

# On Tape

Various Artists  
Songs From the Lowland  
(EST, 52 Longfellow St,  
Christchurch, \$4)  
This tape springs from a neat  
ChCh mag called Every Secret

Thing, which is the baby of Bat's  
Robert Scott. It's a collection of  
short, sharp shots (none over three  
and a half minutes and a few  
under two) from 14 South Island  
bands you might not have heard  
of. The sheer variety and creative  
vigour here is truly invigorating.  
You get Look Blue Go Purple's  
absolutely marvellous 'Labour  
Pains', The Bats 'By Night', two  
pieces of ballistic idiosyncrasy  
from the Axemen, The World's  
'Strange Man' and the Builders'  
elegant malleable gem 'America'

(already available on record but  
you really owe it to yourself to  
own every version you can lay  
your mitts on). There's two Victor  
Dimisich songs from 1981 and two  
Doublehappys' live 'uns of four  
months' vintage. The only real  
fault is the occasionally poor  
sound quality. Wouldn't it be nice  
if some benevolent millionaire put  
these bands in a recording studio  
for a year or so? (PS: You can get  
a colour cover version for \$6.50.  
(And the mag is 60 cents an  
issue). RB

**The Final Solution, Casualty  
Hopper Wasn't Here**  
(Ima Hitt, Box 407, New  
Plymouth, \$6.50)  
I saw both of these bands at a  
hall in New Plymouth once. At  
the time I liked Casualty better -  
very young punks with fast hands  
and youthful voices and the good  
sense to cover a couple of No Tag  
songs. Here, however, they come  
across a little half-baked. The  
energy's still there but bits sound  
hackneyed and, apart from 'Worst  
Mate', the songs aren't too memor-  
able. There's still plenty of time.  
Final Solution (awful name), on  
the other hand, have carved out  
an identity for themselves -  
spirited pop-punk with squeaky  
but exuberant singing. There's not  
a whole lot that's new but it's done  
with some style. The silly calypso  
bit at the end of their side is a nice  
touch. RB

**The Moa Hunters  
Strike Again!! (Portobello)**  
Songs for wiping bottoms. CK  
**Papakura Post Office**  
**The Woman At the Well**  
(Industrial, \$6)

Expectations - this tape con-  
founds them. From my experience  
of PPO I thought I knew roughly  
what to expect - wrong. Delving  
in, I thought, ah, I've got this one  
sussed - wrong. With a combina-  
tion of imagination, boldness,  
subtlety and happy fortune, PPO  
have brought together elements  
drawn seemingly at random from  
the musical spectrum. Japanese  
folk music, 13th-century European  
opera, the work of James K.  
Baxter, jazz, Western folk, rock 'n'  
roll, electronics. If that sounds  
pretentious, it isn't. One of the  
major surprises is the use of a  
Japanese opera singer named  
Yuko, a friend of a friend, on a  
couple of tracks. Mr Industrial,  
Paul Luker, conducted the record-  
ing and it's hard to credit that it  
was done in a bathroom and a  
lounge on a two-track recorder. A  
remarkable recording. RB  
**Kim Blackburn and Sandra Bell**  
**Two Metallic Hearts**  
(Industrial, \$6)

Two women, recorded live  
from the small stage at Sweet-  
waters. Sandra has a good, tuneful  
voice and quite specifically aimed  
songs. Kim's songs are more  
generalised and her voice is... is  
deep. Like Nico, Marlene Dietrich  
and a small handful of others, she  
has a voice that at first startles  
with its 'masculine' resonances but  
which, once accepted becomes  
very exhilarating to listen to. If the  
first two songs on Side One - 'I'm  
Jane' (Kim) and 'Meiko Enomoto'  
(Sandra) don't immediately grab  
you, flip over to 'Lili Marlene' at  
the end of Side Two and suc-  
cumb. CK

