

## The 2016 Fitzroy High School Cabaret - Welcome to the Circus

In the last week of last term Fitzroy High School staged our fabulous Cabaret event in the wonderful and iconic Melba Speigel-tent at the equally wonderful and iconic Circus OZ in Johnston Street, Collingwood.

Early in the year, students auditioned for roles as performers or back stage then joined the Cabaret or Music performance excel classes where they developed and rehearsed their performances. They gave up time after school and on weekends in preparation.

We delighted audiences with 3 performances held over 3 nights and sold 487 tickets in total. Those fortunate to be there experienced the diverse and extraordinary talents of FHS students enhanced by the wonderful atmosphere of the venue. We thank our awesome students for their hard work, commitment and creativity in this event both on and off the stage.

The event was generously supported by the local community from local businesses donating goods for our raffle and food fundraising to the volunteers both parent/carer and FHS staff who gave their time and specialist skills.

We thank the following business for their generous raffle donations: Circus OZ 3 x 2017 A Reserve Family tickets value \$175 each, Grub Food Van \$80 voucher, Nique clothing \$250 voucher, Alpha 60 2 x \$250 clothing vouchers, Fitzroy Social Club 3 x \$50 vouchers, Moondog Brewery 1 x case of beer, Phillip Lobley Wines – 6 bottles of Pinot Noir, Starward 1 x bottle whiskey, Village Vineyard – 1 x bottle wine.

We thank the following business for their generous donations and discounts of our Snacks and Treats. We served: sliders with sizeable meatballs, onion and coleslaw (all meatballs – 360 of them generously donated by Meat Smith and 360 slider buns equally generously donated by Babka), cheese and charcuterie platters generously provided at cost by Obelix and accompanying bread by Babka, and Organic Soup – homemade with ingredients generously supplied by Terra Madre and served with bread supplied by Babka. We also served up hot popcorn and bags of scrumptious lollies as treats.

We were also generously supported by The Friendly Moving Men who moved all of our gear almost for a song, Collins and Simms for providing Billboard signage and Vital Signs who supplied our fundraising signage. We owe a special thanks to Circus OZ for supporting this event. The professionalism and experience of the Circus OZ staff was greatly appreciated. In particular we thank Matt Hughes and Halley Jean Buckam of Circus OZ for their invaluable assistance and support.

For our fundraising efforts we raised \$3350 over 3 nights and after costs made \$2070 which will be reserved for the FHS Performance Fund and used for future projects. We thank the following volunteers for sticking it out and helping with the daily set up, serving and pack up in cold and wet conditions: Annelise Balsamo,

Jasmine Cormett, Karen Lokerse, Danielle Anzai and Tim McPherson. Thank you also to the staff who volunteered to help and pitched in when needed: Ella H, Erin S, Yana, Abbey, Maddy, Chris M, Nellie, Riley and Peter.

Particular thanks go to Kate Parker whose skilful negotiation all of the raffle prizes and food donations is testament to her remarkable talents and value as a FHS parent and community member.

This event would not have been possible without the dedication and many talents of FHS teaching staff Kate Allison – Cabaret Director and Tom Hoyle – Musical Director. We thank them enormously and look forward to many more such events from both of them!

Special thanks to Helen Gaynor for filming the show, Miranda Jenkins for overseeing the makeup and Yolande Robertson for lending costumes and to Doris Pearse whose sourcing of outstanding venues, ticketing skills and Front of House administrative support contributes greatly to making these events possible.

Last but not least we couldn't do this without the FHS staff working tirelessly behind the scenes to also make this happen and we thank them all.

Kath Boyer

President Fitzroy High School

