

rienne Betts meets the aptly named  
and Rudely Interrupted, five of whom  
e a disability but play on regardless

What a blast  
inside and  
barist Sam  
form at the  
Brunswick  
Club.

The line-up  
left Sam  
ike, Connie  
trick, Josh  
Hogan, Rory  
de, Marcus  
e and band  
nder Rohan  
Brooks.  
Picture:  
ON WELLS

**R**ORY Barrside may have been gifted with perfect pitch, and he is definitely enjoying life as the lead singer of Rudely Interrupted, but he has another more important calling.

"I want to find love because my ultimate goal in life is to become a father," the 20-year-old says.

Rory, like four of the other five band members, has a disability. He was born blind and has a form of autism called Asperger's syndrome.

He regards being in the band — which has just launched its debut single *Don't Break My Heart* — as a drawback in his search for love.

"At the band, there's a total imbalance. Not enough gorgeous girls, just the one, and she's much too old for me."

He is talking about Connie Kirkpatrick, the 44-year-old guitarist, who has Down syndrome.

The indie rock band was started by Rohan Brooks, drummer with



# Six heart tuggers

*Six heart tuggers*

Melbourne's the Argonauts, about a year ago. Brooks also runs the music programs at the Charinga Centre, a day centre for adults with intellectual impairments, from where he hand-picked four of his best students for the band. He met Rory socially.

For the first six months, Rory thought Connie was 24, only to be told by her sister she was in fact quite a bit older.

"So she's 20 years older than I thought she was. I was shocked. She didn't seem 44, she seemed quite young. I actually did have a little crush on her for a bit there."

But all is not lost. The American-born, Australian-raised singer says at Box Hill TAFE, where he is studying VCE English and legal studies, that there are so many gorgeous girls.

He hopes to complete a degree in music, but he doesn't want to be in a band full-time, "because then I'd have to do really long hours".

He would prefer to work nine to five, perhaps as a switchboard operator — something he had a taste of, an hour a week, at his old school, Vision Australia.

It was his seven years there, under his teacher, Colleen, that gave rise to the band's name and their first single.

"When I lost my teacher at my old school to cancer that was a rude interruption to my life," Rory says.

"The song *Don't Break My Heart*, I've

heart losing her. We were all really close to her. She was one of my favourite teachers."

Drummer Brooks says he has noticed dramatic changes in the band members ever their year together, particularly in Rory, who has blossomed up a lot.

**R**ORY'S father, Jonathan, a music producer, agrees.

"Rory is the only person I know who joined a band and his behaviour improved.

"He has perfect pitch, so he can do things quickly, and he used to get a lot more impatient with other musicians. He's exceptionally talented."

Brooks says that when the band started there was an incident when an A string broke and Rory wasn't happy because there was no replacement.

"He was outraged. It went on for like an hour, an hour-and-a-half. There was nothing I could do to replace the A string, so the day was ruined basically, and we got nothing done.

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Brooks says.

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Josh Hogan  
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