

TWENTY FIVE YEARS IN PHOTOS

Photography from over the years by:
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ABOVE: 1992. The ticket.

RIGHT: The stage for the first three years was literally the back of a truck. This is the truck arriving in 1993.



ABOVE: 1992

LEFT: The stage in action in 1992, the second year of Meredith. This is the earliest photo we have of the Amphitheatre.



ABOVE: The Meredith Natural Amphitheatre in 1993. Long before the festival had to move and become Supernatural.



ABOVE: Meredithians, 1993.

RIGHT: 1994. Warren Ellis of Dirty Three letting it all go.

BELOW: Esky from 1995. Rock n roll all night.



LEFT: 1995. ABOVE: 1995. Tents have changed, cars have changed.



ABOVE: Before everyone had mobile phones, hardly anyone had one. There was no phonebox at the site so in the mid 90s we had one public mobile phone. This is it. It was \$2 a call.

LEFT: 1996. Fire truck cooling people off in front of the stage.



ABOVE: The 1997 Meredith Gift. A nasty spill.

BELOW: 1998. The Velvet Tongue Puppet Band. A fully live band played and sang behind the curtain, puppets rocked out in front of it.



ABOVE: 1998. First international act at Meredith: The MakeUp. Ion Sveronius arrived like an alien in the hot Aussie sun. And left in triumph.



LEFT: 1998. Cow-shaped mirror ball in the breeze at sunset.

BELOW: 1999. Primitive prototype of Meredith Sky Show. That year's mascot, a dragonfly, re-created at giant size and intended to 'fly' along wire from big tree to stage at midnight. It flies terribly, unnoticed, and stalls halfway. Stays there all festival.



ABOVE: 1998. The Pink Flamingo Bar re-opens after being shut since 1962.

RIGHT: Jack, Peelie and Cus, circa 2000, on the very spot that would become the Meredith Supernatural Amphitheatre, looking up the hill towards where The Meredith Eye now stands.





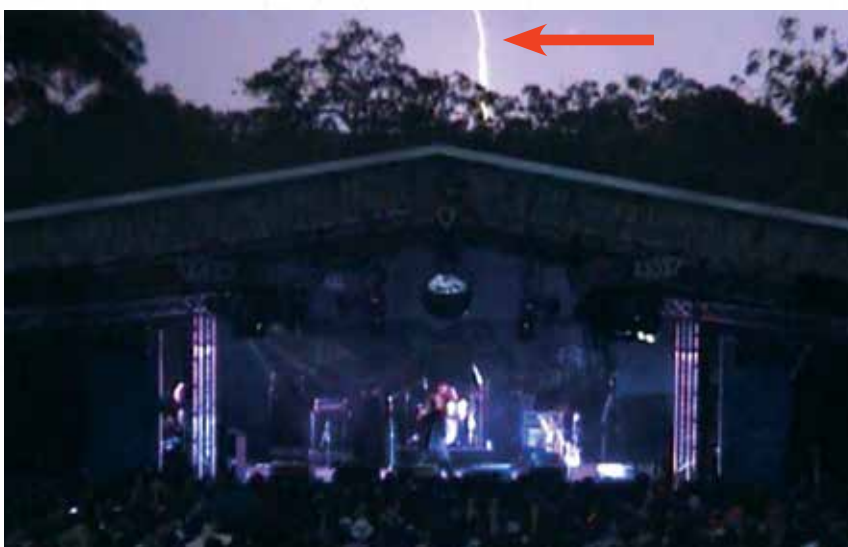
ABOVE: 2002. Sleater-Kinney.

LEFT: 2002. The Yeah Yeah Yeahs.

BELOW: The cow found a spot on the crest of the stage roof.
Hood ornament.



BELOW: 2004. The Hundred Year Storm. Hit the festival Friday night, creating torrential rain and 'white-out' conditions.



TOP: 2004. Cyclonic winds and sheeting, sideways rain. The show went on.

ABOVE: Mother Nature provides extraordinary atmospherics; Dirty Three play while a vast electrical storm splits in two and bypasses the festival, close enough to light up the whole district for a flash when the lightning strikes.



LEFT: 2004: Dirty Three ride the lightning.

ABOVE: Ballarat Brass Band have been with us since 2005. They would march around the campgrounds on Saturday morning as a kind of Reveille before settling on the stage.



LEFT: 2005. "The Mystery Act" created too much expectation. Bob Log III had an impossible task. But by the end of his set, he'd pulled it off.

BELOW: 2006 art. A family of wedge-tailed eagles lived across the river, the site crew watched them for weeks through a 'dumpy' telescope thingy, and one day saw the chick leave the nest for the first time and fly. The eagle became that year's mascot, and is illuminated above The Sup' to this day.



ABOVE: 2006 was insanely hot. Perversely, the thing that stopped the sun from frazzling the festival even further was a vast smoke haze which drifted across Victoria from Gippsland.

BELOW & RIGHT: 2006. Girl Talk was a huge buzz. "C'MON. I'VE GOT A PLANE TO CATCH".



BELOW: 2007. Brendan Suppression launches...



...and floats.



RIGHT: 2007 saw a 3D film shown on stage. Not everyone needed the special glasses.

BELOW: Meredithians 2008. Wettest December weekend on record. Resilience + determination = exuberance.





ABOVE: 2008. Extensive drainage and pathway works were carried out after this festival.

RIGHT: 2009. Jarvis Cocker

BELOW: 2010. Sky Show. Spaceship hovers above The Sup'.





TOP: 2010 Meredith Gift

ABOVE: For the 20th Anniversary we lined up The Flamingo and The Meredith Eye lights to say "20" at night. No we didn't.

LEFT: 2010. Neil Finn, solo, at sunset. "Will you be my band tonight?"





ABOVE: Meredithians, 2010.

BELOW: 2011. After decades of dedicated service to the festival and the community, Doug McFarlane hung up his bus driver's hat. In honour of his contribution, the two bus roads past Reception at the festival are now called the McNear Lane, and the McFar Lane.



ABOVE: 2011. Grinderman blast The Sup', then announce that's the end of them.

BELOW: 2011. Grinderman arrive to a huge reception.





ABOVE: 2011. Total Eclipse of The Moon.

RIGHT: 2011. Happy 21st Birthday.

BELOW: 2011. Someone made a Nick Cave rocking horse.

BOTTOM: 2011. The Bluegums were a plantation of some 2000 young trees, destined for the pulp mill until Uncle Doug stepped in and rescued them. Now a superb camping spot.





ABOVE: 2012. (The Red Tree is silver this year, for The Silver Jubilee.)
BELOW: The Town Bikes directing The 2012 Gift.



ABOVE: Sadly this big old radiata pine tree is reaching the end of her life. We think this will be the last Meredith for her. Will be very sad to see her go.
LEFT: The Gift was much more chaotic before The Town Bikes.

