

# Plunja

**All still in their teens,** Plunja already have some six years of experience as a group plus 2 independent CDs behind them. A new album 'Ninpo' is set to act as the coming of age of their professional aspirations.

**Years ago lead singer, songwriter and guitarist Marc Collis** made two important decisions about his life. He decided to dedicate himself to music; and, due to a rare bone disorder, decided that rather than keep going in and out of hospital with broken bones, to opt for mobility and a better quality of life in a wheelchair.

In both major decisions he had his younger sister Steph at his side. As his musical imagination grew, Steph became an eager and ready musical companion.

**Plunja have long outlived the novelty** of the "band with the wheelchair singer and the chick drummer". Now it's their music that grabs people's attention. With family friend Ben Jarvis on lead guitar and local musician Barry Brauer on bass they have formed a partnership based on music and friendship. "This isn't a group", they insist. "It's family. It's friends".



**Plunja recorded its first demos in 1998,** an independently recorded album the following year, and a self titled EP in 2000. Throughout that journey they have had the support of Studio 52 and more recently producer Trevor Carter. With Trevor, Plunja has spent three months in the studio putting together the songs for the album 'Ninpo', a word introduced by the studio engineer which came to represent anything considered 'cool' or the best.

**The songs on 'Ninpo' represent an explosion of influences.** Part of the "Nirvana" generation, Plunja have taken on board everything that has happened in music since. Starting out "angry" Plunja's music has grown to express a variety of emotions immediately relevant to their peer group - songs about overcoming personal obstacles, about living up to one's own and parents' expectations, about the joy and pain of maintaining relationships, about just having fun.

**"These songs represent six years of our lives",** says 16 year old Steph. She has watched her 19 year old brother Marc put his life in his songs, challenging and encouraging him as his most honest and fearless critic. Slightly built, Steph herself amazes one and all with her power and confidence at the drumkit. So much so that she is the youngest drummer to be endorsed by Mapex in this country. "Without Plunja I wouldn't be what I am. Plunja has defined us".

Barry adds that the sessions for 'Ninpo' have managed to define Plunja's music as they have a serious chance to work the material this time not just record it.

**Plunja has mainly performed at clubs and Pubs around Melbourne, Geelong and the Western district.**

In the last couple of years they have also been involved in the Leura and Kana Festivals and the Mallacoota and Queenscliff Music Festivals. In march 2000 they performed in the state wide final of The Push battle of the bands at Luna Park alongside Killing Heidi & 28 Days. Other awards include Geelong Radio station K-ROCK battle of the bands winners 2000 and Pako Festival 2000 Battle of the Band winners (where Steph won the "Most Talented individual Award").

**Plunja received an overwhelming response** at the Kool Skools 2000 award night at Festival Hall and the 2001 Awards at the Metro on George in Sydney, where they performed as special guests. Marc had previously been awarded 'Most Outstanding Individual Talent' in 1998 as part of Kool Skools. Lunchtime concerts at Melbourne Town Hall and Geelong for the "Express Yourself" Youth Forum led to being invited to be included on the Youth Week CD compilation in 2001. This was

followed with an invitation to play at the Falls Festival plus success by coming 3rd in the national campus band competition. Plunja have even had the rare opportunity to perform live at the MCG in front of 1500 kids and the Governor as part of a youth event.

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