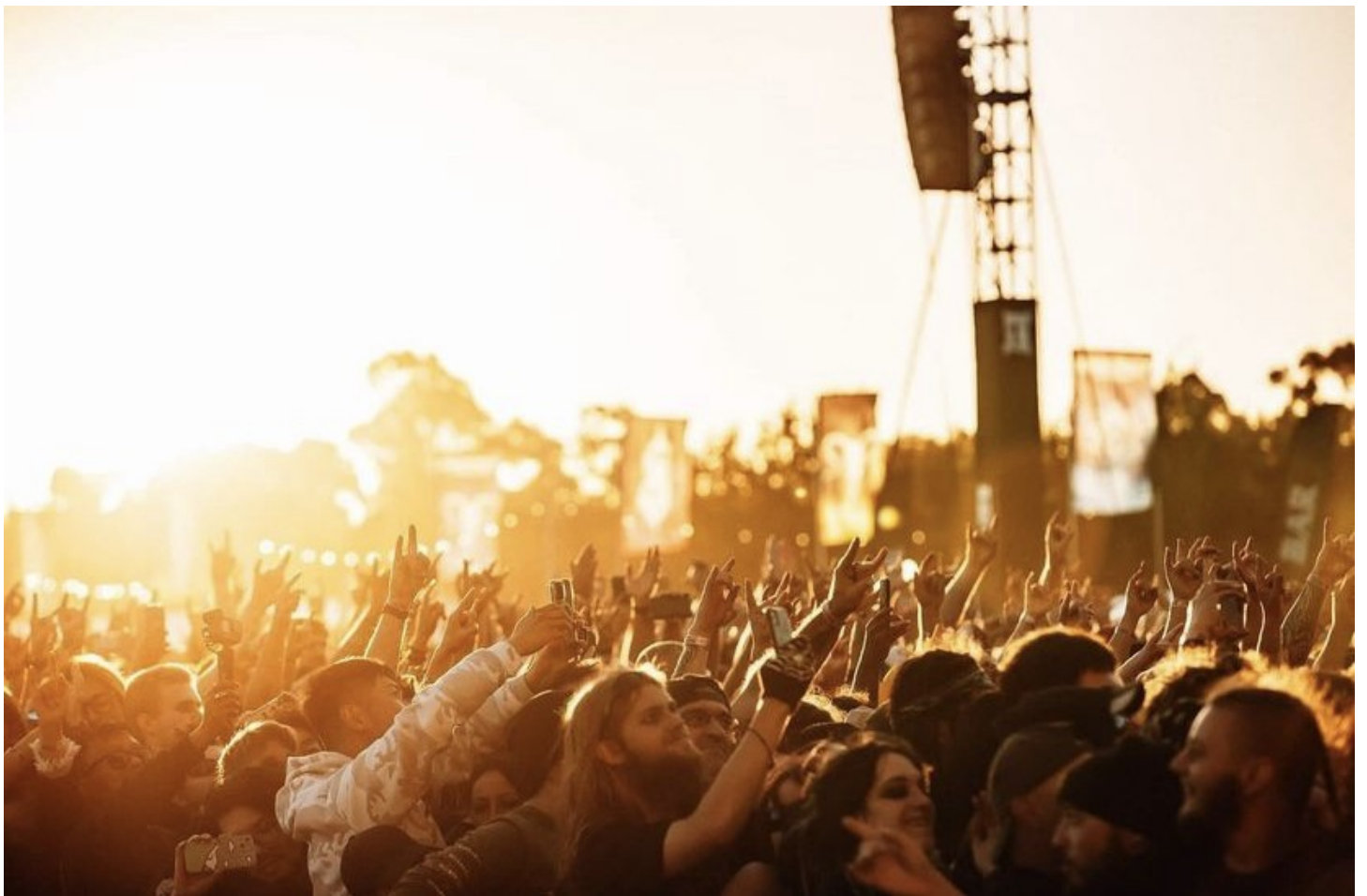


knotfest □ australia

Pulse Of The Maggots

Melbournian metalheads of all generations immersed themselves in the electrifying realm of Knotfest for the second consecutive year, celebrating the diverse talent of the metal genre with an unwavering passion.



