

AIRSTRIKE

AIRSTRIKE aren't likely to be in New Zealand long. Australia is already beckoning.

A single has been recorded and demonstration tapes of eight songs recorded at Mandrill Studios in Auckland have already attracted three or four Australian recording companies. The word there is they may have another top New Zealand band on their hands.

A move across the Tasman is imminent. AIRSTRIKE's manager has already made two trips on this band's behalf and is enthusiastic about the response.

AIRSTRIKE aren't hanging around. Since entering the North island pub-club circuit in February they've crept up the ranks to become a name band — and one of the newest.

They love to entertain and with virtually no publicity the band are packing out pubs surely by word of mouth. They're a hard-working lot with that down-to-earth friendliness

that eludes many self-proclaimed big city stars.

The music's the same — no nonsense rock and roll. They aim to please and work hard at it. In August they had been on the road for seven months without a week off. The single was waiting until there was time to record it. Meanwhile AIRSTRIKE kept sounding better and better.

"Still Here We Are" produced by Bruce Lynch, will be released here before December and a follow up single later for Australia. The B side "Streets at Night" was produced by Graham Brazier.

Last year AIRSTRIKE only did cover versions of other people's songs. Now most of the song list is original. They make sure the crowds don't hear the same list of songs each time they appear.

AIRSTRIKE know they're not stars (not yet), but they know how to pull a big crowd and deliver the goods. It will pay to catch up with them as soon as possible. Things are moving so fast for AIRSTRIKE they could be gone before you know it.

Management: CCP, PO Box 1540, Hamilton, New Zealand

THE Hammond Gamble BAND

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19-20 (wed & thurs) Station Hotel

21 & 22 Hillcrest Tavern

27-29 Gluepot, Auckland

DECEMBER

4-6 Gluepot, AK

Tues 9 Hillcrest, Hamilton

Wed 10 Mandalay, Auckland

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Auckland

Though the organisers are silent, Tim Finn on Radio Hauraki said that Split Enz will be playing Sweetwaters. Toy Love are not on the bill. Where are they?

When doing a one set late spot at Kicks, Citizen Band needed another 10 minutes of music. They made 'I Feel Good' fit. Clark and Chunn kept the guitars clinking while Kileen and Eccles moved the drum kit down to the front of the stage. Once set up, they finished the song ... the Gary Hunt farewell (or was it a Terrorways reunion?) at XS, took place with no bass player. Gary Hunt walked off after a few songs and a whole lot of big talk from John No-one. Living in the past and loving it were ...

Recent NZ 45s include the Techtones 'That Girl', Crocodiles 'Telephone Lover', Coup D'Etat's 'Doctor I Like Your Medicine', Reel to Real's 'Time To Leave', 'Ritz' by Pop Mechanix and 'Daddy Was A DJ' by the Spys (who?) ... Mistakes and Features singles were reviewed in NME (where?) ... is Features' Exposed out yet?

In the Propeller pipeline is Fane Flaws 45, 'The Way'/'Sex Wars'. Fane and Ian Morris produced it and the musos were Pop Mechanix members Paul Scott and Kevin Emmett and Peter Dasant and Flaws himself. Class of 81 is tentative title for Propeller compilation. Screaming Meemees, Bombers and Blam Blam Blam are on it. Among the other likely tracks are too few from beyond Auckland. So send your tapes fast to PO Box 37-371, Auckland.

In Aussie, Mushroom Records have released a double-single by Zep & the Falcons, with 'I Will Return' from Hats Off Steps Lively and three live tracks — 'I Don't Wanna Come Down' and 'I Need Your Lovin' from Montreux Festival and 'I Will Return' from their New York gig at the Bottom Line.

Also in Oz, RAM mistitled a popular Marching Girls tune, 'Mister Rex' ... a pic in Melbourne's Juke shows Sharon O'Neill wearing a badge that reads F**K IRAN. Iran who? ... Swingers Oz single ('Counting The Beat'/'One Good Reason') may emerge here on Ripper. In November Swingers do a week in Sydney double billed with Models. The Band has plenty of new songs. David Tickle is still likely to produce their album. Bones sings lead on 'More', they've written two songs on each other's instruments and Bones warns — 'don't expect too many old favourites on the album.'

Also in Melbourne, ex-MG, Ronnie is working with Jed Town and James Pinker of the Features. There are 15 songs on tape. Des is playing with the Fabulous Marquis after rehearsals with new Marching Girls line-up (a singer and a bassist) did not work out. But Johnny is master-minding another MGs with a keyboard player and Des ... Enz drummer Malcolm Green has a 45 out in Australia, recorded with Eddie and Nigel.

On Radio With Pictures soon is Top Scientists' 'Burn Out' and Larry & the Ladders' self-produced clip for 'Looking For An Answer'.

New and packaged for kids is Mascot recorded album, Enzedd Musical Animals'nd Things, written and produced by Dave Hollis on the Kid's Stuff label. It's rock music for kids. Sounds different?

New in town are Who Slapped John — Ramon York, Rod Percy and Alan Evans. The band has recorded four tracks at Stebbings with Aichen and Morris producing ... new Lix members are Dave Major and Craig Smith-Pilling.

Opening in eight major centres on November 21 is the No Nukes concert film with Jackson Browne, Doobie Bros, Bonnie Raitt, Chaka Khan, Poco, Raydio, Ry Cooder and of course the star of the show, Bruce Springsteen.

Motels

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

released second album, Careful, has gone gold in New Zealand. Featuring on the album is guitarist Tim McGovern. I asked Martha about the location of Fretts Ferrari.

"He's back in LA putting together his own band. It is what he needed more than anything else, he is a very calculating and intense person with a very strong direction. Myself, I like to work more communally, and because of that, we clashed. He is also the kind of person who likes to direct things. Though I don't particularly want to direct, I had such a big stake in the band, I didn't want to give it all to him."

Careful Complexity

The immediate difference on the new album is the song structure and arrangement. It is fuller, more produced.

"When I first thought about the musicians for this group, I thought about orchestration. I love that layered, textured feel, so I made sure that I hired guys who were not only competent musicians, but can also play several instruments."

Recruitment of the right people has certainly paid off. "When I first got home from the first album tour, I was really ready to relax. Straight away the record company said, 'Have you finished writing the second album?' I just panicked. I thought when am I going to get time to write? Luckily the other guys came to my rescue with some songs. This time, I've got it covered. I brought my guitar with me. I've written one song already, and I have ideas for about seven more."

Mark Phillips

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