



# Solid night of rock music

By JASON WALLACE

THE five bands at the Mount Gambier Showgrounds on Friday night for the Long Road Tour put on a solid night of rock, despite only a few hundred people turning out for the show.

It was disappointing to see the small crowd for the high-profile show, which must make it hard for promoters to bring major bands to the area.

However, they should also have learnt a few lessons from the financially punishing experience, such as what people in the area are prepared to pay for shows and where they want to see them.

Blame Johnny provided a solid opening act, followed by the heavy sound of Lawless Breed, but it was Kevin Borich with his trio, featuring son Lucius on drums and amazing bass maestro Harry "Thunder

Thumb" Brus, who was the stand-out act of the night.

The incredible rhythm section provided a pulsating, exciting sound backing the soulful bluesy playing of Kevin.

The Screaming Jets were predictably strong with a solid rock show, featuring singer Dave Gleeson's antics and hits Helping Hand and Better, but it would have been good to see Shivers in the set, which would have also provided some quieter dynamic to the largely hard and heavy event.

The atmosphere stepped up for The Butterfly Effect, with youngsters allowed past the barrier for the final set of the night after those under 18 had been restricted to the back of the hall for most of the night, partitioned away from the drinkers.

They surged forward to pour

adulation on a band that is clearly making an impact on youth with their atmospheric sound.

Hopefully next time a similar show is provided, other options could be explored to partition the youth from the over-18 punters, so they can get the most out of the experience and add some energy to the crowd from the start.

However, the event showed a regular venue, such as Shadows, the Gambier or Barn Palais may be more appropriate in future as the town's music fans appear reluctant to head to a venue they are not used to.

Those who did venture to the showgrounds though were treated to passionate musicianship and professional performance by some of the leaders in the rock world.



□The masterful guitar playing of Kevin Borich was a stunning part of the Long Road Tour show in Mount Gambier on Friday night.



**Border Watch**

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□The Butterfly Effect's Clint Boge put everything into his performance at the Mount Gambier Showgrounds on Friday night, treating the crowd to a loud but intimate show.