

- About the Contributors -

Panel of Judges

Panel of Judges played as a four-piece in the late 90s, releasing an ep *Blind as a Bat* and an album *Cool Fool*, before shrinking to the present 3-piece consisting of guitarist Dion Nania (Golden Lifestyle Band), drummer Paul Williams (Molasses, Jaguar is Jaguar) and bass player Alison Bolger (Clag, Sleepy Township). Nania and Bolger both write songs. A sojourn in Europe saw the group hone their skills playing in London and Paris. New vinyl ep out in September.

The Bites

Based on the possibilities of a three-guitar-plus-drums setup, The Bites burst on the Melbourne scene in 2002 surprising many and delighting more with their first album *White Lines And Runways*. Of that initial group only Kirsty Stegwazi (erstwhile solo artist) and Rene Schaefer (Bruna) remain, and this recording – with new drummer and natural Bite, Simon – is the first from the current line-up.

Minimum Chips

Starting out as a three-piece ten years ago in Brisbane, Nicole, Julian and Ian became an indie-pop institution with regular Australian tours and some memorable vinyl releases. After moving to Melbourne at the turn of the century they added bass players (first Guy, then Ellen) and released cds through Chapter and Trifekta. Currently working on new album.

New Estate

Rising from the ashes of the much-loved Sleepy Township, New Estate is a harsh but melodic rock group whose one album *Considering...* garnered praise from friends, strangers and Robert Christgau alike. All members contribute to songwriting and singing, and the group's success depends on the extraordinary proficiency and enthusiasm of its members. A new album, *Is it Real*, is scheduled for 2005.

Love of Diagrams

Almost-all-instrumental group Love of Diagrams star Luke, Antonia and Monika. Their first album *The Target is You* was released to uproar in 2003. Shortly afterwards the band went on a tour which focused on Eastern Europe, including Japan which is as east as Europe gets. In Melbourne their shows routinely sell out and they have the kind of vibe that others old and young would kill for.

The New Season

Started by Jarrod Quarrell as a solo project in 1997, by 1998 The New Season had morphed into a band playing a unique style of harmonica-and-guitar-driven blues-rock. In 2001 they reinvented themselves via a lineup change, becoming the indie rock and roll powerhouse we know today. In

2003 Jarrod, Stacka and BT self-released an ep on cdr, and in 2004 had a song included on the compilation *Make Mix Tapes Not War*. Their songs have been played on PBS, RRR, and JJJ and have received praise from critics and the public.

Dave Graney

Dave Graney was first known as singer of The Moodists, then as a solo artist whose career highlights to date have arguably been the remarkable albums *I was the Hunter and I was the Prey*, *Heroic Blues*, *The Devil Drives* and *The Brother Who Lived*, not to mention the recently reissued *Night of the Wolverine*, and that's only about half of them. His backing bands the White Buffaloes, the Coral Snakes and the Dave Graney Show have featured some of the great names of Australian rock and his songs will speak long after all of us have moved on.

Pip Proud Group

Releasing his first album independently in 1967, then signing to Polygram for two LPs, forming the first version of the Pip Proud Group and leaving for Britain where he almost but not quite signed to Apple, Pip Proud has had an exceptionally strange musical career that has seen him recently find an outlet for his extremely individual music through the Austin, Texas *Emperor Jones* label. The father of five lives in Healesville, on Melbourne's eastern fringe.

Pink Stainless Tail

A group with a history which does not need to be told here, Pink Stainless Tail signalled to the world their extraordinary good taste by pinching their name from a wonderful Red Krayola song. Most of the words are by Simon, with some from Harry. Sonke played in Slub and ... but we said, no history. Simon works in a bookshop *now*.

On

Noise-rock band featuring Marney Macleod (Library Punks), Toni Kendall (Guns Ammo), Tim Krasevac (Fong) and Elise Bishop (F*ck Tourettes C*nt, Meat Market, veteran of New Zealand indie scene) create a deep, loud energy field using guitar, drums and two basses. They have played live around Melbourne for a year, toured NZ, and have releases planned for the *Celebrate Psi Phenomemon* and *Saucerlike* labels.

LCDCI (Lowest Common Denominator, Cultural Industries)

Core LCD members Ennio Swaggart and Elron Mancini have broadcast their anarchic, confrontational propaganda/art from Melbourne for about five years. They often stray beyond music into the realms of DIY visual art, urban redecoration and the Internet. LCD shows involve video, unusual instruments, and preaching.

Clinton and Scott

After playing in punk bands *Punchbag*, *NeTe*, and *Kill*, Footscray-based Clinton Green began releasing experimental guitar music ten years ago, under the name *Undecisive God*. An early UG

track can be found on the third Spill compilation from 1995. Clinton's tape / trade label *Shame File* began releasing material by Australian DIY experimental artists in 1990, recently culminating in the highly-regarded *Behind Closed Doors* and *Undertow* compilation cds. Clinton has collaborated with several Australian artists, often at-a-distance by exchanging cds in the mail. In this track he teams up with Scott Sinclair, Brisbane sound artist and organizer of the Small Black Box performance space.

