

About Me



Andrew Stockdale

The Wolfmother frontman, now solo artist, on blowing dough and bloodied faces By James Jennings

The first thing I do in the morning...

Get a coffee. I just like the ritual of it, the smell of it. But if you buy a crap coffee you're always compelled to go and have another soon after to erase the memory of it. Sometimes you can have three or four and you're still searching for the good one.

My karaoke song of choice...

I'd pick "Jumpin' Jack Flash". I met my girlfriend 15 years ago when I started singing along to it with a busker on the street in Fortitude Valley in Brisbane. Her friends were like, "Stay away from that guy, he's bad news." The weird thing is the girl who told her to stay away gave me her number later on! As fate would have it I bumped into my future girlfriend a couple of nights later and we've been together ever since.

My worst ever gig...

I moved to Sydney and started busking at Central Station. My girlfriend was on a lunch break and walked past me and I thought I was having a really good gig because people were looking and I'm thinking, "Wow, everyone's really getting into this!" I went to the toilet and realised I had blood all over my face – my finger was cut and I had been flicking blood all over it. I looked like some kind of psycho!

The biggest lesson I've learned...

Follow your passion and be true to yourself. I remember my girlfriend asked me when I was 23 what I was going to do with my life, and I said "this" [busking]. And at the time it seemed like the most insane,

poor decision that I could possibly make. But it turned out all right in the end. Whatever success or failure you experience in life, you have to make sure what you're doing is something meaningful to you. If you're following your heart, every positive step forward feels like a victory.

The most famous person in my address book...

Probably Eddie Vedder. He's really open, really cool. The first time I met Vedder was in Belgium in 2007 when we supported Pearl Jam. We walked past and they were playing table tennis and they didn't seem intimidating at all – they just put off a friendly, amicable vibe. I was backstage once with him and Mick Fanning and Mark Richards and they wanted me to go for a surf. I just felt like I'd have to get better at surfing before I went out with them!

Best thing I've stolen from a hotel...

I've never stolen anything from a hotel myself, but in Copenhagen a while ago one of our roadies stole some jewellery from the hotel lobby and he wound up in jail that night. I think he was there for a month. He had a bit of a gambling problem, blowing his wages on pokies. He completely fucked up.

The worst hangover I've had...

It's hard to pick! [Laughs] We played in Milan last year and I wanted to look after the band and have a great night, so I booked us into this amazing hotel. We went for some drinks and one thing led to another. Next thing I remember I wake up on the street – I didn't even stay in the hotel. I blew \$10,000 or something ridiculous on rooms and I didn't even stay there!



REST IN PEACE, KURT COBAIN

Two months on from Kurt Cobain's April 5th suicide we remember the Nirvana vocalist. "That his suicide so utterly lacked ambivalence is its most terrifying aspect," concludes writer Anthony DeCurtis.



PEARL JAM'S QUEST FOR SANITY

On tour in support of second album *Vs*, Pearl Jam are getting better at handling the rigours of fame. "I'm getting used to it," says Jeff Ament. "There's always some new excitement, but we're maintaining our sanity."



ALSO IN THE NEWS...

Paul Hester leaves Crowded House; Charlie Owen makes his solo debut, *Vertigo and Other Phobias*; Underworld make our "New Faces" section; Hole's *Live Through This* gets 4 stars

AUS CHARTS JUNE 1994

- 1 **Mariah Carey** *Music Box*
- 2 **Pink Floyd** *The Division Bell*
- 3 **Chocolate Starfish**
Chocolate Starfish
- 4 **Enigma** *The One Thing*
- 5 **The Badloves** *Get on Board*
- 6 **Toni Braxton** *Toni Braxton*
- 7 **Pearl Jam** *Vs*
- 8 **Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds**
Let Love In
- 9 **KD Lang** *Ingenue*
- 10 **Rollins Band** *Weight*