

enze favEs

In this 100th issue we've invited several of our writers, past and present, to select their favourite New Zealand records and thus highlight some of the significant recordings released in the years *Rip It Up* has been published.

MARK EVERTON

I'm a fan of New Zealand music. I don't mind admitting it and I've a feeling I'm not alone. For ages though I made excuses, was it just some sort of misplaced patriotic zeal? Was

it pretentious to think New Zealand music spoke to me with my voice? And what was the thread that tied all authentic local music together and made it so obviously different? Well, apart from the indefinable "kiwiness" of it all, I would have to say the difference lies in the strength of the songs and the reason for their existence. The constant fretting over production standards leaves me cold; if the song isn't there in the first place no state-of-the-art knob-twiddling is going to rescue it. But while the debate rages, musicians who simply want to make their music their way get slagged for their enterprise and the essential quality of their songs gets overlooked. This is especially true as the industry whips itself into frenzied expectation of international success. New Zealand is the only English-speaking country that has never produced a world-wide smash hit. Nowadays a lot

of time and money is going into rectifying that situation. Great. But while some music is created for sale overseas most New Zealand music continues to be made for its own sake, because the people involved believe it's worth it and believe that it's good. Therein lies the spirit of artistic endeavour. Therein, for better or worse, lies the spirit of New Zealand music. Trying to choose 10 favourite local records from the last eight years has been an unsatisfactory experience. So much gets left out. However I hope the following selections back up this preamble in showing, individually and collectively, the talent and integrity of those who make so much fine music for our ears.

The Moon, the Spines:

Possibly the best. Intelligent, articulate, sensitive, funny, sad, there is so much to savour on this record. Excellent playing. A bright star indeed.

And Here Is 'Music For the Fireside', the Bats:

The closest thing yet to the definitive New Zealand record (I think). Rustic, folk flavour coupled with a sardonic city edge. Totally human. Wonderful songs, great bass. 'Counting the Beat', the Swingers: A magical song of sparkling originality. Should have been the international hit being sought now with music that pales by comparison. 'Radiation', Topp Twins: A timeless song reflecting fears of a barren future. Possesses the absolute power of the utterly simple.



'Rolling Moon', the Chills:

Lacks the spirituality of 'Pink Frost' but arguably more spirited. A neat arrangement allows the track to roll on regardless.



Luxury Length, Blam Blam Blam:

Remains a landmark LP. Music of poise and purpose, not afraid to let emotions or politics show through. A record that says a lot

about New Zealand, its people and its place in the world. In short, quite brilliant. 'Poi E', Patea Maori Club: A legend. A derivative mix, granted, but a celebration unequalled in our musical heritage. 'Dizrythmia', Split Enz: A step away from the total originality of *Mental Notes* but nevertheless a record that set the scene for the Enz' phenomenal success. A live-wire collection of hits. As potent today as ever, a cut above the competition, as usual. 'Send You, Sneaky Feelings: Just a great record. At last a band prepared to leave space in their songs for the listener to explore. Poignant, evocative, moody. Love it to bits. 'Now', Pop Mechanix: A loud, proud, anti-social rally cry. A rip-snarling pop song from a dynamic band. All right, attack, NOW.

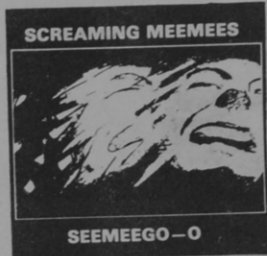
'Going Round In Circles', the Prime Movers: Silly pop for getting dizzy to. 'Kaleidoscope World', the Chills: I like it. How's that for one good reason?



'Occupational Hazard', the Whizz Kids: "Ripper" said Reena. 'Mecca', Otis Mace and Rex Reason: The guitar ace trips on chawarmas. 'Someone To Blame', Export Lamb: Music For Sheeps.

TROY SHANKS

'See Me Go', the Screaming Meemees: I still Scream Meemee.



'There Is No Depression In New Zealand', Blam Blam Blam: There Are No Sheep On Our Farms. 'Doobie Do Boy', the Newmatics: I'm the one and only ... 'Billy Two', the Clean: Revenge of the killer acoustic guitars. 'Counting the Beat', the Swingers: Phil Judd counts to 5 and goes to 1.

RUSSELL BROWN

Whittling down to 10 this list of my favourite NZ recordings has been a pain in the heart. I sat down and took five minutes to scrawl about 30 choices onto a piece of paper and I didn't really want to drop any of them. Two criteria employed here: the personal thrill I get from each record and the record's importance in getting us where we are now. I could say more but Mark Everton says most of what I want to say anyway. These are in no order whatsoever ...

Hallelujah, the Verlaines: The hard edge of articulacy and sophistication. 'Ballad of Harry Noryb' is awesome. 'Rebel'/'Squeeze', Toy Love: Some first single. Has the unimpeachable qualities of melodic grace and lyrical penetration. CONTINUED ON PAGE 30



CONGRATULATIONS 'RIP IT UP'

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And thank you for your support.

