

THE ROCK ACROSS AUSTRALIA 2008 END OF YEAR OVERVIEW

TRAA BACKGROUND

THE ROCK ACROSS AUSTRALIA (TRAA) chart is Australia's first national Christian airplay chart.

TRAA aggregates high rotation activity across a comprehensive selection of "blended" and CCM music formats airing on more than 20 stations in key capital cities and regional markets.

Blended stations play a mix of mainstream and Christian music, and CCM stations play only Christian music.

These stations report more than 200 songs weekly. That's more than 2000 annually.

TRAA lists the Top 30 songs online each week at www.therockacrossaustralia.com.

TRAA published its first Top 30 in February 1999.

Next month marks TRAA's tenth anniversary.

WEEKLY TOP 30 SONGS

In 2008, TRAA published 52 weekly charts.

A total of 124 songs succeeded in gaining a position in the weekly reports. The average time a song lodged in the survey was 12.4 weeks.

The Top 100 is a list of the most thriving songs of the year aggregating chart position and weeks in the survey. This is the backbone for TRAA's *Song Of The Year* honor.

WEEKLY TOP 30 - ARTISTS

IN 2008, 83 acts successfully gained positions in the weekly reports. Of these, 49 acts gained one 'hit', 27 attained two, and seven reached three.

Twenty two acts made their debut appearance in 2008.

This report looks at artist achievements within the Top 100, plus the Top 50 Artists Chart - a separate list of the acts appearing in the Top 100 aggregating the number of songs, chart position, and weeks in the survey achieved by each artist.

This is the foundation for TRAA's *Artist Of The Year* accolade.

QUICK FACTS – 2008 END OF YEAR REPORTS

In 2008, Switchfoot garnered the most airplay of its career with *This Is Home*. The song settled in the survey for 31 weeks, including eight weeks at #1.

This is Home is TRAA's **2008 Song Of The Year**.

Alabaster Box thrived throughout 2008 with two number one songs - *We Will Not Be Silent* and *New York*. Both songs found a place in the Top 10 of The End Of Year report.

Alabaster Box was the only Aussie act to score to number ones during the year.

NeedToBreathe's *Washed By The Water* spent a massive 36 weeks in TRAA.

One fifth of the songs in this year's Top 100 also held a position the 2007 Top 100.

Four songs - Sanctus Real's *We Need Each Other*, Until June's *What I've Done*, Britt Nicole's *Set The World On Fire* and Stellar Kart's *Jesus Loves You* - secured positions in the top half of each year's chart.

Throughout 2008, 83 acts scored a position in the weekly report. Of these, 69 acts secured positions in the Top 100 Song chart. The majority of these (42) successfully attained one song in the Top 100, 22 acts made two, and five achieved three. ^[1]

The most successful act in 2008 was 24 year old Britt Nicole who scored three songs that each landed in the top half of the year's Top 100 Song chart. She was a newcomer in 2007.

Britt Nicole is TRAA's **2008 Artist Of The Year**.

This year 17 newcomers secured a place in the Top 100 and nine of these - Francesca Battistelli, Cadia, Josh Wilson, Seabird, Merise, Remedy Drive, Jordin Sparks, Dizmas, and Michael Paynter - made a significant impact during the year accomplished a place among the year's Top 50 Artists.

Fewer Australasian Christian acts secured positions in TRAA in the past 12 months despite the fact that more artists are spending more money on production to better secure airplay.

Australasians accounted for 20% of the Top 100, that's one per cent less than 2007 and 10% less than 2006 and 2005.

^[1] These figures add up to 101 because *Lose My Soul* is counted as part of tobyMac's two successful songs of the year, and Mandisa's three.

2008 TOP 100 SONGS

TRAA 2008 SONG OF THE YEAR

In 2008, Switchfoot garnered the most airplay of its career with *This Is Home*. The song settled in the survey for 31 weeks, including eight weeks at #1.

The key element that distinguished its drive to the top in 2008 was not only securing #1 for eight weeks, but the song's ability to remain in the Top 5 for a total of 20 weeks - approximately two-thirds of its time in the chart.

This achievement put aside two worthy challengers – Alabaster Box and NeedToBreathe – which in any other year may have gone to #1.

Alabaster Box took two songs *We Will Not be Silent* and *New York* to #1 for a total of 12 and 9 weeks respectively – both longer periods than Switchfoot, but after reaching their peak both songs dropped more quickly than Switchfoot.

And NeedToBreathe's *Washed By The Water* spent a massive 36 weeks in the chart reaching #5.

Alabaster Box toured nationally twice on strength of its success in 2008, and Switchfoot toured once in 2007.

