

On Januray 26th, 27th and 28th, Ngaruawahia will again be the setting for a festival of music, culture and technology. Sweetwaters, named after the Waipa River, which flows by the site, will feature more than 40 bands, from here and Australia, plus an overseas headlining act still to be confirmed.

Organising such an event would scare many people. The financial risks alone would put most off. Yet Daniel Keighley, one of the organisers, is doing it purely out of a desire to get involved. The advantage with Sweetwaters, he explains, is that you can learn from other people's past mistakes.

people's past mistakes.

"You use the retrospective and look at something like Nambassa, and you decide what was wrong with that. You can see a lot of things that were right with it, but you've got to start looking for the things that were wrong, and alleviate said problems as best you can.
"In doing so you've got to select a site that

"In doing so, you've got to select a site that has good access, good egress, and as far as I'm concerned, plenty of water, as water is a primary thing in the middle of summer."

Access seems no problem, with the farm site

from Hamilton. Twenty dollars gets you in for three days, and the only other thing you pay for is food (stalls on site will cater for all tastes). Parking too is on the farm, a brief walk from the camping areas. Take your own tent (a couple of cates) the provided of find a spot and crash tents will be provided), find a spot and

The Waipa River is only 300 yards from the stage, and 60ft from the camping area. Daniel describes it as "delightful to swim in." Fresh water will also be provided on site.

Toilet facilities were another grumble at Nambassa, so this time, chemical loos have been brought in from the States.

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"We decided that we would attempt to have the best musical show, and the way of doing that was to provide the best equipment in terms of sound and lighting," Daniel says.

"Hence the ACT sound system, the same as Boz Scaggs used, capable of 75 thousand watts, which isn't just a lot of sound, but is the best quality of sound." Hiring the system and bringing it here from Australia, plus a crew of four, will cost in the region of \$10,000.

"A lot of New Zealand bands wouldn't have a chance to play through a sound system like

a chance to play through a sound system like the ACT one, so it's superb to be able to provide this. The lighting is being done by Raewyn Turner, the Split Enz lady, who is very, very competent, and therefore the lighting and sound are tuned in together.

"You then look at entertainment, and you pick all the best New Zealand bands, what you

pick all the best New Zealand bands, what you can from Australasia in terms of finances, and you pick one top overseas band, because that seems to be the way things run. Whether we like it or not, in terms of quality, people have a tendency to react better to overseas groups. "You then look at the fact that at that time of the year you're going to have a lot of families involved in it, so you provide as much family entertainment as you can. The only way of doing that, because the main stage is going to be a rock and roll stage, is to provide a second

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Sweetwaters Festival Site



and third stage, both with different degrees of musical interest and forum interest. And you

ensure that you provide an amazing quantity of stuff for children, like circuses, swings, slides, merry-go-rounds, and you provide it all free." Other attractions will include cultural, hand-craft and alternative energy displays, and forums for the exchange of views on all matter

of subjects.
So what's the biggest headache organising something the magnitude of Sweetwaters?
"The biggest is overcoming a slightly dubious council and the local people, in that they feel that people are going to trespass, they feel there's a possibility the situation might get out of hand.

"There is always something on the festival site to be seen, to do, for children and adults. It's all there, so there's no reason for anything to arise and upset anybody.

Duncan Campbell

TOURS, SQUEEZE TOUR IN FEB

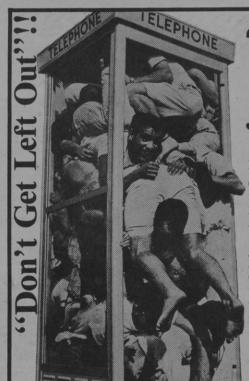
Late news, but good news
is that Squeeze, the "Cool for
Cats" people (formerly known as UK Squeeze) will play two NZ gigs, Wellington Feb 5 and Auck-

land Feb 7.
Police are rumoured for late February.

The Swingers have recorded three songs at Mascot Studios — "Ain't What You Dance", "Give Me One Good Reason" and "I Can't Say No". The lads hope they've got a single there. In Dec the Swingers hit the South Island again. A major feature on the band was pushed out of the Dec RIU by was pushed out of the Dec RIU by that which you can't have too much of, ads. Look out for the Feb feature.

Brian Jones and Charley Gray are opening an office to co-ordinate the management Sheerlux and Th'Dudes. The office will book selected NZ bands. Street Talk will be Muchmore's first client.

O'NEILL & STEVENS LPs, FEB 11
The release date for both Sharon O'Neill's second album "Baby Don't Fight" and Jon Steven's debut album, is Feb 11.



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