



THE LUCK OF THE JUNGLE

Some bands, not many mind you, but some bands, they have all the luck. Auckland six-piece Jungle Fungus took one step from the studio to a record company, and that was that.

Upon completion of their forthcoming three-track single 'Crushed', the boys in the band — Tom (drums), Andy (bass), Josiah (guitar), Bryan (vox), Harris (alto sax) and Bruno (tenor sax) — knocked out a list of record companies they wanted to bail up, in order to get the record into the shops and onto the airwaves. First on the list was Roadshow Music, and in a virtually unheard of scenario, Roadshow said: 'We'll do it.' Jungle Fungus had scored a record contract after knocking on just one door.

Despite this stroke of good fortune, and also having had two feature articles on the band published in *Pavement* magazine, Tom says it hasn't just been smooth sailing since Jungle Fungus formed in 1993.

"I don't think it has been that easy, but we seem to have done it. You always feel like someone is pushing you back, but that's what you've got to expect when you're first starting. I've felt consistently for the past two years that bFM has given us no support, and it's really only because none of us or our friends work there. It's such an inbred thing, because people in bands who work there get their stuff played."

Andy: "bFM are great, but it would be good if they were a bit more open. They have stopped a lot of bands from getting airplay. It does seem that you need a contact there."

Tom: "They didn't play Supergroove for a long time, until they couldn't ignore them."

Jungle Fungus share more than just a lack of first time airplay with the globe-trotting Supergroove. Both Tom and Josiah's old brothers are part of the award winning combo, although witnessing their uprising hasn't made Jungle

Fungus desperate to jump on the first available flight out.

Tom: "I don't care if we don't make it big, because we'll still be making the rad music we want to. I got offered the chance to play drums in Supergroove, and after three weeks I thought: 'Fuck it! I don't want to play drums in a Supergroove covers band,' 'cause that's what it felt like for me. When I was playing, I was told exactly what to play."

Andy: "What we're doing is a lot of hard work, and I'm prepared to work nine to five, and live in a stink, grubby flat, as long as Jungle Fungus remains as rad as it is for me. I think we all feel that way, and feel pretty happy. The whole thing from the very beginning has been one big saga, but it's good because it means we'll have a lot to talk about when we're old men."

JOHN RUSSELL



Garageland at work (left), and at play.

MIND YOUR LANGUAGE

There's more to the unassuming Auckland band Garageland than meets the eye. For starters, they're the first Flying Nun band to sport a big ol' Parental Advisory: Explicit Lyrics label on the cover of their record.

They're not a group that advocates killing cops or anything, but 'Struck', the second track on their five-song EP *Comeback Special*, boasts the word 'fucked' four times, and the inspired line, 'Billy Joel is an asshole', twice. Little to cause a fuss over, you'd assume, but someone in the Australian pressing plant thought otherwise, and the EP was returned with the warning label. It was an unexpected twist, according to Garageland's singer-guitarist Jeremy Eade.

"It was a complete shock, but it's a joke, isn't it? It just seems ridiculous. Without wanting to get too precious about it, it's almost kind of insulting that someone can say: 'Explicit lyrics, look out, this could be harming your children.'"

Few reports filtered through of minors being corrupted when Garageland first courted public attention with a series of demos playlisted on Auckland's bFM. Collectively, 'Nude Star' and 'Pop Cigar' spent over three months in the station's Top 10, and 'Struck' was Number 1 for five weeks at Hamilton student station Contact 89. After a succession of high profile supports slots, interest in the band was peaking.

"We had a great run of demos on bFM and we started to get played around the country. We needed to get something out there for people to listen to, and the plan was just to release the stuff ourselves. The thing about Garageland is that we really don't exist within the Auckland music scene, so we didn't really talk to any music people at all about releasing our stuff. Then, one day Lesley Paris [of Flying Nun] asked to hear a tape, so we flicked one

up just before Christmas."

At the time, Nun founder Roger Shepherd, currently based in London, was back in New Zealand to accept an Export Recognition Award from Trade Enz. He and Paris had a brief huddle, which resulted in Flying Nun giving Garageland the thumbs up.

"Flying Nun are perfect for us," says Eade.

The other 'more than meets the eye' aspect of Garageland is that the present personnel — Eade, Mark Silvey on bass, Debbie Silvey on guitar, Andrew Gladstone on drums — have messed about together, on and off stage, for the past 12 years; most notably at long gone Auckland club The Venue, run by Rus Le Roq (actor Russell Crowe).

"It was fun at the time, but we had other things to do. We weren't old enough to really keep concentrated on it. It was just kid-80s pop."

Individual members drifted apart, went separate ways, journeyed to find themselves, whatever, before Eade reunited with Gladstone and Mark Silvey in 1992, while Debbie Silvey signed up again a year later. The rest, you know about.

The major event in Garageland's immediate future is an 10 day tour of Australia this month, with label mates Loves Ugly Children and King Loser. Eade's been there once before: "I won a raffle to Sydney." Once back home, they'll begin work on an album. Until its release, Eade says: "We'll just fucking play a lot."

Did he say 'fucking'? Thankfully, some people will never learn.

JOHN RUSSELL



THE SML IS, IS, IS, IS

NIGEL JON TOM

ALBUM OUT AUG 7

WILD side FESTIVAL

SML. is that it?

WILD side FESTIVAL