

Sound massage photo: Pascal Battus

Ears to Eclectic Electric by Megan Spencer (c) 2011

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It is another busy time in Bendigo's lively world of 'sound art'. Firstly, local musician and radio presenter Mick Derrick – aka 'Metal Mick', the presenter of Phoenix FM's weekly experimental music program [On The Wires Of Our Nerves](#) – is one of the locals behind a noise/sound art extravaganza, coming up at the Newmarket Hotel on July 16.

Called the '[Eclectic Electric Experimental Music Festival](#)', ten hours of contemporary experimental music will blast/leak/distort from the Newmarket's PA on July 16, 2011.

Kicking off at 2pm, the festival features more than thirteen local and Melbourne bands and sound artists - including Jacques Soddell from Bendigo's "collective of Central Victorian experimental musicians & filmmakers" [Undue Noise](#) – and others with band names such as Sore, Dead River, Bum Creek and Blankface Distortion.

Having met Mick a few times he has always impressed me as one of Bendigo's rare treasures.

He is the kind of person who gets excited about scoring a crateful of movies on obsolete VHS. Same goes for cassette tapes (one of the main interests on Mick's Facebook page is 'Cassette Culture'). You just know he's going to find a way to make them work – either by giving them to other dedicated tape-o-files – and yes even now they are out there – or come up with some innovative and creative way to use them.

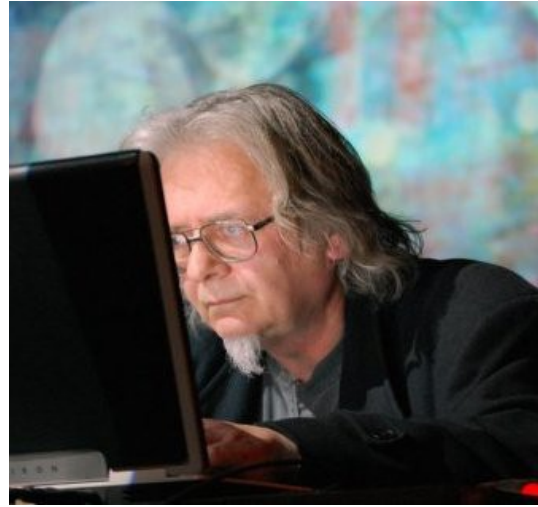
Hissy audio from his cassette collection will no doubt be put to good use during 'Eclectic Electric' when it comes time for Mick to take to the stage for his own fearsome music set, performed in a Mexican wrestling mask.

Events like 'Eclectic Electric' reinforce the optimism I have for regional art and music; underground events occasionally emerge to reveal an entire subculture of dedicated creatives quietly working away in our own backyards for little or no money, undaunted, evolving how we see or hear the world we live in.

Speaking of Jacques Soddell: he has been busy helping to organise another visit to Bendigo by “sense specific” Festival of Sound Arts, [Liquid Architecture](#), now in its twelfth year.



Mick (middle, masked) on stage in Bendigo. Photo: Megan Spencer



Jacques Soddell at LA9, Sydney. Photo: Alison Richardson/RealTime.

Due to hit town next Wednesday, this is also Liquid Architecture’s fourth visit to Bendigo, such has Dragon City’s reputation as a sound arts supporter grown over the past decade.

Boasting “sound massages” in the afternoon between 2-5pm by French artist Pascal Battus, plus a full-blown concert from 8pm, LA12 will ensconce itself at Latrobe University’s Visual Arts Centre in View Street, instantly making a liar out of the venue (think about it...)

Dave Brown (from legendary Melbourne band [Lazy](#)), Lukas Simonis from The Netherlands and Australian classical-violinist-come-field-recordingist Lizzie Pogson, will also take part in the concert which begins at 8pm.

The “sound massages” are unique “one on one” sound performances which take you on an intimate journey way down into your ears...

I can't wait. Whistle down the wind and take me there *pronto!*

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