

RUMOURS FROM PAGE 8

Martin Morris has joined the Wastrels ... Trick Cyclists have new vocalist/front man Andy (ex Direct Descendant) ... Vertical Smiles have new bass player (Christopher Perry), vocalist (Alan Mohawke) and are looking for a lead guitarist (519-759 Bruce) ... Divine Faction are now a four piece. Dan Biggs left ... Lindsay Davis has left Ballon D'Essai and been replaced by Lindon Frazier. Lindsay's new band is Varvon ... Party Games are now Lipstick Collar with the addition of Myra on Farfisa ... Mike Davidson (ex Sydney's Radioactive) is in town and may join Ikista on guitar placing Dave Blackwell out front

... Steve Driver (Dick's brother) is also back from Oz and forming a band ... Sheer Fanatics new guitarist is Steve Fanatic. Jim Wilson & Peter Waller

Dunedin

Since we last went into print: New Bands: The Grey became Grey Echoes then split and reformed with changed personnel and are now Chant ... Doppleganger have drawn favourable comments ... Bored Games briefly reformed and recorded a five-song tape in 4XO's studios. Ex Broken Models' guitarist Ross Nicol is forming a new band. Ex-Sneaky Feeling, Max Satchell, has a new band. Blue Meanies and Dunedin's,

first Dexy's inspired brass combo, Netherworld Dancing Toys has hit the boards. Ex Battery Laurie Cunningham and ex Avis Jeff Dickie have teamed up ... splits: Batteries and Junction Ave have folded.

Alister Penrose has left Prowler and is replaced by ex Feedback Lee Wood. Foreign Agent are looking for a bassist. Ex Knobz Kevin Fogarty is in town and he recorded a synthesiser track at 4XO.

The Agricultural Hall is to be converted into a nitespot. This year's Battle Of the Bands begins on June 28. First prize is \$1,000 and three free four hour recording sessions.

George Kay

on men and munchies



"People will relate to music that is rhythmically strong, and has a melody" - Colin Hay's theory on the success of Men At Work.

It's a theory born out at the band's Auckland Town Hall concert where every recognized song met with a rousing reception. The single 'Be Good Johnny' was released by CBS to coincide with the tour.

"We didn't think we needed to release another single, but it's good people know it", Greg Ham, saxophonist comments. The video was the band's idea, actualized with help from director Tony Stevens who's been involved with all Men At Work clips.

Men At Work are now recording their second album in Sydney. The first has just been released in the States, and is selling well in Canada and Europe. More units of 'Who Can It Be Now' were sold in France than in Australia, while 'Down Under' got to No. 2 in Holland. Men At Work may visit Europe after recording but Colin Hay doesn't want to go anywhere where its cold.

As with February's interview, Colin Hay, Greg Ham and drummer Jerry Speiser are present. Last time they reckoned pub gigs were their bread and potatoes. Is it still the case? Greg Ham replies:

"We've been obsessed with food for the last two hours. All we've been talking about is what we had

for dinner last night, what we're having for dinner tonight, what we just had, and then you bring up bread and potatoes!"

Speiser joins in: "Food's great", and Hay adds:

"It's something we have in common with Mental As Anything. They're heavily into food. I think that's why we get on so well. I said to Greedy Smith 'we're going to New Zealand'. 'New Zealand!' he said, 'the lamb there's fantastic!'"

Do Men at Work agree with Greedy?

"We went to the hotel restaurant last night," relates Ham, "but there was no lamb on the menu."

Has success affected the band?

Hay replies: "You are less anonymous. One guy thought he knew me from a diamond mine. 'I know you man, did you ever work in a diamond mine in Western Australia?' I say 'no, you've seen me on the telly', he says 'really! what are ya? I say 'I'm a rock star'. You get so sick of people saying 'how does it feel to be a rock star?' It feels about the same," says he, pinching his flesh.

"I like the people who don't believe it," Speiser chips in. "One'll say 'look there's the guy from Men at Work!', and the other will say 'Na, what'd he be doing here?'"

"We're successful because we've been working at it. We just want to play and record albums, and perform, and success means you can do it, and you don't have to hassle a gig."

More on Colin Hay's success theory:

"What Men At Work do is employ conventional means to convey their music. We play songs that have feels, that have melody."

Melody was ignored for a while. The way our music is structured it has universal appeal timewise. Pre rock and roll or pre jazz people can relate to it equally because it has the basic rhythms and melody."

Jerry Speiser comments: "Music's gone through a real dip, with the punk, and then disco thing, with the bass drum booming through, and then *Hooked on Classics* and *Hooked on Swing*. I saw the Sex Pistols in London and what they were about was playing out of tune, and badly."

"I don't agree about the punk thing," Hay interrupts. "What came out of it was really strong. It kicked a lot of people up the bum. They might have played out of tune but at least they had energy and bands started writing and performing strong songs again. So I don't see it as a dip."

"More like a spread," says Ham.

