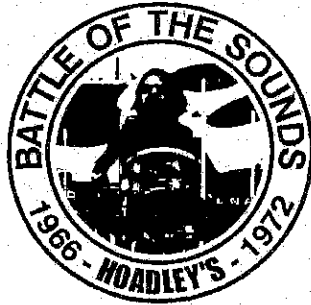


THE
BATTLES
OF THE
SOUNDS



Terence J Stacey

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1995

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Foreword:

This booklet gives an inside look into one of Australia music industry's cornerstones: The annual *Battle of the Bands*. Even though Hoadleys sponsored the competition for seven years, battles of bands have continued in different forms since the early 1970s and existed prior to Hoadley's involvement. The thought of comparing bands, and trying to discern which band is better is obviously a difficult task, and perhaps in hindsight, a task, perhaps, that should never be tackled. Leaving this argument aside, Terry has broached this essay with a mixture of personal involvement, and rigorous research to present an excellent overview of the nine years that Hoadleys were involved in the National search for Australia's "best" band! Chris Spencer, July 1995.

Post script:

In a supplement to this booklet, we have attempted to document the bands involved in each heat. Unfortunately, the sponsor, has not kept details, and we have had to rely on the reports relayed to the music papers at the time. So the author and publisher welcome any further information about any heat of the battles which could contribute to further editions.

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**The Battles Of The Sounds
1964 — 1972**

Between 1966 and 1972 the Australian pop music scene was annually convulsed and excited by the occurrence of what appears to be a uniquely Australian phenomena known as the *Hoadleys Battle of the Sounds*. The Battle of the Sounds was a national rock band contest staged to promote local Australian bands and foster new talent. No other rock music occasion was looked forward to and so eagerly discussed (except for the arrival on our shores of overseas pop acts). When it started Australia was still resounding to the crash of the Beatles/Merseybeat boom. Australia was still suffering from the great cultural cringe and we musically looked to England, the land of Carnaby Street, for our musical influences, of which even our R'nB came via the old country. When it finished in 1972 the era of the large Rock Festival and underground/alternative music was well underway and we looked to Woodstock and LA for our influences.

From April to June every year the living rooms, church halls, family garages and anywhere else available of Australia would echo to the sounds of would be rock stars. This sound was produced by mainly young males, playing 3 guitars and a set of drums, as they rehearsed madly (and often badly) for their

mostly one opportunity to have a crack at "making the big time". There was no entry fee. You just filled in the form, practised your heart out, turned up on the day and plugged in. Good or bad, you got your one big moment of glory in front of the biggest crowd of teenagers you would, in most cases, ever play to. If you were lucky and more likely were in the city, you might get your only chance of performing alongside some of the top rock bands of the day such as the Masters Apprentices or Sherbet. This was a time when it was the height of teenage social status to be in a rock band. For a time the girls would take notice of the pale, skinny guys instead of the local hunky footballers.

Most were doomed to return to the obscurity whence they came but some made the grade. Even of those bands that didn't make the grade, the contest gave some individuals the taste of fame and hope to go on and reach greater heights in later well known bands and/or as individual musicians and solo artists. It would not be too much exaggeration to say that many of these would later have a profound influence on Australia's later rock music scene.

Each year *Everybodys* magazine, until 1967, and from 1967 on, *Go Set* magazine, would print with great excitement the details of when and where the Battles would take place, and who were the hot favorites. Readers would wait with bated breath to see who had won the latest

heat this week. Was it their favorite local band **The Wanderers** from Mt David or **The Wanderers** from Wollongong? Bands with strange far out names such as **Nanas Passion Poem**, **Theez Wunz**, **Olivers Twist** and **The Eight Feet** would have their one moment of glory in print.

Hundreds of teenagers would turn up to the local heats. Thousands to the finals. Great controversies raged over who should or shouldn't have won. Stalwart fans alternately cheered their favorites or ignored and booed other fans favorites.

So where did the great battles of the bands originate? Although the *Hoadleys Battle of the Sounds* officially started under that name in 1966, the idea of a national band/group contest seems to have originated 2 years earlier in 1964, the year **The Beatles** graced our shores. That was the year when national magazine *Everybody's* decided to stage a national talent contest called the *The Big Sound of 1964*. The contest was intended for bands and groups but did not feature live performances by contestants. Rather, the 80 to 90 entrants from around Australia were asked to submit tapes of themselves from which the judges picked the finalists. Only the 13 finalists were required to perform live on Jimmy Hannan's *Saturday Date* teenage TV show on Sydney's TCN-9. Very civilised but hardly very exciting!

1st prize was 200 pounds (\$400), an appearance on promoter Harry M

Millers next Stadium Show, a radio interview and a single record release. First place getters in that contest were oddly enough, a folk group, Melbourne's **The Green Hill Singers**. Not really odd in retrospect though, given the then still conservative nature of the popular music industry. They went on to cut a long forgotten album, did some TV appearances and then disappeared without trace. 2nd place, which was a tie, was more in the rock vein though. It was shared between a Sydney hotel band called **Bobby Gold and the Royals** (hotel bands then were usually made up of older musicians who were generally **Shadows/Cliff Richards** clones complete with **The Shadows** walk and nice suits), and by an instrumental band from Adelaide called **The Mystics**. Both equally shared the combined 150 pound prize, both released obscure singles and both disappeared back into obscurity. The other 10 finalists remain nameless.

However, the following year things began to hot up when the first, almost national, beat group (rock band) contest was held. I say almost national, because it only covered Sydney and Melbourne. But it was all live and it captured the Mersey Beat hysteria of the times. The Sydney finals, known as the *2SM Sound Spectacular*, were held at no less a venue than the Sydney Stadium, place of triumph for such overseas headliners as the **Beatles**, and it was just as packed and hysterical. Each bands appearance was punctuated by screams from that particular bands

ENTER NOW FOR HOADLEY'S NATIONAL



FABULOUS PRIZES FOR THE TOP MODERN SOUND GROUPS



FIRST PRIZE

- ★ A RETURN TRIP TO LONDON (Courtesy of the Sitmar Line)
- ★ \$1,000 (Courtesy Everybody's)
- ★ Four weeks accommodation in England
- ★ English engagement
- ★ Recording contract

SECOND PRIZE ★ \$500 cash (Courtesy Everybody's Magazine)
★ TV engagement ★ Recording contract

STATE PRIZES ★ Return trip to Melbourne (Courtesy Ansett-ANA - the system of the Golden Jets) ★ Accommodation in Melbourne
★ TV engagement ★ Recording contract

ENTRIES IN *Everybody's* All details of the contest and the only official entry form in *Everybody's Magazine*

NATIONAL RADIO COVERAGE

Tune in for details and progress of your local, State and National Battle of the Sounds to any of these Radio Stations:

- VICTORIA**
3UZ Melbourne, 3MA Mildura, 3SH Swan Hill, 3NE Wangaratta, 3TR Sale, 3SR Shepparton, 3CS Colac, 3BO Bendigo, 3YB Warrnambool, 3GL Geelong, 3BA Ballarat, 3HA Hamilton,
- NEW SOUTH WALES**
2UW Sydney, 2AY Albury, 2LM Lismore, 2GZ Orange, 2KO Newcastle, 2KM Kempsey, 2CA Canberra, 2BH Broken Hill, 2PK Parkes, 2WL Wollongong, 2DU Dubbo, 2GN Goulburn, 2WG Wagga, 2KA Katoomba, 2NZ Inverell.
- QUEENSLAND**
4BC Brisbane, 4SB Kingaroy.
- SOUTH AUSTRALIA**
5KA Adelaide, 5AU Port Augusta, 5RM Murray Valley.
- WESTERN AUSTRALIA**
6PR Perth, 6TZ Bunbury, 6CI Collie.
- TASMANIA**
7HO Hobart, 7EX Launceston.