#	Position	Song Title, Artist ALBUM Label Distributor
	1	This Is Home , Switchfoot THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN SOUNDTRACK Sparrow Crossroad

TOP 10

2008 was the most successful year yet for Switchfoot, Matthew West, Alabaster Box, Simeon, NeedToBreathe, and Jimmy Needham. Each scored their highest positions in TRAA's annual charts.

Switchfoot garnered its first number one song during the year and made its first appearance in the end of year Top 10, at number one.

Alabaster Box thrived throughout 2008 with two number one songs that each found a place in the top echelons of the annual chart.

Newsboys had a strong year too finishing at #3, after a chart topping year in 2007.

And Third Day had its most successful year since 2004 coming in at #6.

Only newsboys, Third Day and Britt Nicole have appeared previously in the Top 10 of TRAA's end of year song chart.

Position	Song Title, Artist
	ALBUM Label Distributor
1	This Is Home , Switchfoot THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN SOUNDTRACK Sparrow Crossroad
2	Something To Say , Matthew West SOMETHING TO SAY Sparrow Crossroad
3	Stay Strong , newsboys GREATEST HITS Sparrow Crossroad
4	We Will Not Be Silent , Alabaster Box WE WILL NOT BE SILENT Independent Independent
5	All Remains Is Love , Simeon THEN WE COLLIDE Independent Independent
6	Call My Name , Third Day REVELATION Essential Crossroad
7	Washed By The Water , NeedToBreathe THE HEAT Atlantic Word Australia
8	A Breath Or Two , Jimmy Needham NOT WITHOUT LOVE Inpop Crossroad
9	Believe , Britt Nicole SAY IT Sparrow Crossroad
10	New York , Alabaster Box WE WILL NOT BE SILENT Independent Independent

TOP 10 SONGS

2008 NUMBER ONE SONGS

TEN SONGS made it to #1 on TRAA's weekly airplay reports during the year. This is the same as 2007.

Alabaster Box secured two #1 songs in 2008 totaling 21 weeks atop TRAA.

While the group spent more time at #1 than any other act, and both *We Will Not Be Silent* and *New York* spent more time at the top than the 2008 Song Of The Year, Switchfoot's *This Is Home* tarried in the Top 5 longer than any other act – 20 weeks.

2007 newcomer Britt Nicole continued her chart topping success story with *Set the World On Fire*. The song spent seven weeks atop TRAA in 2007, plus an additional five in early 2008.

Artists topping TRAA for the first time in 2008 were Brandon Heath and Until June. *What I've Done* was Until June's first and only Australian hit. It charted in late 2007 before briefly slipping into #1 in February 2008.

Alabaster Box and newsboys were the only Aussie acts to top TRAA in 2008.

NUMBER ONES	#1	Wks @ #1	TOP 100	Song Title, Artist ALBUM Label Distributor
	19 Nov	7 (2007)	26 (2007)	Set The World On Fire , Britt Nicole SAY IT Sparrow Crossroad
	07 Jan	4 (2008)	33 (2008)	What I've Done , Until June UNTIL JUNE Flicker Crossroad
	04 Feb	1	24	Set The World On Fire , Britt Nicole SAY IT Sparrow Crossroad
	11 Feb	1	33	One World , tobyMac (feat Siti Monroe) PORTABLE SOUNDS Forefront Crossroad
	18 Feb	3	12	We Will Not Be Silent , Alabaster Box WE WILL NOT BE SILENT Independent Independent
	10 Mar	12	4	Stay Strong , newsboys GREATEST HITS Sparrow Crossroad
	02 Jun	3	3	This Is Home , Switchfoot THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: PRINCE CASPIAN SOUNDTRACK Sparrow Crossroad
	23 Jun	8	1	Call My Name , Third Day REVELATION Essential Crossroad
	18 Aug	8	6	New York , Alabaster Box WE WILL NOT BE SILENT Independent Independent
11 Oct	9	10	Shine , Krystal Meyers MAKE SOME NOISE Essential Crossroad	
13 Dec	1	23	Give Me Your Eyes , Brandon Heath WHAT IF WE Reunion Crossroad	
20 Dec	2	29		

2008 STAYERS

TEN SONGS secured a place in the Top 30 for six months or more throughout 2008.

This is highest number since TRAA began researching Australian radio airplay in 1999.

In 2008, each of them peaked in the Top 10, with three making it to number one.

