

MURRAYLANDS MUSIC FESTIVAL SUCCESS

Despite the heat over South Australia, last weekend's Murraylands Music Festival at Taillem Bend drew over 600 people over its 3 day duration and attracted a high standard of entrants in the Talent Quest.

The Murraylands Music Festival is a unique festival in that the local school and community run it. "The whole school and community get involved in making the day happen including the students running various stalls, craft activities and activities to entertain families throughout the day. The committee and volunteers that provide their time are a wonderful group of people who work hard together to make this weekend as special as it can be", said organiser and school principal Noel Kneebone.

School Students were an integral part of the festival organization as well as running various stalls and other enterprising activities throughout the day including Karaoke and cd sales. Our students experience an enterprise that helps make Taillem Bend an exciting place to be.

As well as the popular clown fun, the Murray Bridge scouts provided craft activities and face painting to compliment the children's entertainment.

Governing Council Chairperson and festival committee member, Brian Mitchell said artists were ringing up to appear in the now nationally renowned music festival. Mr. Mitchell said artists and tourists had particularly commented that the festival is quite unique and had the best atmosphere and organization of any other little festival in Australia. "The overall comments praised the friendly atmosphere, the community spirit and the professional organization of the festival".

Participants and audience members came from right across the state, as well as Western Australia, with 80 per cent of the people who attended were from out of town.

The Friday night's cabaret set the scene for the weekend's regular huge programme. Local band Arkive and renowned band Wild Card were superb acts providing a mix of Country and classic rock and roll. The bands kept the crowd dancing and singing along to their favourite hits with a great blend of music.

"All artists can be proud of the performances they gave to the appreciative crowd and Sunday's recovery session proved successful with people travelling up for the day from Adelaide. We will certainly continue this again", Noel said.

Sandra Humphries, Trev Warner, Amber Poulton, Danny Hooper, Tracy Stewart, Pete Jenkins and Krystal Collins showed they are class acts, stunning the crowd with their brilliant stage performances.

Proven crowd favourites, Jim Hermel, The Beggars, Mark Tempany and Alison Hams, were fantastic performers. They freely mixed with the crowd in an informal capacity and lent a helping hand whenever it was needed.

"People appreciated the fact that they mingled with the crowd and encouraged talent entrants during the day. The quality of the festival was superb", Noel added.

Mr. Kneebone praised the efforts of chief judge Fred Hams and the SA Council for Country Music representatives. The judges helped make the talent quest run smoothly, gave constructive feedback and received many comments on how professional yet friendly the Talent Quest was.

Mr Kneebone said the organisers really appreciated the community workers, and sponsorships efforts of Coorong District Council, Teusner Wines, Red Brick Music, Dynamic Delivery, Fairmont Homes, River City 88.0 FM, Taillem Bend Rotary Club, and 40 individual sponsors.

The local business people and district council continue to support the festival and accommodate the changes necessary to allow the festivities to take place in the main street area of the town.

Local businesses reported an increase in takings indicating that the festival was a great success for the town.

For more information contact:

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