After the initial blast of UOW O-week, it was that time of the year in the University of Wollongong’s social calendar for Garden Party 2012. This year the party included three stages to fill your ears with a constant stream of sweet sweet music from your local artists to the big names as you walked through.

The party had already begun on my bus into uni with the campus kids jumping up and down with excitement – literally. Arriving at the venue at 8.30pm – six UniCrew volunteers (normally two) on wristbanding - showed just how big the night was going to be. It wasn’t too long before hundreds were lining up to get in.

The Lawn Stage (just outside of UniBar) lined up three sets: A Cold November, Cameron Lawler and This Mess. This was the stage for the chilling-out music while you sipped on your icy drinks. There wasn’t a single empty space to sit around this area with people standing around and watching from the steps of UniBar.

Inside things were a little messier with area in front of the stage at UniBar turning into a foam pit. If you liked getting your dance on while getting a bit crazy, this was the place for you. Giving you the music to get you pumping were Moonbase Commander, Jem Quinn and DJ Zacc. As you were getting your ears pounded by the bass, you could’ve also had your face shot by a canon of foam. But watch out for the giant ball! DJ Zacc, resident DJ of the Hotel Illawarra, did not disappoint the crowd with his mix of House – no wonder he is one of the best in Wollongong. In my experience, you could’ve had the foam up to your waist and not feel it…till you got out and were soaking wet. All worth it.

Throughout the night, people were flocking around UniHall for the stellar line-up of The Penny’s, Pluto Jonze, Owl Eyes and of course, Sneaky Sound System. Or perhaps the
Jim Beam promo girls. Although there were a few who would prefer to stay at UniBar, the majority of us went into the UniHall to start moving.

The crowd got lively for **Owl Eyes** as they played their Triple J’s hottest 100 (2011) song, *Raiders*, and covered Foster the People’s *Pumped Up Kicks*.

The highlight of the night was the much-anticipated **Sneaky Sound System**. As the crowd went wild with the flashing of lights, Connie Mitchell revealed herself in a colourful leotard and belted out her impressive vocals over the top of her screaming fans. Wrists illuminated by glowsticks were in the air to show their support. What do you do to avoid being crushed? Start moshing!

Songs from their album, *From Here to Anywhere*, and their familiar tunes filled the hall to a euphoric state. What would a Sneaky Sound System gig be without performing *UFO*?

The night was over with the crowd till calling out for an encore, only to be disappointed when the house lights came on. As quickly as they had came in, the UniHall was empty. Though the night continued as the majority of us party-goers hopped onto the AfterDark PartyBus into town...