

Mebourne's New Zealand Music Show are looking for new Christchurch sounds for the station. Call RDU for details ... any rumours, phone Hat on (03) 379-6320.
HAT

DUNEDIN

In case anyone is in any doubt, it is bloody cold down here. That doesn't seem to have slowed things down too much on the music front though ... **Sammy's** is finally set to close, after threatening to do so for some time. Sadly, the final, final gig will be of local covers bands, but the night before that is a so-called *Alternative Night*, featuring 10 alternative bands, including **3Ds**, **Chug**, **the Puddle**, **Suka**, **the Veraines**, **Runt**, **Cheeseband**, **the Renderers** and more ... New Label **Self Recordings** is to launch itself at the Empire on September 2, with performances by **Alastair Galbraith**, **Sandra Bell** and **Darryl Baser**, who is releasing his six song cassette EP *Subliminal Reactive Catharsis* as **SF 001** ... **Sandra Bell** is to tour soon, to promote her new CD *Net*, with **Sally McDonald** playing bass in place of **Kathy Bull**, who is unable to leave town ... two bands have arrived in town recently with already completed CDs in hand, **Barb Waters** and **the Rough Diamonds** have arrived from Australia, and are looking for a drummer and keyboard player. **Pivotal** and their CD *Usurper* have been in town for a couple of months, and have been well received by local crowds, with several of their songs being currently played on Radio One ... local high school band **Doyle** impressed everyone except the judges at the *Smokefree Rock Quest*, and hope to be playing some support gigs soon. With their self released cassette having been snapped up, and songs on the radio, they are a band to watch out for ... most beautiful Geraldine pressing to come my way recently comes from **Donald McPherson** from Ravensbourne — a low-fi masterpiece. Hopefully he will do a larger pressing next time, ie. more than 20 ... **Crude** are to release a seven inch Geraldine pressing on Trinder, with an overseas vinyl 10" or 12 inch pressing to come later in the year ... scary band **Drugs vs. Grandchildren** have also done the Geraldine thing with their new 12 inch release ... **IMD** have finished recording their compilation of Dunedin artists, which will be coming out September-ish. The album includes new songs by: **Suka**, **Swarm**, **Martin Phillips**, **Trash**, **David Kilgour**, **High Dependency Unit**, **Jay Clarkson**, **Chug**, **the Renderers**, **Human Soup** (D Mitchell, D Roughton, A Galbraith), **Bob Scott**, **Kathy Bull**, **Tane Griffin**, **Graeme Downes** and **Body Bomb** ... **Swarm**, **Suka** and **the Veraines** returned from their national tour, getting good crowds and several strains of flu along the way ... **Snort** are completing their single at Volt Studios as part of their prize package as winners of *Operation Music Storm* ... with the departure of bass player **Nathan Judge** to Nelson, the remnants of **Bungalow** have formed a new band with drummer James T Kirk (ex-King Loser etc.) ... dance bar Bath St. recently had a successful live gig, with **Mink** playing from 2 till 5AM ... the Crown has just knocked out some walls especially for the upcoming **Shihad** gig ... **Runt** are busy promoting their debut CD ... **Jay Clarkson** is off to tour to promote Fyng Nun's rerelease of her *Packet* CD ... if you have any information for this column, phone David on (03) 477-4125.

DAVID MUIR

Live

THE NIXONS, BIC RUNGA, SPLITTER Squid, Auckland, June 30.

It was a night on the likes of which one needed a bloody good incentive to leave the house. It was cold. It was wet. The **Nixons** were holding their *Special Downtime* release party. Actually, the latter fact proved incentive enough for me to face the former two, and it certainly proved worth the trip.

Splitter were up first. They're a four piece with a similar sound to frontman Andrew Thorne's previous band, **Thorn**. Thorne (with an E — the man, not the band) peddles a fine range of melodic guitar lines. 'Oxygen' stood out most clearly in my memory. All this pretty noise really was a rather pleasant way to get things started — although it proved to be a case of getting the evening rolling, rather than kicking it off, if you get my drift.

The pace slowed down, but the emotion turned up, when a very nervous looking **Bic Runga** took centre stage. With her vocals usually kicking in on the first strum of her acoustic guitar, the transformation from shaky to totally controlled, which occurred when she was actually performing, was substantial. Runga is a captivating solo performer, who was warmly received, despite her concern that the audience was not a very noisy one. I know 'Drive' will be haunting my head for weeks to come.