STAYERS	Wks in Top 30	First week	Highest Position	TOP 100	Song Title, Artist ALBUM Label Distributor
	36	04 Feb	5	7	Washed By The Water , NeedToBreathe THE HEAT Atlantic Word Australia
	33	28 Apr	4	9	Believe , Britt Nicole SAY IT Sparrow Crossroad
	32	5 May	2	2	Something To Say , Matthew West SOMETHING TO SAY Sparrow Crossroad
	31	12 May	1	1	This Is Home , Switchfoot PRINCE CASPIAN Sparrow Crossroad
	31	10 Mar	1	3	Stay Strong , newsboys GREATEST HITS Sparrow Crossroad
	28	11 Feb	1	4	We Will Not Be Silent , Alabaster Box WE WILL NOT BE SILENT Independent Independent
	28	2 Jun	3	5	All Remains Is Love , Simeon THEN WE COLLIDE Independent Independent
	28	23 Jun	7	13	Lose My Soul , tobyMac, Mandisa + Kirk Franklin PORTABLE SOUNDS Forefront Crossroad
	28	9 Jun	10	27	Hold , Superchick ROCK WHAT YOU GOT Inpop Crossroad
27	30 Jun	3	8	A Breath Or Two , Jimmy Needham NOT WITHOUT LOVE Inpop Crossroad	

# STAYERS	Yr	Chart Stayers
	2008	10
	2007	8
	2006	1
	2005	1
	2004	6
	2003	4
	2002	-
	2001	1
	2000	4
1999	2	

CARRY OVER CHAMPIONS

In 2008, 21 of the year's most played songs of the year also found a place in TRAA's 2007 Top 100. We call these Carry Over Champions.

Four songs - Sanctus Real's *We Need Each Other*, Until June's *What I've Done*, Britt Nicole's *Set The World On Fire* and Stellar Kart's *Jesus Loves You* - secured positions in the top half of each year's chart.

Twenty one is highest number of Carry Over Champions since TRAA began researching Australian radio airplay in 1999.

CARRY OVER CHAMPIONS	Top 100	Top 100	Song Title, Artist
	2008	2007	ALBUM Label Distributor
	12	94	One World , tobyMac (feat Siti Monroe) PORTABLE SOUNDS Forefront Crossroad
	15	42	We Need Each Other , Sanctus Real WE NEED EACH OTHER Sparrow Crossroad
	19	70	When You Love Someone , Bethany Dillon WAKING UP Sparrow Crossroad
	20	76	You Are Everything , Matthew West SOMETHING TO SAY Sparrow Crossroad
	24	41	What I've Done , Until June UNTIL JUNE Flicker Crossroad
	28	87	Let Go , Grey Holiday THE GLORIOUS REVOLUTION Essential Crossroad
	31	57	Song Of Hope , Robbie Seay Band GIVE YOURSELF AWAY Sparrow Crossroad
	33	26	Set The World On Fire , Britt Nicole SAY IT Sparrow Crossroad
	40	77	I Believe In Love , BarlowGirl HOW CAN WE BE SILENT Fervent Word Australia
	45	38	Jesus Loves You , Stellar Kart EXPECT THE IMPOSSIBLE Word Word Australia
	48	79	Never Going Back To OK , The Afters NEVER GOING BACK TO OK INO Crossroad
	52	99	In Better Hands , Natalie Grant RELENTLESS Curb Word Australia
	55	30	In Wonder , newsboys GO Inpop Crossroad
	58	72	God With Us , MercyMe ALL THAT IS WITHIN ME INO Crossroad
	63	98	When Our Hearts Sing , Rush Of Fools RUSH OF FOOLS Midas Crossroad
	64	28	In My Arms , Plumb BLINK Curb Word Australia
	76	39	Give Until There's Nothing Left , Relient K FIVE SCORE AND SEVEN YEARS AGO Gotee Crossroad
	78	8	Captivated , Shawn McDonald ROOTS Sparrow Crossroad
	81	84	Rain Down , Compliments Of Gus IF THIS IS THE END... Humber KI Entertainment
	84	40	Braver Than You Think You Are , Tanya Gordon BRAVER THAN YOU THINK YOU ARE Ind Ind
	95	32	East To West , Casting Crowns THE ALTAR AND THE DOOR Beach Street Crossroad

ARTISTS

Throughout 2008, 83 acts scored a position in the weekly report.

Of these, 69 acts secured positions in the Top 100 Song chart. The majority of these (42) successfully attained one song in the Top 100, 22 acts made two, and five achieved three. [1]

Seventeen were newcomers.

Nine of these - Francesca Battistelli, Cadia, Josh Wilson, Seabird, Merise, Remedy Drive, Jordin Sparks, Dizmas, and Michael Paynter - made a significant impact during the year securing their place among the year's Top 50 Artists.