WE'RE HERE FOR HOADLEY'S NATIONAL BATTLE OF THE SOUNDS


fervent fans and supporters. At least you did have some chance of hearing the 65 (yes 65!) bands competing though, unlike when The Beatles were there. For the first time called *The Battle of the Sounds*, the contest was heavily pushed by magazine *Everybody's* and sponsored by radio stations 3UZ and 2SM respectively in Melbourne and Sydney. The Grand final was held at Melbourne's Festival Hall (where it was held every year up until 1970) before an audience of 6000 and had 18 bands from these 2 cities battling it out live. There were streamers and balloons and the press in attendance. Top band of the day Ray Brown & The Whispers made a guest appearance.

Hotly contested by some of those two cities roughest, toughest sounding R'n B groups it was actually won by an obscure MOR/latest hits/covers band from Melbourne with the unoriginal name of The Crickets. They won by doing songs such as the Beach Boys harmony ballad "In my Room" and the James Bond movie theme instrumental "Goldfinger". It seems that there was rather a mixed reaction to their win. As a prize they won a small van and a record contract with the then, new, up-and-coming, very mod, Go records. It seems the judges' (who included then pop idol Ray Brown) faith was not justified as they released one single (on the Leedon label, not Go) and they too returned to the obscurity whence they came.

Still however the contest must have been an inspiration to some of the entrants. Making the finals as well were bands such as Sydney's Showmen, 3 members at least going on to play in bands such as those legendary wild men The Missing Links and Pirana. Another band, Melbourne's Rising Sons, contained Keith Glass later of Compact fame, a stalwart of the Melbourne scene for many years and more recently a respected country rock singer. Then of course, there were Melbourne's Pink Finks, two members of which, the Ross's Wilson and Hannaford, went on to such bands as Daddy Cool and Mondo Rock. Ross Wilson's influence on Australian rock music is still felt today.

Meanwhile not be left out, 1965 was the year Adelaide's thriving music scene had its own *Battle of the Bands*. Modest by the above standards, with only a dozen or so bands entering, it showed the shape of things to come though, with the then fledgling Twilights taking first place.


The success of these contests must have spurred the organisers on to even greater heights because next year in 1966 was held the first of the truly national band contests we all came to love, and some to hate, known as "The Hoadleys Battle of the Sounds". The contest was sponsored by the confectionery company Hoadleys, makers of Australia's own famous *Violet Crumble Bar*, and the Sitmar shipping line. The first prize was a trip for the winning band to the




Hoadley's

NEW NATIONAL BATTLE OF SOUND SONG & SINGER


MEET THE PEOPLE, PRODUCTS AND SERVICES THAT MAKE POSSIBLE THE WORLD'S BIGGEST POP MUSIC QUEST.




Come on and fly TAA the friendly way — your Holiday Airline
 state & travel from All States to Sydney for the Grand Final is by courtesy of **TAA**
 All Intra-state and Inter-state




Get away from it all — go Cruising with P.O. Pa O Lines of Australia Pty. Ltd. — providing return passage to London or Los Angeles for the winning group.




Yamaha Foundation for Music Education is co-operating with Hoadley's New National Battle of the Sounds in the Song Division. The winning Song gets to represent Australia in the World Popular Song Festival in Tokyo.




Go-Set, Australia's most read pop music paper, brings you the Hoadley's Battle scene every week from all over Australia. Keep reading.




Australian Commercial Radio helps make the Battle possible. Sixty-five stations throughout the land are the vital frontline in this pulsating pop promotion.



Television too! The Channel 7 Network will be bringing the Grand Final of the Battle into every State in Australia.



WE'RE HERE FOR



Hoadley's

68172

15/8/70

FLYING CIRCUS TAKE OUT BATTLE!

Zoot second, Autumn third in unpopular decision!

by ian meldrum as told to jon hawkes over interstate telephone



Doug of the Circus - they could never image for Los Angeles



Darryl of the Zoot - he could Roger Daltry



Tony of the Autumn - a bright new star

PAGE 2 — SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 1969

1969 BATTLE SENSATION—IT'S... DOUG PARKINSON IN FOCUS!

By IAN MELDRUM

A lustrous case of appeal for Pacific Hill Melbourne, as a worthy Doug Parkinson in Focus walked on stage as winner of the 1969 National

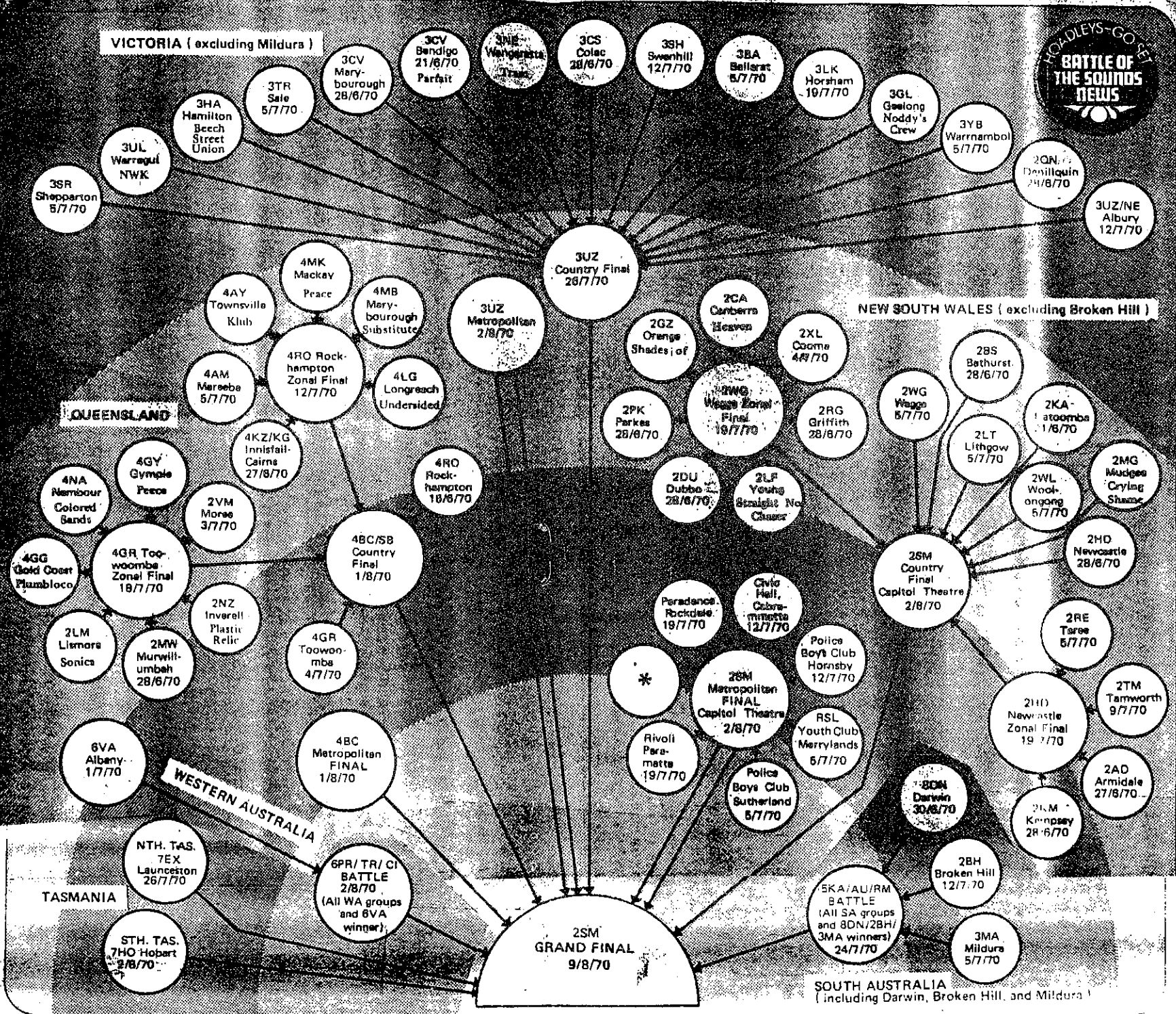
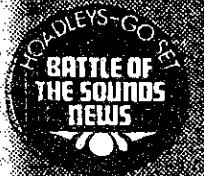
hearts of the disco crowds, but realised that progression would only come from playing pure pop and from a hit record. The proof of this was that about three

hallowed home of beat music, the UK, together with engagements there and \$1000 spending money, a princely sum by the standards of the day. All nine grand finalists were to be offered a contract with Go Records, although as it transpired 2 bands were already signed to EMI. The contest was held nationally by having local heats sponsored/organised by 80 to 90 local radio stations in all states. In the cities these were held at various suburban locations such as high schools, church halls, etc, and in rural areas at larger country centres. Bands then progressed on to larger regional heats. In the larger states, NSW, Victoria and Queensland there was a Country and a City final. The winners of these would then go to a national grand final usually held in Melbourne or Sydney. Over 500 bands entered the first contest, including 100 from Sydney and 120 from Melbourne.