Flywheel

James Dutton was born playing guitar and writing songs but he never had a band till he formed *Safety Valve* in Sydney in the early 1990s. This group metamorphosed into the Flywheel we know today with the addition of Gavin Butler on bass. At least three albums to their credit, released by labels in the US, France and even Australia. A recent move to Melbourne sees a radically revived Flywheel who play quieter than they used to because then they don't annoy the neighbours.

The Cannanes

Created from pure fantasy in inner-city Sydney in 1984, The Cannanes have released a slew of albums and singles, been the subject of a book and a television documentary, and toured internationally numerous times. The group's core – Stephen O'Neil and Frances Gibson – now reside in Bendigo, making them de facto Melbournites (but don't tell the Bendigonians).

Royalchord

Tammy Haider and Eliza Hiscox have been the core of Royalchord since its inception in the mid-1990s, though the group was initially formed on the basis of Haider alone as a songwriter, with Hiscox as drummer. Since the release of the group's first album *I Gave You A Mountain* in 2000, songwriting and singing roles between the two principals have been largely equal, with a changing (by accident, not design) background of supporting players. Their latest album *Nights on the Town* was released in 2004.

Chris Chapple

Chris Chapple's two self-released albums show an individual with a compellingly craftsmanlike approach to songwriting. Known for his past in Autohaze and Charlie Marshall's Body Electric, Chapple has produced two albums of his own songs, *It's a Wonderful Life* and *Whisky Bay*. His current band features Steve Hasset from Wagons and Clare Moore from the Dave Graney Show/Moodists/many other brilliant bands.

Deep Country

Search for 'deep country' on the internet and you will find a million completely contrary and irrelevant things. This group defies the concept country and laughs in the face of the idea of deep, and yet remains ardently loyal to both. Recent line-up changes since the release of their first, idly pornographic album, *Cautionary Tales for Girls* have seen the band, um, change their lineup.

Breaking the Law

BTL is the brain child of singer / lead-guitarist / song-writer Jon Michell, who is just as apt to release goth-flavoured solo cds as this majestic rock. BTL teams Jon up with Justin Fuller on guitar, Henry Krips on bass and Julian Patterson on drums. In 2004 they released a limited-edition album-length cdr and toured Australia's east coast.

Hi God People

From the wreckage of 90s neo-prog band Solids emerged this "art" performance project consisting of Julian Williams (Solids, From The Same Mother), Greg Wadley (Solids, New Waver, Thou Gideon, Tedium), Dion Nania (Panel of Judges, Golden Lifestyle Band), and Dylan Krasevac (Snawklor, Outskirts, Fifty Record Players). With two full-length cds under their belt (1999's prog/jazz epic *Nega the Eight-Headed Serpent* and 2002's cutup-fest *Play to the Temple of Depth*) they continue to confound rock and art audiences alike. This cut is from a live-to-air on Melbourne radio 3PBS.

Shower Scene from Psycho

Shower Scene from Psycho burst onto the Melbourne scene in the early 1980s with a remarkable blend of electronics, harsh guitar, and the unique vocal stylings of Simon Grounds. At early shows a wind-up monkey playing some cymbals was a fourth member to the group, whose readings of Johnny Young's *Caralyn* and the Jefferson Airplane's *White Rabbit* were early recording successes; those exposed to these releases are not expected to recover. Though the band's profile has risen and fallen, they are as much a local institution as TISM and Ross Wilson, and in fact arguably provide the missing link between those two acts.

James Earthenware

The alter ego of the exceptionally talented and remarkably bubbly Bill Harrison, James Earthenware will one day take over the world.

Driving Past

Now in their 8th year, Driving Past is the songwriting and performing band for Melbourne poet Gig Ryan. Gig's musical career began with the group Disband in Sydney in the early 80s; Driving Past has one album, *Real Estate*, to its credit and another in the pipeline.

Julian Williams

An enigma wrapped in a riddle, Julian Williams is simultaneously the 21st century's answer to Brian Wilson, and the question. Originally English, he became a man from Perth and then moved to Melbourne, where he created a magazine and record label, *From the Same Mother*, plays in the Hi God People, writes and directs plays, and wears a red jumper.

Wagons

Singer/songwriter Henry Krips made his name in Melbourne sound-art ensemble Dworzec, then baffled everybody by forming a country and western band. The polished Wagons musicians back Henry's smooth vocal to produce a hardboiled urban cnw for today. Wagons self-released their first ep in 2000 before coming to indie prominence with their album "Trying to Get Home" (Chapter, 2002). They will surely reach a wider audience with their new album "Draw Blood" (Spunk 2004), which happens to feature a different version of this song "Last Wish".

- David Nichols and Greg Wadley, August 2004 -