

## NEWS

# Home-town heaviness

BY BRENDAN CRABB

TROLDHAUGEN'S off-kilter, one-of-a-kind music often eludes categorisation, even for the band members.

"I wouldn't know where to begin - maybe silly metal?" guitarist Matthew Bell joked of their wacky folk-prog-circus-metal hybrid.

The Wollongong quartet's new album, and third overall, *Idio+Syncrasies*, is due for release on September 1.

Bell said their approach to creating such genre-bending fare had changed somewhat recently.

"Traditionally, and actually most of the way into this album even I'll write some demos, get together with the guys and see what sticks.

"But now it's getting to the point where we'll just throw out dumb ideas, either conceptually in terms of a song or in terms of a music idea.

"And we'll just all kind of gravitate towards... like, 'yeah, that's so stupid, we have to do that'.

"That's kind of becoming the base for our songs now... Something that makes all of us go, 'oh wow, that's such a



**WACKY ANTICS:** Wollongong band Trolldhaugen are preparing to release their new album, and will also perform at Wollongong UniBar on Saturday, September 16. **Picture: Supplied**

bizarre idea we have to try it."

The album's first single, *BMX Terminator*, features a suitably off-beat lyric video.

"It's weird, because it's heavy, and it's definitely not not a metal song, but there's no real aggression or anger or anything," he said. "It's like sonically heavy, but the content is so light-hearted that I don't even know if I would

classify it as metal."

The band previously enjoyed triple j airplay for single *Viva Loa Vegas*, which Bell believed had helped broaden their following.

"Almost immediately we saw a lot less of a metal fan-base," he said.

"That was really different for us, because up until that point we'd always just played

to like the usual crowd.

"All of a sudden we were getting people that a) we don't know, and b) are from a completely different scene.

"So it's made it a lot more diversified, which is cool."

Trolldhaugen toured Europe with Scottish band Alestorm in 2014, and played Germany's prestigious Summer Breeze festival in 2015.

After a brief run of shows in NSW and the ACT, they'll return to Europe in late September/October.

"One of our strengths is as a live band, especially because (front-man) Jariss is so captivating that it can catch people off-guard," Bell said.

*Trolldhaugen performs at Wollongong UniBar on September 16.*

## Warilla seniors win \$1m lottery

A TRIO of Warilla pensioners didn't believe it when told they'd won \$1 million on Wednesday's Lotto draw.

The three seniors, who have been playing Lotto together for years, was one of three division one winners which each won \$1 million, The Lott, which runs lotteries, said on Thursday.

One of the syndicate members admitted they didn't believe it when first told the news.

"I apologise we didn't believe you before," The Lott quoted one of the winners as saying. "I just needed to check for myself. My heart's still beating fast."

They purchased their 18-game QuickPick entry at Grove Cards and Gifts in Warilla Grove. Store owner John Ledda said: "It's great to see another win for our customers and last night's winners are lovely, down-to-earth people. I'm sure it will be a great bonus for them and be very useful."

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