Everyone knows that “there ain’t no party like an S Club party”, and that’s exactly the words that were on everyone’s lips when they heard that S Club was coming to the University of Wollongong. The facebook and twitter statuses for the night all reiterated the same phrase, acknowledging that this night was one you should have been attending. What better way to bring upon the end of session?

From the revival of the retro clothes and hair, it wasn’t a surprise that music would also follow.

With doors opening from 7.30pm, I arrived at a fashionable time of 8pm only to see that there was already a long queue to get in. Lucky for me that I was reviewing.

Taking place in the UniHall, the two DJs energised the present crowd with their remixes of popular retro songs against a backdrop of mixed 90s music videos and television shows (Captain Planet, Mr. Bean, and The Fresh Prince of BelAir). I always find it better when the DJs are interacting with the crowd rather than hiding behind their desk. I have to applaud them for their dance to Break My Stride – they seemed to be having as much fun as we were.

Jim Beam on Campus were running their promotion during the night with providing those who were drinking Jim Beam prizes of playing cards, rings or sunglasses, and the person who had a marking at the bottom of their can received a guitar or snowboard. I amused myself with my friends for a while by taking photos at their complimentary photo booth.

By 9pm, keen partiers were already packing to the front of the stage.

Outside and around UniBar were still quite busy (with people either taking photos with Jim Beam’s duck or getting a sausage from the BBQ).

The DJs wrapped up at 9.50pm for Big Brovaz to start at 10pm. The audience anticipated the show’s opening and began a slow clap, only to be transitioned into Jump Around. But Big Brovaz entered the stage with their hit, ‘Nu Flow’. Four of the original members, Cherise, Nadia, J-Rock and Randy, delivered without any hiccups.

Nadia and Cherise, now performing under the name Booty Luv, covered Tweet’s song ‘Boogie 2nite’ and lead the band into ‘Favourite Things’. Their dance track ‘This Night’ got the floor shaking and crowd singing with it’s catchy chorus that sums up the night:

“\textit{I don’t want this night to ever be over, it’s got a hold on me and won’t let me go. We can make this a night to remember, together, and we’re never gonna stop!”}"

Their performance ended with the beautiful ‘Baby Boy’, paired with their music video reminiscent of television show Friends, at 10.45pm.

During the intermission between Big Brovaz and the highlighted S Club, the DJs came back on to keep the crowd happy.

S Club opened at 11pm with S Club Party (despite there only being 3 members – Jo, Bradley and Paul- the song was performed with its original lyrics). Kudos to the band!
They then played a medley of their songs composing of ‘Bring it All Back’, ‘You’, ‘Good Times’, ‘You’re My Number One’, ‘Viva La Fiesta’, ‘Alive’, ‘Two in a Million’, ‘Have You Ever’, and ‘I Never Had a Dream Come True’ – showing that their vocals were still as strong as ever. The medley ended with a transition into ‘Love Train’ and ‘Bring the House Down’.

The members then each performed a solo: Bradley performing ‘Wonder Girl’, Paul sang a slow, piano cover of ‘Land Down Under’, and Jo gave us a heartfelt version of ‘What Hurts the Most’.

The S Club then all came out for ‘Don’t Stop Moving’ – bringing the crowd back to its party mode and getting our dance pants back on. The crowd went wild for the encore/final song of ‘Reach’, with a finish of the night at 11.55pm.

My inner child was very happy by the end of the night and I was left in a euphoric state which is slightly embarrassing – an amazing night yet it did make me feel a little older…

Leaving the crowd still pretty hyped up, those who wanted to extend their party rode on the party bus to the only place one would go: Retro night at the Hotel Illawarra.