Tin Can Radio

Still kicking back

Cameron Boon

COVER bands are always popular in Alice Springs and laidback rockers Final Notice say they've had five years of kicking back and entertaining the crowds.

The three-piece is known for their tongue-in-cheek attitude as much as for their distinct sound.

Final Notice has played at just about every pub and club in town on pretty much every special occasion they can think of.

Duncan Rae, Denis Persion and Craig Tilmouth were playing on the deck of the Juicy Rump on Tuesday this week for the Melbourne Cup.

“My favourite places at the moment are the Rock Bar and Monte’s, just because they’re laid out so well,” guitarist Denis said.

“Our three have known each other for years, which makes things really easy for us. When and we were in a hard back in the 80s called Nemesis and we played heavy metal. I met Duncan pretty much when he came to town, which was 15 years ago now.”

Each of the three have their own distinct styles — Denis saying Paul Kelly’s tunes were top of his list recently.

“At the moment I’m just there to fill one role. Drummer Craig said the band were regular performers for New Year’s Eve but had not decided where they’d be playing this time around.

Singer Duncan Rae is from 6pm.

Sun Tin Can Radio live from 3pm. Thurs Guido Staps

If you would like to have your Gig Guide details available for publication in the Centralian Advocate, you may phone in by Tuesday 6pm. 

To find out where Final Notice will be next, read our Gig Guide.

Argo is crazy enough to work

It takes a special kind of movie to make its audience uneasy, especially when they know the outcome, and I’m happy to say Argo is one of those films.

It’s the late 70s and tensions between the US and Iran have reached boiling point. For the love of all that is holy, don’t miss the first five minutes of this film or the Iranians will seem like a bunch of angry perks for no reason.

The context of the situation happens to getting the full understanding of this film.

The American Embassy is stormed and the Iranians take all but six of the Americans inside hostage.

While they flee out in the Canadian Embassy, afraid to even go outside, Tony Mendez (Ben Affleck) of the CIA is scrambling to find a way to get them out of the country safely.

Their best bet is to get these six civilians out of a country whose population chants “Death to America” in the streets? A Star Wars knock-off.

The hope to disguise the Americans as a film crew.

Ben Affleck as Tony Mendez in Argo

The scheme is the very definition of “just crazy enough to work” and watching it unfold is, in turns, frustrating, hilarious and likely to ail a sudden cause you to realise you’ve been holding your breath hoping nothing goes wrong.

None of the characters in the film feel like stereotypes just there to fill one role.

Mendez looks haggard and worn, making it clear the extrication isn’t the only thing on his mind, and each of the Americans trapped in the Canadian Embassy feel like real people with real hopes and fears.

The Hollywood bigwigs in on the operation (played by Alan Arkin and John Goodman) provide a lot of the easy laughs and that juxtaposes and contrasts with the serious men of the CIA and the claustrophobic atmosphere of the trapped Americans — and the thing with Argo is it doesn’t feel like mood whip-lash.

While there is a huge amount of shaky cam action going on that might throw some watchers, I felt it added more to the setting, making the whole thing look like a documentary from the 70s and 80s.

Argo is a film that will keep you guessing — and probably biting your nails — regardless of whether you’re a history buff or not.

Argo is rated M and is out at the Alice Springs Cinema now.