



Angus Mack

Horns

Angus Mack's disposition can only be described as "grumpy at best".

Despite being a gifted woodwind and brass player, his quick temper, finicky nature, and sour mood make him a musician with whom it is nearly impossible to work.

He attended Melbourne University on a didgeridoo scholarship but dropped out after only 2 years, citing "irreconcilable differences" with the cleaning staff. After that, he decided to try his hand as a working musician. For the next 4 years he belonged to no less than 20 bands, each and every one of which disbanded unpleasantly within months of adding Mack to their line-up.

During this timeframe, which he refers to as his "working with stupid idiots period", the longest run Angus Mack had with any band was with the legendary Aussie super-group "The Happy Bears". Although the quartet was made up of childhood best friends and had recorded and toured successfully for 20 years, they split acrimoniously in a flurry of lawsuits, heated accusations and screaming matches after only 4 months of the horn player's presence and have refused to speak to one another ever since.

Seemingly poisonous to anyone he worked with, Mack landed a solo job as the house entertainment for the Travel Bug Hotel in Perth. After a short time there, he was mysteriously joined by British percussionist Merryweather Makepeace. "I still don't understand how it happened", he bemoans, "I was playing one night and suddenly there was this crazy bird on the bongos behind me! It was like somebody just dropped him off there!!" Although Angus tried appealing to the hotel and even threatening his new companion, Makepeace happily showed up night after night, and soon Mack resigned himself to this unwanted partnership.

But percussion and woodwinds proved to be an odd combination for a duo, and their music never caught on. Their 20 minute long oboe and gong version of AC/DC's "*You Shook Me All Night Long*" left audiences confused and panicky. And Mack never really took to Merryweather. "That stupid, silly British do-do bird was incessantly playing his stupid bongos, meditating about his stupid feelings and trying to read me his stupid poetry!!!", he recalls, "It made me want to set fire to my tongue!!".

At a boiling point, Mack decided to leave. He secretly applied for, and was accepted to, The Geocaching rock group **The Travel Bugs**, who were in town for their Australian tour. But he was enraged to find, upon showing up for his first rehearsal, that the **Bugs** had also secretly hired Makepeace. "I can't seem to get away from that new-age, hippy devil-bird no matter what I do!!", Mack says.

Having heard from the local music community that the infinitely patient Makepeace was the only musician capable of managing Angus' ill-temper, *Bugs* lead singer Marvin T. Stuckmeyer had asked the percussionist to join the band.

It appears to have been a wise decision as *The Travel Bugs* is the only band that has managed to withstand Mack's influence. And as far as Angus and Merryweather? You can always find the odd-couple at the back of The Travel Bugs on stage.

The Travel Bugs debut album "*Found It!*" is available online, and more information about the band's activities can be found at www.thegeocachers.com.

The
Travel Bugs