



# feedback

## THE TRIFFIDS

**Beck's Music Box, Perth**  
 21/02/09

It was an evening of reminiscing for most as the remaining members of **The Triffids** rolled back to the town where it all began, with an endless supply of guests in tow, to pay tribute to their singer Dave McComb. The second night of the band's three night stand at the Beck's Music Box saw a large contingent of fans who no doubt saw the band in action in their heyday, plus a healthy number of youngsters. **Youth Group** were the opening band on this occasion, and instead of playing their 'hits', they were assigned a series of early Triffids songs to play while accompanied by a slide show of early Triffids photos.

After their short set, the evening's MC 'Handsome' Steve Miller came out and drunkenly introduced The Triffids asking the audience to "bury them with your love." Aptly opening the set with *Too Hot To Move* at the end of a 38-degree day, the band had no shortage of members with eight Triffids and musicians associated with the band on stage to open the set. After 'Evil' Graham Lee sung the opener, Alsy MacDonald stepped out from behind his drum kit to pick up an acoustic guitar and sing *Your Place In The Sun*. Jill Birt then stepped up to the microphone and, as she did on *Born Sandy Devotional*, sung the lead on *Tarrilup Bridge*. Her voice hasn't faltered in the past 20 years as she still sounded like a child when she sung the haunting song. Rob Snarski took the crown for biggest voice of the night, as his rendition of *In The Pines* was soaring and majestic. He name-checked Perth venues that he saw The Triffids play in, such as Cat & Fiddle, the Shaftsbury Hotel, the

Hed Parrot and the Old Melbourne before conceding they had all closed their doors. Mick Harvey was then introduced as a "former Bad Seed" before breaking into *Kelly's Blues*. Mark Snarski was then introduced as "that Perth cunt" by Miller, who was visible perturbed after watching Snarski win \$700 on the track earlier in the day. A noticeably flustered Snarski then led the band into *Bury Me Deep In Love*.

After short family tales and photos interlude, the stage was stripped back to allow McComb's post-Triffids band that still exists today, The Blackeyed Susans, to play some tracks from their early recordings, as well as a track from McComb's lone solo release, a song called *Cleaning*. Steve Kilbey of The Church stole the show thanks to his excellent reading of *Wide Open Road*. The shows perfectly suited the Perth Festival and watching a classic Perth outfit pay tribute to their singer in the open air of the city was truly a highlight of this or any festival.

### MATTHEW HOGAN

