

Able Tasmans a la the EP: (L-R) Peter Kean, Craig Baxter, Graeme Humphreys, David Beniston.



Tasmans Able . . .

The Able Tasmans have sort of grown and grown. Not just materially — from a bass-keyboards two-piece, to a three-piece and now four —

but musically.

They've made the leap from being regarded as a manic novelty dance band with a manic novelty keyboard player

to something more substantial, and the debut EP *The Tired Sun* shows still more depth and variety in new songs and the treatment of live faves.

The manic keyboard player is Graeme Humphreys, a shortish, hyperactive chap with an affection for quantum theory and Carl Sagan. "Doing the EP last April was a turning point," he says. "It was the start of a lot of different songs coming in."

The recording saw the inviting in of Peter Kean, who now sings and plays a bit of guitar on a permanent basis with Humphreys, bass player Dave Benniston and drummer Stuart Greenway (replacement for original member Craig Baxter, who has departed for Australia in search of work as a professional animator).

Kean and Humphreys met when the former was part of Raucous Laughter, one of those lineups which must be born, grow up and die all the time in the wilds of suburban Auckland. Somewhat "ahead of their time", RL really only ever got it together to record a rather good demo tape at Harlequin. The Able

Tasmans play two songs from the tape (and want to release the original recording of one, 'Michael's', as a single flip to their own 'Buffalos') and Humphreys and Kean are now writing together.

Other developments include Humphreys stepping back from the 'boards to play guitar sometimes, and an alter ego for the Tasmans, the Ogdens. The Ogdens indulge pre-pubescent musical imprinting with respectful covers of stuff like Michael Nesmith's 'Joanne' and Kenny Rogers' 'Ruby'. Right up your street, if you can stan' it ...

Until now the Able Tasmans haven't ventured south of Wellington, but a hiking holiday has left Humphreys full of enthusiasm for ventures across the Strait, probably in mid-March. They should go down a storm, because with all the musical developments, the basic infectiousness hasn't left the band — they've managed to keep the good bits whilst adding new ones. And last words from the man who loves both his own cat Nelson and Schroedinger's feline?

"A little Greenhouse Effect is a good thing ..."
Russell Brown

Tribunal Overrides Objections to Student Radio

Longer hours for Auckland's Campus Radio BFM will be the result of a surprise turnaround by the Broadcasting Tribunal last week.

The Tribunal decision represents a remarkable reversal of fortunes for Campus, which late last year was under threat from a BCNZ-sponsored objection seeking to severely limit its hours of broadcast. The objection seemed to be behind an initial Tribunal decision to refuse BFM permission to extend its hours (a move made possible by its new, dependable FM equipment). But Campus asked again and, surprise, it has now been granted permission to broadcast 7am-1am on weekdays and 24 hours at weekends — all year round.

And the new Tribunal decision is frank about the body's opinion of the Broadcasting Corporation and the supposed beneficiary of the objection, 1ZM. It notes the Corporation trying to back down on its initial objection with a later letter, but: "The BCNZ had clearly opposed the application and

still requests a shortening of hours ..."

It also commented on the way 1ZM had "eschewed" its assigned role to "provide public service broadcasting free from commercial objectives ... It is therefore surprising that it should seek to limit the student station, unless it was because of the embarrassment caused by the student station fulfilling some needs which ought to have been met by public radio."

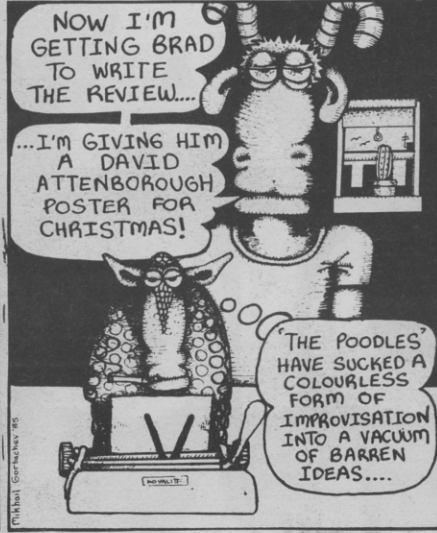
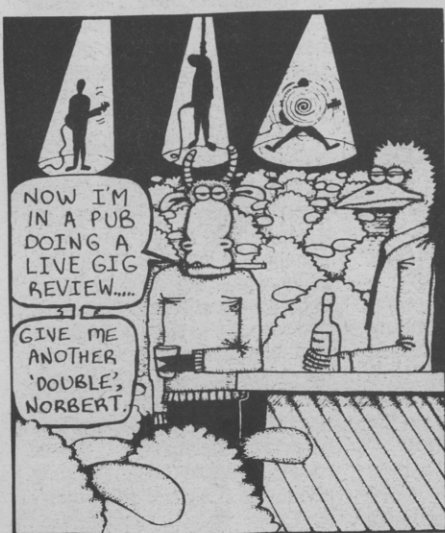
Also contained in a frankly encouraging document is an acknowledgement of a large number of letters from listeners "which, to say the least, indicated a loyal and committed following which disdained much of the mass audience mainstream programming epitomised by other stations including 1ZM."

And as for the Corporation's claim that the station was no longer specifically student-orientated: "If the station attracts wider audiences by providing alternative music (as distinct from setting out to adopt a format and style directly competitive with commercial warrant-holders) we can see no result adverse to the public interest."

Two commercial stations had written expressing support for Campus, it said: "No doubt the applicant would be even more encouraged if the commercial radio stations in Auckland were actually to assist and support or even help finance the student station as an indication of their commitment to broadcasting outside their profit-centred activities."

All in all, a decision that bodes well for student radio as a whole.
RB

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'INXS' FROM PAGE 1

get to 'matter'. We've got to the stage now internationally where we kind of matter in one way or another and from now on we'll just try and continue on that level. I feel good about what we've done already, what we are doing. It's not a *Spinal Tap* world domination trip, it's a really continued process, doing what we started doing in pubs, only now on an international basis. We're proud of being an 'international' band being based in Australia."

You had a big hit a year or two back with a song called 'Send A Message'. Does INXS have a message?

"We have many messages. Each time we do an album they change. On this album we've got songs about everything from smack to war, a bit of sex and love and lust in between. Most of the messages are about people, aimed at people."

"Ultimately, I believe in the individual."
Brendan Fitzgerald

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