

issue 7 autumn 1990



The only official WETWETWET Magazine



# 1990

has been a busy year so far for the Wets, with a multitude of things happening since the last issue of "Splash".

This, as you will have noticed, is a black and white and slightly smaller edition of "Splash". This is due largely to the increased printing costs incurred on the last 2 editions.

We will still produce 4 magazines a year - 2 in this format and 2 larger, colour editions. What will not change is Splash's policy of letting you know everything that is going on with the Wets in words and pictures.

The next issue will include news on The Wets "Holding Back The River" European tour and their appearance at The John Lennon Tribute, while this edition focuses on the band's visit to Australia in April and their appearance at Glasgow's Big Day on 3 June 1990. The outcome of the promotional work has been a gold single and album in Australia - but the band had a chance to holiday as well as work, and some exclusive pictures appear on pages 7,8 and 9, along with details of what the band got up to.

Many of you have written expressing disappointment at the T.V. coverage of the Wets performance on "The Big Day". In order that you can hear what went on, we will be playing 1 track a week from the gig on the Wets phonenumber, 0898 345070. The first track will be broadcast soon, and changed weekly. Watch out for a few surprises amongst the set - the Wets playing a few of their favourite songs as well as a couple of their own hits. The phonenumber acts as a complementary service to "Splash" and is a useful source of up to date information on the band. Calls are charged at 38p per minute peak time and 25p per minute at all others.

The new Wets single, which was released on 30 July 1990, is of course, "Stay With Me Heartache" on a double A-side with "I Feel Fine", as performed at The John Lennon Tribute. "Stay With Me Heartache" is a completely re-recorded and re-mixed version of "Can't Stand The Night" from the "Holding Back The River" LP. The single is released on 5 formats - 7", cassette, single, 10", 12", and C.D. - all containing extra tracks and mixes.

That's all the news for just now - but watch out for more in the full colour "Splash" 8 which will be out in the near future

Design and Typesetting : IDEAS, Falkirk 0324 34293

Text: John Williamson

Photos: Derek Ridgers (cover)

Alan Crumlish, Dougie Souness

Simon Fowler

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## TOMMY ON IRELAND

"There is something about Ireland as a country, which attracts our sense of community. Everytime we go there it is extremely relaxed - people always ask you how you are : not in a superficial way, but in a warm, friendly manner. I, for one, cannot think of a country that feels more like home.

I've visited Ireland several times - usually going over to see Vivian who works for Phonogram in Dublin.

Through Vivian I got a greyhound dog (now called

Biko) for running. In Ireland, the breeding, training and running of greyhounds is very popular. Someone else is doing the training, so I'm only really a spectator!

Maybe through our Irish contact, we will have a number one dog in Ireland - just like we had a number one single with "Sweet Surrender". Since that single, its like we have become talk show darlings in Eire - they must like our accents or sense of humour!"

## TOMMY ON BOWLING

"One night in Germany when we had a day off, the band and assorted friends decided to head out for a game of bowling. We split into teams, and after mastering the computer scoreboard, action began. Some great players emerged in the band, with the horn section in particular showing some outstanding skill.

Paul Spong, our trumpet player, invented a new technique, whereby you header the bowling ball. He managed this, while trying a rugby tackle on Rick, the trombone player.

As you can probably gather, bowling is more fun than it sounds, and we will definitely be playing again!"



# P E N P A L S

MAUREEN KANE

MISS J BROCKWAY

JULIE BAILES

NICOLA FALOWSKI

MUTSUMI ANNO

JULIE MOULDEN

TINA GUNN

DONNA PAIN

NAOMI BOWMAR

CARRIE JAGGER

JACKY TALBOT

ANNE JOHNSTON

CAROLINE

LIZ JONES

RACHEL CUMBES

KAREN HILL

DAWN L HALLETE

ANDREA GREEN

KAREN HAMILTON

DEBORAH JAMESON

SARAH LYNCK

JENNY BARRETT

VICKY

LIZZIE

CAROLINE WILLIAMS

DESIREE OVRETVEIT

ANDREA WILSON

MAXINE TROTTER

SUE

SUZANNE EVANS

CLARE HARRIS

NICOLA MURPHY

EMMA HEAP

CHARLENE WOOD

CAROLINE TRUSTY

KARIN COGEN

JANE HORTON

TRACEY WALKER



Graeme, Tommy, Neil and Marti are joined by Elliot Davis, some of the session musicians and various Phonogram staff on the award of double platinum discs for "Holding Back The River".