The Hive Mind - Shot by Jordan Munns

Melbourne, Australia - Eager fans surrounded the gates of Flemington Racecourse hours before they opened in anticipation of what Knotfest had in store for them this year. For those who had attended

the festival's Australian debut the year before, there was no doubt that this year was going to be just as good. The lines grew larger as the gates began to open, and the crowd poured through the gates to get their hands on the merch and a good spot at the stages.

The Melbourne leg of Knotfest 2023 sold out, and saw massive success on the day. The decision to bring the festival back to Australia was simple, and though not all tickets sold this time, the day was nothing short of a triumph. The merch lines were an hour wait to get through, as were the lines for the bar, and the market stalls saw business booming on the day. Even if a band someone wasn't particularly fond of was playing, they had plenty to do away from the stages - but the number of people at the stages never faltered. The line up for this year had something for everyone.

Australian grindcore band King Parrot kicked off the day with a powerful set, setting everyone up with high energy necessary to get themselves prepared for the rest of the spectacular line up of bands. King Parrot were followed by Brand of Sacrifice, a Canadian metal band fronted by vocalist Kyle Anderson. His earth-shattering screams sent the mosh pit into a riot, really setting the crowd energy for the rest of the day. Australian bands Windwaker and Speed kept the dynamic energy of the crowd alive, as Skindred began to set up for their set. Skindred's unparalleled stage charisma brought the audience together to chant and cheer for the reggae-metal band from the UK. The reggae sound was different to what many people had heard before - "What genre even is this?", the person standing next to me asked. Regardless of the questioning, everyone seemed to enjoy it.

Later in the day, the sonic brutality of Australian deathcore band Thy Art is Murder created a chaotic frenzy in the crowd. This was the peak of the day, where everyone was at their best - not too drunk, not too tired - just ready to release every ounce of energy they had, and Thy Art delivered the tunes perfect for doing so. People flew over the heads of others as they crowdsurfed, and the crowd cheered as people banded together to help lift up a man in a wheelchair. The opening bands from King Parrot through to Halestorm delivered insane riffs and vocals to prepare everyone for the intense stage presence of the headlining bands Lamb of God, Disturbed and metal royalty, Pantera.



I spoke to a handful of festival attendees to get their opinions on Knotfest, and what it means to them. “I was watching a friend’s Instagram live of Slipknot last year,”, Said self-acclaimed metal super fan Eleanor, “I was so jealous! I knew I couldn’t miss this one!”. For those who did attend the 2023 Knotfest, they had returned on account of how much they’d loved it previously. Wearing last year’s merch, Josh says he “just love(s) the atmosphere. I feel really happy when I’m here. It’s an excuse to let go and get out all of my energy.”. Aside from how fantastic the festival itself is, it’s no secret that the bands are what really sells the tickets. “Skindred were absolutely wicked! My heart is so so full.” Says Eleanor, reminiscing on Skindred’s energetic set from earlier in the day.

Knotfest 2024 was just as exhilarating as it was the year before, and so there are high hopes that the already announced 2025 festival will follow suit, as they return in celebration of Slipknot’s 25th Anniversary. This was announced on Instagram on March 11th, just over a week before Knotfest kicked off it’s second year in Australia. When asked if people will be attending Knotfest 2025, the reaction was nothing short of positive. “Oh, 100% yes. I’ll be there.” Said Josh, who has attended both festivals. “I’m really looking forward to seeing who they’re bringing out. I’m sure it’s going to be wild.”.

Knotfest has been nothing short of a success since it’s come to Australia, where metal based festivals are extremely scarce. It brings together a community of people who are extremely passionate about the music, and the festival promises an unforgettable experience for metalheads and music enthusiasts alike. After its second year, it seems promising that this will become an annual event.