LONGEST STAYERS

The acts spending the most weeks in TRAA during 2008 were Britt Nicole, Matthew West, Shawn McDonald, Mandisa, newsboys, tobyMac, NeedToBreathe, and Alabaster Box.

Britt spent more time in the survey (79 weeks) across three songs than any other artist, with dual listings each week for more than half the year.

Believe, *Set The World On Fire* and *Don't Worry Now* also landed in the top half of TRAA's end of year chart.

[2] See Page 2.

ARTISTS, WEEKS AND PEAKS	Artist	Total weeks	Song Title	Wks in chart	Peak Position	Top 100 2008
	Britt Nicole	79	Believe	33	4	9
			Set The World On Fire	25	1	33
			Don't Worry Now	21	10	47
	Matthew West	66	Something To Say	32	2	2
			You Are Everything	27	4	20
			The Motions	7	3	70
	Shawn McDonald	64	Time	25	4	17
			Clarity	13	5	42
			Captivated	26	2	78
Mandisa	58	Lose My Soul	28	7	13	
		Voice Of A Savior	16	10	41	
		God Speaking	14	11	54	
Newsboys	55	Stay Strong	31	1	3	
		In Wonder	24	2	55	
tobyMac	51	Lose My Soul	28	7	13	
		One World	23	1	12	
NeedToBreathe	50	Washed By The Water	36	5	7	
		Streets Of Gold	14	2	36	
Alabaster Box	49	We Will Not be Silent	28	1	5	
		New York	21	1	10	

2008 TRAA ARTIST OF THE YEAR

The key factors determining *Artist Of the Year* (apart from weeks in the chart - see above) are each week's chart position, peak position and position in the Top 100. Together, these form the Top 50 Artists Chart.

Topping Top 50 Artist Chart in 2008 and gaining the accolade for 2008 TRAA *Artist Of The Year* is Britt Nicole.

The 24 year old US singer garnered Artist honors for three songs - *Believe*, *Set The World On Fire* and *Don't Worry Now* – with each landing in the top half of TRAA's end of year chart. Her songs spent a total of 79 weeks in the survey with dual listings each week for more than half the year.

Don't Worry Now peaked at #10, *Believe* peaked at #4, and *Set The World On Fire* at #1.

Interestingly, seven of the ten most played artists in 2008 appeared in the Top 10 of previous annual charts. Five of them - Britt Nicole, Mandisa, Sanctus Real, tobyMac and newsboys – were represented in TRAA's 2007 Artists Top 10. Only Matthew West, Alabaster Box, and NeedToBreathe are new to the top airplay echelon.

It is also interesting to note that Rebecca St James, newsboys and Paul Colman Trio/Paul Colman – all Aussies - have been in the Top 10 of the annual Artist chart for seven of the past ten years.

		2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
MOST PLAYED ACTS	1	Britt Nicole	newsboys	Nathan Tasker	Bethany Dillon	Jars of Clay
	2	Matthew West	tobyMac	MercyMe	newsboys	MercyMe
	3	Mandisa	Britt Nicole	Rebecca St James	Paul Colman	ZOEGirl
	4	Alabaster Box	Michelle Tumes	Ana Laura	Superchick	Delirious?
	5	tobyMac	Jars Of Clay	newsboys	Nathan Tasker	Tait
	6	Shawn McDonald	Sanctus Real	ZOEGirl	Reuben Morgan	Stacie Orrico
	7	NeedToBreathe	Casting Crowns	Shawn McDonald	Jars of Clay	Third Day
	8	Sanctus Real	Brooke Fraser	Nichole Nordeman	Brooke Fraser	Jeremy Camp
	9	Steven Curtis Chapman	Mandisa	Delirious?	tobyMac	Paul Colman Trio
	10	newsboys	Rebecca St James	Superchick	ZOEGirl	Darlene Zschech
		2003	2002	2001	2000	1999
	1	Stacie Orrico	Michael W. Smith	Paul Colman Trio	Paul Colman Trio	dc Talk
	2	Third Day	Third Day	MaryMary	Jennifer Knapp	Delirious?
	3	Rebecca St James	Rebecca St James	Third Day	Steven Curtis Chapman	Rebecca St James
	4	Michael W. Smith	MercyMe	Jaci Velasquez	Jars Of Clay	Cliff Richard
	5	Relient K	Jars Of Clay	Rebecca St James	Michael W. Smith	Steven Curtis Chapman
	6	Hillsong Church	Out Of Eden	Delirious?	Delirious	Michelle Tumes
	7	Steven Curtis Chapman	Paul Colman Trio	Rachael Lampa	Dc Talk	Sonicflood
	8	Planetshakers	Rachael Lampa	Michael W. Smith	Third Day	Out Of Eden
	9	Paul Colman Trio	newsboys	Steven Curtis Chapman	Michelle Tumes	Paul Colman Trio
	10	Newsboys	Amy Grant	newsboys	Rebecca St James	Sixpence NTR

AUSTRALASIAN MUSIC

FOURTEEN Australasian acts scored positions in TRAA's Top 100 songs of 2007.

