

Riversands staff experience their first Gympie Muster

St George locals Jane Kennedy and Dana Gluzde recently experienced their first Gympie National Music Muster as part of the Riversands team.

Riversands Vineyards has been sponsor and sole wine supplier for the entire event for the past 10 years. During the last week of every August a makeshift mini-city takes over the otherwise usually quiet Amamoor State Forest, complete with general store, restaurant, 13 large entertainment venues and many camping precincts. Over the six days of the Muster sounds of frogs and crickets are swapped for music with 577 different gigs ranging from country rock to jazz & blues to folk to theatre.

Dana said “What a fantastic experience! I was skeptical at first as I’m not really into country music, but I was really impressed by the diversity of events on offer – talent show, blues bar, even a theatre... all in the middle of a forest!”

“Not that you’d know you were out in the sticks. Gympie Apex and over 50 other community groups have created such an amazing atmosphere, with huge windmills and wooden fencing features. The music just emerges out of the forest! How Aussie is it when you can sit on a log & share a drink with a complete stranger who is triple your age, listen to great music and don’t even have to que for the loo!”

Muster CEO Brian Sansom commented “Around 75,000 people attended the Muster over the 6 days, with up to 25,000 on any one day. It’s below the 2006 record of 90,000 but is nevertheless a big crowd.” Unlike the 2007 “mudster” only a few sprinkles of rain fell, but it wasn’t enough to dampen the spirit of the crowd.

Jane said “It was a party atmosphere for all ages blended with genuine Australian hospitality. The variety of acts was overwhelming! There was everything from candle making and bungy jumping for kids, poetry with breaky at 8 am as the venues came alive, cool rock at the crowbar and cloaking mist settling in to strains of country rock as I staggered back to camp at 3am!”

Ten years on from his first Muster, Riversands owner David Blacket is still just as passionate about the event. He reckons “You haven’t lived until you’ve been to the Muster!”

Australian of the Year Lee Kernaghan rocked the crowds on Saturday night at the main stage with tributes to the bush and moving performances by John Williamson and Kasey Chambers along with her family featuring on Sunday night.

The Riversands Wine stall sits right beside the Riversands Wine Bar, a great spot for checking out and dancing along to some of the lesser known but quality talent such as 8 Ball Aitken, Karl Brodie, the Bobkadz and the like.