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The Southland Times

**BON JOVI** ... are livin' on a prayer D2







New release: Australian band Powderfinger's new album The Golden Rule is due out next week.

## Powderfinger's new rule

Aussie rockers Powderfinger feel on top of their game again. **Jule Scherer** talks to singer Bernard Fanning about their new album *The Golden Rule* and rumours the band is splitting up.

ITH the release of their seventh album Powderfinger are set to cement their spot as one of Australia's most successful rock outfits.

After not being entirely happy with their last album the band decided to do things differently this time around.

"We wanted to change our song writing habits," singer Bernard Fanning says.

On *The Golden Rule* the five-piece tried a different approach in terms of how songs are structured and the process of putting a song together. "From a lyrical point of view I was

trying to be more economical, to say more with less if possible, which on some songs I completely failed and ended up with total verbal diarrhoea," he says.

The band formed in 1989 in Brisbane and since 1992 their line-up has remained steady with Fanning on vocals, Darren Middleton and Ian Haug on guitars, John Collins on bass, and Jon Coghill on drums.

They have sold more than two million albums, won 16 Aria Music Awards, and are a fixture at the top of the Australian charts.

Being around for such a long time often leads to speculation about the demise of a band.

A couple of weeks ago the Australian media was abuzz with rumours about an imminent split-up of the band, but Fanning dismisses those

"That happened for our last three records, so that's nothing new.

"Part of the idea is probably we're not too

involved in show business.

"We're pretty successful in Australia but we're not the kind of band that goes to movie premieres or society parties and I'd say that

gives people reason to speculate," he says.

Powderfinger repeatedly caught attention with taking a stance on political and social

They performed at WaveAid in the aftermath of the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami, raised funds for breast cancer victims and in 2007 teamed up with Aussie mates Silverchair for the Across the

Divide tour, promoting Reconciliation Australia. But all the same Fanning says it was a misconception Powderfinger was a political band. "It's just a matter of writing of things you

observe and what's on

your mind while writing the songs. "On this record there is nothing in particular that has a political bend, it's more about the politics of relationships between people rather than party politics or anything like

that," he says.

Another project Powderfinger have committed themselves to is Movember, growing facial hair for men's health.

"Everybody is looking particularly disgusting

at the moment.

"I was confident that I had more hair on certain parts of my face but that didn't work out

that way."

But after all it was not about looking stylish, but about making people think about men's

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## No more frosty pitches

MATE Mark Wilson



EING from down south it seems laughable that we should have to contend with Global Warming. What will we do?

Replace the cabbage trees along Tweed St with palm trees, fire a fake sand beach out the front of the Sea Scout Den and watch as Scandinavian backpackers turn their back on Queenstown for the yellow sands and balmy weather of the New River Estuary.

While it may be cold down south it has its benefits, lower levels of disease in our stock and soils, we can grow great Swedes and most of all we don't have to pack as much when going on holiday because we are tough from walking barefoot in the snow uphill both ways to get to and from school.

Will Global warming put these great southern qualities at risk? There is some form of debate over whether it even exists, it's all a conspiracy theory, the world is actually cooling, it's all natural forces, scientologists are causing it etc and while I don't know what Ken Ring thinks on the matter it would be a fair guess old man moon thinks that moon is causing it!

playing rugby on frost covered fields, since my childhood there is less reliable snow and softer footy pitches, case closed. What do we do to stop this impending doom of

To throw my theory in, I'm a skier and I grew up

tropical fruit, topless sunbathing at Oreti Beach and children going soft? Many people think New Zealand should pack up its 0.1 per cent of Global CO2 emissions in its old kit bag and trudge off to Copenhagen and lead the world in emissions reduction to save our clean green image.

Noble it may be but while we may look great it's hardly going to save the planet.

Someone in Brazil can wake up and clear fell some colossal chunk of Amazon rain forest and our whole year's efforts are wasted in a week.

China grows by over 7 million people a year and pumps out more C02 in two days than we do in a whole year.

So little old New Zealanders wake up pay the power bill plus the extra 20 per cent to save Earth, fill their car plus the extra 8 cents a litre to offset India having to clean up its act and then head down to the back paddock and start corking sheep bums so Brazil can cut down some more trees.

We were by no means a major cause of Global Warming, we will face just as many consequences as the rest of the world if not more and yet New Zealand is being asked to suffer to set an example like some form of Climate crusading Marta.

Yes, we have a problem, it needs fixed; maybe the best way to do this is to tax each company on Earth regardless of where they are from a very small amount, put that into a research fund where the technology invented is owned by all citizens of the world or maybe the Stags just need to add the Air NZ Cup to the Shield and hell will well and truly have frozen over.



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