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The Southland Times  
**Unwind**



**REUNION**  
 The boys  
 are back  
 D2



**Jam session:** Vision's current lineup, from left, Jeff Ross, Trevor Daley, Geoff Burn, Neville Scott and Bob Daley, getting in tune for their 40th anniversary weekend.

Photo: BARRY HARCOURT 140689

**Push off,  
 Pommies**



**MATE**  
 Mark Wilson

**T**ESCO, leave our dogs alone. Some of us long to own a wee patch of pristine New Zealand pastures, we envy farmers and often long for the Kiwi dream of being a people of the land.

Maybe envy makes us quick to dismiss farmers' complaints about high fertiliser bills, lower payouts or increased regulations. Maybe it's the bounty of boats and new utes that have been congregating in our dairy farmers' implement sheds while our milk and butter bills have been skimming the stars that have left some of us sour and a little green with envy.

It's easy to pine after a life on the land, especially when it comes with a V8 Holden ute and 7m hardtop Stabi-Craft but put yourselves in the farmers' shoes of late and it's not all roses and buttercups.

First aunty Helen tries to tax you for not keeping your animals' flatulence under control, then, when Parliament was under threat from tractors and pitchforks a grand scheme to save the world from New Zealand's 0.03 per cent contribution to global warming via an emissions trading scheme was dreamt up, once again hitting you in the back pocket.

On a rare trip north to watch your beloved Stags battle crook refs from the empty bleachers of Eden Park, you get the privilege of listening to Aucklanders moan about being stuck in traffic on the roads you pay ever increasing amounts for every time you fill your ute or tractor up to grow food for the buggers.

Back on the farm you pull your hair out in frustration trying to pay your tax bill online via painfully slow internet, dreaming of possibly receiving some benefits from the ultra-fast broadband rollout your tax dollars are paying for.

After 9 minutes downloading, you read of the next innovative scheme to keep our food chain safe, chipping every animal just in case there are some suicide bomber cows trying to enter the United States in your herd. Possibly chipping violent criminals on parole may instead be a better investment in our safety.

Whatever happened to the simple life? You grew your sheep, swedes and milk and because they tasted good and people were hungry or cold they bought them and life rolled on. By no means finished interfering with your time-tested way of life that has helped shape the country, some know-it-all from a UK grocery chain decides your best mate the sheepdog is stressing the poor lambs and in his opinion you should get rid of them.

Now I don't know who has seen the new Speight's advert where the lads are rounding up sheep... not very effectively and looks to be causing the sheep stress and a little humour, but you get my point - without dogs, what will be used: politicians, schoolchildren, loud hailer, sheep whisperers?

Life on the farm may be a Kiwi dream but it's definitely not without its challenges.

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# 20/20 Vision

Forty years, 38 members, thousands of gigs. Veteran Southland supergroup Vision rack up another one for the history books this weekend. **Chris Chilton** reports.

In life 40 years is a long time. In rock 'n' roll it's an eternity. Bands come and fads go, but Vision's 40th anniversary this weekend is a remarkable achievement, by anyone's standards, putting them up there with the likes of the Rolling Stones in terms of pure longevity.

"It's just a pity we don't have as much money as them," drummer Trevor Daley says wistfully. Unlike previous landmark anniversaries, where

the Invercargill band has performed big shows featuring hits from the eras of each lineup, this time Vision will be keeping it largely low key and in-house. It makes things less stressful and more sociable for lead guitarist Bob Daley, the one member who's been constant throughout since the band's inception in 1969.

Whenever there has been a reunion show in the past, Bob's been stuck up on stage all night playing through the many lineup changes. "I just never got a

chance to settle back and have a yarn with the guys," he says.

"I never got to meet them. I just got to say 'hi guys' and that was it. They just had to play their six tunes and I was there all bloody night."

There are quite a few giddays to be said whenever Vision have a reunion. Ex-members are scattered far and wide throughout New Zealand and overseas.

In all, there have been almost 40 players through this institutional Southland covers band, many of them coming back and doing several different stints. Around 30 will be in Invercargill this weekend to mark the band's 40th birthday.

Last night Vision members past and present had a get-together and jam at the Southland Musicians Club. Tonight they've having a dinner for band and partners and tomorrow they'll be headlining the

multiband gig Hot Cross Rock at the musos' club.

Ever the joker, Bob Daley says the secret to playing for 40 years in a band is "when they fire you, you just keep coming back".

"I think we've been lucky over the years. We had good gigs and were able to call guys up. That was important right from day one . . .

"When we had the Whitehouse (residency), we had a good gig. We used to pinch other guys from all the bands."

And for good reason.

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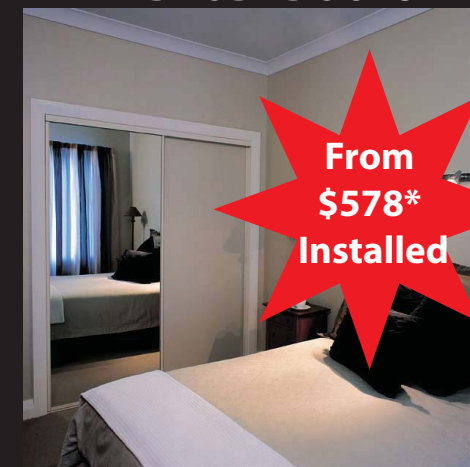
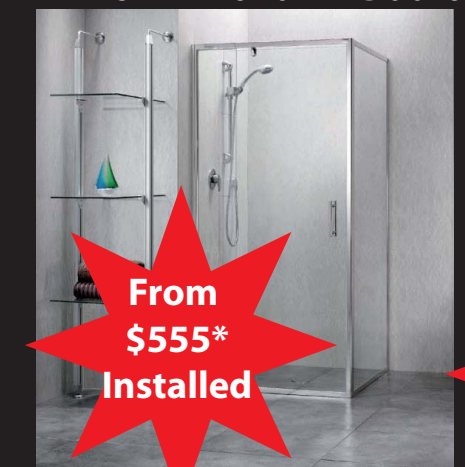
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