The contest was organised along the lines of a major sporting contest with rules (although there were some odd loopholes) and a set of criteria for judges. This was Rock music's equivalent of the AFL or Rugby League Grand Finals. The judging panel of 4 or 5 persons for the finals usually comprised of a popular solo rock star of the day, a music industry personage such as a music publisher or record producer, and representatives from the sponsors and press. At a local level there was usually a disc jockey or a representative from the local

sponsoring radio station among others. Bands were judged on Sound, Originality, Presentation and Audience Reaction. As well they received bonus points for contributing something extra such as a new or unusual instrument. There were rules about where and when bands could enter. These were that bands could only enter one heat on the same day. They could however enter another heat on another day and in a different place, subject to residential qualifications being decided by the local organisers. As it transpired this turned out to be one of the most controversial rules.

Of the other rules, one of the quaintest however, was that bands could only compete if they had a maximum of five members. One can only suppose that this was a carry over from the thought then that anything over that number would include other instruments that weren't in the usual rock band lineup of the day (i.e. three guitars, drums and a singer) or maybe the sponsors balked at having to fork out the fares for more than five people to go to the UK. Whatever, and I suppose rather embarrassingly for the organisers, the grand final was won by Adelaide band The Twilights who had six members. Their lineup included two vocalists, Glenn Shorrock and Paddy Macartney. A rather unusual lineup for the time. However it goes to show Rock music was never meant to go by the rules! So in the Grand final, and presumably the heats, they had to



The Winners ... The Battlers

Listing of bands contesting in each heat, by year. This section is designed to be updated when new information is added.

1965

Grand final contestants & placing:

J. Crockett & the Shanes NSW
The Showmen NSW
Embers Qld
The Crickets Vic
The Pink Finks Vic
The Rising Sons Vic

NSW 1965

State Final:

Jimmy Crockett & the Shanes
The Showmen
Him & the Others
Kevin Bible & the Book
John L. Cochrane & the Fenders

City/Metropolitan final:

2AD Armidale
2AY Albury
2BH Broken Hill
2CA Canberra
2DU Dubbo
2GN Goulburn
2GZ Orange
2KA Katoomba
2KM Kempsey
2LM Lismore
2KO Newcastle
2NZ Inverell
2PK Parkes
2UW Sydney
2TM Tamworth
2VM Moree
2WG Wagga
2WL Wollongong

Victoria 1965

State Final?:

Country final:

The Dynamoes 1st
The Valiants 2nd
The Rhythm Rockets 3rd

City/Metropolitan final:

The Crickets
The Pink Finks
The Rising Sons

3BA Ballarat
The Elois
3BO Bendigo
3CS Colac
3CV Maryborough
The Emeralds 1st
The Graduate Four
3GL Geelong
3HA Hamilton
3LK Horsham
3MA Mildura
The Rhythm Rockets 1st
The Crescents
3NE Wangaratta
3SH Swan Hill
3SR Shepparton
The Dynamoes
The Valiants
3TR Sale
3UL Warragul
3UZ Melbourne
3YB Warrnambool

Queensland 1965

State Final:

The Embers

Country final:

City/Metropolitan final:

4BC Brisbane

2NZ Inverell
 2PK Parkes
 2QN Deniliquin
 2RE Tarec
 2RG Griffith
 2SM Sydney
 2TM Tamworth
 2VM Moree
 2WG Wagga
 2WL Wollongong
 The Wanderers 1st

Victoria 1967

Country final:

JBJ & the Originals

City/Metropolitan final:

3BA Ballarat
 JBJ & the Originals 1st
 3BO Bendigo
 3CS Colac
 3CV Maryborough
 3GL Geelong
 3HA Hamilton
 Theez Wung 1st
 LK Horsham
 MA Mildura
 NE Wangaratta
 SH Swan Hill
 SR Shepparton
 TR Sale
 UL Warragul
 UZ Melbourne
 YB Warrnambool
 West Side Federation 1st

Queensland 1967

Country final:

City/Metropolitan final:

4AY Ayr
 4BC Brisbane
 4CA Cairns
 4GG Southport/Gold Coast
 4GR Toowoomba
 4LG Longreach
 4MK Mackay
 4NA Nambour
 4RO Rockhampton
 4TO Townsville
 4WG Warwick

South Australia 1967

Country final:

City/Metropolitan final:

5AU Port Augusta
 5KA Adelaide
 5RM Berri

Perth 1967

6PR Perth
 6TZ/CI Bunbury

Tasmania 1967:

7EX Launceston
 Rejected
 Mickey Finn 1st
 Mystics 3rd
 The Thing 2nd
 Tazzmen
 Shindigs
 Section 4
 The Trend
 Lost and Found
 Agents
 Onceloved
 Images
 Confusion
 Black Magic
 Fugue

7HO Hobart
 The Saints
 Strings and Things
 Electrons
 Brotherhood of Myrtle 2nd
 Dee Dee and the Avantis
 Bitter Lemons
 JA Madison 1st
 Renowns

1968

Grand final contestants & placing:

The Groove 1st
 Rain ACT
 Marksmen NSW country
 Tol Puddle Martyrs Vic Country
 Shades of Blue Qld Country
 Masters Apprentices 2nd SA
 Doug Parkinson in Focus 3rd
 Beat 'n' Tracks WA
 Sect Qld
 Abstract Image Darwin
 Black Orchids Tas
 JA Madison Tas

NSW 1968

Country final:

The Marksmen 1st
 Ides of Mann 2nd
 The Silhouettes 3rd

City/Metropolitan final:

Doug Parkinson in Focus
 The Affair
 The Trojans
 Carnival of Soul
 Good Interests
 This Hallelujah Chorus
 Plastic Tears
 Mecca

2AD Armidale
 2AY Albury
 2BH Broken Hill
 2BS Bathurst
 2CA Canberra
 Rain 1st?
 2DU Dubbo
 Ides of Mann 1st
 2GN Goulburn
 2GO Gosford
 2GZ Orange
 The Eight Feet

2KA Katoomba
 2KM Kempsey
 2LF Young
 2LM Lismore
 2LT Lithgow
 2MG Mudgee
 The Silhouettes
 2MW Murwillumbah
 2NX Newcastle
 The Michael Scott Group 1st
 Velvet Underground 2nd

2NZ Inverell
 2PK Parkes
 2QN Deniliquin
 2RE Tarec
 Velvet Underground 1st
 Friends of Rejection
 Midnight Soul

2RG Griffith
 2SM Sydney
 2TM Tamworth
 2VM Moree
 2WG Wagga
 The Impacts
 2WL Wollongong
 The Marksmen

Victoria 1968

State Final:

Groove
 Tol Puddle Martyrs

Country final:
Tol Puddle Martyrs

City/Metropolitan final:
Groove

3BA Ballarat
3BO Bendigo
Tol Puddle Martyrs
3CS Colac
3CV Maryborough
3GL Geelong
Nineteen 87
3HA Hamilton
3LK Horsham
3MA Mildura
3NE Wangaratta
3SH Swan Hill
3SR Shepparton
3TR Sale
3UL Warragul
3UZ Melbourne
3YB Warrnambool

