

The week we spoke with Zoo (Pop Mechanix under their new guise) a report was issued in Sydney claiming that hundreds, even thousands of Kiwis were living on the poverty line in Australia and were supporting themselves with prostitution, selling drugs and other nefarious activities. The members of Zoo haven't gone that far, thankfully, but they have had to take other jobs at times to keep body and soul together. They readily admit it's been a tough year, but things are looking up now, with their first album, *Cowboys and Engines* finally released and some healthy support now building up on the Sydney live circuit. Paul Scott was out straining the spuds when we rang, so Chris Moore took first turn. The latest single, 'Keep It Up', hasn't done much and they're now waiting till after the Christmas rush to release another one, 'Private Military'.

"It's very much a 'got single, will be famous' thing over here," says Moore. "Without a hit single, your album is doomed to failure."

"After we came back from New Zealand earlier this year (when they played Sweetwaters) we weren't getting many gigs at all for a long time, about six months. But



## KIWIS IN SYDNEY'S ZOO

then about four months ago, things started to get better and our attitudes improved. Since then, it's been really good. We've been to Noumea and we've toured with Madness. Noumea was especially good, the audiences are really open-minded, like in New Zealand. It seems the Australians have to be convinced by the media and that sort of thing. It's given us our confidence back and the songwriting

seems to be getting better, so we're really happy at the moment."

The general recession in the Australian music industry at present means the up and coming bands are finding it hard to get gigs. Zoo are currently managing three or four a week on the Sydney pub/club circuit. The central city, the North Shore and the eastern suburbs (where they

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## POP-ular GURLZ

The story of the Gurlz so far does not read like your usual Auckland band file.

They have barely touched the local pub circuit — have hardly played in their home town at all in fact — yet less than a year after their first gig, they have two highly successful North Island tours behind them and a mini-album poised to streak on to the charts.

The bandmembers, Carol Varney, Kim Willoughby, Debbie Chin, Shelley Pratt and Greig Blanchett, are the first to admit they've had a few lucky breaks. But they've also had their share of bad luck. In May this year, in the middle of a tour with Blam Blam Blam, drummer Carol's leg was broken in a road accident and the Gurlz' career came to a standstill for five months.

Up until then, the tour had been



Kim (top) and Greig.

rolling along very nicely. "We'd just finished paying it off and were getting into the profit," says Carol.

That's another thing that makes the Gurlz different from most New Zealand bands, they manage to tour without losing money.

"That's not luck though," Carol maintains. "It's good organisation. Other bands don't think enough about what they can afford. They think they need this system and those lights and can pay a soundman \$300 a week."

"We do it frugally — cheap PA, cheap vehicles, we don't splash out much and we play lots."

Drawing full houses in many parts of the country helps too. The Gurlz' best gigs have been on the road and they definitely prefer touring to playing round town.

"You're pissing in the wind playing in pubs around Auckland," says Greig. "You barely get enough to cover expenses and we don't want to have to pay to play any more."

"And apart from pubs, the only other thing to do is special venues."

Like the Mainstreet New Year's Eve party where the Gurlz made their debut (and went down a treat), and the *Shazam* concert at the YMCA which got them on TV.

"Most people who go to the pub in Auckland to see a band are either in bands or know people who are but in other places we always get a cross-section. Like in Wellington, we had 30-year-old married couples watching with young punks and long-haired muslim types."

By appealing to a fairly diverse audience, the Gurlz hope to avoid classification under any particular brand of music. The songs on the mini album were chosen with the same aim in mind.

Most of it is new material —

written while Carol was recuperating — and, according to the band, no one song is indicative of everything they do.

It was recorded in September, as soon as Carol's bass-drum leg was in working condition after the break.

"There was some time available just when Carol was coming right so we decided to go for it," says Greig. "We were actually supposed to do it as soon as we got back from the Blams' tour. We would have had it released in time for a tour we were going to do with the Meemees (Dance Exponents took their place) — things would have happened really fast if that had gone ahead."

"Recording was really tiring for me," says Carol. "But we were determined. We've had to be, the accident put a total stop to things but we got it together again."

The album was recorded at Harlequin where, as a prize for winning Auckland's Battle of the Bands, they had six hours free studio time up their sleeves. The time amounted to virtually nothing when it came to getting six songs on vinyl, but the win probably had a lot to do with Harlequin boss Doug Rogers signing up the band to his own label, Ze Disc.

The three-year contract does not specify number or timing of future records but the band hopes to have something in the shops in March when they embark on their third major tour.

They are not too optimistic about the New Zealand scene picking up.

"I don't see how it can until the radio stations pitch in," says Carol. "All those records are being made but nothing is getting played. How can the public start to groove to New Zealand music when they never hear it?"

Television is not much better. Take the recent *Radio with Pictures* Auckland special for example. According to the Gurlz, that portrayed the Auckland scene very inaccurately.

"They only showed the bands that are making lots of money," says Greig. "There's a whole sub-group of bands playing regularly — This Sporting Life, Dabs, Prime Movers, us — none of them were on."

