



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ferocity. It's also one-dimensional and repetitive. The players are brave, self-contained, boozy anachronisms. They're also still wearing the clothes they came off the plane in. Perhaps their greatest achievement is that they define their own terms. The Feelgoods create their own atmosphere. Heavily subdued lighting (mainly garish reds and blues) turns the Auckland Town Hall into a beer hall.

When Dr Feelgood hit the stage there's an immediate scramble for the front and from then on it's a veritable rock and roll riot. Pogo. It so appalls Town Hall management that the dailies quoted a dazed authority figure who wishes all his audiences were as undemonstrative as Dolly Parton's.

The music is straight from the heart. And the thigh and the hip. The man who dominates proceedings is Gypie Mayo. Fender Stratocaster out-thrust, he struts and prowls, turkeycock and panther. Brilleaux chain smokes and chain drinks, shouting into his mike. Sparko the bass player lays down the bottom that Brilleaux calls "flat and rubbery, almost sloppy." It rides along with the no-frills solidity of the Big Figure's drumming.

Brilleaux calls himself "a shouter not a singer" who bases his harp style on that of Howling Wolf, a blower not a technician. Tightly coiled, almost sinister, he's a perfect foil to the ever-moving Mayo.

The songs are mostly from *Private Practice* and *Be Seeing You*, although they go back

always for "Stupidity" and "Back in the Night". "Milk and Alcohol", "Down at the Doctor's" and "Night Time" are especially well received.

In the middle of the show there's a respite from the incessant riffing. "We do a slow blues by B.B. King called "Shotgun", says Brilleaux. "It's so slow we worried that the audience wouldn't dig it, Dr Feelgood being such an energetic group. But it makes a good contrast. We like the blues, but I wouldn't like to be in a blues band full-stop."

He needn't have worried. The audience can't pogo for ever, and they enjoy the opportunity to hear Gypie play some blues licks. It's not *Live at the Regal*, but it's not intended to be.

The slow blues is followed by a rough-house version of B.B. King's "You Upset Me, Baby" and we're back in the Feelgoods' mainstream. It's a great night for rock and roll and the encore is, appropriately, "Riot in Cell Block No. 9" followed by a loose reading of "Johnny B. Goode/Bye Bye Johnny" which allows Brilleaux to spoof James Brown.

Repeated cries of "Feelgood, Feelgood" and the boys reel back to render a sloppy "Great Balls of Fire" before calling it a night.

To Brilleaux, one of the best aspects of the musician's life is getting to meet different people. "I mean, before I became a musician the farthest I had been was north to Nottingham, but now I've been to every town in Britain, to Europe and now down here."

The audiences may speak with different accents, but a rocker is a rocker the world over.

And when the rocking's done the Feelgoods can retreat to Canvey Island, "still home base."

This part of eastern England is where the Feelgoods spent "30 to 50 per cent of our time, but after a couple of weeks at home I start getting restless."

Still, if the road ever gets too much for Lee Brilleaux perhaps he could take up his previous occupation, private detective.

"Bloody awful job. You'd go around and knock on some geezer's door. He'd come out. 'Wot you want?' 'I got a petition for your divorce'. He'd hit you. Makes working in a band seem pretty tame."

Ken Williams

## 2ZM ANZAC ROCK

8-midnight

with JOHN HOOD and...

