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Feeling like more



With 10 music industry years under their belts, The Feelers thought it was about time to release a greatest hits album. Drummer Hamish Gee talks to **Laura McQuillan** about their new release, *The Feelers: The Best 1998-2008*.

THE Feelers want to reassure fans that releasing a best-of album doesn't mean they're breaking up. Drummer Hamish Gee says some people get the impression that a greatest hits album means the end of a band, but that's "absolutely not the case" with The Feelers.

"We've actually put a couple of new songs on as well just to point that fact out."

Gee says *The Feelers: The Best 1998-2008* is a celebration of the past 10 years, and the band — James Reid (vocals and guitar), Andy Lynch (guitar), Matt Short (bass) and Gee — is looking forward to at least 10 more.

"It's 10 years since the release of our debut album, *Supersystem*, so we figured what better time to release a best-of album than to celebrate 10 years."

"After four records and the amount of songs that have gone to radio, we thought that would be a reasonable amount to fit on the disc."

The two new songs on the album are a teaser for what may become the band's fifth album, for which six songs have been "tentatively recorded".

The band's recording process has become increasingly relaxed over the past decade, and now involves a lot of "pottering around", says Gee.

"We've all got studios at home so what we do is get together in the morning and play cricket or petanque on the lawn, have a couple of beers and play some guitars and before you know it you're in the home studio pottering away and wake up the next day and you've somehow managed to churn out a song."

"I don't think we've ever consciously sat down and said 'we have to write a song and we want it to go to radio and we want to target this demographic here ...'."

"We've just (done it), depending on our mood at the time, in between mucking about and cricket on the lawn and somehow something sorta comes together in the midst of all the fun."

Their best-of album features 16 of their hit radio singles, and, just like their previous albums, went straight to number one on the New Zealand album chart — showing that local audiences are still enjoying the band after a decade.

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Rock on: James Reid from The Feelers.
 Picture: WAIKATO TIMES

The silver bullet

MATE
MARK WILSON



SUNDAY evening's long haul back from Christchurch cocooned in the cockpit of my 1989 Mitsubishi Lancer (aka the Silver Bullet) was not the most pleasant voyage I've ever had to endure.

Incident weather punctuated by drizzly rain required the use of my somewhat rowdy windscreen wipers that, during their adventurous excursion over my windscreen, produced a noise akin to an Arabian sand monkey's mating ritual.

It would be fair to say the Silver Bullet knew the way home so my attention span was failing to live up to that of a North American teenager's Ritalin-fuelled study session; my eyes were weary after a weekend where sleep was scarce and those pesky signs telling you to rest or die kept flashing past in the murk.

What I needed was an adventure and surer than empty seats at Carisbrook the Silver Bullet delivered on cue.

As I sped through Burkes Pass pushing 90kmh I noticed behind physio appointment cards strewn on my dash the oil light was burning brightly.

Strange lights are a common occurrence so I decided to push on through to Tekapo.

Much to my dismay, the previous day's slightly inappropriate excursion to Akaroa via the ultra scenic route featuring many precariously winding gravel roads more suited to rally driving than a vintage car had jarred loose my oil cap and the entire contents of the oil well was now plastered around my engine and seeping from every possible cavity on to the road.

Luckily, I never travel far in my beloved Bullet without a tool kit. Five litres of oil, a quick conversion of a fuel cap to an oil cap with a little tenderness from my hammer and pliers and a chunk of Brazilian rainforest later, I was heading south once more.

Uncomfortable, noisy, slow, no stereo, dodgy left wheel bearing and a fair few character scars, the Silver Bullet is one-of-a-kind but yet the only one of our school cars from my crew still pumping CO2 into the atmosphere on a regular basis.

We have been through a lot together; stuck on the speed bumps at the Arrowtown camping ground due to an overloading of Speight's in the boot, submerged up to the windows in the Arrow River, used for sleeping and other activities usually associated with the bedroom, used as a platform to hold down Richie as he had his body hair waxed off for his stag party, and as a trellis for vines to grow up when parked in my aunt's garden for three years.

Most cars get you from A to B, some in style, some in comfort, others at speed. The Silver Bullet has got me from 15 to 27 with no style, miniscule comfort and very little speed but left me with numerous memories.

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