# P E N P A L S

GRACE WISEMAN

STEPHANIE EVANS

NICOLA GARWOOD

SUE CORNISH

ALISON BROWN

LUCY POWELL

ROMAINE BRACE

CARRIE SAMUELS

BLANCE NEDIC

SUE MAYOR

DAWN

LISA DALGLEISH

CLAIRE PHILO

CLAIRE HAMILTON

LUCY ALLEN

CELINE LEVIOR

JO HARE

JANE

KATHERINE WADE

KARL WATSON

LAURENCE ACHI

JANE HARRY

GAYNORMICHELLE  
DOYLE

CAROLINE HICKS

C.STEVENSON

LOUISE RIDOUT

JOANNE ROWE

DEBBIE

SARAH CLARKSON

KAMILLA KJAERGOORD

CLAIRE MORRIS

LISA JOHNSON

CLAIRE

DENISE COX

SIMON BEST

SAMANTHA BEASLEY

CARON MUIR

# WET WET WET in AUSTRALIA

At the end of their European tour, which had started in December 1989, the Wets continued on their travels, with their first ever visit to Australia starting just one week after the last date on the U.K. leg of the tour.

"We've been trying to get to Australia ever since 'Wishing I Was Lucky' was out," says Tommy, "but because we have always been so busy in Europe, Australia has always been has on the agenda."

The visit had two purposes: the first two weeks were to be spent visiting the major radio and television stations in Sydney and

Melbourne, talking and performing. Although the band were not doing any gigs, Graeme Duffin also joined the party, allowing

recorded.

The journey to Australia was an event in itself, the flight from Glasgow to London, being followed by a thirty hour journey to Sydney, stopping off at Bangkok en route.

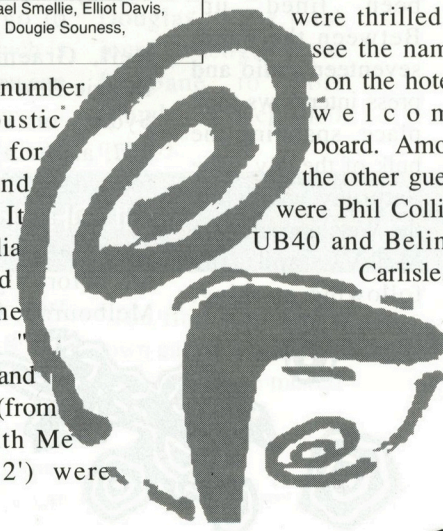
"In Sydney, we were immediately whisked off to the Sebel Townhouse Hotel," recalls Tommy, "which is THE rock and roll place to be in Sydney. As we are all still very big music fans, we were thrilled to

see the names on the hotel's welcome board. Among the other guests were Phil Collins, UB40 and Belinda Carlisle."

them to do a number of acoustic performances for radio and television. It was in Australia that "Hold Back The River" (acoustically) and "Stoned Me" (from the "Stay With Me Heartache 12") were



Left to right: Graeme Duffin, Rod Cameron, Michael Smellie, Elliot Davis, Marti Pellow, Tommy Cunningham, Steve Carter, Dougie Souness, Graeme Clark, Roland McAdam





Jet lag accounted for the first couple of days in Australia. They were officially days off, which gave Graeme, Tommy, Neil and Marti a chance to do the usual touristy things, like getting their photographs taken at Sydney harbour/Opera House.

