

# black for AC/DC

"It has to sound like AC/DC," he said. "You want them (fans) to hear that and go, 'That's AC/DC'."

"But you also want them to hear it and go, 'But it's AC/DC playing something new'."

And if the critics don't like it — the band continued a 30-year losing streak at this year's Grammys — so be it.

"The critics have always been a little flippant with AC/DC about Angus and the school suit, and it's always easy to have a quick little joke or a dig at the expense of it, the easy riffs, and such and such, and they're all dead wrong," Johnson said.

"The easiest riffs in the world are the hardest ones to write... Highway to Hell is easy, but you ask a guitarist, it's not that easy."

Van Egmont said one of the Young brothers' most distinguishing characteristics was loyalty and the band had shown that to its fans over the years.

For the tour coming to Australia next year, the band has insisted tickets be reasonably priced.

But at a stage in their lives when they could all comfortably retire — Angus and Rudd are the youngest at 54 and Johnson the oldest at 61 — why do they continue to do it?

Johnson told British magazine Q last year: "It gets harder, but there's something about it when you finish and you look into the crowd and you've driven them into this sweat-soaked, f---ed-up state."

"They're looking at you, going, 'Who's gonna give first?' And it's not gonna be me."

■ AC/DC plays Subiaco Oval on March 6, 2010. Tickets on sale from Ticketmaster on May 25.



HEAVY METAL: Sculptor Greg James at the unveiling of his Bon Scott statue in Fremantle.

## GRAEME GETS HIS LIFE BACK



Graeme Smith

I am writing this to let you know my story of hearing loss which I feel a lot of other people will identify with. My hearing deteriorated so slowly that I didn't really recognize there was anything wrong. When I look back now, though, I can see that I certainly asked people to repeat themselves with just about every sentence. In restaurants, which is a favourite family outing, I didn't have a clue what friends were saying, so I'd just sit there and try to become inconspicuous. People were obviously being generous when they tried to engage in conversation with me, because my Wife let me know later I'd been giving ridiculous responses, although of course I wasn't aware it was the wrong answer. I guess that when this happens so frequently, it becomes part of your life and you don't realize how irritating it is for those around you. My Brother used to say something to me, I wouldn't get it so I would ask him to repeat himself, and he would articulate his speech very very clearly, which is pretty annoying too. I'm surprised that more people didn't suggest I should get hearing aids.

I took my Father to a hearing services provider near home one day, and ended up getting fitted with a single hearing aid myself. On reflection, I guess that's like being fitted with only one lens in a pair of spectacles. It didn't work well, so I got another, and these were the usual sort of hearing aids with big pretty clumsy moulds in the ear canal. The noise they made was like I had my head in a barrel, and in truth, I didn't particularly like wearing them because they were so uncomfortable and unnatural sounding. This felt like a punishment for losing my hearing, I was relegated to second or third class hearing that I thought I'd just have to grin and bare. It wasn't a pleasant experience.

Then I decided to investigate another hearing aid, the mind440, and this hearing aid has made a huge difference to my life. The sound is more natural, the fit is particularly comfortable and they're pretty well invisible. Best of all, I can hear what people are saying to me when we're in company, even in noisy restaurants. I'm back in the thick of a social life and really enjoying participating fully in living. My Wife's happy because she can communicate with me knowing that I do understand what we're discussing. I would recommend anyone who has similar problems to what I experienced to try out the mind440 hearing aids.

Graeme Smith runs a Marble and Granite Company in O'Connor. His experience with hearing problems may be similar to yours. If it is, you might want to come and see our professional staff at Sonic Hearing for a trial of the latest and greatest in hearing aids, the mind440 hearing aid. For a limited time our audiologists are also available for hearing aid fittings on Saturday mornings, as well as the usual Monday to Friday consultations.



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