Queensland 1968
Country final:

City/Metropolitan final:
The Sect

3Y Ayr
3C Brisbane
3A Cairns
3G Southport/Gold Coast
3R Toowoomba
3J Longreach
3K Mackay
3A Nambour
3D Rockhampton
3D Townsville
3J Warwick

South Australia 1968
Country final:

City/Metropolitan final:

5AU Port Augusta
5KA Adelaide
5RM Berri

Perth 1968

6PR Perth
6TZ/CI Bunbury

Tasmania 1968:

7EX Launceston
Brian James Incident
Anti Clock-work
Action
Mickey Finn
IBO
Lost and Found
Life
S.P.R.
Tangerine Cobweb 3rd
Mystics 2nd
C.O.Z
The Nameless?
PB and the Images?
Fugue?
The Packet?
Road Runners ?
JA Madison 1st

7HO Hobart
Blue Episode
Thunderbirds
Black Orchids 1st
Grass
Our Dad
Clockwork Oringe 2nd
The Times
Bow Street Runners
The Others

Tangerine Cobweb
Mystics
Fugue
Mickey Finn
Scogum Jade
Mojo Soul 3rd

Mirror Reflection
The Mint

Zonal final:
Newcastle

Country final:

Mirror Reflection
Midnight Soul
Tin Pan Alley
Union of Jack

City/Metropolitan final:

Roselands
The Affair 1st
Port Jackson

1969

Grand final contestants & placing:

Doug Parkinson in Focus 1st
Spice of Life Vic country
Avengers Qld 4th
Tin Pan Alley NSW country
Valentines Vic 3rd
Pepper Adams Tas
Limit SA
Chain Sydney 5th
Proclamation WA
Clockwork Oringe Tas
Chapter Three Qld country
Aesop's Fables 2nd

2AD Armidale
The Finks 1st
2AY Albury
2BH Broken Hill
Moustrap 1st
2BS Bathurst
The Wanderers 1st
2CA Canberra
Union of Jack 1st
Kite 2nd
2DU Dubbo
Crying Shame
2GN Goulburn
Earls Court 1st
Hokum Jugg Blues Band 2nd
2GO Gosford
2GR Griffith
Echoes 1st
2GZ Orange
Jig Saw 1st
2KA Katoomba
New Age 1st
2KM Kempsey
Vendetta 1st
2LF Young
The Shades 1st

Vocal Section

Grandfinalists

(This was the only year to have a
seperate section for vocal groups).

Mark IV WA
Travis Wellington Hedge SA
Chiffons Vic
1812 Tas
The Affair 1st NSW
New Edition Qld

NSW 1969

State Final:

Aesops Fables 1st
Chain 2nd
The Cleves
Imagination
Tin Pan Alley
Autumn
Maple Lace
Midnight Soul

2LM	Lismore		Collection
	The Astronotes	1st	Spiritual Feeling
	The Movement	2nd	Blook Cheque
	The Passionfruit	3rd	Tin Soldiers
2LT	Lithgow		Barry Stokes Tijuana Five
	The Tree	1st	Creations
2MG	Mudgee		Merry-Go-Round
	Magic Enterprise	1st	
2MW	Murwillumbah		2WL Wollongong
	The Sonics	1st	Tin Pan Alley 1st
2KO	Newcastle		Erls Court
	Midnight Soul	1st	Fantasy
	Blues Movement		Justin Arthur Groop
	Mirror Reflection		Psychedelic Beat
	Psychotic Symphonice		2XL Cooma
	Paper Train		Undecided
	Pare Thouht		
	Power House		Victoria 1969
	Daisy Chain		<u>Country final:</u>
	Cast Iron		Oliver Twist
2NZ	Inverell		Tol Puddle Martyrs
	Satisfaction	1st	Spice of Life
	The Inner Souls		
	The Semanons		<u>City/Metropolitan final:</u>
	Scorpion		
	Love Bite		3BA Ballarat
	The Living Sound		3BO Bendigo
	The Bar Essentials		Oliver's Twist 1st
	Doorway 41		3CS Colac
2PK	Parkes		Quinsonic Union 1st
	Echoettes	1st	3CV Maryborough
2QN	Deniliquin		South Side Blues Band 1st
	Quiet Day's Undertaking	=1st	3GL Geelong
	Bow Street Runners	=1st	Strawberry 1st
2RE	Taree		3HA Hamilton
	Mirror Reflection	1st	Attraction 1st
2RG	Griffith		3LK Horsham
2SM	Sydney		Kaper 1st
2TM	Tamworth		3MA Mildura
	Packy Wack	1st	Magic Apple 1st
2VM	Moree		3NE Wangaratta
2WG	Wagga		Merry -Go-Round 1st
	Nann's Passion Flower	1st	3SH Swan Hill

	Strange Brew	1st	4NA Nambour
3SR	Shepparton		Saint Fire & the Rest 1st
	Tol Puddle Martyrs	1st	4RO Rockhampton
	Thymes		The Cast 1st
3TR	Sale		4TO Townsville
	Tyme	1st	The Living Image 1st
3UL	Warragul		4WG Warwick
	Spice of Life	1st	Sweet Sidney 1st
3YB	Warrnambool		
	Stompin' Mallee Grubs	1st	

South Australia 1969State Final:The Limit 1st²Country final:City/Metropolitan final:

5AU	Port Augusta
5KA	Adelaide
5RM	Berri

Perth 1969

6PR	Perth
6TZ/CI	Bunbury

Tasmania 1969:

7EX	Launceston	
	Pepper Adams	1st
	Blue Condition	2nd
	Mae West	3rd
	Symphony Sun	4th
	Fire Water	5th
	Edison Frontlight	
	Reserves	
	Final Chapter	
	Isaac Brown Organisation	
	Ezra Catts Crypt	

7HO	Hobart	
	Clockwork Orange	1st
	Emphasis	2nd
	Blue Condition	3rd
	JA Madison	4th
	Symphony Sun	

Queensland 1969State Final:Zonal Battles:

Rockhampton
Toowoomba

Country final:City/Metropolitan final:

The Cast
Chapter 3

4AY	Ayr	
4BC	Brisbane	
4CA	Cairns	
	Fireflies	1st
4GG	Southport/Gold Coast	
	The Reaction	
	Rosemarie's Babies	
	Fourth IV	1st
4GR	Toowoomba	
	The Cast	
GY	Gympie	
	Sweet Poison	1st
4LG	Longreach	
	December Sunn	1st
4MB	Maryborough	
	Revolution	1st
4MK	Mackay	
	The Krescents	1st
	The Fourth Edition	2nd

Fashion
 Master Piece
 Thunderbirds
 1812
 Reuben Stewart
 Some Rustik
 The First Chapter

Country Zone Finals:

Newcastle:
 Luke's Hero
 Bogislav
 Martin
 Vendettas

City/Metropolitan final:

Pyramid
 NZ Fantasy Band
 Autumn
 La De Das
 Flying Circus
 Pirana
 Cleves
 Freshwater
 Elm Tree
 Klik

Metropolitan Heats:

Sutherland:
 Elm Tree 1st
 Sana Mara Khan 2nd
 Marble Clock 3rd

Merrylands:
 Klik 1st
 Grass Harp 2nd
 Shades In Between 3rd
 Judas

Hornsby:
 La De Das 1st
 Pirana 2nd
 Trench 3rd
 Wildwood 7th
 Toby Jugg
 Simple Image
 Savage Rose
 The Magpies
 Cabramatta
 Autumn 1st
 1812 2nd
 Tymepeece 3rd

