



Department of  
Education and Training

## *Media Statement*

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Attn: Editor/Chief of Staff

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### **Bands battle it out for My Big Gig title**

Secondary school students will rock out and prove their music credibility in a bid to win thousands of dollars in prizes at the My Big Gig finals this Thursday night, September 24.

Ten finalists were selected from 48 bands during last week's heats, including:

- Beef Sandwich – Albany Senior High School;
- Disturbing Marilyn – Aquinas College (wildcard entry);
- Free Fall – Ballajura Community College;
- Soliloquy – Canning Vale College (wildcard entry);
- Jazz Funk Exchange – Carey Baptist College;
- Electric Dyslexic – Lake Joondalup Baptist College;
- Ibis – Lakeland Senior High School;
- Fall From Glory – Living Waters Lutheran College;
- Gnarwhal – MacKillop Catholic College; and
- Fat Jackal – Murdoch College.

My Big Gig organiser and Canning Vale College music teacher Rebecca Harrison said the diversity and calibre of bands competing this year was fantastic.

“There was some incredible competition during the heats and an impressive array of genres including soul, jazz, funk, metal, punk and classic rock,” Ms Harrison said.

“There were bands that had formed only months before and others which were seasoned professionals and had been together for years.

“Yet each band which took to the stage displayed true professionalism and the standard of performance really impressed the judges.”

Also playing at the finals at the Fly By Night Musicians Club will be headline act *The Scotch of Saint James*, a Perth-based four-piece recently unearthed by Triple J and nominated for this year's Most Promising New Act WAMi (West Australian Music Industry) award.

The band that wins My Big Gig will be in for a treat with \$5,000 of equipment for their school and two invaluable guest performer opportunities.

This includes a chance to play alongside some incredible musicians to a huge live audience at popular festival Gozzy Rock 2010, and an opportunity to play and be interviewed on air by radio station RTR FM at one of its exclusive public events.

(MORE)

Other prizes, judged by representatives of the WA music industry, include:

- Second Prize – equipment to the retail value of \$3,000 donated by Roland;
- Third Prize – equipment to the retail value of \$2,000 donated by Roland;
- Fender Encouragement Award for the band that has shown the most potential throughout the competition, at either heats or the finals – \$2,750 of equipment from Fender;
- Most Original Song – use of facilities at audio recording studios ProCopy in Morley, to the value of \$1000.

(ENDS)

**Note:** a description of finalists follows.

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## **My Big Gig 2010 finalists**

### **Beef Sandwich from Albany Senior High School**

This high energy rock band, formed earlier this year, is made up of four versatile players and has been influenced by many different genres and eras. They share a liking for 90s grunge and admire bands such as Pearl Jam, Nirvana, Bush and Ben Harper. They are James Toovey, Jake Edwards, Matt Bracknall and Daniel Gunn.

### **Freefall from Ballajura Community College**

This four piece rock outfit consists of Danielle Leef, Stella Nullmeyers, Josh Crew and Mathew Ray. Formed in 2009, Freefall are a combination of diverse musicians who together have created a rocking sound ranging from bluesy rock to heavy metal, similar to Paramore, Metallica and Guns 'N' Roses.

### **Disturbing Marilyn from Aquinas College**

After two year of garage band jamming, this four piece alternative rock band is eager to take their name to the next level. They are Alex Cooke, Harry Cooke, Adam Cias and James Sheahan.

### **Soliloquy from Canning Vale College**

This groovy four-piece formed in early 2009, playing predominantly alternative rock. Combining melodic bass, intoxicatingly catchy guitar riffs, edgy vocals and rhythmic drumming, Soliloquy makes music the audience can tap their toes to. They are Ben McCarthy, Zac Brown, Graeme White and Yassy Rahimi.

### **Jazz Funk Exchange from Carey Baptist College**

As their name suggests, Jazz Funk Exchange plays a fusion of jazz and funk. Passionate about music, most band members hope to study music at WAAPA and make music their career. Funk Jazz Exchange are Harry Mitchell, Michael Morgan, Sarah Ramsey, David Chidzey, Caleb Quatermaine, and Megan Walford.

### **Electric Dyslexic from Lake Joondalup Baptist College**

Jarrad Van Dort, Jack Perejuan, Rory Coleman-Heard and Justin Robertson took first place against youth bands in Joondalup Battle of the Bands in 2008. The prize earned them \$1000 of recording with Paramount Studios and a change to meet and play alongside Aria award winning band Operator Please and The Dirty Secrets.

### **Ibis from Lakeland Senior High School**

Formed in mid-2008, Ibis quickly formed a reputation for their high standard of performance. Their eclectic musical influences include urban R'n'B. The students have been mentored by industry artists such as Che'Nelle from Capitol Records. Band members Danica Vassallo, Michael Beal, Jack Nelson, Demi Wichman, Jake Tanoa and Luke De Jesus are currently working towards a Certificate II in music industry delivered through their school.

### **Fall From Glory from Living Waters Lutheran College**

Fall From Glory consists of students Matt Crosby, Joel O'Brien and Ethan Taylor. They are a thriving hot three-piece band touted as the band to watch for fast paced riffs and killer drums.

### **Gnarwhal from MacKillop Catholic College**

Gnarwhal, which formed in 2009, consists of six members with various musical talents and experiences. They have performed several times for their school and the wider community. Gnarwhal's style is influenced by a mix of hardcore, metal and indie music. The band's members are Warrun Lewis, Joshua Sardana, Chai Jeffrey, Andrew Murphy, Michael McLean and Damian Cockman.

### **Fat Jackal from Murdoch College**

Fat Jackal has been together for four years. Since Harley Barnaby joined at the beginning of the year as the new bassist/guitarist, alongside members Joel Martin and Jackson Hawdon, the band has created a strong fan base for their unique original style of music. Fat Jackal's groove can best be described as alternative rock with driving beats and insightful lyrics, showing the band's natural and honest writing skills and dynamic performance abilities.