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Splendid haul for homeless

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ABANDONED tents, chairs, mattresses, cooking equipment and general waste were some of the items left behind by festival patrons who camped at Splendour in the Grass.

In a bid to combat the waste generated by thousands of campers, volunteers from Social Futures Connecting Home Program and welfare services provider OTCP scoured Byron Parklands on Monday, filling a truck with discarded items.

These will be cleaned and donated to people in the region who are at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness.

Connecting Home Program manager Lance Schema said it was a wonderful outcome.

"There was such a lot left behind, some of it practically brand-new, like sleeping bags, tents, camping chairs and tables, multiple pairs of gumboots, blow-up

mattresses, blankets and even brand new sheets, pillows and sleeping bags still in their packaging," Mr Schema said.

On the other side of the festival carnage, a Facebook post by Splendour in the Grass received several comments from festival-goers who were "disgusted" by the state of the grounds, described as an "absolute wasteland".

Brendon Green wrote: "I was appalled by what some punters left behind on Monday."

Several Facebookers were shocked and then pleased by the state of the grounds after several days worth of clean-up.

Mr Schema said the issue of youth homelessness was enormous on the Northern Rivers due to the lack of affordable accommodation.

"Our Connecting Home Program has supported more than 800 young people in the past 12 months," he said.