These accounted for 20% of the Top 100. That's one per cent less than 2007.

Alabaster Box, newsboys, Simeon, Matt Lucas, Compliments Of Gus, and Michael Paynter scored two songs in the Top 100.

Newsboys, and Simeon scored a song in the Top 10, and Alabaster Box two.

Edwin Derricutt was the only Kiwi act to enter TRAA in 2008.

2008 AU-NZ HITS	Artist	Top 100	Song Title
	Alabaster Box	4	We Will Not Be Silent WE WILL NOT BE SILENT Independent Independent
		10	New York WE WILL NOT BE SILENT Independent Independent
Newsboys	3	Stay Strong GREATEST HITS Sparrow Crossroad	
		55	In Wonder GO Inpop Crossroad
Simeon	5	All Remains Is Love THEN WE COLLIDE Independent Independent	
		89	Not Calming Down THEN WE COLLIDE Independent Independent
Matt Lucas	43	Mercy Lights My Way SOME DAYS ARE BETTER Independent Independent	
		53	The Long Way Home SOME SAYS ARE BETTER Independent Independent
Compliments Of Gus	22	Your Eyes IF THIS IS THE END... Humber KI Entertainment	
		81	Rain Down IF THIS IS THE END... Humber KI Entertainment
Michael Paynter	82	Victim Song THIS WELCOME DIVERSION Sony BMG Sony BMG	
		85	Closer THIS WELCOME DIVERSION Sony BMG Sony BMG
Michelle Tumes	18	Introit MICHELLE TUMES Levantar KI Entertainment	
Merise	59	Broken SCARS AND TEARS Independent Independent	
Mike Rayson	68	Save Me THE CLOUD Independent KI Entertainment	
Edwin Derricutt	71	Cold As Ice SYMMETRY Freefall Freefall	
Claire Hazzard	77	Dance With Me THE SPECTACULAR THING Independent Independent	
Paul Colman	83	If I Was Jesus HISTORY Inpop Crossroad	
Tanya Gordon	84	Braver Than You Think You Are BRAVER THAN YOU THINK YOU ARE Ind Ind	
Hillsong United	97	Lead Me To The Cross ALL OF THE ABOVE HMA HMA	

ARTIST SHARE AND TRENDS

2008 saw an increase in the number of group acts and male soloists to make the Top 100.

Conversely, the year saw the least number of female soloists represented in the Top 100 since TRAA began ten years ago. Just 19.

This massive 12% drop over the previous year (which was a peak year for female soloists) saw a corresponding 9% increase in groups and 3% increase in male solo acts.

In the past year, groups more than doubled their share of the Top 10, and male soloists almost doubled their share of the Top 50.

SHARE		Top 10		Top 50		Top 100	
		2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007
		Male soloists	2	4	14	8	27
Female soloists	1	3	9	16	19	31	
Groups	7	3	27	26	54	45	

TRENDS		Female soloists	Male soloists	Group (inc duets)
		2008	19	27
2007	31	24	45	
2006	29	31	40	
2005	25	35	40	
2004	25	27	48	
2003	25	15	60	
2002	27	11	62	
2001	22	26	52	
2000	27	20	53	
1999	29	14	57	

RETIRING AND PAUSING ACTS

FINALLY, while many new artists entered the survey for the first time in 2008, several acts who experienced chart success in 2007 (and before) did not return.

Overseas artists missing from TRAA in 2008 were Jars Of Clay, Michael W. Smith, Nichole Nordeman, Tree63, Joy Williams, Ayeisha Woods, Leigh Nash, The Fray, Anberlin, Everyday Sunday, Audio Adrenaline, Thousand Foot Krutch, Brian Littrell, Nate Sallie, Tim Hughes, Matt Redman, Jessie Daniels, Jared Anderson, Nicole C. Mullen, and Vicky Beeching.

More surprising were the missing Aussie acts: Rebecca St James, Brooke Fraser (OK, we've adopted her!), Reuben Morgan, The Lads, Katy Ray, Levi McGrath, and Daniel Kay. But most of these did not release in 2008.