

The Helter Skelter Club

Paul Elliott – Running the Helter Skelter Club

“It was great! In my mind it was a room that was unique and different to other rooms. We did fliers and posters; there is a cartoon of melting and exploding TV sets, that was part of the promotion. We got really great bands. The Ballroom was going through problems and seemed to be closed and a lot of people wanted another St Kilda venue and good bands wanted to play. We had the Beasts of Bourbon and Sacred Cowboys among others, and I didn’t have much money as we did it mainly on door deals (some of the bands got the ‘special payment’). We were all partying hard, and everyone wanted to continue partying... We had some pretty big nights!

Anyway, I was in Sydney with the Gong Show, and I got a call from Michael Lynch who managed TISM and he said, “Paul the publican (not the owner) has just put his girlfriend’s head through the glass door and we can’t get into play, what should we do?” I said “don’t ask me” ... He was a Māori guy. Even when I had my gigs on and got good crowds, he didn’t like them, it was like he wanted the pub for himself. He would say “fuck off and piss off” to the punks. He was really rude and obnoxious, and he didn’t like the music or the people that showed up and, in the end, I was told by the owner, who didn’t want to stand up to him, that I would have to go. I thought, “I am doing my bit, getting people in, they are buying beer, what’s the problem?” I ran it for about a year or so, maybe 18 months.”

Source: Punk Journey