

The Mighty Buzzniks

July 27. Wesley Anne Hotel, Northcote,

www.mightybuzzniks.com.au

Running time: 60 minutes

Reviewer: Nicole Bittar

BEAM me up, Scotty: the Buzz are back. In keeping with the release of their debut album, *The Great Space Circus*, the scating sextet are inter-galactic fantastic on all age levels.

It is finally possible for parents to enjoy so-called children's entertainment even more than their pre-tween offspring. Not that they'd readily admit. Then again, mind-numbingly infantile in tone and genre the Mighty Buzzniks are not. The thinking kids' musos' be-bop pop, rootsy jazz, harmonies, even rap grooves have all bases covered. Their accomplished yet funky grooves and wacky, offbeat style elicit the inner child in the parents of the band's four-to-10-year-old demographic.

Keyboard player Carl Pannuzzo, son Jude's favourite band member for his musical dexterity and easy jocularity, donned a Rastafarian wig and faux hairy chest for the ever-popular "To Be A Bug".

And you can forget about cold spaghetti in this cosmopolitan neck of the woods. In the frenetic "Our Kitchen", it's all satay roti and poppyseed and apple cake, thank you very much.

The Wesley Anne Hotel, with its aged stone walls, dark-wood furniture and lacy granny curtains, is a fittingly chic setting for the too-cool-for-school funsters. But late lunchers lounging on chunky furniture and overcrowding stopped many latent movers and shakers in their tracks. Seats surrounding the pot belly fireplace were coveted. Jude and school pal Hugo were dancing on the inside, soaking up the cartoonish antics. Even guitarist/vocalist Jamie Saxe commented on how squishy things were, but insisted that no fun would be spared in the vacuum seal. Speaking of domesticity, prior to the rootsy bluegrass ditty "Play", he delighted parents by citing vacuum cleaning as a favourite game. Bless.

Animated vocalist Razz Mussen in red cropped velvet jacket and tulle tutu, lived up to her promise of non-stop dancing. Others on the groove train included boppy preschool-aged girls.

On the upside, parents could enjoy a quiet tittle and civilised natter in the middle of a children's gig on a wintry afternoon. How very Northcote.

Encore number, the title track to last year's "To The Moon" EP, stole the show. A killer thumping bassline, reminiscent of 1960s rockers the Easybeats, had feet stomping and heads nodding, en masse.

The Great Space Circus is available on ABC Music and good record stores.