The first working day was Friday 30th March, and any ideas they had of the trip being a total holiday

went out the window when they saw the

## THE WORK

punishing schedule of interviews that had been lined up. Between the band, seventeen radio and press interviews took place, spanning the bulk of the day. The Saturday was when the Wets appeared on M.T.V., and the following morning,

Graeme, Neil and Dougie (their tour manager) flew to Brisbane. They were to spend the next few days doing promotional work in

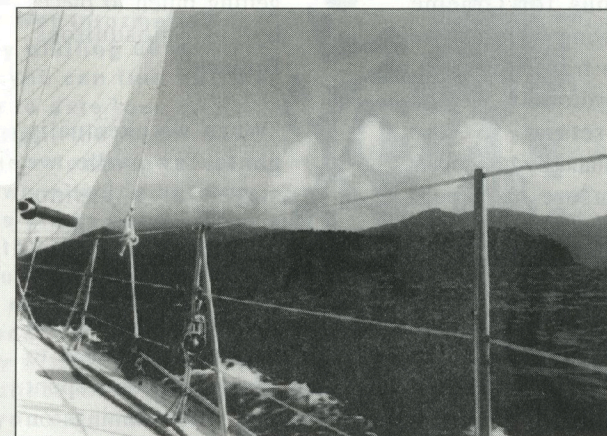
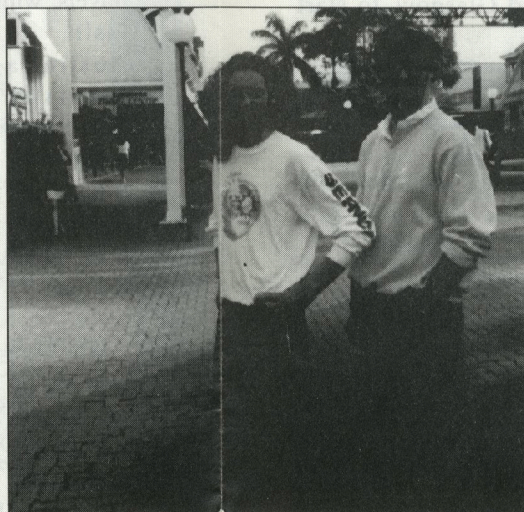
Queensland (yet more interviews), while Tommy and Marti were continuing the good work in Sydney.

Neil, Graeme and Dougie flew back to Sydney on Tuesday 3rd, allowing time for a day off on the 4th and a television appearance on the 5th before flying to Melbourne, for yet

more interviews, and three television performances. Two days off in Melbourne gave a chance to look around and prepare for a well deserved break.

Five television shows and fifty radio/press interviews in seven working days is not bad going - and the ensuing media coverage was a major factor in making "Sweet Surrender" a top ten hit in Australia. In addition, both the single and the "Holding Back The River" album have reached gold status in Australia, much to everyone's delight. Hopes are high that "Stay With Me Heartache" will follow "Sweet Surrender" into the top ten.

# AUSTRALIA



Work over, the holiday began - Marti recalls:

"When we were finished working, Tommy left Melbourne to go to Port Douglas, which is about as far as you can go north before you reach the bush, and

Neil went back to Sydney for a few

days then onto Port Douglas before going to Singapore."

"Graeme, Dougie and I flew to Brisbane, where we hired a car

and spent 2 weeks driving along the National Highway, stopping off for a couple of days at different places along the way to Port Douglas. (The total journey length from Brisbane to Port Douglas is over 1000 miles!)."

## THE HOLIDAY

"The first stop was a town called Gladstone, from which we moved to Heron Island.

cont overleaf



**T**he island is left us marooned on the famous for two highway for 3 hours! In things - its the end, we had to push the amazing marine car through a flood, life (sharks, turtles, running over (and past) and believe it or not, toads, snakes and fresh herons). It is also water crocodiles, while famous for Graeme getting bitten to pieces throwing up when we by mosquitoes. Brilliant!"

"After that, we spent a couple of days at a town on the mainland called Mackay - and then it was on to Airlie Beach, which is the main port for visiting the Whitsunday Islands. We spent 2 days on a yacht sailing round the islands, and then returned to the mainland - the next destination, Townsville."

"That was to be the most dramatic part of the whole journey - on the way we drove into a monsoon, which



lose the rest of it."

"The next part of the journey took us from Townsville to Cairns, where we went Scuba diving off the Barrier Reef, which was truly spectacular. After that we took the short journey to Port Douglas, to meet up with Tommy again, before going back to Cairns Airport, from where we flew via Darwin, Singapore, and London, back to Glasgow, to start



rehearsing for the John Lennon Tribute..."

The month in Australia was an amazing one for the band and with their subsequent success over there, you can imagine that they are itching to get back across before the end of 1990 - hopefully to play some gigs as well!

