



RECORD DEAL!

Great news for NZ Music, is that Split Enz have a record deal for outside Australasia with A&M Records. Enz Manager, Nathan Brenner spoke to *RiU* while in town early June, en route from New York to Oz.

Brenner and Mushroom boss Michael Gudinski, first gained the interest of A&M in England and Europe, then the big boys in New York, Jerry Moss and Herb Alpert. Moss cancelled a trip to Britain to remain in New York, to meet Gudinski and Brenner and sign Enz.

Other A&M signings in recent years, include the Police, Joe Jackson and Squeeze. The first release is, of course, *True Colours*. But a few changes are being contemplated. The first recording Enz did with David Tickle, "I See Red", may replace an existing track and an inner sleeve with lyrics and photo, may be added. *True Colours* should be released by August, ahead of the first single. The band will tour to promote the album about October.

Meanwhile in Australia, Enz tour May 19 to June 23 and "I Got You" and *True Colours* have topped their respective sales charts for SEVEN weeks. Both have sold about 130,000 copies!

In Brisbane, Wreckless Eric will open for Enz. Brenner is looking forward to the gig, as he saw Wreckless Eric in New York and he expects the audience to be as crazy as Eric, by the time Enz hit the stage.

Though Enz are playing big venues in Oz (Melbourne's 7,000 seater Festival Hall, Sydney's 6,000 seater Hordern Pavilion), they intend to play several nights in 1000 seater capacity halls, when they return to NZ next.

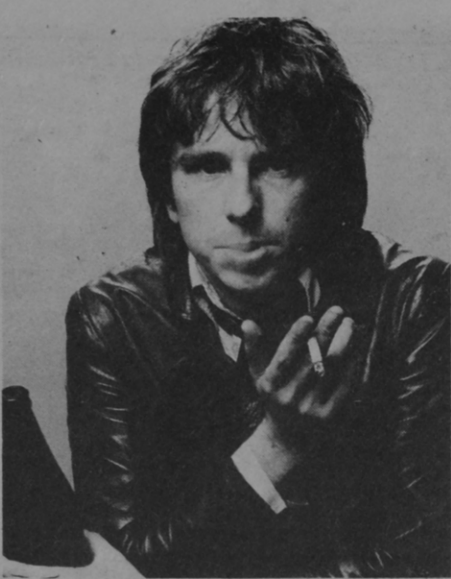
When Brenner wanted a name for his management activities, he asked the band for help. They obliged with the name, 'Vulture Enterprises'. It makes a great business card.

MEMBERS RESULTS

Winner of Members ties and the new Members album, 1980 — *The Choice Is Yours*, are Domanik Nola Morrinsville, P. Cresswell Mangere East, Roger Little Grey Lynn and Janette Buckingham Kingsland.

The Members are, left to right, Nicky Tesco (lead vocals), J.C. (guitar), Chris Payne (bass), Adrian Lillywhite (drums) and Nigel Bennett (lead guitar).

Winners of Members ties are Ronald Neuman Papakura, Tony Gambitis Lower Hutt, Andrew Burke Bayswater, Rosemarie Leilua Manurewa, Neil James Papakura, Neil Swanson Birkenhead, R. Watson Mt Albert, Graham Manning Grey Lynn, Vanessa Evans Browns Bay, Rodger Wright Hastings, Paul Fulton Hastings, Martin J.G. Quinn Remuera, Danny Driscoll Palmerston North, Steve Naylor Milford and E. Manderson Lower Hutt.



Wreckless Eric

Not so long ago the only foreign bands to play in New Zealand were the bankable superstars. But the situation has improved drastically. Last year the Members played Mainstreet. Now it's Wreckless Eric's turn.

'The Wreck' is an English club level crowd pleaser of several years' standing. Since his signing with Stiff Records in 1977, he has also racked up a string of minor hits with singles, including "Whole Wide World", "Reconnex Cherie" and "Hit and Miss Judy". His two albums, *Wreckless Eric* and *The Wonderful World of ...* have had respectable sales.

Wreckless Eric is a sure hand with a simple but effective blend of pop melody and light metal delivery. His forte is a slow three or four chord progression where the guitar winds up from a steady throb to crashing power chords.

In his early days with Stiff he was overshadowed by the label's prodigies like Costello, Ian Dury and Nick Lowe. Touring with these heavyweights on the 1977 *Bunch of Stiffs* tour was tough competition by any standards. But in 1978 it was Wreckless Eric's turn to carry the show for newcomers, Rachael Sweet, Lene Lovich and Jona Lewie, on the *Be Stiff* tour.

Big Smash, his new double album, consists of one record of previously released recordings and an album of new material. As the man's drunken charm and pop metal fun will always be more attractive live, Mainstreet June 8 and 9 should be a whole lot of fun.

Dominic Free

Taj Mahal

Taj Mahal, whose stock-in-trade is black American roots music from country blues to the West Indies, is finally coming to New Zealand, after a false start a couple of years back when the visit didn't come off.

MORE THAN A CONCERT ... AN EVENT !

CONCERT
PROMOTIONS
present

JON ENGLISH & BAXTERFUNT

STORMING ACROSS N.Z. — JULY



JULY	Venue	Bookings	Venue	Bookings
12 WHANGAREI	Town Hall	Time Travel	22 PALM. NTH	Opera Hse. C & C
13 HAMILTON	Founders	Beggs Wisemans	23 WANGANUI	Opera Hse. Londontown
14 AUCKLAND	Logan Campbell Centre	Festival Society	24 WELLINGTON	Town Hall Opera Hse.
16 ROTORUA	Civic Th.	P.R.O.	25 NELSON	Majestic Camera Hse.
17 TAURANGA	Q.E. Centre	Arts Centre	26 GREYMOUTH	Regent Th. Regent Th.
18 GISBORNE	Y.M.C.A.	Tattersall & Bayley	28 CHRISTCHURCH	Town Hall Town Hall
19 NAPIER	Municipal	Williams & Kettle Travel	29 TIMARU	Th. Royal Record Parlour
21 NEW PLYMOUTH	Opera Hse.	Colliers	30 DUNEDIN	Regent Th. Regent Th.
			31 INVERCARGILL	Civic Th. Beggs

He will play Mainstreet in Auckland on June 24.

Mahal, who some times appears as a solo act, will bring a six-piece band with him. Taj Mahal has a good reputation as a live performer.

His first band was formed in the mid-60s with Ry Cooder. Later, Cooder (as "Ryland P. Cooder") would play rhythm guitar and mandolin on Taj's first album, a still stunning set of country blues re-arranged for a city blues band

format. Mahal's fascination with the music of his black heritage has led him down many paths, and he was among the first rock musicians to explore West Indian music. His former colleague, Ry Cooder, has also looked to the Caribbean islands for inspiration, and it is not surprising that the two men some times still appear together on the same bill. Like Cooder, Taj Mahal can make musical history come to joyous life.

Ken Williams



STUN

