

ripitup's believE it or NOt

photo by Bryan Staff



Every picture tells a story — therefore we dread to think why Swingers drummer Ian Gilroy (top left) is smirking so as Phil Judd rises out of a road coma on tour. What jolly practical joke have we here? Whoopee cushion? Laxative chocolates? Strychnine?



photo by David Burke

A picture-in-a-million, this one. An intrepid photographer captured the band just as they were about to collectively go through the windscreen of their van in a head-on collision with a roadie. Momentarily young and pretty are (L-R): Alec Bathgate, Chris Knox, Mike Dooley, Paul Kean and Jane Walker.



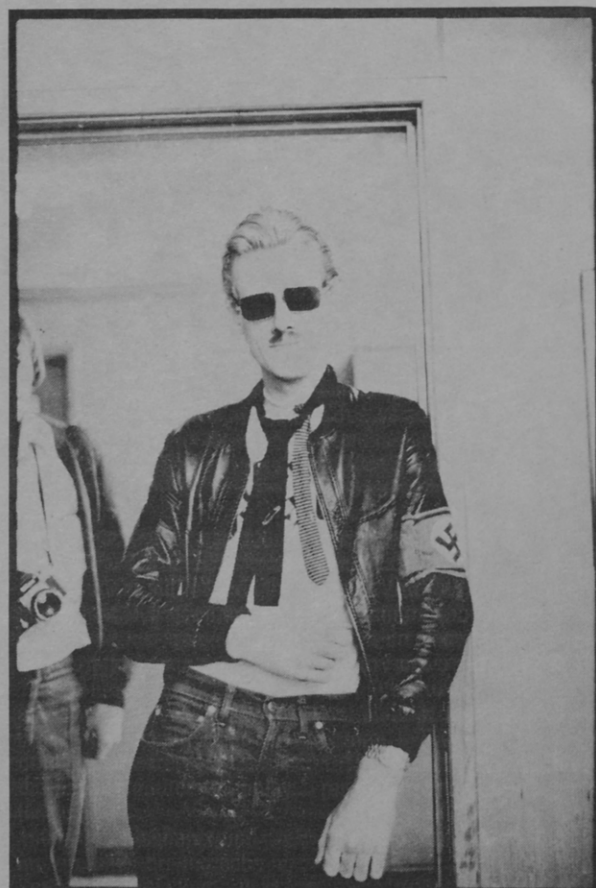
Wellington's Widemouth Frogs were an all female-lineup that gave Jenny Morris (working on 'F') and Tina Matthews ('O') to the Crocodiles lineup. And yes, that is rude word down in front.



The Summer Lava-lava? Citizen Band get into the spirit of things to promote a summer tour. Pictured are (L-R): Geoff Chunn, friend, Mike Chunn, Greg Clark and (kneeling) Brent Eccles.



This is power pop . . . Christchurch's Splash Alley before they changed the name to Pop Mechanix (the name was Barry Jenkin's idea) and before Dick Driver left to be replaced by Andrew MacLennan on vocals. (L-R) Kevin Emmett, Chris Moore, Paul Mason, Paul Scott and Dick Driver.



Nazi chic was a good shock tactic for the Suburban Reptiles in '77, wot with 'Desert Patrol' and Reich 'n' Rohl an' all . . . here's the band's bass player backstage. He is, of course, Bones Hillman, who went on to form the Swingers with Buster Stiggs and erstwhile Reptile Phil Judd.



Going out with a Blam . . . Blam Blam Blam's Mark Bell and Jacqui Brooks show the aftermath of the crash that finished off the van, the tour, the band, and the sales of *Luxury Length* in 1982. Bassist Tim Mahon, who was driving, was most seriously injured, but despite the loss of two fingers on his right hand, he re-learned the bass, changing to a thumb-picking style.



When travelling internationally it's important to dress conservatively and act inconspicuously, so as to ensure a speedy passage through Customs. Here, Chris Knox dresses as a young accountant at Auckland Airport, just before Toy Love's departure to Australia in 1980.

photo by Christobel Wylie