



Antoine and Bruce have been performing for Australian children for more than 12 years. In 1995 they created a show for primary school aged children that won plaudits from the Education Department, teachers and students alike. Then in 1996, they went on to be two of the founding members of The Hooley Dooleys, a band that was to become one of Australia's most successful preschool entertainment bands.

During their subsequent ten years as Hooley Dooleys, their talents took them as far afield as Hong Kong and New Zealand, and they performed in venues as diverse as the Sydney Opera House to makeshift stages in Arnhem Land. No matter what the venue however, families embraced the band and took their DVD's back into their homes. Indeed over the decade, families purchased more than half a million DVD's, and more than 1.5 million Hooley Dooley concert tickets. As members of the band, Antoine and Bruce also received an ARIA award, gold and platinum sales awards and a Golden Manuscript Award from the ABC for their work as songwriters.

Antoine and Bruce no longer appear with The Hooley Dooleys, but the joy they receive from entertaining children has seen them continue to write and create new material. The two have always been exceptional performers and songwriters, but they also have a wonderful knack of making children roar with laughter. It was not surprising that in crafting their new show, they wanted to place an emphasis on providing huge laughs for their young audience.

"We love making kids laugh, so we thought, why not create a kids comedy act" said Antoine.

Fittingly, their new show is called "Belly Laughs". It includes wonderfully hooky songs for which the guys are renowned, along side-splittingly-funny sight gags and physical comedy. "Belly Laughs" takes children on an hilarious journey that will have them chuckling long after they have gone home.

ANTOINE DEMAREST's musical family was the back ground for him picking up a guitar at the age of 13. His father played the violin (not very well) but his mother on the other hand played the viola semi-professionally in many orchestras. His musical knowledge increased as he played in different rock bands around Paris. In 1981 he met Australian songwriter Keith Armitage in Paris, and he was encouraged to come to Sydney and join Keith on stage in a pub band.

Antoine loves to ski and his sister lives in Annecy in the French Alps, half an hour away from his favourite ski fields of Grand Bornand and Montgenevre.

Antoine lives on Sydney's Northern Beaches with his wife Jane and his daughter Tara.

BRUCE THORBURN completed two years of classical violin before using his musical talent as a passport to busk his way around Europe (France, Switzerland, Germany, Norway and Italy). Much of his time was spent in Paris where he gathered much of his entertaining traits and song writing skills.

On returning to Australia he spent a year playing and living in Perth, where he also married before coming to live in Sydney. His 3 children were raised on the songs that many Australian, preschoolers grew to know and love.



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