

Band clan not just child's play



Sounds like family values

AN UPBEAT Partridge Family for the '90s, the Marsh clan are proof that the family that plays together, stays together.

The Marsh Family, a multi-talented seven-piece band, is a rarity in the music industry.

Warwick Marsh is the frontman for the crowd-pleasing band, who have been playing together for five years.

Comprising his wife Allison and their children Nathaniel, 14, Jonathon, 13, Levi, 11, Israel, 8, and Melodie, 3, the band is a product of Warwick's love for music — and his family.

It sprang from his keenness for the five children to learn music, something of which he was deprived as a child.

By AMANDA KEENAN

"My dad was a violinist in an orchestra and he always told me he would teach me to play music, but never got around to it," he said.

"So I learned it myself and then made sure I got the boys to learn music so if they wanted to use it, they could."

And use it they do.

The Marsh Family have recently released their debut CD — *Straight From The Heart* — and have just returned from a successful stint at the Tamworth Festival where they injected variety into a predominantly country line-up.

Warwick said the advantage of having a family band was the chance

to play music with his children, giving them invaluable experience.

The Marsh Family have toured Australia, performing in remote Aboriginal communities and even in jails.

Warwick recalls a Christmas-time jail performance that brought one tough prisoner to the verge of tears.

"He told me we had brought the real meaning of Christmas to him — I was really touched.

"The prisoners love to see children because they represent everything that they haven't got."

Warwick describes their music as rock 'n' roll with reggae, gospel and blues influences.

Each family member makes their own contribution to the Marsh

On the right lines: Marsh Family drummer Nathaniel, 14 (left), roddie Israel, 7, mum and keyboards player Alison, Melodie, 2, dad and guitarist Warwick, saxophonist Levi, 10, and bass guitarist Jonathan, 12

sound, which is becoming more widely known thanks to radio airplay.

Warwick plays guitar, writes and sings and also acts as producer.

Allison plays keyboard and the star musician of the family, Nathaniel, plays drums.

Bass guitar player Jonathon has been playing for over four years as has saxophonist Levi.

Israel has been learning guitar and wants to join the band full-time — at the moment he is the band's roddie.

Melodie, the baby, plays plastic guitar and has already started singing.