

taking care of business

IMPPA Forum

The Independent Music Performers & Producers Association is running an inexpensive one-day forum "Making A Living Making Music" Monday August 21 at the Auckland Downtown Convention Centre. Admission is \$20 and topics covered will be the Music Market, Independent Recording, Live Music and the Music industry. For more information phone (09) 479-7179 or write to IMPPA, PO Box 68593, Newton, Auckland 1.

Flying Fish New Zealand Music Video Awards

The 1995 Flying Fish Video Music Video Awards were held at Antipodes in Wellington on July 15, the winners were:

Best Director: Jo Fisher & Sigi Spath Jr ('You Gotta Know' Supergroove)

Runner Up Director Best Video: Jonathan King ('Otherwise' Semi Lemon Kola)

The Knack Award: Gregory Page ('Food' Five Girls)

Craft Award DOP: Sigi Spath Jr ('You Freak Me' Supergroove)

Craft Award Editor: Jonathan Venz ('Otherwise' Semi Lemon Kola)

MCA In New Zealand

George Ash is the new GM for USA record company **MCA** when they open offices as a stand-alone company in New Zealand on October 1. MCA has been operating in Australia since January with 25 employees. MCA will be a marketing operation with have a staff of six people. The sales and distribution roles will remain with BMG where George Ash worked as International Repertoire Manager until July 28. Recently Canadian alcohol giant **Seagrams** purchased majority ownership of the MCA Corporation. MCA are in broadcasting and movies in the USA as well as music. The MCA Record company expanded in 1990 with the purchase of the **Geffen** label (Guns N Roses, Nirvana, Sonic Youth, Aerosmith) and more recently MCA has financed the set-up of two new labels headed by former **Warner Music** executives **Bob Krasnow** and **Doug Morris** and MCA has also signed David Geffen's new labels **Dreamworks** and **SRG**.

Grant Hislop in Heat

Former **Rock93FM** owner and programmer **Grant Hislop** is now Chief Executive for **SM Network**, concert promoter **Stewart MacPherson's** radio company. The Heat is now known as **The Box 91.7** (chart) and on August 7 another Wellington station **The Quake 97.5** (new rock) will start broadcasting. An SN Network station will broadcast on the Gulf FM frequency later this year.

Strictly Rhythm to Triton Music

The New York dance label **Strictly Rhythm** will be distributed in New Zealand by Triton, the local distributor of the **Naxos** classical label and **Larrikin** Entertainment. The first release is DJ / producer George Morel collection *Morel Inc NYC Jam Session*. Vocalists on the album include Ce Ce Rogers, Tafuri and M.J. White. Triton are at (09) 379-7999.

Changes at Warner Music

Major changes have taken place at Warner Music with the resignation of **Lisa Williams** (to return to law) and **Steve Booth** (to freelance marketing work). The new Label / Marketing / Promotions managers are **Jonathan Hughes** (ex HKM ad agency, ex Fine Young Cannibals management, ex Polygram) and **Vanessa Mihaljevich** (ex EMI, ex Warners). Hughes will look after Warner Bros, Elektra and WEA UK labels while Mihaljevich will look after the Atlantic, East West and Roo Art labels. There is talk of another appointment in the P.R. dept.

Musical Chairs

With **George Ash** leaving **BMG** to set up **MCA Kirk Harding** is now International & Local Repertoire Manager and **Diana Schnauer** now has the title Promotions Manager. **Gary Fortune** has moved from sales to the promotions dept ... **Festival's** Auckland salesperson **Daren Humphries** has moved to BMG. **Mike Dunn** has moved from Festival phone sales to take over Daren's work and receptionist (and sometimes BFM host) **Renee Jones** has moved to phone sales ... **Sandii Riches** after resigning from Mushroom has joined **Francis Travel Marketing** as Sales & Marketing Executive and is in Thailand as we go to press.

Yellow Bike Record Cutting

RiptUp jumped the gun last month by publicising the availability of a record pressing machine operated by Palmerston North label Yellow Bike. The commercial side of the venture won't be up and running for approx six months, so hold all calls. We'll keep you posted.

IMD Releases

Dunedin indie IMD will release the following albums in August / September — **Gate Golden**, **Trash Mihiwaka**, **Swarm Forever Bled Hollow** and **Suka Nimrodiabolique**. Later in the year expect a compilation album and releases from the **Puddle** and **Graeme Downes**. IMD are at PO Box 730, Dunedin. Phone (03) 477-4125.

