

N.Z. Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame

Jumbo Cluney



was never really determined, it was a sturdy hotel bed which survived a Cluney one night stand. Among those to work with Cluney was weathered rock star "Dick" Dribbler.

"I remember Jumbo," said Dribbler, waving his walking stick enthusiastically. "New Year's Eve in Taupo. The whole bloody pub's been condemned for years and we've got 4000 bloody waits and there's bits of plaster falling on the tables and the floor's sagging. Jumbo spends the whole night holding up the stack with one arm and fighting off the local bikie gang who're trying to flog the power amps for their clubhouse. And the whole time he's got a 40-ounce of Johnny Walker clenched in his teeth. What a roadie, why... gurgle... splutter..."

As his reputation grew, Jumbo worked only with the biggest of bands. Indeed, it was only these acts who could afford to keep him in whisky, hamburgers and amphetamine sulphate.

But in all his time on the road no one can ever recall seeing Jumbo shave, sleep or wash. Some claimed he never changed his clothes either, but since he only ever wore filthy jeans and black T-shirts it was hard to tell. He had a habit of disappearing for a couple of months every year, during which time it was presumed he did these things.

But just as it seemed Jumbo was about to make the big time, he drank three bottles of whisky after a Queenstown gig and announced he was going swimming in the icy waters of Lake Wakatipu. Legless band members were unable to stop him. Jumbo never came back.

But ever since then crates of scotch have disappeared with regularity from local pubs and locals tell of seeing a huge black shape break the calm lake surface. But that's just for tourists...

When the legends of Kiwi rock are recalled, too often forgotten are the men who made it all roll — the roadies. Road crew feats are legion within the business, but when crews gather round the house bar to practise standing up, one name dominates the stories — that of Jumbo Cluney.

Now time has of course inflated the myths but even the most cynical would have to admit Jumbo was quite a man. He stood over six feet and, although his weight

Live

Peking Man, Step Chant Unit Hillcrest, March 15.

A half-filled pub on a wet Thursday night in Hamilton, the forgotten city. Things can't get much worse — or so I thought.

Step Chant Unit come complete with all the high-tech and mod cons — right down to flashy Simmons drums. The Music. Well, what can I say? Bland, melodic synth, accompanied by effects-riddled bass, add some crisp synth drums — and promptly fall asleep. A massive wash of new wave melodic noise with songs that were far too long and completely unmemorable. Sorry people — back to the computer bank.

By the time Peking Man came on the pub had filled, the air had thickened and my mood had started to brighten.

Bright, tight, strong funk stuff. The first song was great. The crowd starts to move. As for the second song, wasn't that the first one? 'Sister Midnight' should have been left for Iggy and from here on things went rapidly downhill.

Lack of diversity seemed to be a major problem with both of these bands. They fit into a particular mould and do very little to deviate from it. I know it's hard but, gee, come on and give it a go

Anthony Nevison

The Axemen Otago Uni, March 2.

Axemen play wet lunch — it

could have been rock'n'roll history — in fact it was vaguely disappointing. McCabe, Brannigan and Kowalski had driven down from Christchurch the night before and had had little sleep. Compared to the potential manic fury of their twin axe attack they were manifestly tame. But no matter — the Axemen are all about being bad — they're a *baaad* band.

Formed last year out of the rotting remains of a hundred other Sydenham psychedelic sicknesses, the hatchet-handed three recruited a bass player (Mick) and proceeded to conquer the world with NOISE. The Axemen are a sound and a philosophy. Their sound is distortion taken to new limits. Their philosophy is do it yourself, even to the point of making your own equipment (they simply can't buy

gear bad enough). All this, plus they are pioneers on the home cassette thing — McCabe is a survivor of nearly four years with the Gorillas, Pete and his Pigeons, the Tokin' Blacks, etc. So, if their cassettes aren't in your record shop, write to Axemen, PO Box 2764, Christchurch, for a listing. Be the first kid on your block with an Axemen cassette, play it to your friends and you'll be the *only* kid on the block. Bruce Russell

The Rip Empire, March 9.

After two years of supports, this weekend was the first time that the Rip had ever played as the major act. This reflects more their lack of career-sense than lack of

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