

ARTS

Gales don't spoil fun at the Fen

DESPITE a near disaster, the weekend's Splashy Fen music festival was a roaring success with about 3 000 people converging on the Underberg farm venue.

Organiser Bart Fokkens said the only setback at the event occurred when gusty Berg winds ripped large sheets of corrugated iron off the roof of the main stage.

"We were very, very lucky that there were no injuries," Fokkens said.

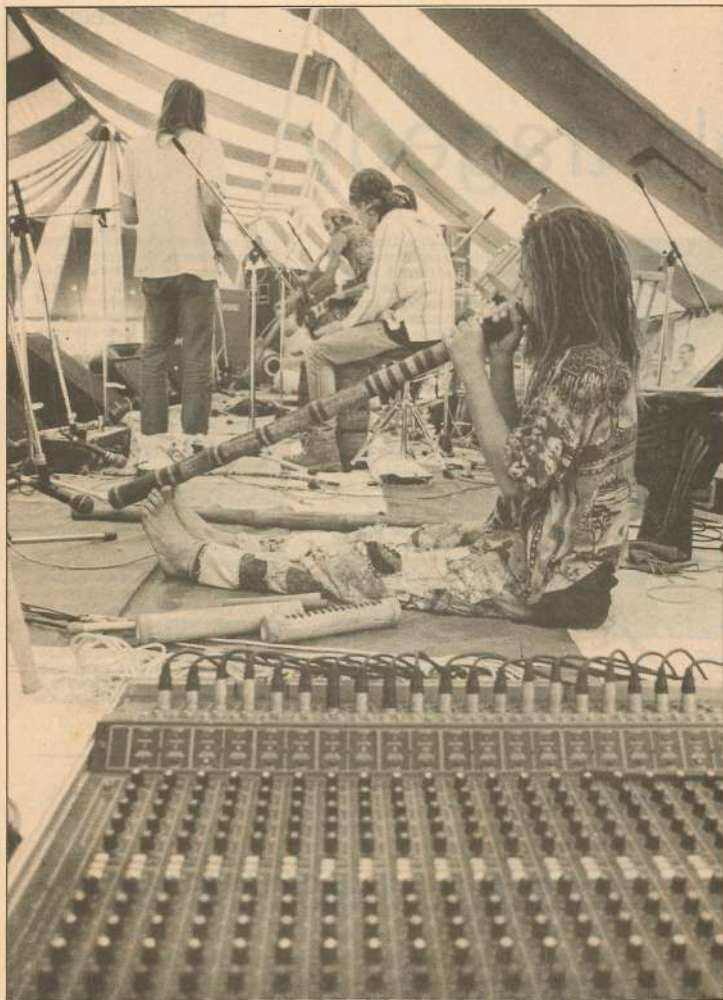
The show was then moved to a nearby marquee where around 130 musicians from all over the country thrilled hundreds of campers and "day-trippers" with a wide variety of music.

Around 70 different acts took the stage — including The Mike Smith Band, Edi Niederlander, Jeremy Taylor and the Waldorf String Band.

Attendance figures were well up on last year and, after just three years, the annual festival has established itself as a music showpiece.

"Obviously, we hope to see it grow bigger and bigger, but it will all depend on whether we can secure more sponsors in future," Fokkens said.

He added that one of the major attractions, the English band Magna Carta, had to be cancelled at the last minute because of limited sponsorship. — Witness Reporter.



A member of The Earthlings band plays a didgeridoo at Splashy Fen yesterday. The Free State band was one of around 70 acts that performed at this year's festival.

