



Wet photos by Carol Tippet



it was what was considered by musicians to be bad playing. I thought it was good, but it was just organised noise."

Peter Gutteridge left, and the Clean went to Auckland, played a couple of times and fragmented. Hamish stayed in Auckland and joined another band, while David returned to Dunedin and began experimenting with Robert Scott. Hamish, in Dunedin for a holiday, was suitably impressed and the Clean began again. Trips to Auckland and Christchurch, a meeting with Roger Shepherd — and Flying Nun, 'Tally Ho', and Boodle complete the story.

The Clean philosophy has been shaped by Dunedin, and its Enemy/Toy Love. It's a city they regard very fondly, remote from the rest of the New Zealand music scene and consequently unaffected by trends.

For David, "There are absolutely no pressures on starting a band in Dunedin. It's up to you what you want to do."

"In Dunedin you can start and be terrible", adds Hamish. "You can be absolutely shocking and get away with it and get better. The biggest problem in Auckland is that it's such a trendy place. They get a bit lost jumping from one trend to the next without thinking about what they're actually doing."

For them the Enemy are the past in Dunedin. They got things moving. Other exports, Mother Goose and the Knobz, are embarrassments and best left unmentioned. But the Enemy: "They were so outrageous for music at that time. They really were New Zealand's true punk band." The subsequent demise of Toy Love has distinctly affected the Clean.

"You can only learn from Toy Love," says Hamish, "they tried to be as idealistic as possible and they tried to be honest. They did their best and they got chewed up by the business, and that's

an example to any band."

The business?

"Van Morrison said in a recent interview that the music business is a business and it's dollars and cents, charts, units and product, which is totally divorced from what I believe in. Music inspires you. It makes life more enjoyable," says Hamish.

And if there is a Clean philosophy, then that's it. The primacy of the music above and before all else. We came back to it time and time again. They aren't a fashionable band and wouldn't want it any other way. After Toy Love, they want no part of the Australian circuit. Perhaps Europe or parts of America.

"But we'd probably be regarded as passe," according to David, "because we're not futuristic and imagewise it wouldn't help because we probably look like we're just off the farm."

They have no time for rock's ephemeral and inescapable trends, and mention of such brings scorn for ska bands and Joy Division clones.

Are Clean a conventional band?

"Yeah, well we use conventional instruments and a lot of the songs are conventional in an unconventional way."

Is rock dead?

"Only to a moron. They said that in 1958 when Buddy Holly died, and they've been saying it ever since. Rock is dead only in the sense that cliches keep getting thrashed. You have to keep experimenting and remain open to things."

At a time when the precepts of punk are slipping further and further out of fashion, the Clean remain true to many of them.

"Music is trying to talk to people on a human basis. We hate the concept of pop stars."

In Hamish's words, "When we started playing it was against

that whole thing, and I'm still just as angry about the whole thing now as I was then. The person standing watching us play is no better or different than I am, and we want to keep it that way. I hate drum rostrums because it's like elevating yourself above people."

The hotel syndrome of too many people just having a night out and getting drunk regardless of the band is equally loathsome.

"It would be good to break down the whole ritualised behaviour pattern of the audience facing bands and getting pissed. The best thing would be to move away from hotels, but that's difficult."

Another problem with playing live is noise.

"The use of large PA's and volume to hammer people into submission is really bad. PA's should get smaller as a band progresses. Volume is OK, but it shouldn't be used to attack the audience. It's up to the audience to say that it's too loud and it's awful to listen to, and for them to leave, because you get to the point where you're hurting people's ears and they can't listen to what you're doing. The band gets louder and louder and the mixer gets deafer and deafer. Most of the people behind mixing desks are as deaf as piles."

Big PA's and lighting rigs are another pet hate.

"You don't need it. The aim is to play music. If you believe in your music, you don't need any of that. The Beatles and Stones used to get up on stage with Vox amps and white lights and the music was alive. Now it's more business-oriented towards light shows and large stadiums. Too many bands fall down because they're built on image and not music."

Michael Higgins

# WIFE'S HAWD

Even when you know the words

# STIFF RECORDS



## TENPOLE TUDOR Let The Four Winds Blow

Eddie & The Boys with a great new LP. Features the amazing "Throwing My Baby Out With The Bathwater" — a truly rousing single! Watch out for the fantastic video!



SEEZ41/CSEEZ41



## IAN DURY Jukebox Dury

Collection of Ian's hit singles incl. "Rhythm Stick" and "Sex And Drugs And Rock & Roll". Stiff's greatest Durys!

SEEZ42/CSEEZ42

## MADNESS 7

With their distinctive blend of humour and pop ... another classic from the Kings of Camden Town.



## MADNESS 7

SEEZ39/CSEEZ39

## JONA LEWIE Heart Skips Beat

Terrific album! Includes hits "Stop The Cavalry" — "Louise" and the new soon-to-be Top 10 single "I Think I'll Get My Hair Cut." PLUS Bonus 45: "Kitchen At Parties" (Limited Offer!)

### OUT NOW

**MADNESS** 'All You Need Is Love', hottest single yet, UK No.4!  
**JONA LEWIE** 'I Think I'll Get My Hair Cut', chart scorchers!  
**SNOWMEN** 'Hokey Cokey', another hit direct from the UK charts!

### COMING SOON

**THEATRE OF HATE** Currently scorching the UK charts, much acclaimed "Do You Believe In The West World". Produced by Mick Jones  
**CHILDREN OF 7** "Solidarity" ... new single produced by JC of the Members.  
**BILLY BREMNER** "Loud Music In Cars". Ex Rockpile guitarist.

MARKETED BY PO BOX 3825, AUCKLAND 1