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Meredith Music Festival @ The Supernatural Ampitheatre (12-14/12/08)

**sarahanne**[view my other 2592 articles](#)

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Wed 17th Dec, 2008 in [Gig Reviews](#)**CHECK OUT ALL THE PHOTOS FROM THE WET AND WILD WEEKEND HERE.**

On the 18th year God said "let there be rain", and there was rain. Forty-eight hours of it in fact. Victoria's heaviest rainfall since Noah boarded the Ark, meant that the **18th Annual Meredith Music Festival** was one of the wettest in the events fabled history. *The Supernatural Ampitheatre* had never seen so many naked bodies sliding in mud, each slippery derriÄfÄ're testament to the Meredith spirit that prevailed throughout the entire weekend.

Upon realisation that the rains were here to stay, fight or flight instinct beset punters. People either packed up and went home (I'm looking at you feather-sporting **MGMT** fans) or tied plastic bags over their shoes, dropped some acid and embraced Mother Nature in all her glory. It is safe to say that most people went the plastic bag /acid route.

The coveted opening slot for this year's Meredith was taken by **Violent Soho**, the Brissie band who have been turning heads all year with their musical homage to the godfathers of grunge. Their growing popularity proving foremost that the 90's revival has finally extended beyond flannelette-toting hipsters in canvas boat shoes prowling the inner streets of Sydney. I had high expectations of this band that were ultimately left flattened by their Meredith performance. The set list consisted of solid rock songs peppered with dark riffs (which fulfilled the early 90's criteria) however, little more was on offer from the four-piece. Even their stage presence, which has been touted as electrifying, was deflated in this environment – the highlight being some parodist synchronized hair windmills a la Airbourne. Perhaps it was just festival nerves on their part but **Violent Soho** failed to win me over.

Next up was Melbourne gal group **Beaches**. A "supergroup" of sorts, **Beaches'** line-up includes members from **Love of Diagrams** and **Spider Vomit**. Taking on the Ampitheatre – all bleached blond hair and bangs – the girls eased their way into what would become an amazing set. Once at ease with their surrounds, **Beaches** were on fire – delighting the crowd with their layered guitars and psychedelic ambience reminiscent of UK shoe-gazers **Pale Saints**. Playing tracks from their debut self-titled album the girls charmed Meredith for the entirety of their set.

The rest of Friday night was spent changing clothes (twice), eating Krishna, and absorbing the sonic onslaught of **Ten East** and **Man Man**. Without the assistance of a lot of Gin, **Ten East** probably would have bored me to tears. Their improvised psych -rock jams were excruciatingly drawn out but impressive nonetheless. Although the Gen Y in me needs some vocals to avoid losing interest, their moments of **Captain Beefheart** intensity were appreciated by the noise fiends in my convoy. **Man Man**, on the other hand, were exactly what I wanted on this damp Gin-Friday . Every moment of their gypsy-punk mayhem was eaten up by the rain-frenzied crowd.

We all woke up on Saturday with trench foot and fingers crossed. The sound of rain pattering on car roofs and the site of flattened one-man tents (that had seemed like such a bargain two days ago) made us all reach for a breakfast beer, or two.

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The kids with more buzz than Schick, **Tame Impala**, greeted us with hoards of cream-esq feed back and psychedelic fuzz rock on an ever-dampening Saturday morning. The Perth three-piece had a mystery fourth member for this set who stepped up from tambourine player to second guitar for most of the performance. The set was stolen by drummer *Jay Watson*, whose splashy drumming was mesmerising and held the set together beautifully. It seems that Tame Impala's Schick-tag may actually be here to stay.

By the time that **The Mountain Goats** trotted into the *Supernatural Amphitheatre* the mood within the crowd had begun to soften. The weather actually appeared to be in synch with the North Carolinian trio, as each time they launched into a song the rain got increasingly harder. The mood in the crowd darkened as lead singer *John Darnielle* introduced each song with one consistent theme – "This is about death, this is about a guy and girl thinking about dying, this one is about when death comes knocking at your door". As the rain poured and our feet muddled we all pondered death by wetness. When *Darnielle* declared at the end of his set "We know you want to hear *This Year*", their radio friendly hit from 2007, our eyes shone with expectancy before he put the final nail in our watery coffins, declaring that he wasn't going to play it. We all retreated to out tents.

If it wasn't for the electrifying set by **Saul Williams** that came later in the evening, the rain may have won. But with enough moonshine under my belt to make the ground look dry and to entice me to dance in gumboots like the whitest girl alive – nothing was keeping my Meredith spirit down.

Little Red owned the Amphitheatre when they jangled onto the stage at 7:00pm as the sun went down and hoards of people began to fully embrace the mud. They set the mood for Meredith alumni **Combo La Revelacion** who finally graduated to an evening spot after many years of dedication – allowing everyone to get loose latino style.

Many beers later it was time for **MGMT** – the New York boy-wonders who had drawn a number of newcomers to Meredith when their first shows in Australia unexpectedly sold-out in minutes. If you had no expectations of this band and were drunk and dancing on an esky, then their performance was spectacular. The band slipped into some gorgeous psych-jams and drawn out moments. That said, if you had high expectations of MGMT – you may have been let down. The big hits- **Kids** and **Electric Feel** were highlights that shook the bedraggled people of Meredith but their softer moments were mostly lost on the battle-weary crowd..

