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Rock Stars For One Night, Then Back To Reality

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Phat Albert, representing Albert Park Primary School. Photo: Dave Tacon.

The fifth Parents Battle of the Bands (PBOB) was a rousing success, with a record eight acts performing to a crowd of about 600 people at St Kilda’s Prince Bandroom.

The night raises money for school music programs. In previous years more than \$40,000 had been raised, and organisers were hoping for another \$10,000 at this gig.

Some serious musical chops were on display during a setlist that included covers of songs by Black Eyed Peas, David Bowie, You Am I, Billie Eilish, a-ha and The B-52’s.

Port Melbourne Primary parent Brendan Hooper featured on lead vocals for The Last Port on Bowie's *Let's Dance*. He looked right at home on stage with some tried and true frontman moves.

"I used to sing for Death and Disease, a punk pop band in the late 80s and 90s. We got to support Faith No More as well as all the big Aussie acts of that era," said Hooper, who admitted that the night's revelry left him on "planet pain" the morning after.

"The best part of the night is the crowd reaction, for sure. We fully appreciate all the hard work of the organisers, the judges and road crew, but it's the crowd that makes it all worth it."

Port Phillip Mayor Heather Cunsolo was there to lend support, spotted in a sea of blonde hair and red beanies near the front of the stage.

The evening was capped off with an impromptu group singalong to Tina Turner's *The Best*. It was jointly led by St Kilda Park mother Bianca Millar of Parental As Anything, who had been promoted to lead singer after a stint as backing singer in PBOB 2022.

"I'm proud of what we did tonight," she said. "As a parent and grown-up you don't get many opportunities to do this kind of thing. It's so good to see the school community cheering you on. It's good for the soul and so good for all the parents' mental health."

First place went to The Last Port.

We hope you enjoy our gallery from the night. All photos by Dave Tacon.







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