

### THE DRIVING CONDITIONS, MOFO IS DEAD, DOZZI

Club 299: 24.04.09

The bar is a hotspot early as the impending 12am Anzac Day curfew forces punters to get their regulation Friday night drinks in early for the trio of upcoming bands. The first band to take the slot for the night is local lasses Dozzi: tipping hard against the “pop” side of things, the trio feel like a strange choice of opening act but do their best to swing the crowd around. Opening with ‘The Way That It Goes’ they offer a strong performance and impressive three-part harmonies, with Andrea Dozzi particularly shining. They hold strong for the most part but are constantly getting brought down by timing issues and a lack of energy. A late addition of the 4 Non Blondes classic ‘What’s Goin’ On’ is a nice finishing touch.

A bellowing bass sample introduces fresh meat Mofo Is Dead, and with an epic intro like that they need to follow suit – luckily ‘Resistance Is Futile’ fills that slot nicely. Featuring soaring guitar lines meshing with a flickering rhythm section, it’s a strange but intoxicating mix of new prog-rock and classic Guns ‘N Roses riffs led by frontman Paul Gallagher’s undeniable six-string talent and effortless vocals. With an obviously well-polished song catalogue despite only a few shows’ experience their craft is well-tuned, and they execute ‘The Pretty Ones’ with perfection before a crowning ‘Unnameable’ offers an obliterating finish that will hopefully see them continuing around the Brisbane circuit.

As the whole room is now pressing to the front, a stage draped with tartan awaits local rockers The Driving Conditions. As soon as they step onto the stage the entire room dynamic shifts and is set alight by the sounds of ‘Straight To Hell’. With frontman ‘Woody’ strolling the stage with piercing Bon Scott vocals it’s no surprise that the sweat is already starting to fly from crowd and band alike. Straight up rock is probably the only way to describe these guys as they follow with ‘Black Hawk Down’. Dripping with bourbon and perspiration they kick it up another notch with ‘Eat You Alive’ and ‘Rock N Roll’. But it’s not just the great pub tunes that are getting the crowd working, it’s the fact that these guys are actually good musicians, which is a rare thing to see in guitar-driven rock. With guitarist Nathan Ward constantly shredding every lick he gets it shows that these guys are the real deal. They throw in a tribute to AC/DC with ‘If You Want Blood’ before charging in with all guns blazing for ‘Old School’. Which begs the question, why the fuck do Airbourne have a deal and these guys don’t?

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