

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.

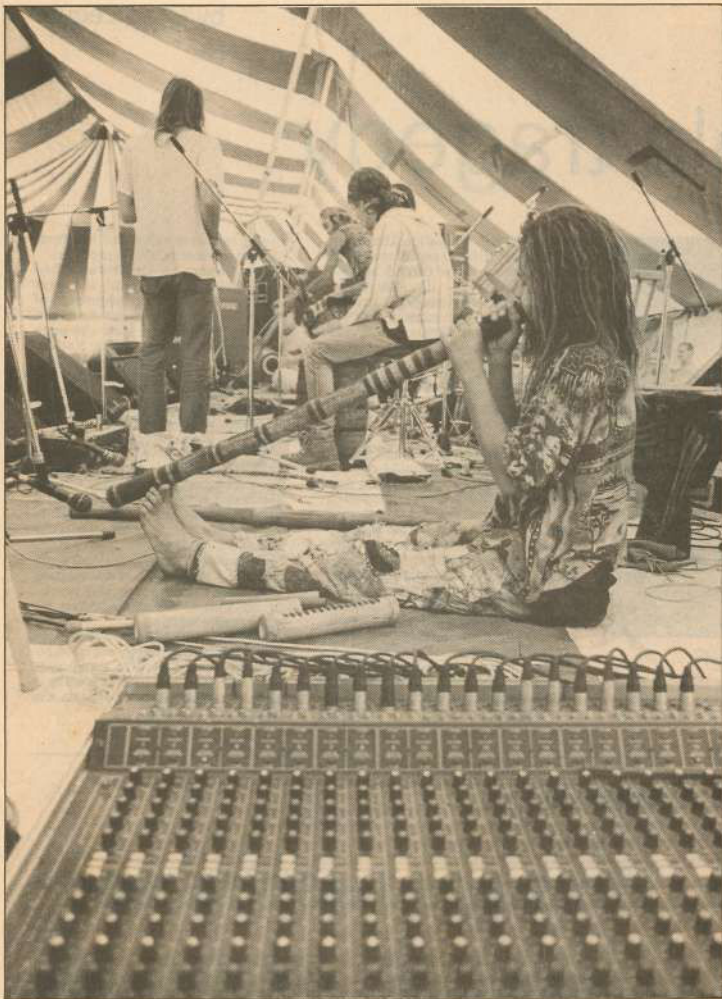
The show was then moved to a nearby marquee where around 130 musicians from all over the country thrilled hundreds of campers and "day-trippers" with a wide variety of music.

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.



The new venue after strong winds tore the roof off the main stage on Saturday. — Pictures by MARK WING.



Local musician RHYS JOHNSTONE leads the way with the electric cable to the secondary stage, after high winds wrecked the main stage on Saturday. Earlier, willing hands created a chain to haul the sound equipment uphill.



A colourfully-dressed couple make their own statement.

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Splashy Fen '92

Peace, love and the best of music

By MUNGO POORE

IT was a weekend of happenings. This year's Splashy Fen Music Festival in the Drakensberg has been judged the best yet, despite high drama when a gale-force wind all but wrecked the main stage on Saturday.

But, in the tradition of the show must go on, there were willing hands to help set up the complex sound rig on a smaller stage.

The fans attending this year's three-day "Bergstock" were in the mood for a party as Friday night's line-up of ethnic and folk musos got down to doing their thing.

It was Mike Smith and Bomvu, as well the Waldorf String Band from the Eastern

Cape, who got the best response from the crowd. The fans massed delightedly under a starry 'Berg sky, seemingly oblivious of the sub-zero temperatures.

While Saturday's wind drama came and went most music-lovers decided to spend the day down by the river or just socialising among the throng of wildy-dressed people.

Under threat of a snow storm, which fortunately never happened, Saturday night's entertainment got under way in a somewhat sombre mood. But all this changed when Steve Newman and Tananas, the festival's highlight, hit the stage. They had

the entire crowd on their feet and baying for more.

The band demonstrated a high standard of originality and professionalism that inspired the crowd and the rest of the bands to go on until four the next morning.