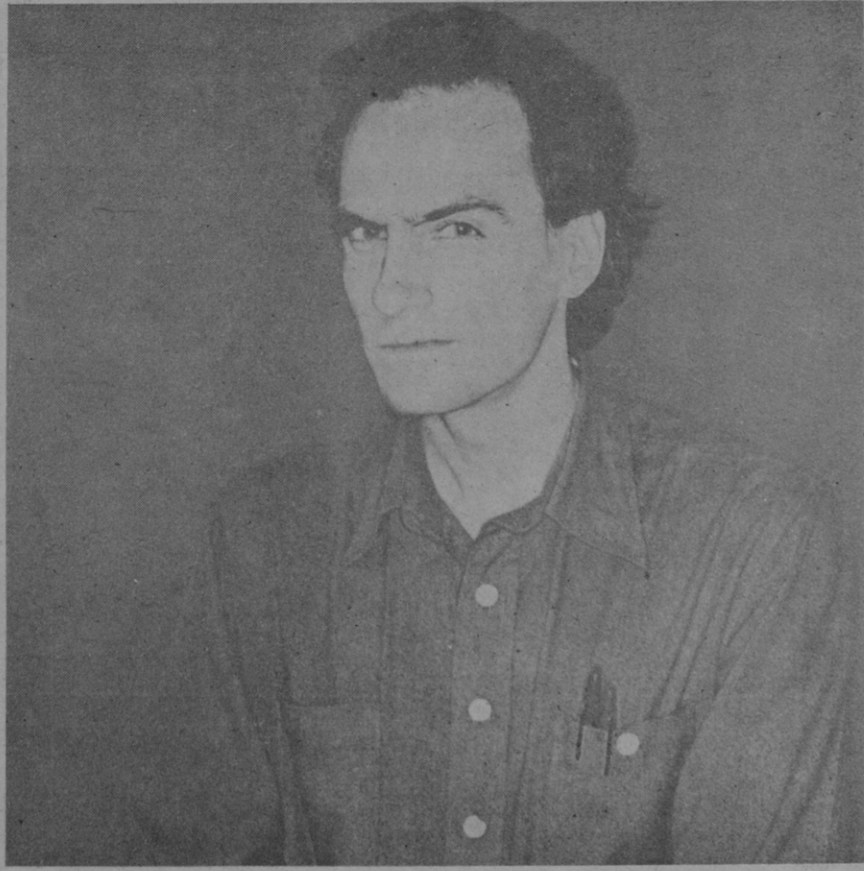
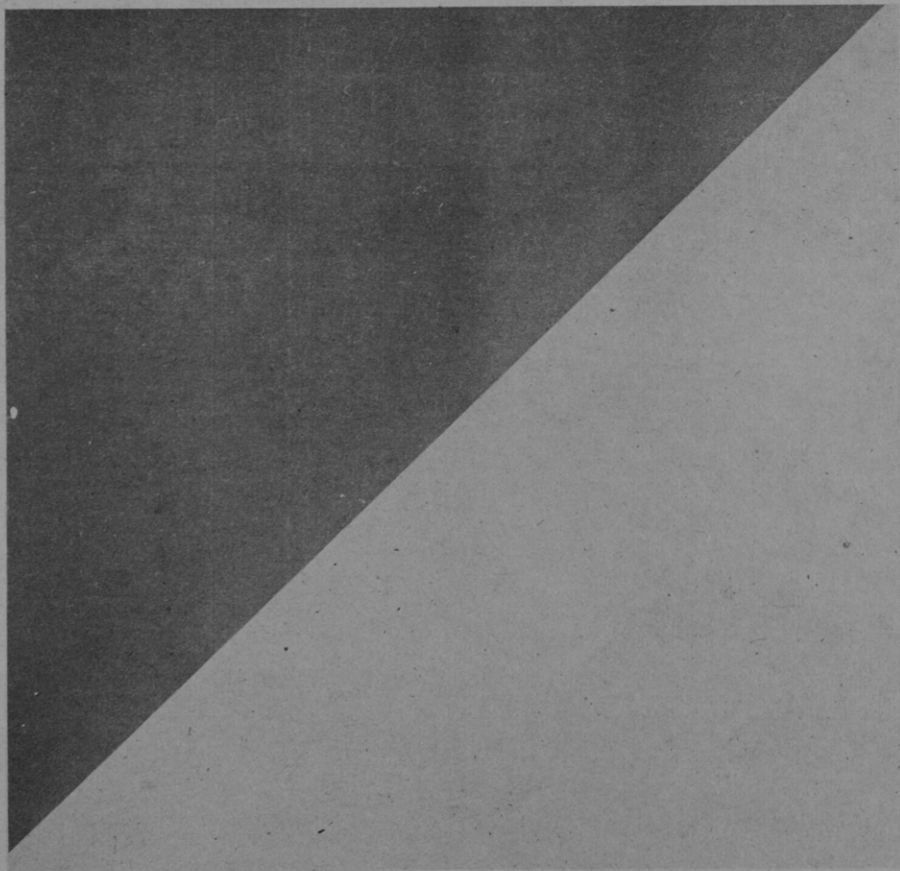
**Dragon • Th' Dudes • Misex • Bon  
Marche • Little River Band • The  
Wonders • Sports • Medusa • Split Enz •  
Red Hot Peppers • Shotgun • AC/DC •  
Street Talk • Midnight Oil • Rodger Fox  
Big Band • Rose Tattoo • The Phil  
Manning Band • 1860 Band • Mark  
Williams • The Normals • Short Story •  
Stilletto • Dalvanus and the  
Fascinations • Schtung • The Angels •  
Citizen Band • Hello Sailor • Sharon  
O'Neill • Urban Road • Bamboo • Russia...**



REAL

RADIO

bridging the tasman



# Flag James Taylor

The NEW Album on CBS Records.

Produced by Peter Asher - Recorded by Val Garay

