

By Terrence Hoffmann

The Sound Doctor Team was so well organised for the Lisa Hannigan concert.

From the car park attendants with their hi-vis vests and red wand lights, to the street signage, the atmospheric bar set up in the Youth Room, where wall decorations and a central table turned the room into an intimate party space for socialising after the show and meeting the artists, to the stage decorations and lighting.

This show oozed professionalism and seemingly effortless efficiency.



Local teenager Stella Caon won great applause for her opening performance.

And then there was the sound.

The Memorial Hall has a wonderful warm tone when used by those who know what they are doing. This was such an event.

The opening act was Fairhaven singer, 15-year-old Stella Caon. She showed off a voice and a guitar style that will make her a musician with a much higher profile than she currently enjoys, if she continues to practice her art at this level. Watch out for her singing with her band called "Footy Footy Shark Shark" and you'll be impressed.

English singer/guitarist John Smith played next and what a talent. His original songs were beautifully performed. Later he would sing harmonies with Lisa Hannigan but on his own he was worth the price of admission.

Lisa Hannigan is a masterful singer and instrumentalist. She played a form of folk music that relies on tight vocal harmonies and soaring solos with much light and shade. Some songs finishing with her voice a mere whisper.

It was a riveting performance. With a drummer and John Smith returning to



sing and play electric guitar, the trio created an engaging show.

While there were some dyed-in-thewool fans present, much of the audience was hearing the songs for the first time. The foot stomping and clapping at the end of the concert to call the singers back for an encore was an indication of how thoroughly they had won over the audience.

This was a very fine concert full of lovely songs and performed by international artists of great ability.

The audience was a real cross-section of local people and others from more distant post codes. Anyone familiar with Anglesea would have recognised many of the faces. Other locals from Aireys Inlet, Torquay and the Surf Coast Shire were there.

Thank you to The Sound Doctor Team for a most enjoyable and well run night of entertainment.

When's the next one?



John Smith's original songs were a highlight of the evening.