

# Here's mud in ya eye

by Ben Dillaway

SUMMAFIELDAYZE may become the Gold Coast's own Glastonbury today as Queensland's biggest dance music festival defies downpours and pushes ahead.

The unruly elements have hampered preparations for the outdoor event this weekend but Summafieldayze organisers say they are on track to a mushy musical festival whatever happens.

The sold-out dance event's organisers have been working around the clock to try and overcome the effects of the week's deluge and strong winds which stopped them putting up their big top tents and forced a change of the festival's layout.

"It has to be sound and safe for everyone, and it just wasn't safe in this wind to put them (big tops) up," said promoter Jackie Cross.

"There will be three, open-air dome stages now rather than the big marquees and we've got about 40-50 smaller marquees dotting the site.

"So it's a bit of a different set-up but it will still be delivering the same products," she said.

While they've done a remarkable job, Mother Nature may have the last laugh and the popular music festival may end up like England's famous Glastonbury mud fest, with a shower or two predicated for today.

"The weather is a bit of a bummer, but it has been like that for everything on the Gold Coast," said Mrs Cross.

"People who come to festivals will

still have a good time no matter what, no obstacles are really a drama for them.

"Remember the photos from Glastonbury a few years ago? Everyone loved that."

Festival-goers aren't taking any chances with the weather with many revellers stocking up on designer gumboots so they stay dry and fashionable no matter what Mother Nature decides to do.

Jacqui Wallbank of Rosie Roo Designer Wellies said there was always a peak in sales when festivals were threatened by rain.

"They've been massive," she said.

"You can tell when a festival is coming up because our stockists place big orders and usually sell them all."

The rain has failed to deter revellers with many saying they'll do whatever it takes to get there.

Crabbes Creek resident Leon Collins, who has been flooded in by the recent downpour, said he would swim through the floodwaters if he has to.

"There is no way I'm missing this festival," said the 23-year-old.

Summafieldayze sold out for the first time this year with a record 30,000 tickets being sold, to people from as far afield as Cairns and Melbourne.

Due to the high demand for tickets, festival organisers released a few hundred more tickets earlier this week with some still available at Sunflower Music at Pacific Fair.

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