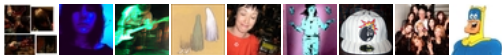
The rest of the Meredith weekend was spent watching the amazing **Muscles** from the *Meredith Eye*, crying when the rain finally stopped at 3am on Sunday morning, laughing at the absolute ridiculousness that was **Adam Green** and finally pulling out of the Nolan Gates in search of Geelong McDonalds with many a naked man in the rear-view mirror.

It may have been wet, it may have muddy but Meredith's 18th Birthday was one to remember.

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brownie-II said on the 17th Dec, 2008

Glad someone brought that up.

The Corio McDonalds was very muddy, was filled with wristbanded people, and had no soap in the toilets.



sarahanne said on the 17th Dec, 2008

I honestly had no idea that there songs were so depressing.

Maccas was so very good.

(25/5/2012)

Clairy Browne & the Bangin' Rackettes @ GoodGod Small Club, Sydney (25/5/12)

Oposom, Bloods @ GoodGod, Sydney (16/5/2012)

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TinTin said on the 17th Dec, 2008



AH!! Yes!! I finally remember Adam Green's set!!! "Getting head under the rainbow..." ?? He was a hoot!

That dude with the ginge beard up there was nuding up all Sunday and running through the crowd. I've got the funniest pic of him on someones shoulders right up front of the stage :D

Nice article, thanks for the reminiscing ;)



grattan said on the 17th Dec, 2008



Like this?

http://1.ic.ftsatic.net/422/0_400/graphics_d627e3e31932f2f20570dd5004d54259.jpg



brownie-II said on the 17th Dec, 2008



My god that shot is awesome.



sarahanne said on the 17th Dec, 2008



I dont understand why the guy whose shoulders he is on is smiling so much...Can you imagine the horror of what is crushed against his head right now?



brownie-II said on the 17th Dec, 2008



The rain would have washed away any smells Sarah.



grattan said on the 17th Dec, 2008



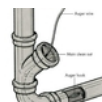
It was during Black Diamond Heavies... and they were tearing it up. They should put it in their marketing 'BDH - so good you'll even grin while your mate's balls jiggle and sweat on your neck'



sarahanne said on the 17th Dec, 2008



hahhah hah ah ah ahh god that made me laugh



JackT said on the 17th Dec, 2008



Hahaha, brilliant



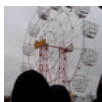
TinTin said on the 17th Dec, 2008



Yeh, that one grattan!!! hahaha I was looking through the gallery and saw that pic and commented on it. I was standing right behind him and got a good squizz at his frank n beans! Gah!! :eek: haha

Edit: Here we go...

http://photos-c.ak.fbcdn.net/photos-ak-snc1/v1329/134/54/606334046/n606334046_1748642_3456.jpg



caseyjade said on the 18th Dec, 2008



It was a muddy good time indeed! I didn't see that nude guy, don't know how I could have missed it. You can see more pics from MMF and a mountains in the sky video here <http://www.storyz.com/stories/4662-meredith-music-festival-2008>



TinTin said on the 18th Dec, 2008



Nice one, caseyjade ;)

I love this from my collection, Yacht Club DJs..

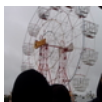
<http://i86.photobucket.com/albums/k100/oldskoolmegsie/YachtClubDJs.jpg>

These guys were unreal!!

caseyjade said on the 18th Dec, 2008



I missed Yacht Club, actually I missed a lot!! Prob too busy trying to save my tent from collapsing.. what did you think of Ten East? I really enjoyed them to start off with, nice Kyuss desert sound but the lat 2



songs dragged on and I'm not sure if I like them anymore. I'll have to check out their album.
Adam Green was very entertaining - one of the highlights for me



sarahanne said on the 18th Dec, 2008



I missed Yacht Club too - loved Adam Green though!



Andy Tait said on the 19th Dec, 2008



Well I thought The Mountain Goats were quite good, and finishing with 'The Best Ever Death Metal Band Out Of Denton' just as good as if they'd finished with 'This Year'.



sarahanne said on the 19th Dec, 2008



Oh yeah they were great - dont get me wrong. I was just so drained by then.

I dont think The Best Ever Death ...was all the inspired. it could have been a really cool moment,...



TinTin said on the 19th Dec, 2008

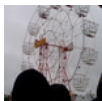


I watched pretty much everything. I must have liked Ten East because I remember asking someone next to me, "Who are these dudes?" as I was bopping along and they said, "Ten East". Too much music too remember - their set is lost in my remembory somewhere haha.

Oh also remember watching Mountain Goats and saying, "This is some serious doob music" and I had none. Next minute, new mates I'd made sparked some up under our umbrella.

Ohhh gotta love new festival friends! Best kind! :)

Mountain Goats were great!



caseyjade said on the 23rd Dec, 2008



Mountain Goats didn't blow my boat - sorry that was sad.. especially when they played Johnny Cash's song Folsom Prison Blues and the singer said 'cino' instead of 'reno' - we had a chuckle at that

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