

'ZOO' FROM PAGE 4
live) are all showing interest, but the 'westies', to use the local term, are a breed apart and if you're not HM out there, you're nowhere. But Zoo are now playing more gigs in that region and coming home happy with a good response, a good indication that they're making headway.

Paul Scott returns, much relieved and takes over the conversation. We briefly discuss the change of name, which resulted from the legal action which forbade the use of the name Pop Mechanix in Australia. NZ Pop was only a stopgap, since the group couldn't really afford to tag itself as a New Zealand band, nor did it want to be labelled as a pop group. It took a long time to settle on a name that everyone liked. Scott says this, coupled with delays in getting the album out, has not helped the band's progress. Work began on it a year ago, with Eddie Rayner producing, but was aborted when Andrew Snoid quit.

"When we got the final takes back, we didn't like them at all," says Scott. "It wasn't the way we — the four of us — wanted to sound. It was too poppy, too light

and the drum sounds had been treated (over-produced)."

The album was remixed by John Wood, who's worked with the likes of John Cale, Squeeze and Fairport Convention.

"He's a guy who wants to reproduce a band as accurately as possible and that's what he did for us."

"The album's really a year old now and we couldn't change any of the songs, even though we could alter them from the rhythm section up. We're very satisfied with them now. The next one will be a lot more true to form, probably a bit harder."

The band has been doing plenty of writing recently and now has more than 70 songs in its repertoire. They'll be going back into the studios early in the New Year, either to put down a new single or an EP.

"What we wanted with this album was to make a statement of where the band stood at a particular point in time. That album has been fucked around with quite a lot because we've redone the vocals and a lot of the guitar and stuff like that, but all of us can listen to it and enjoy it and so to

us, it's a good album. The next album will probably seem quite a big leap, because there's something like two years of songwriting in between, plus the major change in lineup. But songs like 'Private Military' and 'Shah Yafir' will lead logically on to the next album and people will be able to see where we're heading."

How does the new material compare?

"It's hard to say, really. I think we've always been quite a rhythmic sort of band and there's a lot of syncopation in the new songs, although we don't let the rhythm overtake everything else. We haven't become a funk band."

We won't be seeing Zoo back home for some time. Now that things are starting to move, they've got to stay where they are and consolidate the interest that is building up. Their big summer gig will be in the New Year, at an alternative festival being staged at Gosford, up the north coast of New South Wales. Meanwhile, they're thinking of us all; they say hi, buy lots of copies of *Cowboys and Engines*, and have a Cool Yule.

Duncan Campbell

Rumours

UK & USA

Blondie have split, due to increasing solo commitments for Debbie Harry and Chris Stein, as well as poor album and concert ticket sales. Debbie has plans for another solo LP, while Stein has his new label, Animal Records ... more splits: **Teardrop Explodes** have called it a day. One more LP will be issued in the New Year. **Julian Cope** is working on a solo album and will also tour clubs. **Japan** will split for good when they finish touring commitments in Britain and the Far East. All are well involved in solo projects. **Gillan** have broken up because Ian has been ordered to rest his throat for at least nine months ... **Jerry Dammers** fined for dope possession ... currently playing in Britain is **Pistols**, a dramatic reconstruction of the band's last days, with look-alikes playing the songs live ... **Snowy White's** replacement in **Thin Lizzy** is John Sykes, ex Tygers of Pan Tang. Tentative title of new **Lizzy** LP is *Thunder and Lightning* ... **Michael Jackson** working on the storybook album of the film *E.T.* He narrates and sings a song, Quincy Jones produces ... **Stranglers** have signed to CBS, first single is 'European Female' ... **Haircut 100** deny split rumours ... the **Animals'** 'House of the Rising Sun' back in the UK charts. **Eric Burdon** currently starring in a film about a rock star, entitled *Comback* ... **Crass** anti-Falklands war song 'How Does It Feel (To Be The Mother Of 1000 Dead)?' officially cleared of obscenity charge brought by a Conservative MP ... **Who** supported the **Who** at their farewell gig at New York's Shea Stadium. The **Who** encores included 'Twist and Shout' and 'I Saw Her Standing There'. "John's pissed off about not touring," said Townshend, "and Kenny's not happy about it either — but me and Roger have definitely had enough." ... the **Jam** forced to add a fifth farewell show at London's Wembley Arena, due to public demand ... new **Human League** single is 'Mirror Man' / 'You Remind Me Of Gold', both titles by Phil Oakey, the A-side co-written with Jo Callis. New LP due early in the New Year ... **Classix**



Auckland's Dabs and Wellington's Mockers will tour holiday resorts Dec-Jan.

Nouveaux guitarist has been officially declared insane. He said he was nuts, to avoid military service in his native Finland. The authorities agreed, and Sumen is back in London with the band ... LP title of the year? *Rip It Up*, the newie for **Orange Juice** ... **Cozy Powell** now with **Whitesnake** ... **Cure's Robert Smith** again steps into the breach for the **Banshees** on tour, after collapse of guitarist John McGeoch. Nervous exhaustion was the diagnosis and Smith replayed his 1979 role, when the **Cure** supported **Sioux**, and he played both spots ... **Musical Youth** having difficulty touring, firstly through education demands, then protests from young fans who couldn't get to gigs at scheduled times ... **Yoko Ono** now signed to Polygram, which will release her new LP. She says the people in the company project 'a very nice vibe' ... last **Jam** single is a twin pack, main title being an original composition, 'Beat Surrender'. There are four other tracks, another original called 'Shopping' and covers of **Curtis Mayfield's** 'We're A Winner', **Edwin Starr's** 'War' and the **Chilites'** 'Stoned Out Of My Mind' ... the kids from the TV series *Fame* are touring Britain as a live act ... **Dire Straits** deny split rumours, **Mark Knopfler** says he just wants to work less and spend more time at home.

Forthcoming releases: **Toyah** *Warrior Rock* (live double set), **Curtis Mayfield** *Honesty*, **Millie Jackson** *Hard Times*, *Methods of Dance* (Virgin LP featuring unreleased material by **Rip Rig**, **DAF**, **Simple Minds**, **Culture**

Club, **BEF** and others), **Lene Lovich** *No Man's Land*, **Lionel Richie** (solo debut), **Roy Harper** *Work Of Heart*, **Marvin Gaye** *Midnight Lady*, **Phil Lynott** *The Phillip Lynott Album*, **Wah!** *The Maverick Years*, **Killing Joke** *Ha (live)*, **Musical Youth** *Youth Of Today*, **Dionne Warwick** *Heartbreaker*, **Bauhaus** *Press The Eject And Give Me The Tape* (live LP, previously a freebie), **J. Geils Band** *Showtime* (their third live set), **Samson** *Life on the Run*, **Foreigner** *Records* (compilation).

Wellington

Local record shop owner **Jim Moss** is about to blitz the country with vinyl from local bands out on Moss's own label, **Jayrem**.

Expect self titled debut EPs from **Precious** and **Unrestful Movements**. Also second EP from **Shadowfax**, *Life Underground*, a four track EP from **Body Electric** featuring a dub mix of 'Pulsing' and a 7" single from **Blue Movies**, 'Here Comes the Sun'. **Blue Movies** are 2ZM's December group of the month.

Moss is genuinely interested in listening to local bands and won't charge anything over actual costs. "Musicians should write and play music, not waste time and talent running around trying to promote and sell their records ... that's where people like myself can help out," says Moss. Interested? Send demo tapes and details to **Jayrem Records**, Box 3054, Wellington.

Spines also have EP on the way but have lost drummer **Tim Robinson** to the Neighbours.

Beat Rhythm Fashion have

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

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