

# Four rude boys who like to clash



The Clash (Right to left) Joe Strummer, Topper Headon, Paul Simonon and Mick Jones.

By SUSAN MOLLOY

The Clash — Britain's punk band from Brixton — once starred in a film called Rude Boy. The title was apt.

The Clash, on their arrival in Australia yesterday, proved that to be rude, one must also be loud, aggressive and hyperactive.

The Clash should have been the blueprint for Sid Vicious and the Sex Pistols. Or was it the other way around? Either way, Australia certainly has nothing like these four rude boys.

"I've been described as the best amphetamine rush in town," said

the group's vocal lead vocalist, Joe Strummer. And to show that he was indeed tough and non-conformist, he spat on the floor of the Australian Museum. Then he mopped it up with his cravat.

The group had planned to hold their press conference at the Liberal Party headquarters at Anchor House in George Street. In New York they held sway at the Museum of Modern Art. In Sydney, they settled for the fossils and skeletons of the Australian Museum.

Someone out there likes them. Even before they had arrived, many of their seven concerts at the Capitol Theatre had sold out. More than 6,000 tickets have been sold, and there are only 1,400 tick-

ets left for their concerts which which begin on February 11.

Fans, devotees, interested bystanders, Clash clones and the media waited, and waited, for them. Forty minutes after they were supposed to start their press conference, grave fears were held that they were lost among the mammals.

Fifty minutes later there were fears they had forgotten to arrive. But one hour after their supposed time of arrival, the boys came in.

Led by their manager, Cosmo, a young Elvis Presley with a Cockney accent and red baggy suit and heavy-duty boots, the boys ambled to their seats.

Topper Headon, the drummer,

came with a Sony Walkman glued to his ears. Then came the rest of the pale-faced, translucent-skinned band dressed in their opportunity shop clothes.

"What are we doing here when we've only sold 9,000 records?" asked Joe Strummer. "We know there's no use us being here. I've been told no one in Australia cares about politics. People just want to go down to Bondi Beach.

In Britain, the police are usually just behind The Clash and their fans. The band likes to think of itself as one of the last rock-and-roll outlaws. But yes, they are in it for the money.