The Men At Work info sheet says the bands origins will remain a mystery. Why? Because they're boring. They were born, went to school, and the rest is irrelevant.

"It's not an attempt to create a mystique about ourselves," says Ham. "It just doesn't make interesting news."

AnnLouise Martin

SKEPTICS 'LAST ORDERS'

BONGOS  
DABS  
PRIME MOVERS  
SKEPTICS  
ON TOUR

THURS 3 TO SAT 5	MAINSTREET AUCKLAND
TUES 8	RICHMOND, OAMARU
WED 9 & THURS 10	COOK DUNEDIN
FRI 11 & SAT 12	PEEJAYS CHRISTCHURCH
SUN 13	CANTERBURY UNI.
TUES 15 & WED 16	SUNSET DISCO WELLINGTON
THURS 17	MASSEY, PALM. NORTH
FRI 18	HAWERA CMNTY CENTRE
SUN 21	MAINSTREET UNDERAGE DANCE



EP OUT SOON!

BONGOS 'NERVOUS TENSION'

PRIME MOVERS 'GOING AROUND IN CIRCLES'

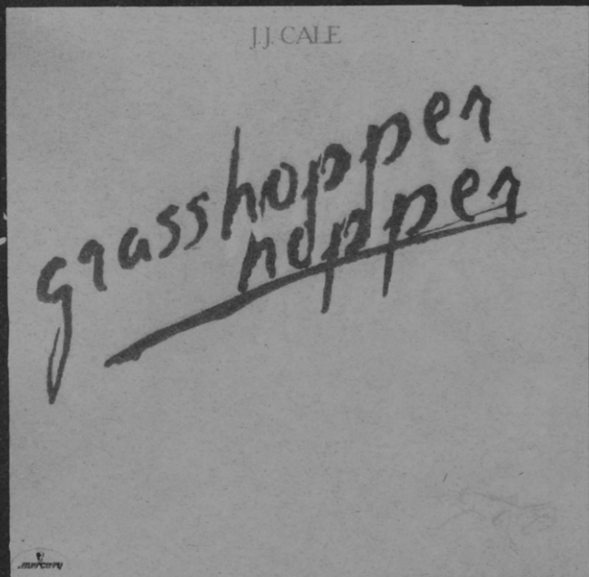
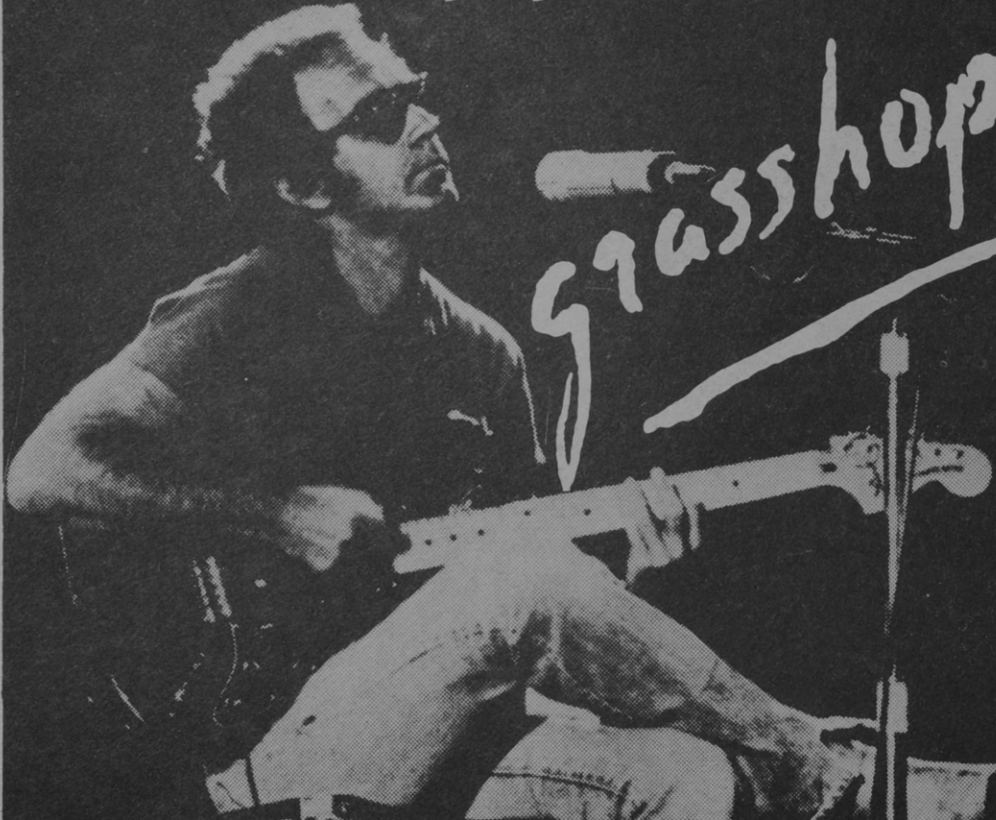
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