2AD Armidale
 Mantra 1st
 2AY Albury
 2BH Broken Hill
 2BS Bathurst
 Facade 1st
 2CA Canberra
 Heaven 1st
 2DU Dubbo
 New Approach 1st
 2GN Goulburn
 2GO Gosford
 2GZ Orange
 Shades 1st
 2KA Katoomba
 Green Ginger 1st
 2KM Kempsey
 Vendetta 1st
 William Tell Overture 2nd
 Hot Rats 3rd
 2LF Young
 Straight No Chaser 1st
 The Shades 2nd
 2LM Lismore
 Sonics 1st
 2LT Lithgow
 Collorados 1st
 2MG Mudgee
 Crying Shame 1st
 2MW Murwillumbah
 2HD Newcastle
 Maya 1st
 2NZ Inverell
 Plastic Relic 1st
 2PK Parkes
 The Echoettes 1st
 2QN Deniliquin
 2RE Taree
 Luke's Harp 1st
 2RG Griffith
 Echoes 1st
 2SM Sydney

2TM Tamworth
 2VM Moree
 2WG Wagga
 Collection 1st
 2WL Wollongong
 Fantasy 1st
 2XL Cooma
 Pumpkin Flat Diggers 1st

Victoria 1970

Country final:

Town Criers =1st
 Nova Express=1st
 Ash
 West End
 Mask
 Blues City Shakedown
 Noddy's Crew
 Beach Street Union
 Parfait

City/Metropolitan final:

3UZ First Heat:
 Town Criers
 Nova Express
 2nd Heat
 Nova Express=1st
 Zoot = 1st
 New Dream
 Spice of Life
 Thursday's Children
 Aftermath
 3BA Ballarat
 Cactus, Rose & Thorn
 3BO Bendigo
 Parfait 1st
 3CS Colac
 3CV Maryborough
 South Side Blues Band
 3GL Geelong
 Noddy's Crew 1st
 3HA Hamilton

Vocal Section:

1812 1st
 Mojo Soul 2nd
 Fashion 3rd

Northern Territory 1969

8DN Darwin
 8HA Alice Springs

1970

Grand final contestants & placing:

Flying Circus 1st
 Zoot 2nd
 Sweaty Betty Tas
 Ssarb WA
 Musick Express SA
 Nova Express Vic
 Maya NSW country (Newcastle?)
 Autumn NSW city 3rd
 Chapter III Qld country
 Jug Band Qld city
 Sons of Bacchus Tas
 Noddy's Crew Vic country

NSW 1970

Country final:

Collection
 Facade
 Colarados
 Green Ginger
 Fantasy
 Crying Shame
 Maya
 The Sheds
 Bogislav

Beach Street Union 1st
 3LK Horsham
 3MA Mildura
 The Cyners
 The Hush
 The Barnaby Plum
 3NE Wangaratta
 3SH Swan Hill
 Blues City Shakedown
 3SR Shepparton
 3TR Sale
 3UL Warragul
 3UZ Melbourne
 3YB Warrnambool

Queensland 1970

Country final:

Klub
 Sonics
 Sweet Peach
 Chapter III

City/Metropolitan final:

Bentham G Cherry
 Tree
 Gentle Art
 Ian Saxon & the Sound
 Leroy
 Movement
 Spinning Wheels
 Brown Sugar
 Buckshot
 Jug Band

4AY Ayr
 The Klub 1st
 The Living Image 2nd
 Barabas 3rd
 4BC Brisbane
 4CA Cairns
 4GG Southport/Gold Coast
 Plumbloco 1st
 4GR Toowoomba

4GY Gympie
 Peece 1st
 4LG Longreach
 Undecided 1st
 4MB Maryborough
 Substitute 1st
 4MK Mackay
 Peace 1st
 4NA Nambour
 Coloured Sands 1st
 4RO Rockhampton
 4TO Townsville
 Klub 1st
 4WG Warwick

South Australia 1970

Country final:

City/Metropolitan final:

5AU Port Augusta
 5KA Adelaide
 5RM Berri

Perth 1970

6PR Perth : Grand Final
 Ssarb 1st
 Bakery 2nd
 6TZ/CI Bunbury

Tasmania 1970:

Grand Final:

Sweatty Betty 1st
 Medium Cool 2nd
 Clockwork Oringe 3rd
 Bootleg 4th

7EX Launceston
 Sons of Soultleve
 IMM
 Sweaty Betty 1st
 Sons of Bacchus 2nd
 Fifth Avenue 3rd

ECC
 Sons of Venus
 Cathedral
 Trek

7HO Hobart
 Sons of Bacchus 1st
 Medium Cool 2nd
 Clockwork Oringe
 Fifth Avenue
 (1812 2nd in a Sydney heat July 1970!)

Northern Territory

8DN Darwin
 8HA Alice Springs

1971

Grand final contestants & placing:

Fraternity 1st
 Stafford Bridge NSW country
 Jeff St John and Copperwine 3rd
 Bacchus Tas
 October Vic country
 Langford Lever Vic
 Pendulum Vic
 Nutmeg Qld country
 Jelly Roll Big Band Qld
 Impulse SA country
 Barrelhouse WA
 Sherbet NSW city 2nd

NSW 1971

Country final:

Stafford Bridge

City/Metropolitan final:

Jeff St John and Copperwine = 1st
 Sherbet = 1st
 Galadrial
 Whistler's Mother
 Autumn 2nd

Metropolitan Heats:

Hornsby:
 Gunga Din 1st
 Driving Wheel 2nd

Cabramatta:
 Autumn 1st

Sutherland:
 Factory 1st
 Trench 2nd
 Flake 3rd

Beacon Hills:
 Harry Young & Sabbath 1st
 Wildwood

2AD Armidale
 2AY Albury
 2BH Broken Hill
 2BS Bathurst
 2CA Canberra
 2DU Dubbo
 The Gold Stars 1st

2GN Goulburn
 2GO Gosford
 2GZ Orange
 Confederate 1st

2KA Katoomba
 2KM Kempsey
 The Vendettas 1st
 2LF Young
 Rock Melon 1st
 Karmen Ra 2nd
 Rabella 3rd

2LM Lismore
 2LT Lithgow
 Stafford Bridge 1st

2MG Mudgec
 2MW Murwillumbah
 2KO Newcastle
 Nodes Levity 2nd

2NZ Inverell
 2PK Parkes
 2QN Deniliquin
 Von Bismarck 1st
 2RE Taree

Nodes Levity 1st
 2RG Griffith
 2SM Sydney
 2TM Tamworth
 Bogislav 1st
 2VM Moree
 2WG Wagga
 2WL Wollongong
 Solomon Wright 1st

Victoria 1971

Country final:

City/Metropolitan final:

Broadmeadows (Urban heat 4.7.71)

Total Fire Band
 Atlas
 Fat Mama
 Martha Shroud
 Oasis
 Pumple Chook
 Skitsafrenic
 West End
 Dafyduk
 Highway
 Langford Lever
 The Blind Light
 The Outside Inn
 Terraplane
 Vehicle
 Life's Creation

Kew (Urban heat

Langford Lever 1st
 Daffyduck
 Terraplane
 Atlas

3BA Ballarat
 3BO Bendigo
 Parfait 1st
 3CS Colac

3CV Maryborough
 3GL Geelong
 3HA Hamilton
 Sound Investment 1st
 3LK Horsham
 3MA Mildura
 Bazaar 1st
 3NE Wangaratta
 3SH Swan Hill
 3SR Shepparton
 3TR Sale
 Bats and Noggin 1st (Gippsland)
 3UL Warragul
 3UZ Melbourne
 3YB Warrnambool
 The Carousels 1st

Queensland 1971

Country final:

Jelly Roll Jug Band 1st
 Gentle Art 2nd

City/Metropolitan final:

Nutmeg 1st

4AY Ayr
 Peace 1st
 4BC Brisbane
 4CA Cairns
 4GG Southport/Gold Coast
 4GR Toowoomba
 4LG Longreach
 Seventh Son 1st
 4MK Mackay
 4NA Nambour
 Blackwater 1st
 4RO Rockhampton
 The Barrens 1st
 4TO Townsville
 4WG Warwick

