

CAMPBELLTOWN, 1975

The Flxible Clipper coach roared up to the civic centre leaving a trail of black diesel smoke. Built in the late 1950's, these American long distance coaches were used by Ansett around Australia, and AC/DC had purchased a well traveled version for use as a tour bus and truck. The bands gear was in the back, and a roller door was installed at the side, in front of the rear engine compartment.

The Flxible part of the Clipper name was not a typo, there was a trademark issue that resulted in the strange name. The coach itself was a thing of awe, with a swept rear end below a big air intake scoop. In AC/DC use, the bus carried backline and a smallish PA system.

The bands crew was accustomed to working fast, since the band was on board. Bon Scott would leer out the windows at girls, waving a bottle of Red Label, with a fag hanging out of his mouth. It was handy at the end of a gig to retire to the bus while the crew loaded it.

Back then, no one thought about consequences, and I think there were few. The parade of gorgeous young (and some were too young) women were essentially competing to get laid. We assisted them in their endeavors.

Sex, dope, rock n' roll = teenage heaven. That's what was on the cover of the Daddy Cool album, and those were primary drivers in our lives. The free love, drop out movement from California hit Australia in 1971, and we were all of that era. People would get naked, and get stoned, without much provocation. The movie 'Almost Famous' does a good job of capturing the mood.

Our lives were flipped upside down, the world was straight and conservative, TV was black and white, and it wasn't that long ago people wore hair cream and danced under fluoro lights to cheesy pop groups wearing badges that said 'I like Swipe'. We had long hair. We were anti establishment. We were in the rock industry. We got arrested.