

# Show support or risk a cultural wasteland

## ON THE PULSE

by Lucy Martin

IT WAS the peak of Thursday night's Jon English Rock Show and the middle-aged crowd were on the verge of ripping their clothes and dancing in the aisles - or at least tapping their feet vigorously.

Before the final song the aging rocker himself implored the crowd to "tell the rest of Griffith what they missed out on!"

Perhaps he uses the line on every audience in every town, but a quick look around the theatre revealed almost three quarters of the seats were empty and the majority of Griffith had, in fact, missed out.

It was the same story at last week's performance of *The Age I'm In*.

These weren't amateur, low-rent productions - they were well-directed shows with successful runs in cities and large regional areas.

So where were you Griffith?

Maybe we simply don't have the population to support these acts or maybe everyone was watching Lisa McCune get out-acted by a ship on *Sea Patrol*.

Whatever the reason, if these events continue to be ignored the performers and venues will decide crowd numbers are too low to make it worth their while and Griffith will miss out for good.

A career in journalism has taken



**TOP ROCK:** Jon English and his group of talented musicians put on a great show in Griffith on the weekend. Unfortunately, not many locals were there to enjoy it and columnist Lucy Martin is concerned if live events aren't well supported, Griffith may be left off future touring venue lists.

me to small rural communities where "culture" is a trip to the annual art and craft expo and a lively night out is winning a meat tray at the pub and getting into a brawl.

Griffith, however, has both the size and diversity to attract an incredibly wide range of theatre

shows, photographic exhibitions and performers.

The opportunity to spend your Friday night perusing the *Archibald Prize*, marvelling at dance theatre or even sensibly grooving along to Jon English is not a right, but rather a luxury in a rural town like Griffith.

The promise of those things is one of our main weapons in the fight to attract doctors, lawyers, engineers and other young professionals to the bush.

So next time something comes to town, go along - you might be surprised by how much you enjoy it.

## FLASHBACK

### 50 YEARS AGO

May 3, 1960

### HELPED PIONEER RICE ON THE MIA

Mr Charles Augustus Davidge, who died at his Yenda home on Sunday, was a pioneer settler and a community leader of the MIA and was closely identified with the growth of the rice industry. The funeral will take place this afternoon after a service at St Alban's at 2 o'clock. Born at Yalwal, near Nowra, in 1895, Mr Davidge was the only son of Charles and Mary Davidge.

### 25 YEARS AGO

May 3, 1985

### PROTEST TO PREMIER

A submission concerning the plight of the Yoogali Club has been made by its manager, Mr Sam Catanzariti, to the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, Mr Jack Hallam, following the implementation of certain licensing laws in NSW. Mr Catanzariti claimed yesterday that the laws were threatening the financial plight of his and other registered clubs in country NSW.

### 10 YEARS AGO

May 3, 2000

### FAMILY TO CONTINUE FIGHT FOR JUSTICE

The parents of the young jackaroo from Binya who perished in the Great Sandy Desert in 1986 say they are likely to appeal the judgement handed down in the Western Australia Supreme Court last Friday.

# God's voice is not always recognised