South Australia 1971

Country final:

Brandy Tas
 Jody Tas

City/Metropolitan final:

5AU Port Augusta
 5KA Adelaide
 5RM Berri

Perth 1971

6PR Perth
 6TZ/CI Bunbury

Tasmania 1971:

7EX Launceston
 Bacchus 1st
 Clockwork Oringe 2nd

7HO Hobart
 Blue Jade
 Cathedral
 Clockwork Oringe 1st
 Jody
 Jurie
 Mandy 2nd
 Midnight
 Midnight Soul
 Molly Brown
 Rokknuckles
 Thunderbirds
 Transit
 Uncle Bernies Farm 3rd

Northern Territory 1971

8DN Darwin
 8HA Alice Springs

1972

Grand final contestants & placing:

Sherbet 1st
 Jeff St John 2nd
 Headband 3rd SA

NSW 1972

Zone finals:

Newcastle:

Orange:

Wagga:

City/Metropolitan final:

2AD Armidale
 Mantra
 2AY Albury
 Stagg 1st
 2BH Broken Hill
 2BS Bathurst
 Eros 2 1st
 2CA Canberra
 2DU Dubbo
 Railroad 1st
 2GN Goulburn
 2GO Gosford
 Kahma 1st
 2GL Orange
 Confederates 1st
 2KA Katoomba
 Nemesis 1st
 2KM Kempsey
 2LF Young
 Rockmelon 1st
 2LM Lismore
 Sticky Fingers 1st
 2LT Lithgow
 2MG Mudgee
 Krinkle Wood Green
 The Belmonts 1st
 2MW Murwillumbah
 Rous Country Band 1st
 Tumbleweed
 Geoff Dutton (vocal section)
 2NX Newcastle
 2NZ Inverell

Plastic Relic 1st
 2PK Parkes
 Freight 1st
 2QN Deniliquin
 Chain Reaction 1st
 2RE Taree
 2RG Griffith
 Karmen Rea 1st
 2TM Tamworth
 Justin Tyme 1st
 2VM Moree
 2WG Wagga
 Oktoba 1st
 2WL Wollongong
 Graveyard 1st

Victoria 1972

Country final:

Amber Light
 Shelta
 Bagshot Segal
 Samantha
 Roman Empire
 Leadbelly
 Bacchus
 Effigy
 Solid State
 Nemisis

City/Metropolitan final:

Broadmeadows Heat:
 Fat Mama
 Cleves (guest)

3BA Ballarat
 Amber Light 1st
 3BO Bendigo
 Shelta 1st
 3CS Colac
 3CV Maryborough
 Bagshot Segal 1st
 3GL Geelong
 Samantha 1st

3HA Hamilton
 Roman Empire 1st
 3LK Horsham
 3MA Mildura
 Chain Reaction 1st
 Cyld 1st?
 3NE Wangaratta
 Leadbelly 1st
 3SH Swan Hill
 Bacchus 1st
 3SR Shepparton
 3TR Sale
 Effigy 1st
 3UL Warragul
 Solid State 1st
 3UZ Melbourne
 3YB Warrnambool
 Nemisis 1st

Queensland 1972

Country final:

Rockhampton Zone Final:
 Otis 1st

City/Metropolitan final:

4AY Ayr
 4BC Brisbane
 4CA Cairns
 Ramat Tan 1st
 4GG Southport/Gold Coast
 4GR Toowoomba
 4LG Longreach
 4MK Mackay
 Otis/Opis 1st
 4NA Nambour
 Para Nova 1st
 4RO Rockhampton
 Classical Gas 1st
 Country Pie
 4TO Townsville

4WG Warwick

South Australia 1972

Country final:

City/Metropolitan final:

5AU Port Augusta
 Chamelon 1st
 5KA Adelaide
 5RM Berri
 Nosey Parker 1st

Perth

6PR Perth
 6TZ/CI Bunbury

Tasmania 1972:

7EX Launceston
 Jody 1st
 5 Wheel Drive 2nd
 Bitta Sweet 3rd
 Fifth Avenue 4th
 Chimes of Freedom
 Coachmen
 Kount Five
 Helium
 Thunderbirds
 Janus
 Lyn Thomas Section
 Ocelot

7HO Hobart
 Brandy 1st
 Feast of Friends 2nd
 Ginger 3rd
 Five Wheel Drive
 Bitta Sweet
 Bronco

Northern Territory 1972

8DN Darwin
 The Inspiration

8HA Alice Springs
 Forever 1st

[This listing accompanies the booklet,
Battles of the Bands, written by Terry
 Stacey, 1995.

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 ph 054 478221

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temporarily drop one of the vocalists. Still, after they'd won the contest they came back on for a victory performance with Paddy Macartney joining them as a "guest". In their case it was obviously a good choice (Normie Rowe was one of the judges) because they went on to have a number of quality hit records and members Glenn Shorrock and Terry Britten went on to greater things. The former with **Axiom** and **Little River Band** and the latter as a songwriter/producer for such artists as Tina Turner, Cliff Richard and many others. The 2nd place getters, **The Loose Ends**, promptly changed their name to **The Other Ends** and sank back into obscurity after one single release. One young band who, whilst making the Victorian finals didn't make the grand finals, were **Strings Unlimited**, fronted by a youthful fellow called John Farnham. All the same whatever became of other finalists, Hobart's **The Trolls** or Perth's **Clique**?

In 1967 the pace hotted up even further. Winners this year were Melbourne band, **The Groop**, which included Brian Cadd. They were followed by NSW Country representatives, Sydney's **The Questions**, fronted on vocals by Doug Parkinson. 3rd place getters were Brisbane's **The Flamingoes**, who immediately disappeared from sight never even releasing a record! **The Flamingoes** have the distinction of being the only Brisbane band, and the only band outside of Victoria, NSW & South Australia, to make the

top three places in the history of the Battles. Some note of cynicism of the original concept of a quest to find fresh new bands must be recorded here since **The Groop** had already had one hit record under its belt the previous year with the single "*The Best in Africa*". Contrary to popular perception in some quarters there was never a rule that said you were unable to enter if you had charted with a hit record!

This year too an example of the passions aroused among fans occurred in the Wollongong heats. **The Wanderers**, a band described as "a good versatile group but getting on in years now ... better suited to club work", beat up-and-comers, **Reverend Black & The Rockin' Vicars**, a long haired R'n B band, who decked out in clerical garb and had a large vocal following. It was reported that the majority of the audience, other bands, and even members of **The Wanderers** expected **Rev Black** to win.

The rule about only being able to enter one heat on the same day in their own area came in for some criticism too. It was observed that in Victoria this rule was gotten around when bands who did not win their own heat re-entered in a different place on another day. In this case the band **Theez Wunz** were beaten by **West Side Federation** in the Warnambool heats. **Theez Wunz** then entered in the Hamilton heats and beat **JBJ & The Originals**. The latter then went into the Ballarat heats and

won. They eventually became Victorian Country Grand-finalists. Still they had little hope in the grand-final. The ultimate winners, **The Groop**, had already had to beat such local heavy-weights as **The Vibrants**, **The Mixtures**, **The Groove** and **The Loved Ones** to get there themselves. The **Loved Ones** were reported as being very disappointed at not making the grand-final. They had just been voted most popular band in the *Go-Set* Readers Pop poll, as well as having had 2 major hit records the year before!

