

Billabong Band Annual Report – 2025 AGM

The Billabong Band's bookings have never fully recovered from Covid. This last financial year we played 10 gigs which is considerably less than in pre Covid times.

The gigs we performed at 10 2024/25 were:

Private birthday party
Lionsbrae aged care
Gulf Station – National Trust
Maroondah Festival
VFMC Family Dance
Knox Historical Society
Melb Highland Games & Celtic Festival
Under the Fern Tree Market
Maroondah Council x 2

Gulf Station is a National Trust property where in years past the VFMC performed regularly, providing dancing as well as music. This was an all-day event which although tiring was a lot of fun.

Under The Fern Tree is a new market that only started this year however it appears to be well attended & they have different musicians playing each month. The organisers were very happy with what we played and have asked back for their October market.

We played two consecutive dances for the Maroondah Council who were running a program for women encouraging them to get out of their homes & mix with others. It was aimed at women who were feeling isolated. These turned out to be two really successful gigs. Although their dancing experience was extremely limited there was lots of laughter & in the second week there were more attendees. A number of women were asking for more details about our monthly family bush dances which Bill was able to supply them with.

Remuneration

One big change which has occurred this year is the way band members are remunerated. Previously members were paid an amount based on how much the club was donated by the group hiring the band. Because of the clubs incorporated status we can't be seen to making a profit by charging a set amount, hence we always ask for a donation at our gigs. After much discussion at a number of committee meetings it was decided that players should receive a small payment to compensate for petrol, wear & tear on instruments and their time. The amount given to each player is based on the number of practices they've attended as well as playing at the gig.

None of these gigs would have been successful if it wasn't for the club members who gave up their time and in some cases their residences for practices.

I would like to thank the following members for supporting the Billabong Band:

Jane, Steve, Maree, Bill, Katy, Beth, Selina, Carol, Michael, Ian, Matthew, Rob, Dominic, Bryce, Maggie, Regina, Joan, Ray, Franciska and Margie.

All of the above people played with the Billabong Band – some a number of times, others only a couple but they all contributed and gave enjoyment to a lot of people.

Thank you

Trevor Voake
Billabong Band convenor.