

Commence end of year festivities!

“The hits and misses of this summer’s festival circuit”



Now is the time of year when summer festivals announce their line ups, with thousands across the country sitting at their computer anxiously waiting to find out what acts will visit our shores. Reporter ALEXANDRA DUGUID guides you through some of the hits and misses of this summer’s festival circuit.

Big Day Out 2010

The Big Day Out is both loathed and adored, and cannot be denied as being one of the staple music events in Australia’s music scene. This festival, though usually leaving you sunburnt and poor, will always have a place in my heart, having given me the opportunity over the years to witness some of the most extraordinary acts, such as The Stooges, Neil Young and Billy Bragg as well as a great slew of emerging international bands.

I don’t want to say anything too scathing about next year’s line up (Muse, Powderfinger, Lily Allen (pictured on front cover of this *Utimes* edition), Dizzee Rascal, The

Mars Volta, Kasabian, Peaches) but it appears as though our dear Ken West is scraping the bottom of the barrel a bit, with many of the acts already toured within the last 12 to 18 months.

Despite this, I will probably, along with many others, find myself down at Flemington Racecourse, fending off the sun, the dust and the great lurch of people heading towards the D barrier for Muse.

bigdayout.com

Soundwave Festival 2010

To those punk rock fans out there, Soundwave is a day completely dedicated to you! Personally, I feel 2010 brings a stellar line up of many international acts, such as Janes Addiction, Sunny Day Real Estate, Gallows, The Weakerthans, Eagles of Death Metal, the Get Up Kids and many more of that amazing calibre.

One attribute to the Melbourne Soundwave event is its venue, held at the Melbourne Showgrounds, many of the bands play in the pavilions, making the day feel as

if you had witnessed multiple, intimate club shows within the space of 12 hours rather than peering at small ants on a stage, and walking endless kilometres to get from one place to another.

Soundwave is one of the better organised events, though the Melbourne show is selling fast, so if you are interested, get your tickets now.

soundwavefestival.com

Pyramid Rock Festival, Phillip Island

I hear Pyramid Rock Festival (pictured) is a good way to spend your New Year’s, dancing, getting a little drunk and catching a few cool bands. Seems as though this year will be somewhat of an exception, because to put it bluntly the line up sucked.

Though it would have been a courageous move having a double headliner bill of two Australian artists, doesn’t work so much when those two bands are Empire of the Sun and the Cat Empire.

Ok, so there are a few good ones making an appearance, such as Cat Power (with her Dirty Delta Blues), Telepathe, Biffy Clyro and a dj set courtesy of LCD Soundsystem, though in general it is a bit of a lack-lustrous affair. If you like a good party, then Pyramid Rock Festival will make for a memorable New Year’s experience.

thepyramidrockfestival.com

Meredith Music Festival 2009

Held out in Meredith’s Supernatural Amphitheatre, this festival brings a line up of more independent artists – 2009’s line up managing to once again put many great bands and musicians all into the one spot, with the likes of Animal Collective, Jarvis Cocker, Crocodiles, Patrick Wolf and Why? playing the festival, as well as the showcasing of Australian talent, Oh Mercy, KES Band, Regular John and even Ballarat’s own Yacht Club DJs making the bill.

Set out in the middle of nowhere, Meredith Music Festival brings people from all over the country for

its amazing line ups, its camping experiences and the BYO alcohol.

All of this sees the festival sell out year after year, though March next year brings its sister festival, Golden Plains held on the very same site. The Golden Plains line up is yet to be announced, but no doubt will be just as high quality.

2009.mmf.com.au

Honourable Mentions

Naturally, Falls Festival has been sold out right from when tickets went on sale, though with an above-average line up, there will be some sideshows to catch, such as the Yeah Yeah Yeahs, Grizzly Bear, Chairlift, Jamie T and the Editors. Held in the early weeks of February, St Jerome’s Laneway Festival also brings some amazing, mostly independent talent, though the line up is yet to be announced. After the shambles of this year’s event (excruciating amounts of time spent in lines that leads to disappointment) the promoters claim next year’s will lift its game.