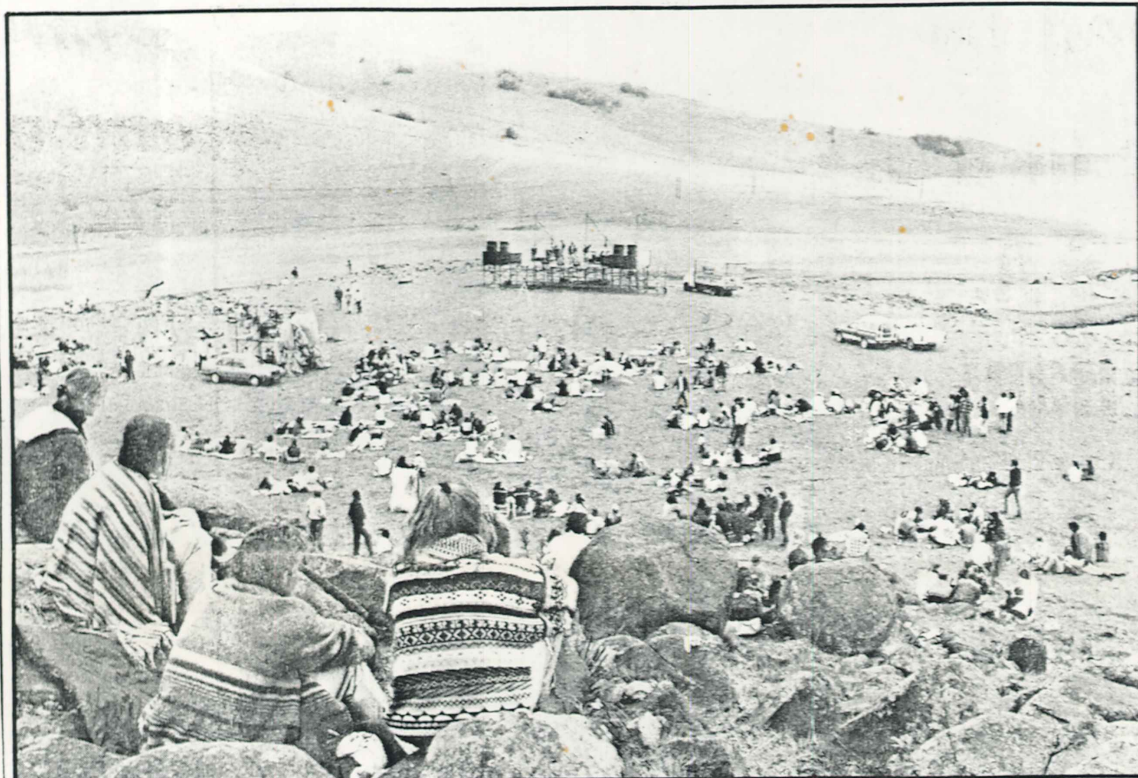


THE NATAL MERCURY, MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1990



Woodstock it wasn't . . . but for the 1 500 or so music fans the trip to Splashy Fen farm in the Drakensberg foothills was well worth it.

The hills were alive with the sound of (folk) music

TRANQUIL Splashy Fen farm near Underberg provided the ideal setting for a two-day outdoor folk music bash, the likes of which the townsfolk and farmers of the area have never seen before.

Hundreds of music fans from all over Natal descended on the farm in cars, on motorcycles and bicycles for what had been dubbed Bergstock, Natal's equivalent of the legendary American event of the 60s.

The turn-out was smaller than expected but the 1 500 or more who went thoroughly enjoyed it.

The start of the festival was delayed on Friday by howling winds and generator problems, but it was not long before the amplifiers and the bank of speakers on the scaffold stage came to life, and the setbacks were forgotten.

The mood on Saturday could only be described as 'laid back' as people relaxed on rocks, on the grass, on blankets and sleeping bags in a natural amphitheatre — with the majestic Drakensberg as the backdrop — and enjoyed the bands and solo artists,

Pietermaritzburg Bureau

whose music reverberated among the hills and valleys.

The locals, including farm workers and children and a number of burly, jovial farmers, also joined in the fun — many of them clearly amazed by the cultural cross-section of the audience, especially some of the long-haired 'weirdos' in their 60s-style dress.

Uniformed and plainclothes policemen from the local constabulary kept an eye on the event, at the same time enjoying the music.

Apart from promoting folk music, the festival had been staged to raise money for the Wildlife Society and the Turn Table Trust, a locally based, self-help project aimed at teaching black people basic skills.

According to the organisers the Sani branch of the Wildlife Society is negotiating with the Natal Parks Board to run a small piece of property at the foot of Sani Pass as a low-cost accommodation and environmental education centre.

MAKE OTHERS AWARE

You need a team behind you, and you need the local community on your side. One of the most positive and useful steps you can take is to increase local awareness of the problem and of its possible cure.

— Organise a visit by the whole Troop to the area where your chosen problem is most evident. Show and explain what's wrong. Let them feel as indignant and disturbed as you do. Encourage them to become involved.

— Arrange an exhibition: of invading alien plants, of polluting objects recovered from the river, of models showing erosion or fire hazards, of photographs showing local vandalism. Get your Patrol or Troop to help collect and arrange it all, so they are part of the project.

— Invite a speaker (after consultation with your Scouter) to a parents' evening, explaining the work of a social organisation such as the Association of Non-Smokers, the Cancer Society, Alcoholics Anonymous, the National Sea Rescue Institute, Child Welfare, Fire Brigade, your local old-age home or hospital. You write or phone to arrange the speaker (or, even better, visit), and your Patrol or



Troop help to arrange the venue for the meeting.

POSITIVE FOLLOW-UP

Your project will last at least three hours. Instead of one of the projects mentioned so far, you might decide on a practical job of work aimed at putting right the worst local example of your chosen problem.

— Adopt an area. Your Troop accepts the responsibility of keeping a local park or a picnic spot or a camp site clean and tidy.

— Adopt a river. Upgrade the banks, eliminate undesirable weeds, remove the litter.

— Plant a wind-break of indigenous trees.

First class

