

Album of the Month
August 2007

Nature's Best
New Zealand's Top 30 Songs Of All-Time
EM2

All these tracks are what I would term 'Pop', not really my scene!

Two tracks by **Dave Dobbyn**, who I actually saw perform live a couple of years ago at Nelson's Open Air Music and Fireworks Concert. **Dave Dobbyn** is regarded as a national treasure in NZ. In 2001 after 25 years as a musician & songwriter **Dobbyn** was given a rare lifetime achievement award by the NZ recording industry. At the Nelson Concert he got an amazing reception from the audience and they were all singing along to his songs, none of which I knew, of course!!

Bic Runga has a track on both CD1 and CD2. I quite like her voice. She is a 26 year old from Christchurch, South Island (Hayley Westenra's home city) and is of Chinese/Maori heritage - *Drive* which appears on CD2 is from the first album she recorded in early 1997.

Split Endz and **Crowded House** both reflect New Zealand's small population, still only just over 4 million. **Split Endz** was formed by Tim Finn in 1972 with a bunch of university buddies. He later recruited his younger brother Neil. This band lasted from 1972 – 1983. Neil then went on to form his own band **Crowded House** which is perhaps one of the NZ bands known in the UK. **Crowded House** was formed in 1986 and broke up in 1996. It comprised two Australians and New Zealander guitarist Neil Finn. Neil Finn then went on to form **The Finn Brothers** with brother Tim.

Track 2 on CD2 is *Blue Smoke* by **Pixie Williams and The Ruru Karaitiana Quartet** and is like 1950s Hawaiian music.

Linda
July 2007