## phone line

The most up to date information on what the band are up to can be found on the Wet Wet Wet Information Line. By dialling 0898 345070, you can find out the most up to date tour information, the latest news on single releases, as well as interviews with the various members of the band. The cost of this service is 44p per minute at peak times and 33p per minute off peak (weekends and after 6pm). If you stay with your parents, please check with them before you call the line.



Splash is the only official Wet Wet Wet fan club/information service, providing an up to date and comprehensive service.

On joining SPLASH, you will receive a welcome pack, which contains a membership card, an introductory letter, a signed photograph and a copy of "Splash", the Wets' very own fan magazine.

"Splash" comes out about four times a year (depending on how much news there is), with two full colour editions, and two smaller black and white editions, all crammed with the latest information on the bands, as well as:

• Exclusive picture of the band - on tour, on holiday and behind the scenes

- The first news on new recordings and releases.
- A penpals/letters page to put you in touch with other Wets' fans, and answer your questions.
- Competitions with great prizes, including limited edition rare/signed records



In addition, Wets' merchandising (posters, calendars, t-shirts, etc) can be obtained through Splash at specially discounted rates.

I would like to become a member of SPLASH and receive the official magazine for one year (4 issues).

NAME  
ADDRESS

Postcode

If you live in the U.K. please enclose a bank cheque or Postal order made out to SPLASH for Do not send cash.

If you live outside the U.K. or in Eire, please enclose an International Money Order in Sterling only.

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| UK        | £8.00   |
| EUROPE    | £9.50   |
| USA       | \$20.00 |
| CANADA    | \$20.00 |
| AUSTRALIA | \$21.00 |



# the BIG day

June 3rd was a special day for Glasgow, with a huge street party taking place to celebrate the city's reign as European City of Culture. Four stages, of varying sizes were set up to accommodate a huge number of bands, who were either from Glasgow or had an affinity with the city.

The George Square stage, where the Wet's headlined, was home to a selection of bands from Glasgow and Dublin (the 1991 European City of Culture), with a capacity of 15000 - although some newspapers estimated the number of people in the square to be closer to 50000.

Rather than trying to recreate past glories (Glasgow Green), the Wets opted for an unusual set, concentrating mainly on cover versions by their favourite writers and singers. The set was as follows:

## 'GET READY'

A rousing Temptations anthem from the heyday of Motown Records, the big brass arrangement favoured by the Wets adding live power to the amazing vocal harmonies on the original chorus.



## 'BRICKHOUSE'

A Commodores hit from the mid 70's - an uptempo song by a band best known for their soulful ballads. The Commodores singer at the time was Lionel Richie, whom the Wets supported in 1987 as an unknown band promoting the release of their debut single, 'Wishing I was Lucky'.



## 'SECOND HAND NEWS'

The opening track from one

of the 70's most popular albums, "Rumours" by Fleetwood Mac. The lyrics were considered risqué at the time, although they may seem tame by 90's standards. Nevertheless, for a song that is 15 years old, it has an amazing rhythm track, which was well ahead of its time and still stands up as proven by the Wets' version at George Square.



## 'I FEEL FINE'

An early period Beatles' song, which the Wets first performed at the John Lennon Tribute in May. Their interpretation of the song is radically different from the original, turning Lennon & McCartney's 2 1/2 minute pop song into a five minute bluesy groove.



# the BIG day

## 'YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND'

No, not the Sonia/Big Fun song. "You've Got a

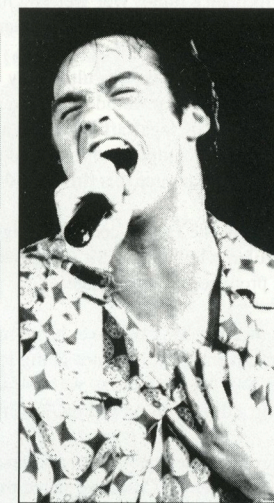


Friend" was written in 1971 by Carole King for James Taylor, who was suffering from depression at the time. Taylor recovered and had a huge worldwide hit with the song, and the Wets' George Square version owed more to it, than King's original, which appeared on the multi-million selling album, "Tapestry".

