

Southern Amp 2 – Tips for our punters on the day!

As we all know, the NZ South Island's weather can be, well let's say, a bit changeable... But if you subscribe to the annual predictions of the great Moon-man, Ken Ring, his forecast for Saturday 10th November 2007 in Christchurch is GOOD! No major rain or any of those monster Norwester winds for the whole week leading up to the event and a partly cloudy but warm gig day! As seasoned festival bods will confirm though, chaos can easily occur if you don't come prepared, so here's a few tips for first-time festival goers and some who haven't been to one for a while and have forgotten how intense things can get in the midst of festival madness, up the front, or just moving between the different stages and areas. So make some mental notes from this handy Tip-sheet and avoid being a mental on the day!

Dress – hey, far from us to tell you what is hot and what is not these days, or what not to wear in this fashion crazed modern world but probably the best advice we can give is to wear something comfortable & light on gig day, but also take something a little extra for that inevitable late evening chill. Just in case Ken Ring is actually Ken Rong, one of those awful rain poncho (blaagh!) things works as well and no matter how stupid you look, people without one will envy you (depending on the colour of course...!) Southern Amp is not really the place for yer Karen Walker pants or Jimmy Shoo's or yer finest bling ironmongery... also avoid too much of the over studded wrist-bands, necklaces or body piercings, especially if you're planning to get to mosh a bit at the front of the stage. 2 of our 3 stages are covered as well so can spend your day inside AND outside! Finally, hair is totally your call, do it loud and do it proud!

Bags – There will be random bag checks on entry so like your shoes, avoid yer glam-bags ladies! Small backpacks with secure zips are easy to transport, no hassle and you don't have to put them down and have them trampled on, kicked about or plain nicked! Something big enough to hold your sunscreen (vital), jersey/hoodie/sweatshirt/poncho (blaagh!), a hat (not a Cup Day races hat or one of those 4-foot jester hats to block other punter's views either), essential personal items and obviously your extensive Southern Amp merchandise purchases...! An extra t-shirt might not be a bad idea just in case. A bum-bag (or fanny-pack if you're American) might do the job as well if you can find one that fits your persona but doubt you'll be able to squeeze the merchandise in there!

Cash/Food/Drinks – No need to bring a crazy amount of cash but bring enough to get you through the day. The food lines can get pretty stressful around the usual meal times, so you don't really want to have to wait in the EFTPOS queue AND then the food queue as well when your stomach has just realised it needs filling urgently... The same applies with water or other drinks, dehydration waits for no one! Bring a bit of quick energy food with you (muesli bars, chocolate, fruit, etc) for those crucial 'food on the run' times. Also very importantly, don't be that first guy or girl to hit the wall at midday because you had a majority liquid breakfast! Seriously folks, you only need to see this happen to someone once to realise that it's not for you. Get into it, not out of it and it goes without saying that drinking and driving to or from the gig is for idiots. By all means have your fun once you're inside, that's what the whole day is about but don't destroy someone else's day please! Drink containers of any sort will NOT be allowed into the Stadium. This is not being mean, it is to control under-age drinking and also unfortunately for security reasons in our modern world! Buy a bottle of water early on and if you can, hold on to that bottle as it will become your best friend as the day goes on!

Identification – Don't forget your driver's license or other photo ID if you're planning to spend some of your time in the R18 section enjoying the sounds while you have a few cool ones. There are two R18 areas both in close proximity to one of the stages with unrestricted views of the live action. For those who prefer to sit in the stands for an uninterrupted afternoon cocktail, the stand facing the main stage will also have its own R18 section. A map of the site is available as a downloadable file from the Southern Amp website along with the full schedules on each of the three stages. Plan your day beforehand and it'll make the whole experience a lot less stressful for all and lot more enjoyable for you.

Some short info tips:

Free Water – will be available from various areas around the stadium. Buy one bottle early on then keep filling it up!

Toilets – there are plenty of stadium toilets open, none of those grotty portaloos... Toilets also have taps, i.e. Water!

Phone Charging – our friends at Vodafone have kindly supplied a FREE Mobile Phone Charging Zone. See the map!

Taxis & Buses – the central bus exchange is approx 15-20mins walk from the stadium with buses running until midnight to all Christchurch destinations. Taxis will be available outside the main Stevens Street entrance.

Rides – there will be three thrill rides at the event, but like any fun park, no intoxicated punters will be allowed on!

Pass Outs! – Once you're in, you're in! For the respect of the residents around the Stadium there are strictly no pass outs, except for obvious emergencies. If you have one, talk to the gate people nicely and they will work out a plan.

And that just about covers it without ruining all the parts you'll find out on the day – Enjoy your day at Southern Amp 2!