

THE BUCKET LIST
A three-minute monologue
By JANE CAFARELLA

HEATHER, 40s-60 plus, tells her therapist why she's kicking the bucket list.

You know how you're always telling me not to be afraid to reach for my dreams?

Well, last month, I was at a party with my friend Jenny – the singer. We got talking about our bucket lists.

I'd had a few drinks and I said, (*slurred*) "I've always wanted to be a in a girl group."

And next thing, I was! Me and my ukulele. And Jenny – and Sally, another singer, and Charmaine. She plays the piano accordion.

We're The Hot Jam Donuts, named after the sign in the local Seven Eleven.

We sing rude songs from the 20s and 30s. They're all a bit sexist, so Jenny changes the words to make them sexist in reverse. Better to make them laugh WITH you than AT you, I say.

At first it was fun, sitting around the table, drinking and singing.

Until Jenny booked us for the local open mic.

It was at that moment I realized why I've never been in a girl group.

As soon as I get on stage I'm like a bug that someone's poured rubbing alcohol on. I shrivel up and die.

So, on the night, I had a few wines. Quite a few.

There were five guys before us, all with guitars, all singing about climate change – with their eyes closed.

Worthy – but dull!

So, I had a few more wines.

By the time it was our turn, I was sick – sick of songs about climate change.

As I stood in front of the mic, I knew I had to give the audience what they really wanted,

So, I said, "This song is NOT about how the planet is fucked. It's about SEX."

That was it. Everyone whipped out their phones and began filming.

I forgot the chords, Sally forgot the words, and Charmaine forgot her solo.

It was all over Facebook. THE FLUNKIN' DONUTS!

Beat

I haven't been out for a week.

Since then, I've thought a lot about my bucket list.

And now I know.

There's a reason why I've never been in a girl group – or gone bungy jumping or ridden in a hot air balloon.

It's just not me! It never will be me!

And I began to think: “Why spend my twilight years trying to be something I'm not?”

Why focus on things I've NEVER done?

From now on, I'm gonna focus on all the things I HAVE done.

For that, I need LOTS of buckets.

LOTS and LOTS of buckets.

412 spoken words

jane.cafarella@gmail.com

+61 408 880 185

Free use on the condition that the author is fully credited and notified of when and how the work will be used and your location (city and country), so she can keep track of her work.