## "WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS"

The most famous Wet Wet Wet cover version, their live version combines the Beatles' original version with the ferocity of the definitive Joe Cocker version, as performed at "Woodstock"

This set was concluded with three much more



familiar songs - "Wishing I Was Lucky", "H.T.H.D.T.G.T.", and "Sweet Little Mystery" proving to be a great climax to an amazing (and hot) afternoon in George Square





## 'THE BIG DAY'

a letter from Elliot Davis, M.D. The Precious Organisation

JULY 1990

In response to your many letters and the subsequent "Right To Reply" programme on Channel 4, I would like to take this opportunity to set the record straight about the T.V. coverage given to Wet Wet Wet during their participation in "The Big Day".

An agreement was reached with Mr Stuart Cosgrove of Liveshot (the event organisers) that the band would headline the George Square show, playing for forty minutes, 12 of which would be shown live on Channel 4, during the afternoon part of their "Big Day" coverage.

When I turned up backstage on the day of the show I was drawn into conversation by Mr Mark Mackie of the event's promoters, Regular Music (who are also co-directors of Liveshot). He informed me that the show was running fifteen minutes behind schedule, and that the Associates (the band on immediately before 'the Wets') would be asked to cut the length of their set in order to get things running on time again.

Please be aware that, in a concert situation, the promoters are TOTALLY RESPONSIBLE for time keeping, and in this respect Regular Music were to blame for allowing bands prior to "the Wets" to overrun their allotted performance time. Wet Wet Wet have a totally proficient road crew and tour manager, who worked feverishly to set up the gear in record time, in an attempt to make up lost time.

Unfortunately, this was ultimately to no avail, and by the time the band went on stage we were fully resigned to the fact that they would not be on television. At this state, I phoned Mr Trevor Davis, another Liveshot director (in charge of legal affairs) who assured me that Wet Wet Wet would be given a section of the evening T.V. coverage to compensate for the afternoon events. However, neither Mr Davies nor Mr Cosgrove would give me a written guarantee that this would happen.

I went to the Haugh concert at night with the intention of tracking down Mr Cosgrove. I met Mr Pete Irvine of Regular, who blamed Mr Cosgrove for "the Wets" not being on T.V. earlier, yet still believed that we would get the promised T.V. coverage.

On meeting Mr Cosgrove, he admitted that despite us having a verbal agreement for the band to get 12 minutes T.V. coverage, he was not going to give us that. In the event, it was his choice how much time was devoted to Wet Wet Wet, which as we now know, amounted to one song out of a brilliant performance, the chosen song being a duet with Aswad on "Is This Love?"

After being deluged by complaints, Channel 4 featured some of them on "Right to Reply" (9 June 1990). On this programme, Mr Cosgrove stated that Wet Wet Wet had been booked to appear on two stages - George Square and The Haugh, and had pulled out of the latter at the last moment. AT NO TIME WAS IT AGREED THAT THE BAND WOULD PLAY BOTH STAGES, and to advertise nationally that they were doing so in the press, was an attempt by the promoters to mislead the fans, the people of Scotland and T.V. viewers all over Britain. Over that I have no jurisdiction.

In the meantime we have written to Andrea Wonfor at Channel 4 (60 Charlotte Street, London, W1) suggesting that the entire Wets performance (which was filmed) be shown as part of a 'special' on the band. If you are interested, you could write to her supporting the idea, mentioning that you have read this in Splash. Please bear in mind, however, that Ms. Wonfor had absolutely nothing to do with the events on The Big Day.

Anyway, many thanks for your support in writing to us, the producers of the show and Channel 4. If you have any comments to make, please do not hesitate to write to me c/o Splash. Thanks

Yours sincerely

*Elliot P. Davis*

# COMPETITION

## WINNERS

Here are the winners of the competitions in Splash 5 & 6

**Wet's in the Park**  
Ellen Bishop

Here are Ellen's answers:

1. East side of the City
2. Worldwide & His Latest Flame
3. The Rolling Stones

She won a copy of the Wets "Live in the Park" video, as well as a t-shirt and a brochure.

