



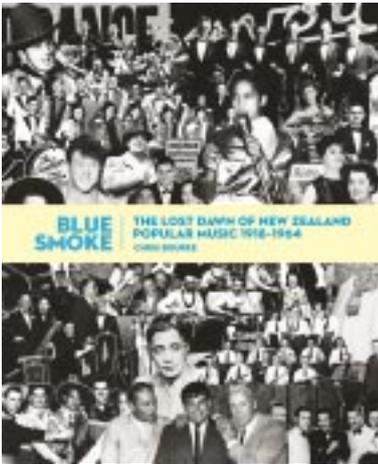
AUCKLAND
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PRESS



Chris Bourke

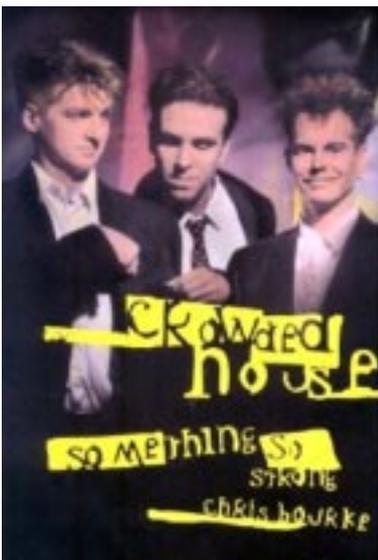
Chris Bourke is a writer, journalist, editor, music historian and radio producer. He has a degree in Music History from Victoria University of Wellington and has been a staff writer and the Arts and Books Editor of the *NZ Listener*; the editor of two of New Zealand's leading music magazines, *Rip It Up* and *Real Groove*; and the producer of Radio NZ National's Saturday Morning programme for two of its celebrated hosts, John Campbell and Kim Hill.

Bourke wrote the definitive, best-selling biography of the band Crowded House, *Something So Strong* (Pan Macmillan, 1997), which was described by critic Stuart Coupe in the *Australian Book Review* as the book "by which writing about popular music in Australasia will be measured for years to come".



He has produced a range of music documentaries for Radio NZ, including series on the piano in pop ("Don't Shoot the Piano Player"), the roots of alt.country ("Outlaws and Fugitives"), a personal tour of black American music and culture ("A Change is Gonna Come"), and retrospectives on Harold Arlen, Split Enz, Bernard Herrmann and Louis Gottschalk.

Other career highlights have included a two-day session with the Beatles' legendary "press agent" Derek Taylor, a bizarre afternoon with Billy Idol, a private serenade from Joni Mitchell, and writing on-the-road accounts of touring with New Zealand's Elvis (Johnny Devlin), Dave Dobbyn, and the Warratahs.



Bourke is an amusing, informed blogger at "Distractions: Magpie Culture from the Deeper South" <http://chrisbourke.blogspot.com/>. Pieces of his music journalism and book reviews from the past can be read at www.chrisbourke.co.nz.

Bourke's began his new book *Blue Smoke: The Lost Dawn of New Zealand Popular Music* (Auckland University Press, October 2010) as the 2006 Research Fellow at New Zealand's National Library, and wrote much of it in 2008 while Writer in Residence at the University of Waikato. He will be producing four radio programmes for Radio NZ Concert, to run in late 2010, showcasing the songs and music he covers in the book.