

What's 25 years when you still want to rock?



ABOVE: The Atlantics today (from left) Jim Skiathitis, Peter Hood, Bosco Bosanac and Brian Burns. Picture: DAVE FULLAGAR. LEFT: As they were in 1964 (from left) Skiathitis, singer Johnny Rebb, Theo Penglis, Bosanac and Hood



IN the summer of '63, Australia was stompin' to the driving sound of the biggest rock instrumental hit by a local band.

For 20 weeks the rampaging rhythm of the Atlantics' tune Bombora dominated the pop charts

Twenty-five years on, the Atlantics have dusted off their guitars and are ready to rock once again.

The Sydney musicians who, in the early 1960s, named themselves after Atlantic petrol stations have decided to give the old line about everything old is new again a run for its money.

The band has rehearsed for 18 months but its first public appearance since 1970 will be at Sunday's Vietnam Welcome Home concert in the Domain.

The line-up includes original members Peter Hood, Bosco Bosanac and Jim Skiathitis, who have been joined by Brian Burns - a member of rival 1960s band Jimmy Crockett and the Shanes.

The Atlantics' fresh teenage faces from their 1960s publicity shots have been replaced by receding hairlines and beards

Atlantics set to revive the surfing sound

By CAMPBELL REID

flecked with grey, but the musicians are adamant their music, their spirit and even their guitars, drums and amplifiers are all in original condition.

Comeback

"Brian and Jim still have the same Fender Stratocaster guitars they used in 1962 and the drums have the same skins Peter played Bombora on," Bosco Bosanac said.

"We still have the old Vox amps we used in those days, so you can't get much more genuine than that."

The Atlantics believe their driving instrumen-

tal style is poised for a comeback in the rock market because there's nothing like it now.

"When we played a few rehearsals in front of people to see the reaction, they couldn't believe the sound," Peter said. "But the young people still identified with it."

"Surfing music is undergoing a revival overseas so there's no reason why it can't happen here."

Bosco said: "We're just going to get on stage, play our stuff the same as we always did and see what happens. They are either going to like it or throw beer cans."

The Atlantics plan to tour clubs after their revival performance on Sunday.

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