**Nice in the Radiogram**  
**The Beginning of the End of the**  
**Resurrection (Ima Hitt, \$6.50)**  
Scary. I mean it. Two of this  
three-piece New Plymouth band  
turned to God after playing this  
music over a period of time and  
I'm not really surprised. There is

something demonic about this -  
an absence of hesitancy or obvious  
derivation. A variety of instru-  
ments played sonorous and  
sparse, wailing, usually unintel-  
ligible vocals. And like good boys,  
they puncture it with a really silly  
ending. Wow. RB

**Say Yes to Apes,**  
**Impeccable Nasals, The Brainshake**  
(TV Eye, 506 Queens Drive,  
Invercargill, \$6)

It's nice to see the Teev machine  
back in motion. Shit, they've even  
got real live giggling bands now.  
I know nothing of the Impeccable  
Nasals. Their side is entitled *Deep  
Red Albert*, which doesn't help at  
all. They write songs, real songs,  
coloured by acoustic guitar and  
stained by percussion, kazoo (ever  
heard of psychedelic kazoo?) and  
other things. They're good, as  
good as you'd expect someone  
who devised a title like 'Life Is  
Short, But Your Legs Are Shorter'  
to be. Like anyone on TV Eye,  
what they do is held together by  
a devious filament of absurdity.  
The Eh? Factor. SYTA in *Summer  
of Love 84* are captured in their  
current(?) (wah-wah abuse)  
period. The recordings are live so  
the sound quality isn't up to the  
standards we've come to expect  
from the Teev Poststudio but it  
passes. The number of songs these  
people have composed in their  
time is hard to believe and, as they  
hobble into their early twenties,  
they seem to be getting more con-  
sistent. None of this is bad, most  
of it is good and a sizeable portion  
is excellent. From the opening in-  
strumental 'V.I. Lenin' it could  
only be these people. You might  
hate it. RB

All Industrial tapes are available  
from PO Box 8809, Auckland.  
All Portobello tapes are avail-  
able from 18a Grand View Road,  
Remuera, Auckland 5.

From the local folks who bring  
ya the mag Anarchy, Outrage and  
Serious Intent, 'ere come the tapes  
from ye olde Blighly. An update  
for the colonies? Read on. ▶  
**The Apostles**  
**The Fifth Demo (\$2.50)**

Blank on one side? How did this  
get here? Believe me. Recording  
quality - a bit rough... hang on  
- that's not too bad - soon  
forget doubts. Includes three days'  
philosophy and a guided tour of  
'their place.' Not for the faint of  
heart. The fact that this tape  
contains unadulterated youthful  
passion ought to mean it rests in  
your tape deck. Walkman?  
Haven't had the courage yet.

**Various Bands**  
**Your Daily Dose of Misery (\$2.50)**  
"A compilation of punk's better  
bands," it says. Right twice. But  
bloody hell - can't figure out  
which band is which of the seven.  
Better be fixed - it's important.  
Definitely the hard edge. These  
people do live this way. On...  
noise both sides! Stereo?  
Corpe  
**The Seven Track Demo (\$2)**  
Peace, Anarchy and Love.

These people are so restless and  
angry, no wonder they play  
geetars so faaast. Seven track  
demo? If this tape was a No Nukes  
demo marching down Queen St  
no submarine would dare.

**PARDON?!  
Luke Rupa**  
All of these tapes are available  
from PO Box 25-004, St Heliers,  
Auckland for cost and stamped,  
self-addressed envelope.

**Various  
Flowers In The Spring**

Lurking in Dunedin's lofts and  
garages is an underground as  
challenging as it is varied and  
uncompromising. This C30  
compilation boasts studio/live  
tracks from eight entities in that  
gloriously murky medium: DIY.  
Fringe stuff all, but quite  
addictive because it ranges from  
Red Orchestra's numbing  
'Ask/Question/Decide' through  
two tonal experiments by Wreck  
Small Speakers On Expensive  
Stereos to the more conventional  
Dunedin drive of Martin The  
Martian's 'Clear The Air'.  
Witchdoctors provide the  
swampabilly anti-epic 'Mudflats'  
and the Heat weigh in with the  
superb acoustic 'Penalty'.