**Hold Back The River**  
Miss E.A. Berrington

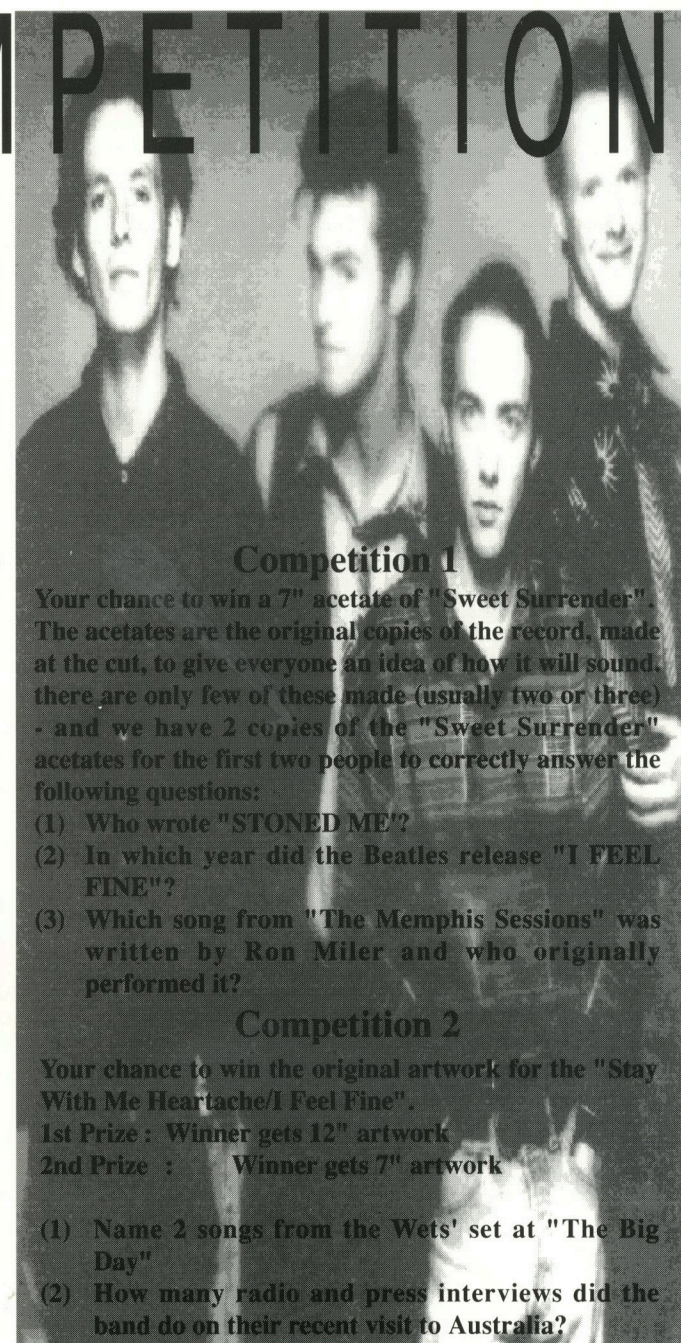
Here are the answers:

1. Can't Stand the Night
  2. Sweet Surrender
  3. Real World & PUK Studios
- She won a signed copy of the LP "Holding Back The River", plus a limited edition "Broke Away" picture disc.

Here is the very lucky winner of the fabulous Platinum Disc Competition  
Loretta Fenwick

Here are Loretta's answers:

- Part 1 - 1. T'Pau  
2. 8/6/65, 25 this year  
3. Robert Erdman
- Part 2 - 1. This Time (live) & Sweet Surrender  
2. Watch, Jacket, Book and Ring  
3. Hold Back The River
- Part 3 - 1. How The Hell Did They Get There?  
2. Graeme Duffin  
3. Co-wrote Maggie May



## Competition 1

Your chance to win a 7" acetate of "Sweet Surrender". The acetates are the original copies of the record, made at the cut, to give everyone an idea of how it will sound. there are only few of these made (usually two or three) - and we have 2 copies of the "Sweet Surrender" acetates for the first two people to correctly answer the following questions:

- (1) Who wrote "STONED ME"?
- (2) In which year did the Beatles release "I FEEL FINE"?
- (3) Which song from "The Memphis Sessions" was written by Ron Miler and who originally performed it?

