



Bathgate popped up to Auckland last month ... **IQU** is a new Auckland musical project instigated by Robert (drums) and Jon (keyboards). They co-opted bassist Ryan (who has done something similar for Car Crash Set) and his wife Betty of Ardijah and Mr Era, Paul Agar, for their debut single 'Witchcraft', which will be available through Jayrem both as a 3-track 12" record and a five-track cassette ... Wellington Jayrem-

needed to be longer than the six weeks it was. "A PEP scheme maybe?" he asked. "And not just in Gisborne. **Phil Bowering** and his partner in Flamewave Productions **Sandi Taylor** leave for Australia soon on the first leg of a trip through Europe, Africa and India. The pair have a number of aims for the trip; to tout **Low Profile's** 'Elephunk' record/video, expand marketing connections, look at setting up an

in finding and providing rehearsal space for Auckland bands and he'll help you find your own rooms or let out the ones he's setting up (with 8 channel PA and, if required, a four-track recorder). Jim can be contacted at 679-567 during evenings ... US entrepreneur **Kim Fowley** will be visiting NZ again near the end of the year. He's keen to hear tapes from local bands, so send 'em to Suite 202, 6515 Sunset Boulevard, Hollywood, California 90028. Fowley reckons NZ bands do two things wrong; (a) emigrate and (b) think in terms of NZ and not world sales.

Russell Brown

South

Veteran local pop combo **Southern Front** have recorded nine songs at Tandem with Eric ('Boogie Nights') Johns producing. According to an executive from Failsafe Tapes the band finally has a recording of the highest quality and a release on the label (possibly in vinyl form) is due in the near future ... the next appearance of the **Wastrels** will be as a five-piece, with the addition of **Paul Lightfoot** (ex Royales and Cor Blimey) as a second guitarist. Peter Cooke's crushed finger should have fully healed by the time the band supports the Hoodoo Gurus in Auckland ... Patrick Faigan of **Say Yes To Apes** has shifted to Auckland for the remainder of the year which means they won't play until next year when they meet up in Christchurch.

Two former **Triffids**, Mark Howe and Craig Guernev (drums) have formed a new band with Michael Williams (guitar) and Simon Claridge (trumpet). As yet un-named, the lads won't be wasting much time before heading to Auckland. Williams, of course, will be remembered as the singer for legendary 'new wave' band **Johnny Velox and the Vauxhalls** ... **Back Door Blues Band** will record a four-track EP in September for possible release on Jayrem (in November). They plan to start a national tour on November 15, which will lead them to towns large and small, North and South, and will keep them busy until late February! ... **ECF** make

their final appearances soon.

The **Belle Motions** (not as in jobbies) are taking two or three months off to remake and remodel ... **Smart Russians** wanna expand a little and are looking for a keyboard player, phone 791-394 ... rumoured to tour are **Pseudo Echo** (late Nov) and the **Verlaines**, who are planning an extensive summer tour ... Lee Hubber is no longer working with Mark Cassin but is still actively involved in booking bands. He can be contacted phone 64-757. AC

'**STYLISTICS**' FROM PAGE 10 some lyrics and singing them and if the song didn't suit me, we would both agree that the song wasn't right. We would weed through all the songs until we had 10 or so and said these were the tracks we'd record.

"When we went in the studio the process went a bit further, we started recording them — I started singing them up against tracks he'd put down. We'd listen to them back and if they didn't sound like they'd make it we'd get rid of the song and move onto something else. It wasn't the fact of *control*, it was us all working together to get the best product."

Was the track and arrangement completed before you recorded the vocals?

"No, it would just be a riff, but Tommy, he possibly would have the arrangements finished, or in his mind, but when I went in to record there was no arrangements down, just the rhythm."

Thom Bell has been quoted as saying the Stylistics are particularly fast in the studio — rehearsing 10 songs in four hours and recording them in three hours.

Thompkins responds with a cool, almost vain, dude-like "Oh, yeah," and continues. "Oh, I think when I did the first album I put down all the lead vocals in a day's work, about six or eight hours. I can still do it now. I just finished an album and did almost exactly that."

The Stylistics have just completed an album for Streetwise with Arthur Baker offside Maurice Starr producing. Thompkins

elaborates:

"The product is fantastic, they sent us into another mode. We've moved ahead, still doing some of the old things from the past but doing some of the things for now and some things of the future also."

The album features synth back plus regular musicians. The band on the NZ tour does not feature on the album but some members have worked on Stylistics albums on the Philadelphia International label (1980 to 1982). Some play in Gamble and Huff's current MFSB orchestra — all live in Philadelphia.

"They are Philadelphia musicians, Philadelphia arrangers, Philadelphia producers — they all work for the companies in Philly," says Thompkins. "Musical director Joel Bryant and guitarist Darnell Jordan are both producers for Philadelphia International and Darnell co-wrote 'Is There Something On Your Mind', a song that won best arrangement at the Tokyo Music Festival, two years ago."

After working with Thom Bell from 1971 to 1973, the Stylistics worked with Hugo and Luigi (with Van McCoy arranging) in New York or New Jersey. In 1980 they joined Gamble and Huff's PIR label and recorded several underrated albums. Was 1980 the first time they had worked with Gamble and Huff?

"No, Kenny Gamble wrote 'Break Up To Make Up', one of our biggest hits, about 1972. Gamble and Huff were partners with Thom Bell, they were all part of a company called Mighty Three Music. So, when we were doing our recordings, even though we were not on their label, we were in Philadelphia and working with the Mighty Three Company then."

With veteran vocal groups the Dells and the Chi-Lites having recording success on Chicago's Private I label, comparative newcomers the Stylistics also look set to return to the dance clubs and charts with their new Streetwise recordings — and so a rich vocal tradition spins on into the 80s.

Murray Cammick



IQU line-up (L-R): Betty (vocals), Jon (keyboards), Paul (yes, that's guest Mr Agar, vocals), Robert (drums), Ryan (bass).

North

Car Crash Set have completed their eight track debut album and a clip for the first single, 'Break-down'. They also play with **Marginal Era** at Quays on Sept 27 in a concert to be filmed for RWP ... **Marginal Era** also have a new single out, 'Haven't I Seen Your Face Before', which was produced by Paul Streekstra ... and the nice people at Reaction Records would like you to ensure that you pay no more than \$9.99 for the **Mockers'** live album *Caught In the Act*. The company released it at a special price but some retailers have apparently been selling it for \$11.99 or \$12.50.

Recording for a new **Tall Dwarfs** EP was done when Alec

mers **Flesh D-Vice** have an album which will be released soon. They have made a video and plan to tour in October. Meanwhile they've landed a spot on a US punk compilation.

Good things happening in Gisborne, with 10 young people involved in a government-funded YTP scheme run in conjunction with the local community college and **Capture Recording Studios**. They got to make tapes, some playing all their own instruments and singing, up to demo standard or better. Tuition didn't stop at studio engineering and included hints on organising gigs, tours and records and music theory and singing instruction. One student, Les Dooling, was enthusiastic about the scheme but said it

international musician exchange network and do research in Africa for their projected film project, *Moving Lines*. Phil has also applied for a major Arts Council grant to develop *Moving Lines* music next year ... **Last Laugh's** newest and NZ's first woman studio engineer, **Wendy Girven**, is looking forward to working with bands and women artists and can be contacted at the studio at 794-562 ... **Last Laugh** is also looking at the idea of releasing bi-monthly demo cassette compilations. If interested, call above number.

Richard Holden has shifted from **Word of Mouth** to the new **Progressive Promotions** where he is booking the Windsor and Alamo ... **Jim Brown** specialises

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