

We have had another very good year of concerts. We want to thank the audience and those members that have helped in any way support the Concerts over the last year. The eleven concerts presented by the club for this year covered a wide variety of styles of music and song. We never have any difficulty getting feature acts. There are many great performers to choose from and our concerts being a Tuesday night is an advantage. Our forward concert program is fully booked through to March 2027.

We've had some great Support acts over this year. (see table below). We started Support acts about 10 years ago to provide budding musicians a half hour spot to enable them to play a more extended set than a Spot Act. It does cut down the number of Spot Acts we can accommodate, so we limit Supports to about four times a year.

I must also thank all the Spot Acts that start the night off. They have also all been great this year.

We featured a lot of young performers over the last year. Cate and Amla (fiddle), Burning Bridges with a talented young fiddler, Apolline: three young girls who sing and played cello, fiddle and double base. At the May concert we were treated to two brilliant young musicians Mickey & Michelle (Mickey guitar and Michelle with Harp). We continue to encourage young musicians.

The main performers and their Supports from July 2025 to May 2026 were as follows:

Month	Main Act	Support Act
Jul 2025	Saoirse	
Aug 2025	Cate and Amla	
Sep 2025	Gorani, Both Sides of the River, VoiceBox	
Oct 2025	Suzette Herft	John and Bill
Nov 2025	folkTrain	Fairbairn and O'Mara
Dec 2025	The Burning Bridges	
Feb 2026	Tracey Roberts and Christina Green	
Mar 2026	Apolline	Brian Ellwood
Apr 2026	Bohemian Nights	Julia Fawcner
May 2026	Mickey and Michelle	
Jun 2026	Maggie Somerville	Peter Read with Regina McDonald

