

ARTS

# Kids Dance and Get Moving ... ... with the Fabulous Lemon Drops

**A**t a Fabulous Lemon Drops (FLD) concert, the kids aren't the only ones who get up and dance. It's not unusual to see mums, dads, grandparents and carers all moving to the beat of original songs that are made for grooving.

"We want to play to kids, but don't necessarily want to play kids music," explains FLD singer and songwriter Dez Staunton. "We've always been of the opinion that you don't have to simplify your sound to enable children to appreciate your music."

## Positive messages

FLD songs contain powerful messages about the environment, being healthy and staying active. Dez explains, "We add an educational emphasis to the songs and we also try to incorporate subject matter that we really believe in. For example our song *I Love Reading* was written because we love books and want to encourage children to read. *Everything's Gone Green* was written about the threat to the planet, and *Get Moving* encourages children to exercise. This call to action is important, and your audience is never too young to absorb a positive message."



The band was born almost ten years ago when Dez and Vanessa Staunton, both school teachers, put together a concert for their daughter's eighth birthday party and received glowing feedback from their first audience. Since then, FLD have been on an amazing journey of singing, song writing, recording and performing throughout Australia.

FLD performances are interactive, upbeat experiences that appeal to the entire family. Members of the audience may find themselves up on stage playing along with a percussion instrument, crossing a parachute 'river' or getting lost in a sea of bubbles. Craft sessions often follow performances, giving children the opportunity to construct their own musical instruments and more.

"Seeing kids smile, making them think and laugh, and encouraging them to explore creativity brings us tremendous satisfaction. We try to make our live performances an opportunity for kids to express themselves creatively in a nurturing environment," says Dez.

FLD also shines a light on the alternative children's music scene, which offers tremendous value for money. "There's more to children's entertainment than the merchandise-driven

corporate offerings, and I would encourage all families out there to support the independent music industry," Dez explains.

## New album and Sunnybank interactive concert

The band's new album *Dance!* is an upbeat collection of songs that encourage action and movement. Songs include *I Jump*, which was a recent finalist in the Australian Songwriting Contest, *Shake It, Let's Dance* and *We Are What We Eat*. The album concludes with the song, *It's Our World*, which is a celebration of humanity coming together in a spirit of love, friendship and community.

*Dance!* will be launched at the Sunnybank Hall on 21 September at 10 am, and according to Dez and Vanessa the show will be typical of the "celebration of life, music and community" audiences have come to expect from the Fabulous Lemon Drops.

"This show is going to be typically highly interactive. There will be musical games and prize giveaways as well as art and craft activities after the show." Bookings can be made at [www.fabulouslemondrops.com.au](http://www.fabulouslemondrops.com.au)

**WIN!**

Win 1 of 2 FLD music packs including:

1 x Sunnybank concert family pass (x 4)

1 x CD

FLD merchandise

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