

Down and dirty dayze

by Sacha Watson

THE Summafieldayze Gold Coast concert can be summed up in one word – muddy.

It was Glastonbury on the Coast as 30,000 revellers took delight in their designer wellies skipping, diving, bathing and even wallowing in their own slushy playground at The Spit.

The inclement weather raised alarm bells for some discerning punters not so keen on the rain, but most were willing to dance on.

Earlier in the week, 90km/h gale-force winds forced festival organisers to change the event layout, erecting three open-air dome stages rather than big marquees, along with 40-50 smaller marquees.

Much to the delight of party-goers, a dash of sunlight emerged through the clouds and the rain subsided for the entire festival.

"I'm just excited because the weather stopped and I can't believe that it did," said promoter Jackie Cross.

"It's amazing that there has only been about 15 hours of no rain in the last 16 days of rain and we got it."

Not just a festival for dance music junkies, there were several entertainment alternatives on site.

The popular foam pit was where all the action was at.

More than 50 people at a time were jumping, splashing and diving below the bubbly depths.

"We got foamed and it was awesome," said Kylie Norton.

On top of the foam dome a giant fountain of water sprayed out on to the crowd, generating a massive mud puddle.

Keen for a dip, several crazed dance enthusiasts took a dive in the grubby bath, covering their fluoro outfits with a fresh layer of sludge.

Carl Young was hailed by the



Mark Tickle and Reeve McCormack are happy as mates in mud

crowd as the mud slide champion, executing running dives across the murky pools.

It didn't take long for the antics to catch on, with about five other men and women joining the mud bath, until security cordoned off the area for health and safety reasons.

Mrs Cross said the crowd was

very well behaved during the event. "The feedback has been exceptional, we're very happy because it could have been disastrous," she said.

"As far as the event goes it was a clean slate with no major issues reported, no sound problems and the crowd loved the new structure.

"I was there until 2am to make

● **Pictures: Brendan Radke**

sure they all got out OK, it took a bit more time, but it wasn't mad, everyone was really calm and orderly."

Ensuring the smooth operation at the night's end was popular Gold Coast promoter and nightclub guru Billy Cross, standing at the coal face with walkie-talkie counting people and helping them on their way.

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