The **Nixons'** arrival was heralded by a lazy *Pink Panther* jam slinking from the speakers. Red light and lots of smoke completed the atmosphere perfectly. Tonight was the **Nixons'** night, and bassist Mike Scott was determined to make the audience live up to it for them. He dished out a japestry line in Aussie pub-rock-style audience baiting, with his tongue a little too loose to be planted firmly in cheek, but it was obvious that was where it was intended to be. In sharp contrast to this tom-foolery, the **Nixons** set to delivering their unique brand of aural atmospherics: clean and airy on top,

revealing a sinister underbelly when poked at. In short, it's yummy, in a scary sort of way.

'Down With a D' was lazily momentous, with drugged up keyboards underscoring the feeling. 'A World of My Own' was as electrifying as the strobes which lit it. 'Eye TV' sounded like it was being sung from a spaceship. When the ingenious 'Basement Static' was played, Sean Sturm's guitar/vocals hand in the proceedings threatened to overshadow anything which followed. Then the band exploded into the gleaming shards of 'Tick Tock' (with the Stereo MCs' 'Connected' chorus inserted), and assured nobody would consider switching off.

Luke Casey is the **Nixons'** new drummer. Not only does he kick ass, but he also does a good line in Roy Orbison covers, which was proven when he took over the vocals for a cover of 'Mystery Girl'. This was followed by a cover which filled my evening to a T — 'Suffragette City' — so I ended up very glad I'd left the house.

I hadn't been this intrigued by a New Zealand gig since the **Straitjacket Fits** split up. I was lying in bed thinking this as the sun rose, when 'Basement Static' was followed by Radiohead's 'My Iron Lung' on the radio. I noted the similarities, then drifted off to sleep. It was a strange, but not entirely unpleasant, trinity to dream of (Sturm, Shayne Carter and Thom Yorke, that is).

BRONWYN TRUDGEON

CHRIS ISAAK

Logan Campbell Centre, Auckland, July 20

"Ladies and gentlemen," the man says over the PA, "from Stockton California... Chris Isaak and Silverstone." If you think that signals the beginning of a good old-fashioned rock and roll show, you'd be darn tootin' right.

Despite a lacklustre crowd and surprisingly low volume (you could sometimes hear rain on the roof during songs), Chris Isaak and his band rocked. Dressed in a range of cool suits (the bands' matched, Chris' was flashier), they played their hearts out through a set of old and new material — most of the hits, and quite a few old gems (though not a couple of my fav's), including 'You Owe Me Some Kind of Love', off the second album. The crowd cheered extra loud every time it sounded like it was going to be 'Wicked Game', and of course, eventually it was.

Chris appeared to sometimes slip into well-rehearsed between-song gags, but his band (some of who have been with him for 10 years) were firing spontaneously, especially when they jammed longer on a few numbers. The minder even seemed genuinely surprised and alarmed when Chris jumped into the crowd and played during a song.

Most remarkable is just how good that voice is live — he's got the goods all right — soaring effortlessly between the aching high notes and a bass rumble, letting rip with a rockin' yell. Guitar-wise too, Chris really can play his songs, handling much of the lead himself.

After the first encore, Chris came back on in a mirror suit (as seen in the 'Two Hearts' video) and wasn't afraid to scuff it with a few more energetic numbers, including Bo Diddley's 'Diddley Daddy'. The second encore closed the night with a big, breathtaking 'Blue Spanish Sky', featuring Johnny Reno on sax.

Lame crowd, horrible room, great band, great show.

JONATHAN KING

MUTTONBIRDS, ALT

Glastonbury Music Festival 1995, Somerset, England.

At a three day festival, Saturday morning might be 'bad hair day', but Sunday morning is more like 'bad headache day', and most definitely the worst slot to play at Glastonbury. But the Muttonbirds took to the NME Stage at 10.45AM, and bravely played their 35 minutes worth to a gathering of 50 loyal Antipodeans.

'Anchor Me' was the second to last number, and after another forgettable song featuring a French horn, the set finally droned to an end, with Don saying: "Thank you for having us."