26 Devo, Knack, Mi-Sex, Wellington Special.
30 Sweetwaters issue programme; John Martyn, Elvis Costello, Renee Geyer, No Nukes, Squeeze, NZ Band profiles, Split Enz, Toy Love, Hello Sailor Citizen Band, Th' Dudes, Street Talk.
31 Sweetwaters, Swingers, Mi-Sex.
32 Police & Split Enz interviews, Sharon O'Neill.
34 Tom Petty & Street Talk interviews, Mi-Sex, Virgin supplement, Whizz Kids & Pop Mechanix bandfiles.
35 'Quadrophonia', Bob Geldof & Kevin Stanton interviews, Newz & Flight X-7 bandfiles.
38 Howard Devoto, Tim Finn interviews.
39 XTC, Lip Service, Motels.
40 Martha Davis, David Byrne, Dave McCartney, Doors, Bruce Springsteen, Hammond Gamble.
41 Coup D'Etat, Flowers (Icehouse), John Lennon, Clash, Elton John.
42 Clash interview, Cold Chisel, INXS, Tigers, Jo Jo Zep, Borichi/Tilders.
44 Adam Ant, Associates & Police interviews, Stevie Wonder.
48 Cold Chisel, Blams, Wgtm Zone.
49 Angels, Beat, Lemmy Motorhead, Desmond Dekker, Heavy Metal Guide.
50 Swingers, U2, Psychedelic Furs, the Clean.
51 Newmatics, Cramps, Stray Cats, UB40, Blind Date & Gordons interviews.
52 Echo and the Bunnymen, Danse Macabre, Penknife Glides, Mockers, Valentinos, Jimmy & the Boys.
54 Dave McCartney & Pink Flamingos.

Go-Gos interview, Sunnyboys, INXS.
56 Teardrop Explodes, DD Smash, Mick Jones Part 2, Neighbours, Richard Burgess.
57 Clean, Pretenders, South Island bands, Joan Armatrading, Mental As Anything, Chaz Jankel.
58 Blams, Teardrops, Hall & Oates, Bill Wyman, Kottke/Redbone interviews.
59 Human League, Men At Work, Chills, Tim Finn, Motels, Elvis Costello live, Furtive EP.
61 Graham Brazier & Harry Lyon, Fall, Jim Carrol, Daggy & the Dickheads, Hip Singles, Dropbears.
63 Simple Minds' Jim Kerr interviewed, Split Enz Part 2, Renee Geyer, Nocturnal Projections, Willie Dayson Blues Band, Hunters & Collectors.
65 Yazoo (Alison Moyet interview), Joe Cocker, Zoo (ex Pop Mechanix), Gurtz, Jo Jo Zep.
68 Herbs, Culture Club, Bauhaus, Kiwi Animal, No Tag, Sharon O'Neill, Thompson Twins, ChCh Special (Wastrels, Flying Nun, Bill Dieren, etc.)
69 Joni Mitchell, Dance Exponents, Who, Neighbours, Dire Straits, Talk Talk, Miltown Stowaways, Blond Comedy.
73 Wham, Dead Kennedys, Coconut Rough, Angels, Marginal Era, Grammar Boys, Fishschool, John Cale, Studio profile.
74 Malcolm McLaren, Heaven 17, Joan Armatrading, Sharon O'Neill, Children's Hour.
75 Tim Finn, John Cale, Jonathan Richman, Hammond Gamble, Dick Driver.

80 Police, Paul Young, Motown feature, John Peel Wastrels, Bryan Adams, Big Chill.
81 Smiths, Mockers, Def Leppard, Violent Femmes, Miltown Stowaways, Chills, Doublehappys, Marvin Gaye, Alfred Hitchcock.
82 Billy Idol, Pamela Stephenson, Four Tops, Temptations, Verlaines, Uriah Heep.
83 Elvis Costello, Thompson Twins, Netherworld Dancing Toys, Mockers, Paul Morley.
84 Style Council (Paul Weller interview), Echo & the Bunnymen, Midnight Oil, Kiwi Animal, Sneaky Feelings, Depeche Mode.
85 Mockers, Special AKA, Motorhead, Icehouse, Great Unwashed, Coconut Rough, Neil Finn, Fxxx.
87 DD Smash, U2, Bill Dieren Pt 1, Nick Cave, Stevie Ray Vaughan.
88 Herbs, Talking Heads, Aztec Camera, Narcs, Car Crash Set, Axemen, SPK.
89 Frankie Goes To Hollywood, Beatles, Deep Purple, ZZ Top, Twisted Sister, Aotea Riot, Eurogliders, Rip, Say Yes To

Apes, Look Blue Go Purple.
90 Lou Reed, Go-Between, Paul Hewson, Topp Twins.
91 Neil Young, Giorgio Moroder, Waterboys, David Puttnam, Freudian Slips, Electric Pandas.
92 Hunters and Collectors, Lloyd Cole, Pelicans, Peter Garrett, Left Right & Centre, Economic Wizards.
93 Dance Exponents, Huey Lewis, Robert Palmer (Power Station), Peking Man, Circus Block 4, This Kind Of Punishment.
94 New Order interview, Iron Maiden, Stranglers, Johnny's, Michael Winslow, Plans For A Building.
95 Chills, Killing Joke, Dazz Band, Expendables, Jason & the Scorchers, Last Man Down.
96 Netherworld Dancing Toys, China Crisis, Robert Plant, Doublehappys, Kiwi Animal, Nils Lotgren.
97 Bryan Ferry, Dynamic Hepnotics, Men At Work, Bats, Shriekback.

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