

## ***New Waver interview on 3RRR Lime Champions***

9<sup>th</sup> August 2010

***[intro: 'Party Like it's 1979']***

*LC: We're chatting with Greg from Melbourne band New Waver.*

*Hey Greg, how's it going. How is it for the Wavers - got any gigs coming up?*

Greg: Yeah, we're doing a residency at the Labour in Vain, each Tuesday in August.

*LC: Oh cool - in the front room?*

No, the beer garden. I guess I should say "residency, weather permitting". There's no electricity out there, so we're doing it psychedelic folk, playing acoustic along to a loop pedal through a ghetto blaster. It's powered by micro hydro electricity from the toilets downstairs. We're not getting a cut of the bar, but every time a drinker takes a whizz we get another minute of play time.

*LC: So it sounds like New Waver are on the verge of going major?*

Totally, we're ready to sign, and although we've been working at it for a long time, we're still pretty young, and ready to make the most of success.

*LC: How young are you?*

Thirty-seven. We've been nominated for "most promising old guys" in this year's Sticky Carpet awards. I think I'm ready to go pro, ready to take on the industry. I've matured these past few years.

I figure I'll put in a few tours, a few albums, a year in Berlin, and then I'll settle down - after I've turned forty, have some kids or something. That would be a nice break after the stress of being in the scene.

My thirties have been a bit of a grind. It's hard work putting in an appearance, there are so many parties and gigs and openings in this town, it's very competitive. I'm almost looking forward to worker-dude life. No-one stressing out - I'll be able to veg in the suburbs somewhere, do a day job while the kids go to school. I'm definitely going to send them to a school with an arts focus - one where they teach guitar or song-writing or film editing. So they can get a head start on the competition from a young age, which was totally missing for my generation. Actually I think every school offers those subjects now, so I guess I'll be able to live anywhere, which is good because when I plugged my rate of savings into a loan calculator it suggested I aim at a deposit on a flat in Craigieburn. It'll be paid off when I'm ninety. This is all later when I've settled down and not focussing so much on my art.

*LC: So you have other creative outlets besides New Waver?*

Sure. I'm studying for my masters in film at VU. I'm majoring in ushering. I'm working pretty hard at it - the top 10 graduates each year are offered volunteer spots at MIFF. You get a free uniform and half-price entry to any unpopular film.

*LC: Who goes to your shows?*

Other guys in bands mostly. You know, we do each other a favour. It's mutual aid.

*LC: Cool. Ok we'll play a track off the new New Waver album, 'Bohemian Suburb Rhapsody'. Here we go.*

***['Media I Gave You All The Best Years Of My Life']***

*LC: We're chatting with Greg from Melbourne outfit New Waver. Greg, it sounds like your efforts in music are about to pay off. Are you doing anything for cash flow in the meantime?*

Sure. At the moment I'm making coffee at Bean Orgy on Brunswick St. After my BA I did a grad dip in Barista Studies at RMIT. But I really want to get to the stage where I'm making a living from music. The new album is available for free on BandCamp.

*LC: So people can download your music for free? How do you repay your studio costs?*

Oh the money's all in live shows these days. The downloads promote the shows. We sell cds at gigs. All the guys from the support bands have bought one.

This is how real bands, you know like 70s bands, used to get started - selling merch at gigs. I've been googling real estate prices in the south of France, and I expect to be able to buy Keith Richards' old mansion from mp3 sales by the year four thousand and ten.

*LC: How much do you get for playing a show?*

About \$100 per band – that's up from \$80 in the 80s, which is pretty good in real-money terms. Per member that's \$30 a show, or about \$300 a year. That's pretty cool - I really appreciate the love, and it covers the rent on my studio. All I have to do then is work to pay my rent-rent. I live in a share house with 19 other guys in Preston. In thirty years we can turn it into an old people's home. A cool one. It's actually Watsonia South, but the real estate called it Preston in the ad. It's totally gentrifying there – last weekend I went to the shop and didn't get beaten up.

Our landlord's this totally evil tradesman dude, totally cashed up bogan who likes bad 70s rock, like totally not ironic. I've got a recording of him on my iPhone - here I'll play it:

*Landlord: Hey you arty poofs, get out of bed and answer the door! Your rent's overdue and I have to be at work by 7am!*

Did you hear that ok? Anyway money is the label's problem.

*LC: Oh, you're on a label? Which one?*

Barista Records. It's run by my friend at work. He has a BandCamp account and knows how to upload. He's only working cafes part time while he writes his PhD, it's a re-interpretation of yacht-rock 1975 to 80. Then he'll probably become a lecturer, or head waiter.

*LC: I bet the lads in New Waver have a pretty active sex life.*

Sure, especially after a show. I mean, that's what keeps you incentivized. I mean it's totally up to the audience, it's in their hands. I mean I personally invited each one of them to be there, and most of them are on the door. Yeah if it's a good night, if the crowd gives good energy, I totally have a much better wank when I get home.

*LC: Ok thanks for coming in Greg. We'll finish with one more track from the Wavers' latest album 'Bohemian Suburb Rhapsody'. It's available now for free download.*

***['Money for Lugging']***