



# Gotye's hot, but doubts he's cool

JAMES WIGNEY  
Play editor

HE is a multiple ARIA winner, with a gold record, the country's No.1 single and rave reviews for his new album.

But Wally de Backer – aka Gotye – doesn't think he will ever be cool. "I'll listen to bands that are really cool or look at artwork and I go, 'I'm never going to be cool like that'," De Backer said. "Because I am not cool like that. But it's all right – I think I can accept that."

But, as evidenced by the stunning exclusive photo shoot in this month's *Triple J* magazine, fans may disagree. Those same fans have pushed the Melbourne singer's duet with rising star Kimbra, *Somebody That I Used To Know*, above international superstars Adele and Maroon 5 to the No.1 spot on the ARIA singles chart.

The song's striking clip has been viewed on YouTube nearly three million times, thanks in part to Twitter endorsements from Ashton Kutcher and Lily Allen.

De Backer, who won the 2007 ARIA for Best Male Artist and whose previous album *Like Drawing Blood* was voted by Triple J listeners as the 11th best Australian album of all time, recorded his new album *Making Mirrors* in a barn on the Mornington Peninsula, using everything from the sounds of a fence to



Out now: *Triple J* magazine.

an '80s autoharp. Read the full story in this month's *Triple J* magazine, which is out now.

*Making Mirrors* is reviewed in today's Play liftout  
Luke Dennehy, Page 118

## For sale: Humphrey

AFTER raising giggles from generations of Australians, television favourite Humphrey B. Bear will be sold to the highest bidder.

The famous bear has been gathering dust since the production company behind his popular children's show went into liquidation two years ago.

But the bear may soon return to Australian screens. Insolvency firm BRI Ferrier last week began an international hunt for buyers of Banksia Productions' assets.

As well as four Humphrey costumes, the new owner will have the rights to all Humphrey B. Bear intellectual property, including 1776 taped episodes of *Here's Humphrey*.

# Sex abuse claims



Action: "Emma" (not her real name).

AN ALLEGED victim of workplace sexual assault has been accused of contributing to her abuse because she did not lodge a complaint with her bosses — who were the men allegedly abusing her.

The young woman claims to have suffered repeated assaults, including having her clothes torn off, at the hands of the manager and assistant manager of a Ballarat pub where she worked as a barmaid.

She has launched County Court action against the hotel after she attempted suicide several times and was so distressed she was unable to finish a university course.

But lawyers for the pub and its worker's compensation insurers said if the allegations were true the woman was "guilty of contributory negligence", according to a draft of

SUE HEWITT

its defence provided to solicitor's representing "Emma" (not her real name).

The pub's lawyers, Wisewould Mahony, said because the woman, who was 20 at the time of alleged assaults, did not quit immediately, that she contributed to her injury.

"I couldn't believe how heartless and judgmental anybody could be about a 20-year-old," she said.

Emma's lawyer, Lisa Treeby, a partner of Arnold Thomas & Becker, labelled the defence lawyer's comments "prehistoric" and sexist.

"How could anyone suggest this devastated, vulnerable young woman is in any way to blame for the (alleged) sexual assaults she

suffered at the hands of her work superiors?" she said. "They (the opposition lawyers) are in possession of medical material which shows that our client is in an extremely vulnerable psychological state.

"There is some risk that these allegations could aggravate her condition. To suggest that she added to her own injury by not ceasing her employment sooner than she did astounds me."

Wisewould Mahony did not return calls.

It is the second legal blow Emma has suffered.

When one of sexual tormentors faced court, magistrate Richard Pithouse refused to hear her victim impact statement because he had gone to the wrong court and was running late.

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