Clearly, the 'Birds haven't got the songs — those big songs that can fill arenas. Their introverted songs about being lonely in your bedroom and walking around in the middle of the night worrying are hardly helped by the weak vocal delivery, and are perhaps more suited to a pub type venue. When it comes to attitude, or 'attitood', the Muttonbirds seem a little lost for words, and "thankyou for having us" doesn't really count. With the likes of **Elastica**, **Menswear**, the **Charlatans** and **Dodgy** commanding the NME Stage over the weekend, playing their sets of slamming 2.5 minute pop songs-with hooks big enough to hang a coat on, the Muttonbirds clearly have to decide if they are going to set up camp in Seattle with the fast fading grunge league, or tune in to what is happening with English pop.

ALT, on the other hand, were perfectly in their element performing on the Acoustic Stage, set up inside a huge circus marquee. The indoor setting gives the advantage of an instant atmosphere. While other performers play squinting into sunlight on the outdoor stages, the Acoustic Stage, along with the Avalon Stage (folk and Celtic), can use their lighting rigs from the first song. The direct contact with the audience can work like magic.

The crowd which had gathered on Sunday had been expecting a solo set from Evan Dando of the **Lemonheads**, but apparently he couldn't be found. Although a large fan base of young girls left as soon as this was announced, many people stayed. Many more were arriving to see Billy Bragg, who was on after ALT. Billy B may be out of the public eye these days, but he has a large and loyal following, and was playing a record breaking sixth *Glastonbury*.

At 2.30pm, Tim rushed on stage, explaining he was having to tear himself away from the rugby (South Africa versus New Zealand) while the score was nine each at half-time. With an immediate rapport established, an appreciative crowd of about 2,000 were soon enchanted by the skill of these three professionals playing a handful of fantastic new songs.

Tim played drums on many of them, and guitar or keyboards on others, as well as providing the middle voice in many of the three-part harmonies. In a 40 minute set, they moved easily from one musical style to another, with a bit of Celtic folk, a tribal chant/rhythm, a funky groove and plenty of pure pop. After they left the stage and the applause had died down, someone behind me said: "That was world class," without any trace of an Antipodean accent.

Up next was Billy Bragg, who was greeted like a hero, while poor Evan Dando was booed off after two songs, when he finally took to the stage later in the day. Some people get the mix of time, venue, music and crowd at *Glastonbury* perfectly right. This year, ALT was one of them.

TONY RICHARDS

WINTER PUNK FEST: SLAMBODIA,

DOGBITE, DREADSTAYNE

July 14, Pod, Auckland.

Just when you thought it couldn't get any wetter, the god of weather gave us even more of the same. Going out on this night, when many of the main roads were flooded out, required determination, resolve and extra stiff mohawk hair gel on the part of punk punters.

Faced with a choice between another bowl of 59 cent noodles beside the glorious warmth of a partially functioning, one bar heater in the litter strewn inner suburban lounges, or the Punk Fest, a hundred or so bods chose the latter, and were probably happy they did so.

Put on by the illustrious Jim Ramsay of *Headbanger's Ball* fame, the gig kicked off with Slambodia's nasty odes to angst. A fair proportion of the assembled masses immediately began moshing to the foursome's three minute wonders — 'Inside Your Head', 'AK Shits Me', 'Beating Off' and 'Monkey Cap' — before the lead singer stepped back, wheezing from asthma. No matter, the band carried on with ass-clenchingly tight intensity through 'My Uncle John' and 'Step One', before the now-able-to-breathe-again vocalist rejoined to give us a few more songs with '1,2,3,4' or 'Oi! Oi!' as the chorus. The crowd, predictably, loved 'em.

If Slambodia is the old parading as the new, then Dogbite is the old happy to be little more than the old. Essentially a covers band, these three members of the former Punk 'N' Disorderly admittedly do their covers very well. Serving up a veritable jukebox (circa 1983) of sing along favourites by the likes of the Dead Kennedys, the Pistols and Stiff Little Fingers, the lads did manage to stamp a mark of originality on their pre-loved set list by throwing in a couple of tunes of their own. 'Pet Mince', in particular, shone. More originals please.

