Gembrook for over ten years until 2006 and we have performed at the two biggest events for the Rockabilly Hotrod Kustom Kulture scene in the Southern hemisphere – **Kustom Nationals** at Phillip Island and at **The Rod and Kustom Picnic** each year since 2000. Johnny's hearse has been in several magazines in photos from these shows!

**"Devil Ridin' Shotgun"** (distributed by MGM) was released in 2005 and the huge launch night was at **The Corner Hotel** with special guests **The Exotics**, **Speedemons** and **The Flyin' Saucers**.

All of our CD's are receiving airplay on radio in USA and Europe on roots music and rockabilly shows.

In 2006 we hit the United States for our first tour and played at many venues and some cool Rockabilly and Hotrod Kulture events including Bo Huff's car show in Utah and The Rattlers car show in Phoenix Arizona.

We returned in 2007 and played at Bo's show again – drove Johnny's 56 Caddy from Colorado deep into Utah through the desert of Monument Valley and had a wild trip. We also got to see **Hank 111** (Hank Williams Grandson) perform in Albuquerque and met him and his band (and drank Tequila with the band – see our myspace page for that story!) and even performed at **The Double Down Saloon** in Las Vegas – a wild punk rock bar!

In 2008 we have been playing some great shows at **The Retreat Hotel** in Brunswick which is a rockin' pub indeed!

We also have a song featured on the "It's

**A Gas"** Aussie Rockabilly CD just released!

At the moment we have been playing not quite as regularly as usual due to Johnny having a polyp on one of his vocal chords. It is not uncommon amongst professional singers to develop these.

I am still able to sing but have not been gigging too much to rest my voice a bit. Don't worry folks! I am on the waiting list for an operation and from research I have done it appears that many singers have improved their vocals after such treatment! It has been a very frustrating period though, as singing is one of the most important things in my life and also my professional job.

Wild Turkey thank our loyal hard working stage manager **Rocky** for many years of service!



We are celebrating our **20TH BIRTHDAY** with 2 special shows :

**MICAWBER TAVERN BELGRAVE  
FRIDAY 22nd August, 9pm!**

**WITH SPECIAL GUESTS!**

**THE RETREAT HOTEL BRUNSWICK  
FRIDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER**

**WITH THE EXOTICS AND DY MOHAIR SLIM!**

THEN LATER THIS YEAR:

**INTERNATIONAL MOTOR CYCLE GRAND PRIX PHILLIP ISLAND 5TH OCTOBER.**

**THE RETREAT HOTEL, 11TH, OCTOBER 7.30PM, FRONT BAR!**

**TASSIE TOUR:**

**THE REPUBLIC BAR, HOBART, WITH THE NO NO'S, SHOW EVE, 22ND OCT, 9PM.**

**NEW SYDNEY HOTEL, HOBART, 23RD OCT, 8PM**

**NEW SYDNEY HOTEL, 24TH, OCT, 9PM**

**YOLLA TAVERN, 25TH, OCT, 9PM**

**ROD AND KUSTOM PICNIC, PAKENHAM, 1ST AND 2ND NOVEMBER**

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PO Box 120 Kallista Vic 3791 - [johnnymarsden@netspace.net.au](mailto:johnnymarsden@netspace.net.au)

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