

# Battle of the Bands

*“The winning band finds themselves with a serious cash prize.”*

**F**ancy yourself to be a bit of a rock star? Well, come and prove it with your fellow musicians at the Fox Hotel's Battle of the Bands competition, 'Local Brew'.

Supported by PSB radio and sponsored by Coopers beer, the Fox Hotel not only hold the competition for a bit of fun, but uses the opportunity to showcase the talents of Melbourne musicians and bands in front of industry professionals, there to judge your skills on stage.

Though this is only the first 'Local Brew' competition, the hotel is hoping for it to become an annual event and an important platform for new and emerging bands in today's local music scene as well as making the pub itself wider known in Melbourne's music nightlife.

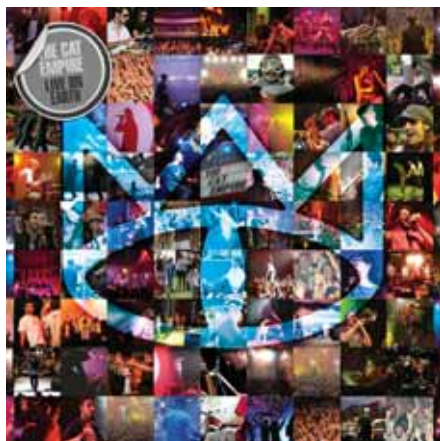
The winning band finds themselves with a serious cash prize, 21 hours' worth of recording time and some airtime on PBS radio.

Located on the corner of Alexandra Parade and Wellington St in Collingwood, the Fox will see Thursday nights taken over, from April till June, by bands battling for the title.

It isn't only the bands that get to have fun, as the audience enthusiasm towards each band is taken into consideration when the final decision is made. And jugs of Coopers are just \$10.

March 17 is the deadline for bands to enter.

Visit [www.thefoxhotel.com.au](http://www.thefoxhotel.com.au)



## The Cat Empire

**Live on Earth**

EMI

"An Australian singing in French about an American state with a Jamaican rhythm track," says co-lead singer Harry Angus speaking specifically about the band's version of *Hotel California*, but it does a more than reasonable job of explaining their far and wide influences. This is a band able to harness disparate musical elements. The most impressive part is that they can combine every sound they think up and still deliver an upbeat, festive atmosphere each time they hit the stage. *Live On Earth* includes recordings from across the world, from their hometown of Melbourne to New York, Paris and London.



## The Red Jumpsuit Apparatus

**Lonely Road**

EMI

The album's first single *You Better Pray*, a bluesy, ringing-guitar, rock and roll salute to "the little guy, the underdog," according to lead vocalist and songwriter Ronnie Winter, is how he characterises the band.

"It's been a wild ride," he says. "Everything really fell into place for us on our first album. We have a lot of incredible fans who bought our record. But we're just these kids from a small town who play together, and have done it on our own. But it's ultimately a lonely road that requires you to be away from your family, and that's time you don't get back."



## Ben Lee

**The Rebirth of Venus**

Universal

The inspiration for *The Rebirth Of Venus* is to celebrate feminine qualities such as creativity, nurturing and compassion, hence the title. Previously Lee has collaborated with a vast array of artists including Liz Phair, Evan Dando, Ben Kweller, Ben Folds, Jason Schwartzman and Kylie Minogue. He has also starred in a film, *The Rage in Placid Lake*, and composed the ARIA and AFI-nominated soundtrack to the new Australian movie, *The Square*. Lee has been nominated for 13 ARIA Awards and won six, including Best Male Artist in 2005. In that year, *Catch My Disease* was the most played song on Australian radio.



## White Lies

**To Lose My Life**

Universal

White Lies are the glowering, glistening, moody, magnificent, cheekbones-of-granite, stone cold future of Rock. As teenagers in what now seems a different life, they were a band called Fear Of Flying, lumped in with the underage Way Out West club scene. They'd known each other since they were babies in West London, playing together since bassist Charles Cave and drummer Jack Brown struck woodblock and triangle at a school play. Not so many years later, they formed a proper band at the age of fifteen with singer Harry McVeigh (Jack got his first drum kit literally a fortnight before the band formed).