Whilst the posters for the gig might have

BACK ISSUES

- 95 Yano J, Alan Moyer, Joe Cocker, Top Mechanix, Guit, 10 to 10.
96 Malcolm McLaren, Heaven 17, Joan Armatrading, Sharon O'Neill, Childrens Hour.
97 The Firm, John Cale, Jonathan Richman, Hammond Gamble, Dick Driver.
98 Polaris, Paul Young, Motown, John Peel, Bryan Adams.
99 Billy Idol, Pamela Stephenson, Four Tops, Temptations, Veraines.
00 Elvis Costello, Thompson Twins, Netherworld Dancing Toys, Mockers, Paul Morley.
01 Style Council (Paul Weller), Echo & Bunnymen, Midnight Oil, Ravi Ariano, Sneaky Feelings, Desperate Midge.
02 Heats, Talking Heads, Aztec Camera, Nerts, Car Crest St, Axemen, SPK.
03 Lou Reed, Go Betweens, Paul Hewson, Pop Yanks.
04 Neil Young, Giorgio Moroder, Waterboys, David Putterman, Heudon Slips.
05 Hunters & Collectors, Lloyd Cole, Pelicans, Midnight Oil.
06 Dance Exponents, Huey Lewis, Robert Palmer, Peeking Man, The Kind of Punishment.
07 Chills, Killing Joke, Duff Bragg, Expendables, Jason & Scorching, Last Man Down.
08 Netherworld Dancing Toys, Clivia Crista, Robert Punt, Doublethinkers, Les LeFangs.
09 Ryan Ferry, Dynamic Heptones, Men At Work, Bats, Snakeheads.
10 Machine, Mervin, As Anything, Rogues, John Bourman, Bill Neal, Royce.
11 Hards, Bangers, REM, Jerry Harrison, Christchurch.
12 NZ Music 1977-85, Roy's Believe It Or Not, The Tumor, Drowned.
13 Veraines, Drowned, Saint Pauli, Wesp.
14 Thompson Twins, Tom Petty, Violent Femmes, Chills.
15 Frangie, Shewey, NME, Tania Productions.
16 Aunty Sue, Bob Dylan, Steven Ray, Go Betweens, BFM LP, Johnny, Roy Heppner.
17 Hunters & Collectors, Nico, Tim Finn, Flash D'Vico, Harts in Oz.
18 DD Smith, National Anthem, Terry Gilliam, Music Quota, Everything That Flies, Chrome Safari.
19 Peeking Man, Cramps, Antidote, Martin Plaza, Ryan Ferry, Heats, Ruby Turner.
20 Riders, Bats, Flaming Brothers, Wilko Johnson, Tex Pistol.
21 Young Doves' Jvy, Cramps, Residents, Heats, Tania Finn, Saints.
22 Palace Music Club, Huxley Du, Patti LaBelle, An Ol Noise, Last Man Down, Alpine Bros.
23 Genesis, Del Jam, OMD, JPSE.
24 Harts, Sailer, Snake Feelings, Dream Syndicate, Frankie.
25 Bessie Boys, Sly & Robbie, Wayne Goss, Queen City Rocker.
26 ZZ Top, Billy Bragg, Look Blue Go Purple.
27 Shihad, Jay Clarkson, Paul Kelly, Al Hunter.
28 Chills, David & David, Kologena.
29 Chills, Hynde, New Music, Elephant, Cal's Away.
30 Armani, Crowded House, 1977-87 retrospective, 320 Harts, Housewifery, Robert Gray, Triffids.
31 Dwyer, Yousang, Simply Red, Angered, A Certain Ratio.
32 Suzanne Vega, Los Lobos, Billy Idol, Tex Pistol.
33 Shihad, King, Bats, Echo & Bunnymen, Veraines.
34 James Brown, Los Lobos, Roy Orbison.
35 Waratah, Graham Dwyer, Koko Taylor, Neon Picnic.
36 Ryan Ferry, Gaye Dwyer, Rhythm Cops, Dave Dobson.
37 Robbie Robertson, Wynton Marsalis, Fearful Sharkey, Tall Dwarfs.
38 Iron Maiden, Judy Mowatt, Aztec Camera, Triffids, Holidayers.
39 Headline, Choppers, Sisters of Mercy, Bailer Space, Proclaimers, Six Vets.
40 Ziggy Marley, Afrika Bambaataa, Veraines, Jani Mitchell, Sinead O'Connor.
41 Paul Kelly, Jerry Harrison, Nick Cave, Georgia Satellites, Johnny Devlin.
42 Crowded House, Jesse & Mary Chery, Toy Love, Holidayers, Flowers.
43 Tim Finn, Straitjacket Fits, Run DMC, Dende B, Funny Business, Robert Gray, NZ Comics.
