

CD review



Album: **Songs**
Dust.

LET'S hope Dust settles on Melbourne's music scene for many years to come if the Northcote band's first album is anything to go by. The five-piece group's first album *Songs* was launched last week and is already getting air-play on radio station 3RRR and the ABC. This mature and sophisticated album brings the best aspects of progressive folk, psychedelic pop and alternative country together in a way that is fresh yet nostalgic. There are shades of artists who came to prominence in the 1960s and '70s such as Jefferson Starship, Pink Floyd, Neil Young and Fairport Convention. But this band uses these influences to create something exciting. The loose, dreamy and atmospheric first track, *The Message*, sets the tone. Other standout tracks include the sensual *I'll bear witness* and the gently melancholic *Set Apart*. *Songs* is available at record stores and online at www.psy-harmonics.com.au

Julia Irwin



Dust members Nicole Skeltys, Ann-Marie Sutherland and Mark Gardiner.

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Dust settles on new ground

Julia Irwin

DUST takes its audiences on a journey over new ground while keeping one foot in familiar territory, singer and keyboard player Ann-Marie Sullivan says. "We all come from different musical backgrounds and people say we have used the influences from these backgrounds to create a new genre," the Northcote performer said. "I used to tell people that we're a bit like a David Lynch movie soundtrack but there are a

lot of different ways to describe our music." As well as guitar and bass, Dust uses instruments from eastern cultures such as the hypnotic Indian harmonium to produce its distinctive blend of psychedelia, neo-folk, pop and country. "Getting together with this incredible band of musicians, has opened my eyes to different tastes in music - I've been expanded as a musician," Sullivan said. Sullivan is classically trained and has a bachelor of music perform-

ance from the Victoria College of the Arts. Dust also comprises Nicole Skeltys on harmonium, vintage keyboard and vocals, Mark Gardiner on guitar and vocals, Gavin Vance on bass and cowboy drummer Dave Bower. Sullivan said the band had taken 18 months to record its debut album *Songs*. ■ Dust plays at the Empress Hotel, 714 Nicholson St, Fitzroy, on September 8 from 5.30pm. Bookings on 9489 8605.

Gig guide

Tuesday, August 21

Jetty Road with Tinpan Orange (8pm, \$8) Northcote Social Club, 301 High St. The Twoks and My Robot Can Dance Bar (9pm) 303, 303 High St, Northcote. Karaoke Night at The Bender Bar (8pm) at 635 High St, Thornbury.

Wednesday, August 22

Canary plus Brown Jumper and Sophia (8pm, \$6) Wesley Anne bar, 250 High St, Northcote. Deadly Wednesdays indigenous music (8pm, free) Open Studio, 204 High St, Northcote. Loren with Luke Foran and Ben Quin (8pm, \$12) Northcote Social Club. Gian Slater Band at Bar 303 (9pm, donation). Open mike night (8pm) at The Bender Bar.

Thursday, August 23

Acts of Absurdity circus/variety showcase (9pm, donation) at Bar 303. Jess Horse and the Black Seminoles at Wesley Anne bar.

Friday, August 24

Blacksesame(Sydney) album launch and The Portraits (9pm) at Bar 303. Mercy Arms (NSW) with Ghostwood (NSW) and Bachelor of Arts (8.30pm, \$12)

Northcote Social Club.

Saturday, August 25

Faker(NSW) with Sparkadia and special guest (8.30pm, \$22) Northcote Social Club. Greens Fundraiser with Oscar, The State Express, Awomadah Fig and Justin Parker (8pm, \$15/\$7) at Bar 303.

Sunday, August 26

Jordie Lane (5pm, free) at Wesley Anne bar. Latin American music, dancing and Argentinean barbecue (3pm until late) Open Studio, Northcote. Heather Stewart Band (4.30pm) and Tzigas (7.30pm, free) at Bar 303. The City on Film (US) with Small Knives and Pikelet (8pm, \$15) Northcote Social Club.