

# Hot summer nights

Dance music festival Summafieldayze just wouldn't be the same without hometown heroes the Stafford Brothers, writes **Suzanne Simonot**

**L**OCAL dynamic DJ duo the Stafford Brothers have had a huge year. The brothers, Matt and Chris, recently were voted Queensland's No.1 DJs at the renowned inthemix awards and came in third nationally. As Matt Stafford tells *PLAY* magazine, they have a full dance card for the summer festival season, including a slot on the bill for local event Summafieldayze, at Doug Jennings Park on January 4.

**How is the DJ and Gold Coast club scene viewed nationally and overseas? Is it renowned, infamous or overlooked?**

Well I think nationally, Queensland/the Gold Coast has always had a bit of a hard time, but that is definitely starting to change with all the quality events and artists coming out of this State.

**How did the tour for the launch of your *Electro House Sessions* CD for Ministry of Sound go?**

The tour was fantastic! Every show was ramed and it was a really good time from start to finish.

**You put together the *Zoro EP* while you were on the road this year, working with engineer Dave Parkinson (Happy Mondays, Babyshambles) in the UK. How did that come about and how's the EP doing?**

The *Zoro EP* is at No. 22 in the club charts – it's just been released on [beatport.com](http://beatport.com) via Central Station Records. Our latest remix of *Dan Le Sac* is at No. 1. I just found that out! We tour a lot overseas and had to get into a studio in London. It just happened that the engineer we worked with had worked with those bands (Happy Mondays, Babyshambles) and it was great to work with him. We all worked well together and the *Zoro EP* is what came out of it. We have a new single called *Give Love* coming out in December as well.

**You're one of the first local acts to be announced for the Summafieldayze bill. How often have you played the event?**

We have played every single one except for the first and I must admit, I was a person out the front on the dancefloor at that first Summafieldayze, wishing I was on stage. We love Summafieldayze. Our first-ever film clip, for *More Than a Feeling*, was filmed there and we have had so many good times at the event. It is definitely a highlight of the year.



**Matt and Chris Stafford... Queensland's favourite DJs**

**What's the difference between putting together a Schoolies set and a Summafieldayze set?**

To be honest, we don't plan too much. If you have ever seen us perform, there are always many things we do spontaneously. But Schoolies the other night was crazy and the Summafieldayze crowd are always right up for it, so I guess just plenty of good tunes that will get people dancing and putting their hands in the air.

**Is there any friendly rivalry when you're behind the decks?**

Not really. We obviously just love performing together, otherwise we would be solo DJs.

**What separates your styles?**

The fact there is two of us and we always put on a show. We aren't there to just put our heads down and play music. We want to play good music, perform, bring plenty of energy and the fact that Chris stage dives at every chance separates us from a lot of styles.

**You played Round and Round and you're playing BBQ Breaks, SunKissed New Year's Day, Summafieldayze and Good Vibrations? How's summer looking? Have you had to turn any work away yet?**

Hectic! If you check our website or our myspace you will see all the shows we have. We often have to turn away

work. I wish there were three Saturdays a week and two Fridays, then I think we could fit it in.

**You've played in Europe, Asia and the US. What's on the Stafford's global domination agenda for 2008?**

Obviously there are a lot of national tours coming up. We will also be travelling to the UK and Asia in late February and March for a load of shows, followed by some more time in Ibiza/Europe in July/August – so plenty of overseas travel coming up.

**You've previously said Christmas at the Stafford house is always a big musical jam. Will that be the case again this year?**

Of course – it really has to be seen to be believed. It's a great time of the year and we love being with all our family. People often wonder where we get our partying powers come from but if you could see these events, you would understand straight away – it's in our genes.

» The Stafford Brothers play Platinum, in Broadbeach, tomorrow night; Sun Kissed New Year's Day, at Billy's Beach House on January 1; Summafieldayze, at Doug Jennings Park, on January 5; and Good Vibrations, at the Riverstage, in Brisbane, on February 10.