44 Toni Childs, UB40, Jay Sarkis, Snapper, Cassanova's Ears, Bobby McFerrin, Steve Carter.
45 Harts, Headline, Chills, Stu King, Stereo Youth, 1989 Pop.
- 129 Sneaky Feelings, REM, Acid House, Go Betweens, John Dk, 10 to 10.
130 Billy Bragg, Robert Palmer, Uppor Hart House, Del Leppard, Phil Judd, Randy Newman, 90s Style.
131 Was Not Was, Lou Reed, Clean, Metellica, Womers, Julian Cope, Richard Thompson, Buckwheat Zydeco.
132 Mica Paris, Dusty Springfield, Yello, Front Lawn, Expressway, Ozzy Osbourne, Ice T, Cowboy Junkies, Terry Gilliam.
133 Simple Minds, Tania Janowitz, Crowded House, Metellica, Techhead, Living Colour, Smoke Shop, Ten City, New Orleans.
134 The Cult, Butler Space, In Machine, The The, Young Ones, Ben Elton, Andrea, Womack & Womack, Neville Bros, Wamataha, Triffids.
135 Nemen Cherry, Malcolm McLaren, Roy Young, Camille, Chris Knox, Inter City, Stephen, Eastholme.
136 REM, Peter Dinklage, Berman, Paul Urbane Jones, Paul Kelly, Chris Isaak, Sente Shaw, Netherworld Dancing Toys, Guitars, Carol O'Leary.
137 Cyndi Lauper, Bob Mould, Dinosaur Jnr, Pegues, Bats, Raimondo, Sam Hunt, Greg Johnson, Song Publishing, No Musicians, Mojo Nixon.
138 Tone Loc, Aerosmith, Pop Will Eat Itself, Knightsbridge, Lucinda Williams, Steven Seidengrath sax, Red & Vooze, Rick Barker.
139 Motley Crue, Hunters & Collectors, Johnny Diesel, Heron & Panning, Music Criticism, Winger, Best.
140 UB40, Buzzcocks, Whiteman, NZ Music 1977-85, Dunsion 3 Perfect Garden, 30s, Cynthia Shoult.
141 Stone Roses, Jay Sarkis, Rough Trade label, Battered Michael Monroe.
142 Deborah Ivary, Quincy Jones, The Fall, Underneath What, Quits International, Virus, Adeva, Kate Caterino.
143 Sade, Mollie Crow, NZ Metal (Shihad, Touch Pinks, Armani), Veraines, Del Marley, JPSE, El-Zee Pussies, House of Love, Wives, Sugarbush, Result of Happiness.
144 David Byrne, SPUD, Dan Reed, RRS-3, Bob Yae Taro, Wedding Present.
145 Anthrax, Sade, Yodis, Steve Care, Dave Stewart, Shogun, Hamilton, Clean, Black Crowns, Little Caesar, Angels.
146 Living Colour, Gramps, Chissia Hyde, Scorpions, David O'Leary, Fast Jilly Speed, Neil Young, Red Hot Peppers.
147 Straitjacket Fits, Norman Cook, John Lee Hooker, WPA, Jane Siberry, Termites, Yvoni.
148 Wamataha, Replacement, Soto, Soap Dragons, Robert Palmer, Albert King, Ak Women drummers, Simon Le Bon.
149 PWS, Jeckhouse, Mingo Mander, Ake Taimanus, After 7, Michelle Shocked, Deep Purple.
150 Push Push, Bob Marley, Guthrie Surfers, Queen Ida, Chilling Dore of Love, Jesse Chole, Tawns, Don Burrows.
151 John Hiatt, Dinosaur Jnr, Thin Lizzy, Talking Heads, Gits Mack & David Eggelson, Archie Roach, Bob Geldof.
152 NRA, Jesus Jones, Chris Isaak, Lemmy Kewitz, Exponents, Chainsaw Massacristas, Johnny Marr.
153 Jane's Addiction, La's, Chris Knox, Emulisher, Frank Power, Motown, Rascal, Godalier, Jan Heaggar, Las Harvey, LL Cool J, Redhead King, Don Williams.
154 De La Soul, REM, Rancid, Crowded House, Shihad, Bob Mould, Ride, DJ McLennan, Death Ray Cafe.
155 Metellica, B Vets, Greg Johnson, Violent Femmes, Lemonheads, Definition of Colour, Awed, Ngano.
156 Guns N' Roses, SPUD, Alice Cooper, Neville Brothers, 12 Tribes.
157 Flying Nun 10th, Bats, Headline, Chills, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Fugazi, Second Child, Fugazi, Gary Clail, World Gone Wild, Ashley Cleveland.

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