



Kelly's world of mine

with PAM PERRE

There are few people and places that can create an atmosphere where you can just close your eyes and enjoy amazing music alongside a mixture of loved ones and strangers.

Kelly Menhennett, a local girl, launched her first album on Sunday at the Mallee Fowl Restaurant.

The venue and the weather made the event the perfect way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

The sun flooded the grassy area outside the restaurant, which was sprinkled with people in deck chairs under umbrellas and hats.

The carefree environment made me feel like I had nothing to worry about but the music.

When Kelly walked onto the stage to sing, a proud smile seemed to light up most faces in the audience.

The majority of people there knew Kelly and her music and I saw them brace themselves for the magic she was about to create.

She looked at home on the tin shed stage, walking up to the microphone as though she was born for it.

Kelly's laid back, friendly, exuberant personality seemed to

envelope the entire scene as she pulled on her guitar.

She spoke to the audience about her music with a free and open smile.

Songs tumbled out with ease after that, allowing the audience to soak up the ambience.

And when she adjusted her microphone and told us her next song would be *Don't Stop Dreaming*, Kelly smiled knowingly. She wouldn't have got this far without by that principle.

Everything she sung about hit the audience close to home, with most of Kelly's songs encompassing a little bit of the Riverland in them.

The sound of the album's title song – *World of Mine* – felt like hope mixed with a pinch of nostalgia.

It made me unwittingly sway and tap my foot as I allowed myself to become consumed in the musical bubble around the restaurant.

With Kelly's strong voice and incredible ability to create music, we all should be proud to call her ours.

World of Mine is an amazing testament to each one of our worlds.

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