CMJ Music Marathon

This year's 15th Anniversary CMJ Music Marathon & Music Fest takes place September 6 to 9 at the Avery Fisher Hall, New York. Since the demise of the New Music Seminar, CMJ will be even bigger this year. Australasian representatives are Big Backyard at Sydney 360-4574.

Uncharted NZ Music

The **NZ On Air** funded *Uncharted NZ* music show continues to profile Kiwi music weekly. The broadcast times around the country are: **BFM** (Auckland) Friday 11.30am & Wed 9pm; **Contact 89FM** (Hamilton) Sunday 6pm & Mon & Wed 10.30am; **99.4FM** (Palmerston North) Mon 7.30pm & Wed 7.30pm; **Active 89FM** (Wellington) Fri 11am, Sat 5pm & Tues 9.55pm; **98 RDU** (Christchurch) Wed 10pm; **Radio One** (Dunedin) Fri 11am & Wed 7pm.



The Outlook for Barry Saunders

Hailing originally from Christchurch, Barry Saunders has lived the life of a musical troubadour: Australia, England, touring non-stop with the Warratahs (the band he fronted throughout the 80s), and now based in Wellington's Breaker Bay, "just near where the Wahine sunk". This month he releases his first self-penned solo record, *Weatherman*. Barry's got a bad dose of a flu he picked up in Queensland the week before, but sitting in Pagan Records' white interview room, he tells how the road, the seasons, and the songs have been falling for him.

Firstly, what happened to the Warratahs?

"Well, the band had two songwriters: myself and Wayne [Mason]. It was a bit like two people trying to paint on the same canvas. It worked for a long time, and then it didn't. The Warratahs were a lot of things, but primarily, I think it was a dance band — a show band style dance band — a good one. But this record isn't like that. This is more song based."

Weatherman is quite a melancholy album.

"Yeah, very much. I was taking a good look at things last year, when most of the songs were written. I do my sums every now and then, and this album is a product of that. I also realised that if I wanted to keep on doing what I was, I needed to pull finger and get on with it. Change too... you know, with the band stopping and not being part of that family. I mean, things weren't constant, they were inconstant. That's what the song 'Brave Face' was about... I mean, some days you just hope you don't run into anyone you know because you just can't look them in the face."

Do you like the road?

"I like it a lot — the travelling and that. I like to see the changes in the seasons."

Do you think things have changed much around the country generally?

"Things seem a little more comfortable, yeah. But then, I'm affected by the same things that other people are affected by, like economics and stuff, I don't need a lot of money to live. One thing that has changed, though, is the emergence of the cafe scene. I mean, I came up through the pub scene — the booze barn thing — and then, once you started drinking, you just went for it [laughs]. Now you see people just hanging out."

What about the title *Weatherman*?

"Titles are important to me, and I had this album and no title. So, I went through all the songs and found this theme of weather, the elements kept coming up. Also, there were a

lot of changes in the weather for me last year. Living in Breaker Bay also helped inspire that."

Many of the songs seem built around certain situations or locations.

"Yeah, well 'Olio' [the breezy end note to the album] was written about a taxi driver that picked me up three times in a row two Christmases ago. It's a song about someone working, just doing their job."

"'Winter Sun', that was written in Canterbury. That's an airport song. I was standing there watching this plane fly up into the sun, against the alps. Someone else was in the plane."

"'You Can't Go Back' came from staying in a hotel around where I used to live in Sydney. I lived in Sydney for three years and it became a home to me. So, there I was, standing on a balcony of this hotel and being able to see the house I used to live in, and there's somebody else's washing on the line. It was just an observation really."

"And 'Reverina' was a song I wrote about the old, beautiful pub in Hamilton, where the Warratahs used to play, and about the things that used to go on there... you know: 'Get up tonight / Put on my clothes,' and go out and play. They've since pulled it down."

Any hints on how to get those songs written? "Get the old antennae up and let them come along."

On *Weatherman*, they do come. These 10 songs (all but one — a cover of Johnny Cash's 'I Walk the Line', which Barry chose because he particularly likes the opening lines: 'I keep a close watch, on this heart of mine / Keep my eyes open all the time' — original) chart a year or so in the life of one of our most under rated songwriters. He's a man who takes inspiration from Jimmie Rodgers, who was, himself, no stranger to the road. A weatherman you can trust.

GREG FLEMING