

VFMC AGM 2025 Concerts Report

We have had another very good year of concerts. We started in July in a different hall. After the June 2024 concert we moved from the Uniting Church Ringwood Hall to the Senior Citizen's Hall in Ringwood East.

This hall is a similar size but it does have a stage and two green rooms and financially works out a lot better for us.

The main performers and their supports from July 2024 to May 2025 were as follows:

Month	Main Act	Support Act
July 2024	Dominic Martin	Kira Janowski
August 2024	Green Fieldz	Ed Robins
September 2024	Noteworthy Choir / Chocolate Lilies / Sweet Sassafras	
October 2024	Kathryn Clements	Jesse McCormack
November 2024	The Raglins	
December 2024	Play it Martha	
February 2025	Marilla Homes	
March 2025	Joshua Batten	Rudy van den Bovenkamp
April 2025	Nerida Cuddy	
May 2025	Geoffrey Graham and Phil Lester	Newport Bush Orchestra
June 2025	Pleasant and Delightful	Niranjana and Pranav

We have had a variety of different types of acts over the last year. There was some excellent Celtic influences: Greenfieldz, Kathryn Clements and the Raglins. They were all great instrumentalists and singer

Aussie influences including Geoffery Graham with Phil Lester, Dominic Martin, Nerida Cuddy, Play it Martha and Pleasant and Delightful.

In September we had one of our best annual a cappella concerts with three large groups: Noteworthy Choir, Chocolate Lilies and Sweet Sassafras. It was an amazing night. Great atmosphere.

We continue to encourage young performers: Joshua Batten, Jesse Mc Cormack and Niranjana and Pranav.

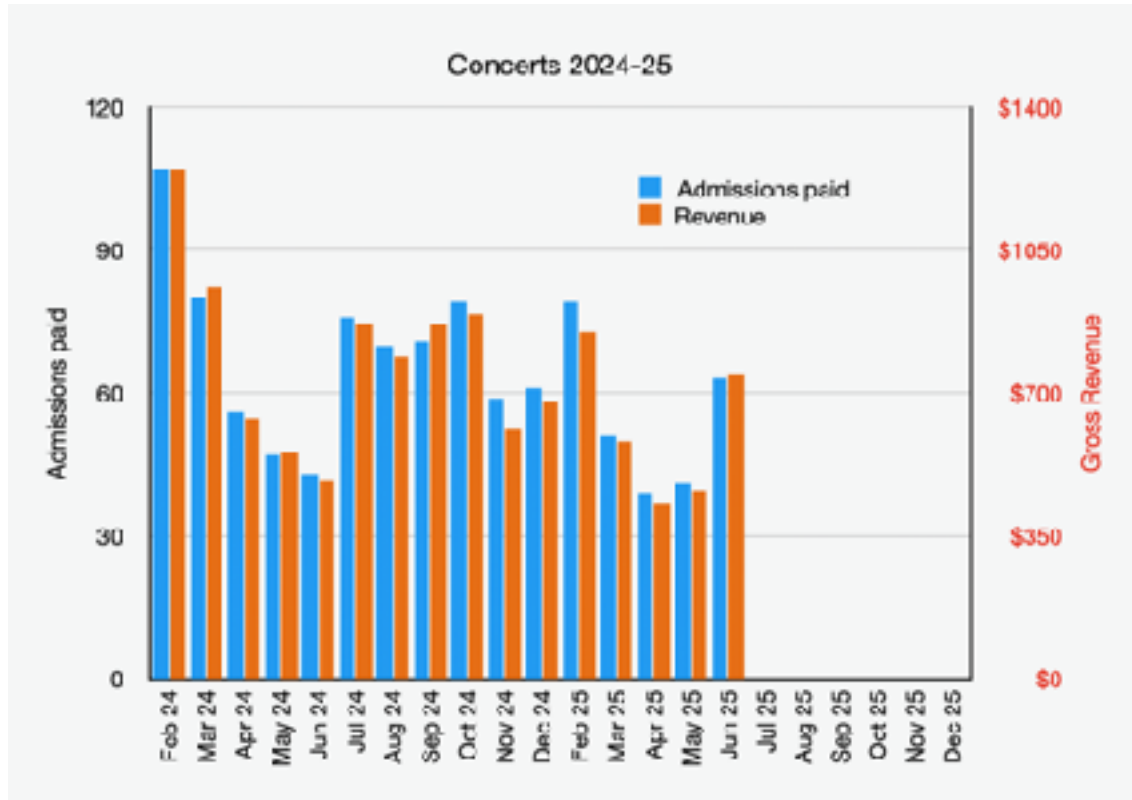
A highlight for me was the February concert when Marilla Holmes dressed in magnificent costume sang some great songs with her powerful voice (no amplification was needed for her to be heard clearly!).

We've had some great Support acts over the year. A standout was the Newport Bush Orchestra. This year because of the demand for a Support spot we increased the number of Supports acts from 4 to 5 a year.

There continues to be a high demand for floor Spots (spot acts). We never have difficulty filling them up. We've even had a few professional performers request a spot a few times.

Now that we have the hall rent under control, the concerts have returned to a satisfactory financial condition, able to cover costs (including reasonable performer fees) with a small margin to the Club.

The following graph summarises the overall results:



When we moved to the Senior Citizens' Club Hall in July 2024 there were a few initial teething problems, mainly to do with lighting and amplification. We also had to monitor attendance numbers after we slightly exceeded the allowable hall capacity at the September a Capella concert. The amplification debate continues within the main committee. It is worth pointing out that Bill and Trev have put in a lot of work during the year to try to improve both the lighting and sound. Bill is handing over the sound to Peter Kernebone for the new Club year.

A big thank you to the Concerts Sub-Committee: Michael Hassett, Tony Kelly, Bill and Maree Butler. I'd like to welcome a new Concert's sub committee member, Brian Ellwood. It would be great if we could get another one or two new members on the sub committee where we discuss all the performer's applications. We have Zoom meetings monthly. Thankyou to Bill and Michael who have resigned from the subcommittee after putting in a lot of work over the last few years.

Thanks to all those that help on the concert nights. It takes a lot of people: Bill (sound equipment and videoing performances), Trevor Voake (lighting and photography), Don Fraser (advertising and flyers), Colin McLaren and Michael Hassett (admission table), Alex, Francesca and helpers (Supper) and all those other people that help with supper, set up and clean.

I want to thank the audience and those members that have helped in any way support the Concerts over the last year.

We've just had another great year!

Maree Buttler

Concert's *Convenor*