## Competition 2

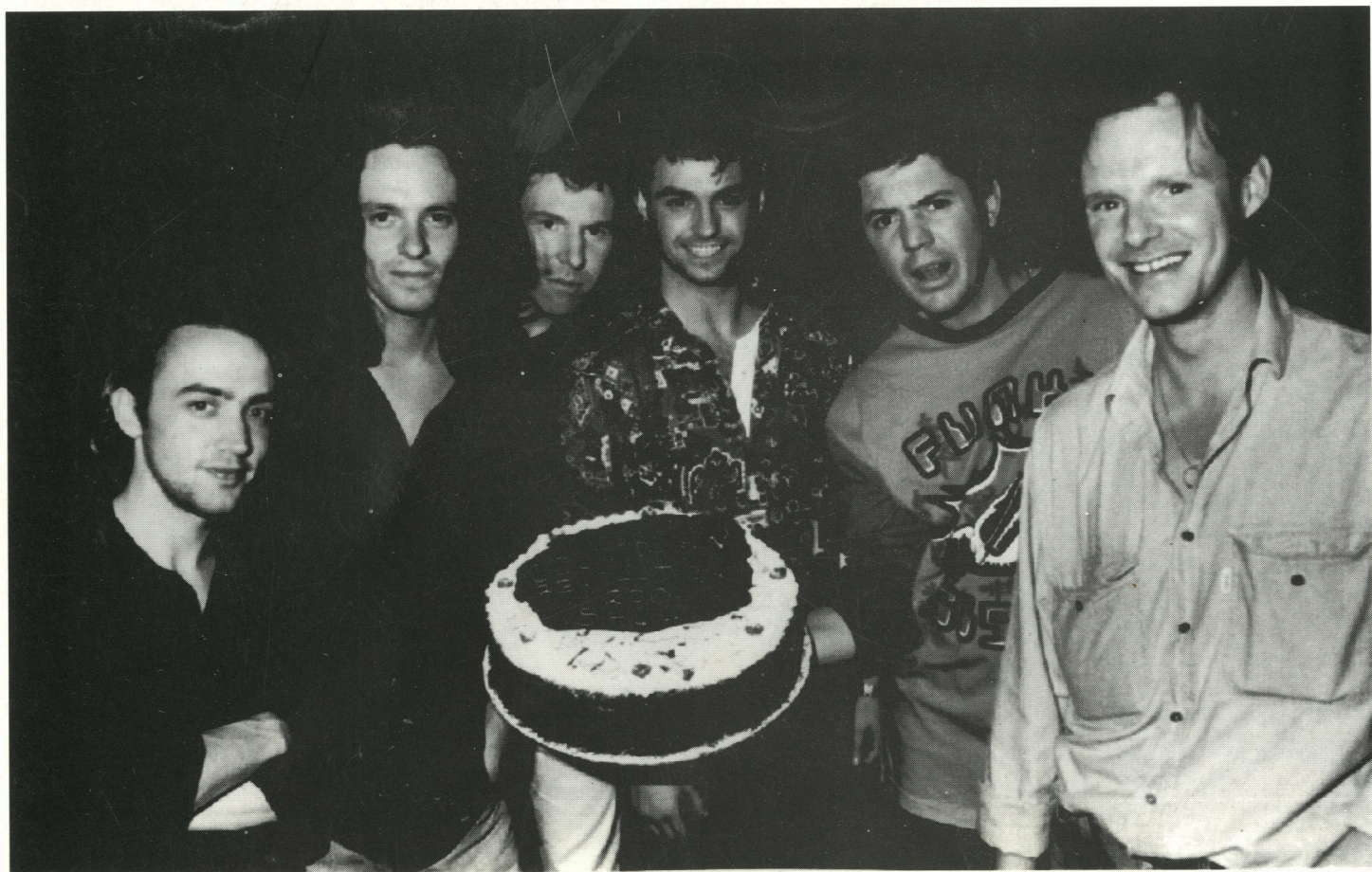
Your chance to win the original artwork for the "Stay With Me Heartache/I Feel Fine".

**1st Prize :** Winner gets 12" artwork  
**2nd Prize :** Winner gets 7" artwork

- (1) Name 2 songs from the Wets' set at "The Big Day"
- (2) How many radio and press interviews did the band do on their recent visit to Australia?

Answers to Splash, 24 Gairbraid Avenue, Glasgow, G20 8YE - before 7 December 1990





The Vets meet Joe from Neighbours on the set of French T.V. show, "Countdown."