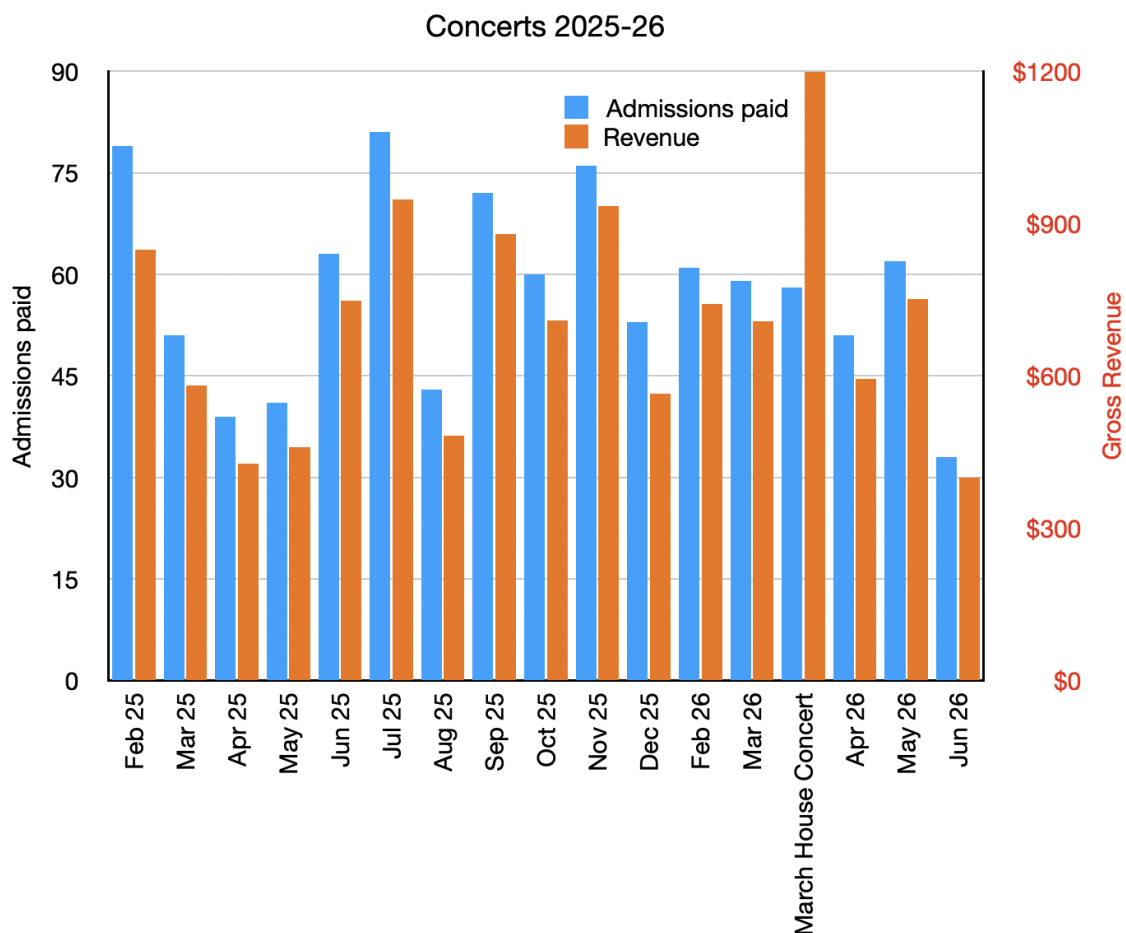
Martyn Wyndham-Read - House Concert

At the end of 2025 we were approached by Martyn Wyndham-Read's management (via Warren Fahey) advising us that Martyn was travelling to Australia again in March 2026 as part of his final tour. VFMC were asked if we could put on a house concert as our normal March concert was already booked. The concert was held at Dom and Bette Martin's on Thursday the 5th March and had an audience of 60 plus. Richard videoed the concert which will be great for our archives. Bette and Dom did an amazing job of preparing their house for the concert and putting up Martyn for a few days. You can read a full report of the concert in the April Tradition.

Financial outcome

Over the last year (July 2025 to June 2026) the VFMC Concerts (not including the house concert) have seen a total attendance of 651 people with a total gross revenue of \$7,713. These figures were consistent with the 2024-25 year's figures of 689 attendees and \$7,774 gross revenue.

The following graph summarises the month-by-month admissions and gross revenue:



As can be seen, audience numbers fluctuate throughout the year, depending on the seasons, competing events and the perceived appeal of the programmed acts. However, they remain consistent year-on-year, and we are clearly able to cover costs and deliver reasonable payment to our booked performers.

Hall, Sound, Lighting and Stage Layout

We have now adjusted to the Senior Citizen's hall. Many changes were required. We've spent a lot of time on appearance with black drapes on the back of the stage. A lot of work was done by Kass and her husband Danny. Katy Cottrill provided an artistic colourful scene with music notes and lights to add to the drapes. This is still a work in progress.

Lighting is the next aesthetic for us to improve. Brian is working on non-fluorescent lights for the stage and better lighting for the hall. We plan to take a proposal to the hall management for consideration.

We have been working on sound and amplification. Over the past year, we have made available two microphones to performers to boost the sound levels, particularly for spoken

word. The decision was not taken lightly, as the event has traditionally been acoustic only. The change was made in response to an increasing number of attendees with hearing impairment, together with meeting the acoustic challenges of the new hall, as compared with our original Community Hall. Sound is still a work in progress as we seek to improve the sound quality while maintaining the acoustic feel of our concerts.

Videoing and recording

For many years now we have been videoing concerts and making them available to the performers to critique their work, also we did make them available for those who were unable to attend concerts. We have now discontinued this service on a regular basis, due to the amount of work required to edit and publish the videos every month. We do plan to occasionally take videos for specific concerts, such as the recent Martyn Wyhdham-Read House Concert and Maggie Somerville's CD launch. We have a volunteer professional photographer (Richard) available for these specific events.

Publicity

We continue to reach out to new prospective audiences. We distribute fliers to local U3A groups and libraries, shops etc. Recently we have had two interviews with the local radio station 98.1. These interviews resulted in four new audience members that we know of at last week's concert and will have the effect of increasing our exposure as these become more regular.

Sub-Committee

The concerts sub committee have been very busy this year with booking performers, rewriting notes to performers and guidelines for support and spot acts, keeping records of testing and tagging and PLI insurance compliance. We are continually working on improving the presentation of our concerts stage, lighting, sound and hall set ups, with the aim of improving the experience for our audience and our performers.

A big thank you to the Concerts Sub-Committee: Peter Kernebone, Rick Lowen, Kass Mulvany, Brian Ellwood and Maree Buttler. It would be great if we could get another one or two new members on the subcommittee where we discuss all the performer's applications. We have Zoom meetings monthly.

Thanks to all those that help on the concert nights. It takes a lot of people: Peter (sound equipment), 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 stage management, MC'ing, supper, set up, pack up and cleaning.

We'd like to thank the audience and those members that have helped in any way to support the concerts over the last year.

We've just had another great year!

Maree Buttler Brian Ellwood

Concerts Convenors