



GRANITE ROCKS

MUSIC FESTIVAL

SATURDAY
APRIL 5 2025

Origins of a rockin' festival

CHARLOTTE MARTIN

GRANITE Rocks Music Festival 2025 will bring unforgettable live acts to Wudinna once again, when headlining Aussie musos BodyJar and 28 Days stomp on stage on Saturday, April 5.

What was once a dream for Wudinna drummer Steve "Westy" Westlake, is now a full blown day of family-friendly entertainment for the second year running thanks to him and his two mates Keron "Kez" Cummings and Jayne Marshall.

Some boozy banter at Caltowie Chilled Out 'n' Fired Up Festival, became a 12-month marathon of organisation and excitement poured into the inaugural event last year - when notorious rockers The Screaming Jets headlined in front of 1500 people.

"There was three of us - Kez, Westy and myself just standing around at Caltowie and Westy goes, 'jeez I'd love to do this back at Wudinna of some form, like a music festival,'" Jayne recalled.

"And I said, 'well I'm in if you wanna make it happen,' and Kez goes 'well I'm in too,' and we all just looked at each other and thought - yeah this is boozy talk, we'll see how we go.

"Then we caught up a few weeks later and we went, yeah, we're all committed enough to do it, let's do it!"

Jayne said they were actually watching BodyJar perform when they formed their plans, bringing their big idea full circle.

The trio moved forward with the festival and onboarded more help from Kez's wife Nikita and Westy's wife Chelsea.

Jayne also reached out to Renee Ormisher, a Caltowie co-organiser.

Ms Ormisher came over to Wudinna to check out the location and became a mentor for Jayne.

"Because we had a mentor it was pretty smooth for a first festival, the biggest thing was getting the funding to get started," Jayne said.

"It was incredibly exciting and nerve-racking - we put it all out there, getting The Screaming Jets as a headliner, we thought this is make or break.

"We didn't want to start off too small - we didn't want it to be a one-hit wonder."

Three dollars from every ticket sale and nearly \$5000 from a raffle on the day culminated into a \$12,000 donation to the Royal Flying Doctor Service from the 2024 event.

The group is again donating three dollars from every ticket sale and running the raffle this year.

Kez confirmed that he and Jayne were "keen as" to get the festival going, and help bring Westy's vision to life.

"Jayne keeps things on track if you know what I mean, she's really, really good at it," he said.

"Nothing really happens much in little old country Wudinna - about 10, 15 years ago there was a couple of motocross events in the town, but we thought we haven't done anything in a while so let's give it a crack.

"We do have a sub-committee of people, my wife Nikita, she organises with Westy's wife Chelsea the merchandise and then we've got Kylie Bartley and Sharlee Stiggants working with food vendors and we have heaps more volunteers as well."

Kez said it took hard work from the volunteers in the community to get the show going.

"Open Eyre Events are the ones that do the stage, fencing and all that," he said.

"They put us on to Port Augusta Productions to do all the sound and lighting and stuff, everyone said they were keen so we did it.

"Later on in the afternoon when we actually got on stage and got to say thank you and show our faces as organisers, we saw how many people were there and how much fun they were having and we were like, wow, this is cool."

Kez said there was no doubt from that day they would push for this second event in 2025.

And it is all go, with food vans booked, band line-up ready to grace the stage and free camp-



Anthony and Cass Foster, Tayla Bedding, Jess McKenna, Kelly McKenna and Tom Crettenden enjoying last year's festival. (File)



Nikita, Keron, Steve and Chelsea enjoying The Screaming Jets last year after 12 months of hard work. (Jayne Marshall)

ing available at Wudinna RV Park on the Saturday night.

Outnumbered drummer and Granite Rocks visionary Westy said Jayne and Kez had been unbelievable.

"Once we realised that everyone was actually serious about it, it wasn't just a conversation after a few beers, we thought that maybe we could pull it off and just ran with it," he said.

"I've played drums since I was in primary school so I've been involved in bands on and off over the years and been a huge fan of seeing live music and music festivals, all things music really.

"When Covid came through it went quiet - we didn't get to see anything and since that's finished it's been magic the amount of live music we get to see."

Last year, with Outnumbered, Westy got to play in his first ever music festival.

"We played pubs and footy clubs and stuff but nothing like that, definitely a few more nerves than there is when you're playing in front of your mates, that's for sure," he laughed.

Westy said this year's headliners, BodyJar and 28 Days, were bands he grew up listening to.

"It's pretty awesome to get them on board," he said.

"The community has really gotten behind it which is fantastic."

Jayne, Kez, Westy and the group were excited to bring the Granite Rocks Music Festival to the region once again.

To get involved with sponsorship contact graniterockswudinna@gmail.com and for tickets head to graniterockswudinna.com

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SATURDAY
5TH APRIL 2025

GRANITE ROCKS

MUSIC FESTIVAL

BODYJAR - 28 DAYS
GET PINK'D - FUNK ME
SUMMER SEARCH PARTY
CAITLIN DREW & THE BLINDSIDE
OUTNUMBERED - BRASS SOULS
LOUIS FULLER - DG & OTHER CHORDS

GATES OPEN 11:30AM - LIVE MUSIC 'TIL 11PM - FOOD AND DRINKS AVAILABLE
 NO BYO - CAMPING AVAILABLE AT THE WUDINNA SHOW GROUNDS
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