By 1968 the 1st prize was up to \$2000 spending money to go with the return trip to the UK. The number of grand-finalists this year was up to 12. 1968 saw yet another Melbourne band, **The Groove**, take out the honours, followed closely by Adelaide's **Masters Apprentices** and thirdly by Sydney's **Doug Parkinson In Focus** (a reconstituted version of the previous years place getters, **The Questions**). Given **The Groove's** subsequent success, this bore out their potential, although **Masters Apprentices** had already had three national hit records by then. Apart from these three bands however the other nine finalists all sank without trace. That is with the exception of one member of Perth's **Beat 'N Tracks**. Their lead guitarist, Phil Manning, went on to become a respected blues player with **Chain** and in his own right. This year's grand-final was also notable in that it was the only year that the Northern Territory had its own representative,

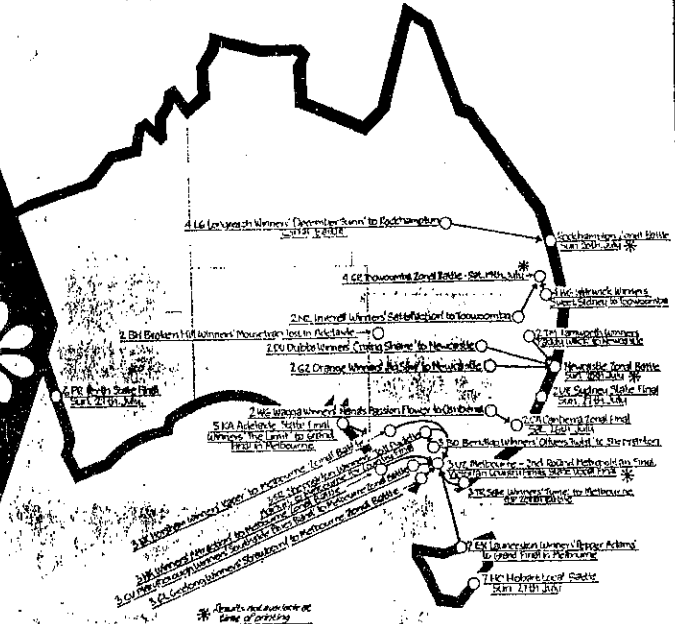
The Abstract Image, and the third and last time that the ACT/Canberra was represented in its own right. By now too, *Go-Set* was also eagerly reporting the success or otherwise of the previous years winners trip to the home of beatdom.

1969 seems to have been the peak year for The Battle with around 1000 bands and groups entering. This years battle was also notable in that, for the one and only time, there was a separate section for vocal groups, as well as the usual type of band. There were two sets of prizes, 1st in both being, as before, a UK trip and \$2000 spending money. The new section was to allow groups that concentrated on vocals and did not accompany themselves to compete, as well as bands that focused on close harmony. It was originally planned to have a separate grand-final for each on separate days too, but in the end both grand-finals were held at Melbourne's Festival hall together. There were 12 grand-finalists in the main section and six in the vocal section.

In the main section Sydney band **Doug Parkinson In Focus** finally cracked it, third time lucky, and took out first place representing Melbourne. In the vocal section a previously unknown band, **The Affair** from Sydney, took it away. With a lead singer such as Kerrie Biddell they could hardly do otherwise. This was the only occasion a first place in the national Grand finals was won by a band fronted by

HOADLEY'S BATTLE REPORT

RESULTS & FIXTURES



1969

HOADLEY'S BATTLE HOTLINE

HOW TO ENTER

- Here's what to do to enter Hoadley's Battle for '69:
1. Cut out the entry form on this page (entry forms are available ONLY IN GO-SET!), fill it in and send it to the radio station nearest you that is holding a Battle of the Sounds.
 2. The station will send you an Application Form.
 3. If you win your heat you will be sent to either a zone final or a capital city final, and finally to Melbourne for the Grand Final for regular groups on August 3rd, or to Sydney for the Vocal group Grand Final on August 10th.

● You will travel by TAA Your Holiday Airline.

BATTLES BEGIN NEXT WEEK!

LATEST BATTLE DATES

- 3LT Lithgow: Sunday 23rd June
- 3KA Katoomba: Sunday 23rd June
- 4QG Geelong: Sunday 29th July
- 3GZ Geelong: Sunday 29th July
- 2BT Broken Hill: Sunday 29th July

On Saturday week (June 14th) Hoadley's 1969 Battle begins! 4MK Mackay will get the ball rolling with their battle, followed on Sunday 15th by 4AY Ayr, 3NE Wanganatta and 3HA Hamilton. If you are in a group and want to enter, RUSH the Go-Set coupon below off to your local "Battle" Radio Station.

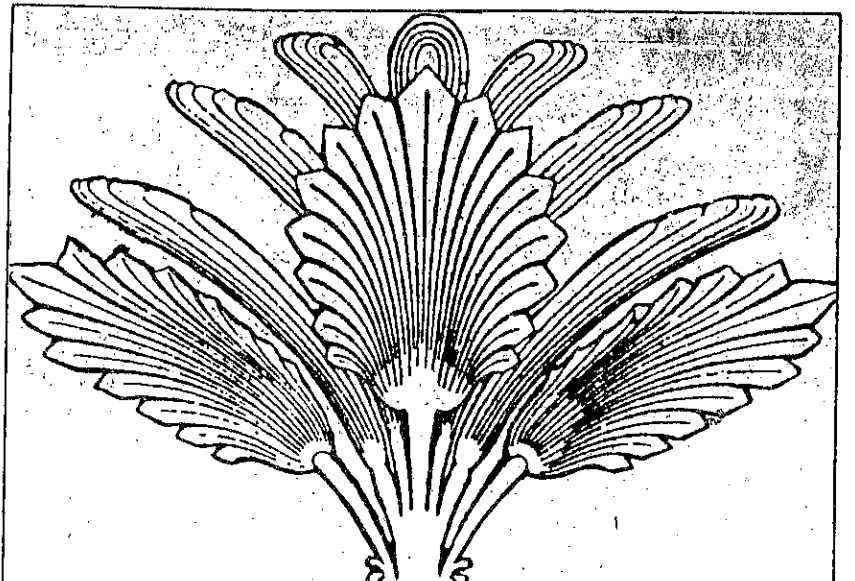
CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. The entrant must be a resident of Victoria at the time of entry. 2. The entrant must be a member of a group. 3. The entrant must be aged 18 years or over at the time of entry. 4. The entrant must be a resident of the zone in which they are competing. 5. The entrant must be a resident of the zone in which they are competing. 6. The entrant must be a resident of the zone in which they are competing. 7. The entrant must be a resident of the zone in which they are competing. 8. The entrant must be a resident of the zone in which they are competing. 9. The entrant must be a resident of the zone in which they are competing. 10. The entrant must be a resident of the zone in which they are competing.

YOUR ENTRY FORM

TITLE OF GROUP.....
 NAME OF LEADER/MANAGER.....
 ADDRESS.....
 NUMBER IN GROUP.....
 VOCAL OR INSTRUMENTAL.....

This form must be completed by the group leader or manager and forwarded to the radio station at which you wish to enter. See list of pages.



GET TO Hoadley's BATTLE HEAT

BROADMEADOWS

July 4th 2.15 p.m. BROADMEADOWS TOWN HALL

Competing Groups:

- Total Fire Band: Atlas: Fat Mama: Martha Shroud: Oasis: Pumble Chook: Skitsafrenic: West End: Dafyduk: Highway: Langford Lever: The Blind Light: The Outside Inn: Terraplane: Vehicle: Life's Creation:

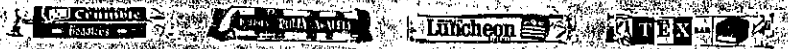
Guest Group:

CLEVES

Prizes Giveaways Music Music Music

Win Free tickets to Grand Final and also to reception to rap with the groups
 Comperes 3UZ's top DJ's headed by Sam Anglesey
 \$1.00 to get in Proceeds to Charity
 Hoadley's National Battle of the Sounds 1971

We're Here for



a female lead vocalist. Second place in the main section were Sydney's **Aesops Fables**. Still trying, but coming in 3rd were **The Valentines** from Adelaide, who had last made the grand-finals in 1967. **The Valentines**, a six member band, went on to have a hit or two and national fame. One of their two lead singers, Bon Scott, later achieved everlasting international rock fame and martyrdom in superstar band, **AC/DC**. By this time nothing was said about the old maximum five members rule. **Aesops Fables** returned to Sydney but only went on to limited local success. And what of other finalists such as Adelaide's **Limit** or Launceston's **Pepper Adams**? They couldn't have been as disappointed as **Flying Circus** who had spent a week in the bush practising their harmonies for the vocal section only to have to drop out because their lead singer got a throat infection!