On a bright and sunny Sunday morning, the crowd prepared to leave. But not before they were transported into the exotic — with the sounds of a band playing Aboriginal digaridoos, followed by a delegation from the local Hare Krishna society, who performed a series of musical mantras.

Peace — certainly. Love — probably too much, in these Aids-conscious '90s. Music — only the best. That was Splashy Fen 1992.

SECOND PUZZLE PICTURE
Picture number 20



Date Key 6.5

This is the second of two Puzzle Pictures. Simply cut this Puzzle Picture out and paste it onto one of the remaining blocks marked with a "2" on your entry form. You must decide where it fits best. The last Puzzle Picture will appear in The Daily News tomorrow.

The Daily News SUNDAY TRIBUNE
STICK-A-PIC
COMPETITION



On stage at the Splashy Fen Festival, providing music for the thousands who travelled to the 'Berg.

Drama and nasty winds fail to dampen the spirits of Splashy Fen fans

What a party!

Report: Glenn McDougall

Pictures: Garth Stead

THERE were a few moments of drama at this weekend's Splashy Fen musical festival in the Southern Drakensberg when strong winds sent large sheets of corrugated iron cartwheeling off the roof of the stage and across the field.

"What a party! We blew the roof off," said one unsteady but happy reveller, who looked as if he hadn't slept for a week.

No-one was injured and stage crew were soon at work securing the roof.

More than 3 000 people of all ages, sporting a wide range of sartorial excellence and excess, converged on Splashy Fen to enjoy music, mountains and a pace that can only be described as extremely mellow.

By late yesterday, the hills and river banks were crowded with multi-coloured tents and vehicles and even more colourful people.

"We're very happy with things," said an exhausted Bart Foksens, one of the organisers of the festival.

"We've had no major problems and everyone involved has worked very hard to make things run smoothly," he said.

What brings people to this fairly remote location for a festival?

"To listen to good folk music with good folk," said Frank Later of Durban.

"Rats!" said Bruce Trevarthan of Sherwood, Durban, who then went on to explain that "rats" was a drinking game played by him and his friends which put them in the right mood for the festival.

"It's just the whole vibe ... everything," said Lianne Steele.

By late yesterday, the weather had turned cool and windy, with forecasters saying there was an 80 per cent chance of snow.

Festival goers greeted the news with hoots of "right on" and "snow baby, snow".

With the wind causing havoc on stage, organisers decided to move the show from the main stage to the Black Label marquee on the hill. This entailed the moving of large amounts of sound and lighting equipment.

By the look of things, it is possible that not even a full scale blizzard would dampen the spirit of hard-core festival fans, who rushed to volunteer their services for the move.

"Like the cliché goes: The show must go on," said soundman David Marx.



Paul Lewis travelled from Australia to be at the festival.



The way to do it ... Marc Golde (top) and friends in relaxed mood.



A car and trailer like you've never seen before ...



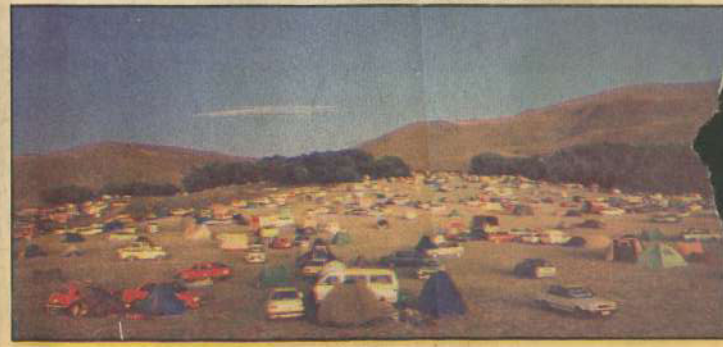
A member of the band Bomvu does his thing.



No reason for claustrophobia here ...



Shaun Pottergill of Johannesburg soaks up the music ... and the sun.



Tents and cars dot the hillside.

Drama and r
WI



Paul Lewis travelled from
to be at the festival.



A member of the

