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The Magic of the Mountain

'Jazz in the Tops 2007'; the music, the mood, the magic altogether in Coolah Tops.

With the sun high in the sky, the brilliant fresh green grass and spectacular views, the magic of the mountain came alive to the sounds of top quality musicians as the 2007 festival highlight kicked off with the energetic Bogalusa Strutters weaving their way through the crowd setting the tone for the magical entertainment ahead.

Crowd favourite George Washingmachine strung the program together with his wizardry on the violin, making guest appearances throughout the afternoon and evening with many of the other acts including festival friends Dubbo Jazz Quartet. Appearances by Jane Worthington and George's new baby Grace delighted the crowd.

The RAAF Air Command Band, back from giving our Aussie troops in Iraq and Afghanistan some Christmas cheer, was given a rousing welcome as they entertained the crowd with the songs of Frank Sinatra, Felonious Munk and a number of original compositions.

Blues Point provided a new style being the first a cappella group to appear at 'Jazz in the Tops', with their range of vocals and ability to mimic instrument sounds astounding the audience.

Howler's Classic 5 and the Dan Barnett Songbook kept the magic flowing throughout the afternoon and as the shadows deepened, Didjeridu Dingo's unique sounds of this ancient land echoed through the bush in rhythms perfectly in harmony with the setting sun. The technical brilliance of Michael Jackson, Tony Garbellini, together with mountain man Lester Ives on the didjeridu and didjeribone, Eddie Fisher on drums, Dylan Monroe on bass and Glenn Skarratt on guitar had the crowd on their feet and moving forward to feel the pulsating beat.

'Jazz in the Tops 2007' feature vocalist Elana Stone, belied her small stature with her booming sound and extraordinary range of vocal styles, entertaining the 750 strong crowd late into the night.

The Australian Wildlife Displays and National Parks and Wildlife Service Discovery Rangers reminded people throughout the festival of the spectacular setting and wonders of nature, with their array of Australian native animals and conservation messages.

An Allstar Jam session wrapped up the festival highlight, with all the artists combining for a musical duel.

'Jazz in the Tops 2007' began on Friday with Didjeridu Dingo performing and conducting workshops for the local school students. The Youth Rock Concert and jazz in the town venues launched the entertainment. Over 110 young people attended the rock concert, enjoying the live entertainment of Light Noise from Newcastle and Onefire from Dunedoo.

Over 140 people gathered on Sunday for the festival wrap-up. The RAAF Air Command Band entertained people at the Big Jazz Breakfast, followed by the Gospel Service led by the guest pastor Richard Quadrio. The traditional gospel music by a cappella group Blues Point provided a fitting end to a wonderful weekend.

The Coolah 'Jazz in the Tops' Committee would like to thank all the visitors, supporters, volunteers and sponsors, especially Major Sponsor Department of State and Regional Development, who made the weekend such a success.

Thanks to:

Major Sponsor: Dept State & Regional Development. Gold Sponsors: Coates Hire, Country Energy, IGA, Silhouette Sound Studios, & Warrumbungle Shire Council

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