

piece of it. It's tucked away in our hearts now. Marlene, you're the most dynamic person I know. Thankyou to all your family and friends who worked so hard — just because they love you. Thankyou for the magic.

Love from Rochelle, Wellsford.

Eddie Bedwetter

I always knew Pearl Jam were the wimpiest bunch of heavy mental posers on the face of the earth, but what a display of shallow, money raking, gobshite, tuneless antics they got up to in New Zealand. Ten thousand looney-tuned, partially deaf orangutans turned up for their useless concerts. (It was a great time to go out in Auckland!) And the bollocks ridden girlies bring on Tim and Neil Finn, two of the most crappiest Beatles imitators in Oceania. Kurt Cobain had guests like the Meat Puppets, Courtney Love, or the guy from the Vaselines, and Eddie Bedwetter has the Finn brothers. Next tour he might bring on Roger Gascoigne or Alistair Riddell. What a ponce. Plus he's a surfer, the lowest form of crustacea. What a git.

Eddie Vedder Drowns in Surf Accident Singing Message to My Girl to Tim Finn. The world couldn't give a toss. Throw your Pearl Jam records into the garbage. Are you sure he wasn't born in Henderson?

Merle H Thomas, Auckland.

Wishing Upon Stars

We are four Wellingtonians who want to move to Auckland. We think it's unfair how Aucklanders have all the major bands and they don't even care. We all like Purest Form and are dying for their album to come out. We always buy your mag hoping there'll be something in there about them — but there never is, so we thought we'd try a letter instead. We always hear about how they're in a Christmas show or an Easter show, but we can't just jump onto the next plane up to see them. We have to patiently sit in our homes, hoping it'll fill up our TV screens. So, you see, we'd be grateful if RIU could do a major 10 page article on them so we can read it and wish (again) we were right there with them, instead of watching our 'Message to My Girl' videos over and over and over... please!!!

CJ 'Pepa', La Teesha 'Matagi', Tami 'Leauanae', Kandy 'Tautai', Auckland (we wish).

My Two Cents

Having played the Auckland/Hamilton club circuit for the past five years now, I'd have to say, the state of the music industry is the worst it has ever been! Firstly, why do record labels persist in giving contracts to the likes of the 3Ds, Pumpkinhead, the Nixons and, my personal favourites, the Halleluiah Picassos — bands that

very clearly don't impress the average New Zealand rock punter, let alone the world!

Secondly, I'm getting completely disillusioned by the lack of venues open for original bands these days. What with the Gluepot being knocked down, the Blues Barn disappearing, the Mon Desir on its last legs and, my worst nightmare, the Powerstation being sold off to a crowd of Australian promoters who clearly do not want to promote local talent. Carmel, I will miss your straight up and down business methods as I'm sure many other New Zealand bands will.

Lastly, why is it that The Big Day Out, Mountain Rock and Strawberry Fields keep playing the same old boring bands who seem to rear their ugly heads at every major event, every god damn year! All I can say is what ever happened to bands such as Push Push and Nine Livez, who used to make a crowd walk out of a gig with a smile on their face, rather than an urge to kill themselves?

BB Lyons, Hamilton.

PS: I agree with Floyd of Waikato. After seeing Fat Mannequin open for the Cult at Wellington Town Hall, I think they are the best Pearl Jam tribute band I have ever seen!

Fat Fans

Hey Floyd of Waikato,

In response to your letter in April's RiptUp, my friend and I are writing to tell you where you can stick your farm boy opinion of William (Redneck?) Hickman.

Firstly, we'd like to point out you obviously don't quite comprehend the meaning of the word 'redneck', or the depth of the band name 'Fat Mannequin'.

Your letter was totally filled with bullshit comments on Hickman. We used to go to the same school as the band, and we know for a fact that Willy is not impersonating anyone, let alone Eddie Vedder.

An 'identity crisis' — as if! By the sound of things William's much more together than you'll ever be! 'Forging an accent' and 'pre-rehearsed headbanging' — whatever!

'Needs to gain weight' and 'anorexic' — you're the one with the psychological problem mate! You seem to have been having a low self esteem day when you wrote this letter.

Why did you even bother? Your letter was full of shit!

Smarter Than the Average Farm Boy, Wellington.

PS: Yes, the music does go off! Unfortunately, you don't.

Write to RiptUp Letters, PO Box 5689 Auckland 1 or fax us on (09) 376 1558



For Robert Scott of the Clean and the Bats, the records just keep coming — a Silverbeet here, a Modern Rock there, and now a brand new platter called Before We Go Under, made with the obviously Dunedin-based Magick Heads.

The original Magick Heads core cast, that featured Davids Saunders and Mitchell of the 3Ds, first formed in late 91, when Scott and Saunders spotted singer Jane Sinnott fronting a local covers band.

"She came off stage and we said: 'Do you want to be in a band?' That's basically how we started. We formed because Jane has a really good voice and we wanted to provide a vehicle for it."

A single, 'Back Of Her Hand', was released soon after, then Mitchell and Saunders waved goodbye when the 3Ds recording and touring commitments proved a clash of interests. Scott found himself in the same position with the Bats, so the Magick Heads have kept their collective heads down until now.

Before We Go Under was recorded at Fish Street Studio, and is heavily painted with Scott's trademark brand of catchy, charming pop; but this time it's given a more enchanting feel, made possible by Sinnott's dreamy vocals. Mind you, to the untrained ear, it can be hard to separate the Bat from the Head.

"It is a very fine line obviously, the fact that I do the writing for those bands, but there's just

something in the brain that makes me know if a song would be better for Jane to sing, whereas there might be other songs that would receive good Bats treatment. I can see how people would say the songs are interchangeable, but it's all about how you approach them."

One major striking factor of the new record is its cover, a beautiful photograph of two yellow-eyed penguins touching wings. Inside, the band have included an address for donations to help the endangered species. Nun bands don't have a much of a track record of pushing a cause do they?

"Yeah, it's very radical isn't it? I'm probably one of the last people that people would expect to do that. I'm very wary of politicking and flag waving by bands like Midnight Oil, but with the Magick Heads it's a bit more subtle and a bit more accidental in a way."

Scott will be back on the road this month, as the Magick Heads take to the cities and provinces to spread the word. He returns to Dunedin in June to begin making a new Bats album, and to oversee the completion of the next Clean record. Despite such a prolific output, he hasn't lost the thrill of seeing a new release in his hand.

"Luckily I do get excited. I think if I didn't it would be time to stop. If you put a lot of effort into a recording, which you do, then it came out and you weren't excited, then it's time to not be doing it any more. Yeah, luckily I do."

JOHN RUSSELL



Gene

Olympian

"Gene are the best hope we've got" Melody Maker 11.3.95

includes the singles 'Sleep Well Tonight' and 'Haunted By You'.