As important a document as  
1982's Dunedin 2x45 (though not  
nearly as well recorded.)

Available from M. Morley, 36A  
Elbourne St, Taradale, Napier.  
Dave Taylor

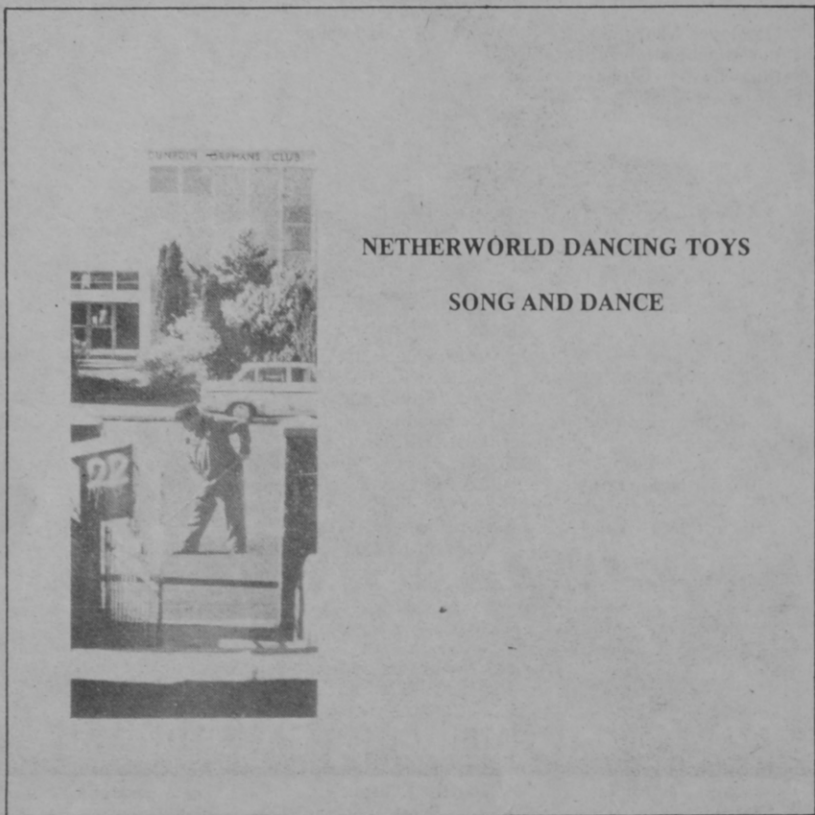
**Riverside Band, Riverside Calling**  
(\$6 from Riverside Records, River-  
side Community, RD2, Upper  
Moutere, Nelson.)

Definitely not city music. This  
band is based at the Riverside  
Community, just outside Nelson.  
They play enthusiastically and  
reggae and rock'n'roll influences  
run through the tape. Sometimes  
the music works well, although the  
tape suffers from poor production.  
The acoustic guitar work on 'Life  
is So Hard' is no less than excellent.  
The vocals can tend to be a little  
forced, as on 'Only Dreaming' and  
the lyrics, often witty, can be a  
little stereotyped. This tape could  
easily have come out of the 67  
summer of peace and love. It's  
worth a listen, it's different and it  
gives a real feel of alternative Kiwi  
lifestyle.

**Miles McKenzie and the Bandits,**  
**Try This for Size**  
(From 199A Russell St, Gisborne.)

Here is a group of really talented  
musicians. Miles McKenzie's  
guitar playing, especially on tracks  
like 'Rock'n'Roll Casualty' and 'If  
You Feel Like We Do', and Andrew  
Kirk's drumming are some of the  
best I've heard from this country  
in ages. This album comes with  
thanks to "the Gisborne ragers"  
and I can see why. These people  
play solid, foot-stomping rock'n'  
roll. There is one 'but' with this  
album and it's a big one. These  
guys waste an amazing amount of  
talent imitating the Rolling Stones.  
Sue Wynd

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Menial Vex-lies in the Bedroom, (N.Z.)

Tapes available with 30c stamp from above address or Rock 'N' Roll Records,  
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