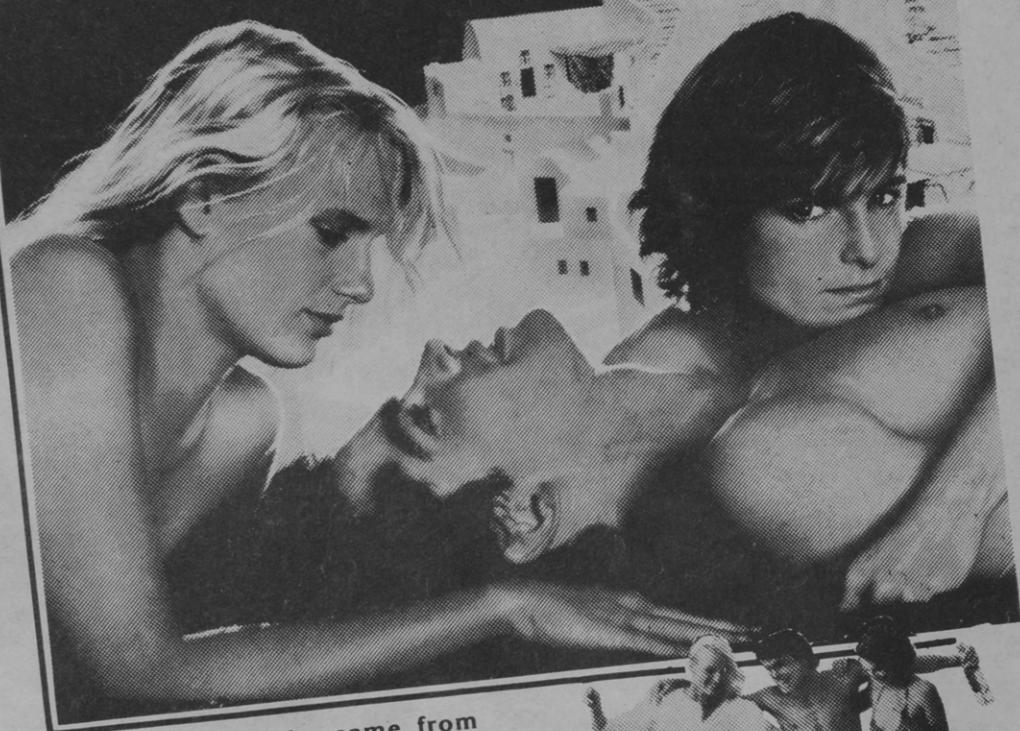
While they're still around, the Gurlz are happy to "take things as they come." They have a few pre-Christmas gigs lined up and during the summer plan to play at Whangarei and Doubtless Bay before Sweetwaters.

And if they need more work than that? "Something will turn up," says Carol. "We're lucky, something always falls into our laps."

Madeleine Sheahan

THE DIRECTOR OF  
"GREASE" AND "BLUE LAGOON"  
— NOW BRINGS YOU HIS MOST PROVOCATIVE MOVIE

## SUMMER LOVERS R16



Michael and Cathy came from America for one uncomplicated summer in the romantic Greek Islands...  
Lina, a French student enjoying the freedom of being alone...  
Together they find an experience far beyond their fantasies...

MUSIC BY  
THE POINTER SISTERS  
CHICAGO — ELTON JOHN  
TINA TURNER — HEAVEN 17

## THE HOTTEST MOVIE THIS SUMMER

A RANDAL KLEISER Production "SUMMER LOVERS" Starring PETER GALLAGHER, DARYL HANNAH, VALERIE QUENNESSON  
Co-Starring BARBARA RUSH, CAROLE COOK. Music Score by BASIL POLEDOURIS. Film Editor ROBERT GORDON.  
Executive Producer JOEL DEAN. Produced by MIKE MODER. Written and Directed by RANDAL KLEISER. Color by Technicolor.  
Soundtrack Album Available on WARNER BROS. RECORDS AND TAPES.  
©1982 Summer Lovers Associates. All Rights Reserved.

AT A  
KERRIDGE ODEON THEATRE  
NEAR YOU

EUROPE • INDIA •  
USA • ASIA • AFR  
ICA • AUSTRALIA

THE ALTERNATIVE TOURING IDEA FOR  
YOUNG BUDGET CONSCIOUS  
TRAVELLERS.

Our company, Top Deck Travel, operates customised double decker buses, with cooking, dining, sleeping and living facilities. And, we have a series of totally flexible itineraries spanning nearly 3/4 of the world, including Russia, Central America, and the famed Asian Overland route.

Interested? Call for your free brochure...

Going Places Travel  
155 Karangahape Rd.  
Box 68-261, Auckland  
Phone 790-886

BONDED MEMBERS OF T.A.A.N.Z.

# LAST LAUGH

G R E A T 8 T R A C K R E C O R D I N G S  
F O R H N E X T T O N O T H I N G  
P H 7 9 4 . 5 6 2