In 1970 the Grand Final, for the first time, was held in Sydney at the Capitol Theatre, with a Sydney band, **Flying Circus**, winning. Among the judges was pop star Johnny Young. By now airline TAA had taken on sponsorship and the 1st prize now included return tickets to Los Angeles. The change of destination as well seems to mark a re-orientation of Australian rock musics influences and aspirations.

This was a year of great controversy for the battle. In Melbourne the all-pink **Zoot**, recent winners of the

Go-Set readers poll were beaten in the Melbourne finals by a virtually unknown band, **Nova Express**. Notwithstanding this, they both went on to represent Melbourne in the Grand final. Sydney had more than its share when in the Sydney finals, **Flying Circus**, desperately trying to shake off their bubble-gum image with tight US West coast harmonies and top musicianship, beat brilliant popular local band **Autumn**, a band virtually unknown outside of Sydney. This decision was greeted by catcalls, boos and general derision by the capacity crowd. They too both went into the grand finals. To compound the controversy **Flying Circus** came first in the Grand final the following week, once again beating **Autumn**, who came 3rd after **Zoot**. This provoked an even stronger reaction than the previous weeks finals. This time 3/4 of the audience had left within minutes of the winners announcement! In Victoria there was controversy too about the residential qualifications as out of eight bands who entered the Morwell heats, three were from Melbourne.

This year's battle was notable as well as both the Sydney final and the grand final were taped by Radio Station 2SM (who had taken over promotion from 2UE) using studio quality multi-track recording equipment. Given that the Sydney final alone included such luminaries as **Pyramid**, **La-de-das**, **Pirana** and **Freshwater**, not to mention the Grand-finalists themselves, these historical tapes, which still exist, will

surely make an interesting live album when released eventually. Indeed **Autumn's** performance of the cover "**Yellow River**" so impressed 2SM that they regularly aired a live recording of them playing it in the contest in prime listening time. This led to them having a hit with it in Sydney.

Meanwhile, making the Sydney finals this time were a young local band called **Elm Tree**, which included on vocals, John Paul Young. The Hornsby heats in Sydney also produced the youngest band ever known to enter the battle, **The Magpies**. Their average age was 12, and featured a five year old Go-Go girl! Notwithstanding their cuteness value they were still beaten by **The La-de-das**.

Compared to 1970, 1971 was quiet and without the screaming and hysteria of previous battles. It was Melbourne's turn this year to host the Grand final. Although this year Tasmania had only one entry, South Australia for the only time had an extra entry, **Impulse**, representing their country areas. This left the number of finalists still at 12.

Adelaide's **Fraternity**, a six piece band, took it out this year. This was a departure from previous years as they were more of an alternative music band who concentrated on album material. Certainly not the pretty bubblegum pop image bands who had won it before. *Go-Set* commented that the battle ended with one of the most popular

decisions and was based on ability, not image. **Fraternity's** win also gave Bon Scott his second place in the finals since he had made it with **The Valentines** two years before. 2nd & 3rd were taken out by two Sydney bands **Sherbet**, who were fronted by Darryl Braithwaite, and **Jeff St John & The Copperwine**, the latter well and truly a veteran of the scene by now. Both had gone to the NSW and grand finals after tying in the Sydney metropolitan final. It was rumoured that in the metropolitan final, **Copperwine** had scored the highest points but the organisers were afraid of the crowd's reaction if **Sherbet** were not declared winner. Although Jeff St John could hardly be called a new talent, this was **Sherbet's** big break and from then on they went from strength to strength. Their piece-de-resistance for the battle was a version of **DeLaney & Bonnie's** "**Free The People**" in which their bass player swapped his electric bass for a tuba, and played the bass lines "oompahpah" on that. This would certainly have given them bonus points for contributing something extra such as a new or unusual instrument! As is known, of course, **Sherbet** realised their potential and went on to a long string of hits in Australia and a number 1 hit in the UK. Other finalists such as Tasmania's **Bacchus** and Perth's **Barrelhouse**, however, went back unheralded whence they came. It was observed however that even though a Sydney band, **Stafford Bridge**, made the grand-finals representing NSW Country, they were good

regardless of how they got into the battle.

The last of the Battles was held in 1972. Unlike previous battles, reporting of the results in *Go-Set* was lacklustre and sporadic. Even the names of all the grand-finalists were not published. This was put down to petrol strikes causing postponements of heats and postal problems which caused results to dribble in. As well their were hassles with the new categories. This year heralded a change from previous battles in that entry was not confined to just bands. Two new categories were introduced. As well as the usual band section, there was now a solo vocalist section and a songwriters section, the later itself divided into amateur and professional sections. It became more of a talent contest. Times were changing and yesterday's screaming teenbopper audiences had now become older and more serious about their music.

The grand final was held in Sydney and this was the year that Sydney's Sherbet took out the honors, winning \$3000 cash and a \$3000 trip to Los Angeles. Once again they were followed, in 2nd place this time, by Jeff St John & Copperwine. Adelaide's Headband, who made the finals the previous year, took out 3rd place. Solo vocalist was won by Michael Turner (of the band Michael Turner In Session), who was promptly never heard of again and in second place the ever perennial Jeff St John, a double header for him. The

songwriters section was won overall by Brian Cadd who won a trip to Tokyo and \$1000 cash followed by Glenn Cardier, a singer/songwriter in the introspective mould of the day.

Go-Set was moved to comment that the standard of new bands entering was very poor, singling out only one heavy metal band, Warlock, as showing any potential. It stated there was no competition for the established bands. It is possible that the battle was seen as almost too much part of the establishment, and this coupled with some cynicism about the previous years results, may have dissuaded many of the better lesser known bands from entering. In Melbourne a promoter did what was previously the unthinkable by staging two concerts elsewhere on the same day as the Melbourne finals. These featured major alternative and heavier bands such as Matchbox, Country Radio, Murtceps, Tamam Shud & Band of Talabene. The promoter was quoted as saying he regarded the *Battle of the Sounds* as a ticket to oblivion, and an example of the general Melbourne disinterest in it, where (he claimed) no professional name bands had been entering for the past few years.

In a prophetically titled article, "When de battle is over", *Go-Set* printed what was almost an obituary when it stated that their needed to be a rethink of the battle for next year if there was to be one. Judging musicians and their talents was not like judging a beauty contest.

Maybe the industry and public perception of the battle, towards the end, can be gauged somewhat by names of important bands who didn't enter or were unplaced. Bands such as Daddy Cool, Company Caine, Tamam Shud, Blackfeather, Khavas Jute, Coloured Balls, Healing Force, Spectrum and Tully. Any idealism at the battles beginnings was lost in the commercialism and clashes of egos that are inevitably part of the entertainment industry.

The rock music industry has always had its razamatazy *King of Pop*/ARIA type awards where the nominators and winners are usually nominated and/or voted in by their peers. But the battle had a more democratic appeal. Anyone could enter and, by the gauge of audience reaction, everyone had a chance to have their say.

Some cynically saw the battle as already decided, and just a way for already well known top bands to gain

prestige and get one over their rivals in a formal sort of situation. However there were some genuine discoveries along the way even if they didn't make the grand finals or the local finals. The battles gave many a band that much needed exposure to a wider audience. This was in a time, particularly in the early days, when major record companies and radio stations ruled the roost almost completely and there was very little in the way of independent record releases or exposure for unknown bands to a wider audience.

Notwithstanding any of this, it cannot detract from the fact that attaining first place was a highly coveted accomplishment. Bands who reached that position represented the highest level of musicianship, vocal ability and presentation of their day. Bands who won or made the finals were highly respected. Even today it is a source of pride among musicians of that era to say that they were in the finals or won their local heat.