

THRILLING CLIMAX FOR AGMF 07

The Australian Gospel Music Festival in Toowoomba reached a thrilling climax last week with a powerful performance by Australian jazz virtuoso James Morrison followed by an intense and raucous set by US hard rockers Day Of Fire.

The streets of Toowoomba roared as John Smith's God's Squad motorcycle club cruised into town on their Harley Davidson's, while thousands gathered at AGMF's main stage for the festival's annual combined church service featuring a selection of songs from AGMF's first worship CD *The Cross Alone*.

On Saturday, Superchick and BarlowGirl wowed the crowd, while Friday belonged to Michelle Tumes, Planetshakers, and Soulframe (fronted by Mutto from *Australian Idol*).

AGMF CEO Isaac Moody hailed this year's festival a "great success" with ten of thousands of people attending the ticketed and free events.

With AGMF 08 being the festival's tenth year, Mr Moody says that there is definitely room to grow.

"We are always looking to improve things," he says.

As this year's festival ended, Mr Moody thanked all the community groups that contribute each year to the success of the festival.

"We couldn't do this without them.

"The festival has helped establish positive links between business, community, government, and Church groups in the city," he adds.

AGMF 08 returns to Queens Park, next Easter (21-23 March 2008).

Photos: Adam Weathered



James Morrison



Mutto from Soulframe



Superchick

GEYER RELEASES DEBUT SINGLE

Australian Idol heart throb Dean Geyer next month releases his first single *If You Don't Mean It*.

Geyer finished third in last year's Idol series behind winner Damien Leith and runner-up Jessica Mauboy.

If You Don't Mean It is the first single from his forthcoming album, which is due for release in June.

The single will have its commercial and digital release on Saturday 5 May, with the ringtone available now. [Text Dean to 193 123].

Having recently celebrated his 21st birthday amidst a hectic writing and recording schedule, Geyer says he is excited about the release of *If You Don't Mean It* to radio.

"I've been working hard on this record since the end of Idol last year - I can't wait for people to hear it," he says.



Dean Geyer

SMS

Unisong - one of the world's major songwriting competitions - has listed Roma Waterman's song *I Was Carried* as its monthly winner for February. The competition announces four monthly winners in the lead up to its major announcement in June.

Mark Schultz will embark on a cross-country bike ride in the US to raise support for orphans and widows. Schultz will bicycle from 6 May through early July, starting from California and ending in New Hampshire. He will stop along the way to perform concerts featuring his current TRAA hit, *Walking Her Home*.

The Gospel Music Association (GMA) has announced the final nominees for Songwriter of The Year. They are Kirk Franklin (*Imagine Me*), Mark Hall (*Praise You In This Storm*), Mat Kearney (*Nothing Left To Lose*), Mac Powell (*Cry Out To Jesus*), and Aaron Shust (*My Savior, My God*). The recipient of the Dove Award will be named during the GMA awards show on 25 April at Nashville's Grand Ole Opry House.



Roma Waterman

CCM veteran Bonnie Bramlett, who dropped out of the scene almost 30 years ago, has returned with a new CD *Roots, Blues, and Jazz* featuring her version of Sam Cooke's *A Change Is Gonna Come* and Cannonball Adderley's *Mercy, Mercy, Mercy*. [In the UK and Europe, the CD is titled *I Can Laugh About It Now*.] Bonnie was part of Delaney, Bonnie and Friends in the 70s sharing the stage with Eric Clapton, Leon Russell, George Harrison, Dave Mason, Rita Coolidge, Gram Parsons, and John Lennon to name just a few. Delaney, Bonnie and Friends first came to the attention of people in Australia with a gospel infused song called *Free The People*, later recorded by Sherbet as one of their first hits. Bonnie's best known gospel release was *Step By Step* recorded in 1981.