



## **BOP Blues Club Newsletter March 2020**

Just a bit of an update since our February newsletter was sent out is that our regular club band “The Blues Busters” played a free gig on the Rotunda in the Government Gardens in Rotorua on a stunning afternoon on February 9<sup>th</sup> as a fundraiser for the Rotorua Blues Festival. These events are funded by the Rotorua Lakes Council and the contribution that the council has made has been put towards funding some of the activities that will be held over the Queen’s Birthday Weekend at the end of May 2020. There was a good crowd of around 300 people who thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and “The Blues Busters” are looking forward to being part of the festival later in the year, watch this space...



Another fabulous night again for our Jam night was held at the Rotorua Citizens Club on Wednesday the 4<sup>th</sup> of March with a great mix of musicians, both local and travelling from out of town once more and another bumper crowd of around 100 or more who were there to hear the music and join in the fun on a lovely warm evening.

The night was kicked off with a bit of a difference with members of local band “The Blues Busters” Terry Oldham on guitar, “Lady” Di Riddel on percussion and myself on vocals doing our 3 songs in an “unplugged” style starting with a bit of a tribute to the patron of the BOP Blues Club, Midge Marsden, with his song “Kokomo”. Then with the inclusion of Lindy Rooney from “Brown Dog and The Muttley” on Harmonica for our last 2 songs, “Shotgun Blues” by Junior Wells and “Mojo Working” by the late, great Muddy Waters, brilliant.



The House Band were next up with members Ali Morgan on guitar and vocals, Rob Gillies on bass and vocals and Ian Hunia on drums and vocals (gotta love a drummer who can play drums and sing at the same time...) joined on stage by harmonica master Peri Grant playing some great blues tunes including “Sitting in the Rain” by John Mayall, “Cold Shot” by Stevie Ray Vaughan and “All Along the Watchtower”.



The “Taupo 3” brought their “cool” style with Tamati Cassidy on guitar and vocals bringing some friends along from Taupo to perform the Muddy Waters track “Hoochie Coochie Man” and “Sweet Home Chicago” by Blues Legend Robert Johnson. The “Doctor” Dave was awesome on harmonica and saxophone as was the lovely lady Joanne who sang. Really look forward to them coming along again to entertain us.



We were lucky again to have local girl Nikau Chater with “The Natives”, Rob Powley and Ian Pirrie (guitars), A.J. (drums) where they were also joined on stage by bass playing genius Jimmy Murray starting their set with “Oh Darling” by The Beatles, and then “The Story” by Brandi Carlile and were then joined by “guest artist”, Nikau’s Mum Rachael, who duetted “Make it Rain” by Ed Sheeren with Nikau. Solid.



As the Blues Club are keen to promote young musicians and singers we were happy to support young Matahiapo Maxwell on to the stage with guitarist Marcus Kaisserian, bass legend Chris Duff and our own Paul Hindrup on drums who did a sterling job of their songs which included John Lennon's "Imagine".



"Shotgun" are a well-known band from Hamilton and members of the Hamilton Blues Society and we were so pleased that they had travelled not only to support our club but also provide us with an outstanding set starting with "Low Rider" by War, then "Strange Fruit" followed by "Roadhouse Blues" by The Doors. They were also joined on stage by harmonica playing maestro Peri Grant who provided an extra dimension as he does.



Another regular to our jam nights who will ALWAYS be welcome at ANY events we are involved with is Brownie “Brown Dog” Brown and Lindy “The Muttley” Rooney (her choice of nickname not his...lol). These guys provide an infectious energy to the night with a great selection of tunes done in true blues style including “Falsom Prison Blues” by Johnny Cash. They were supported on stage by our club president Noel Lamberton on Drums and the very accomplished Rob Patterson on bass guitar and our very own “Lady Di” Riddel on percussion and culminated their set with a Brownie Original “The Storm”. Really outstanding sound.



An absolute highlight of the evening was when the “bright and bubbly” Dionne Bidois who had travelled from Matamata, leaving the cows behind, graced the stage with her guitar and sang three original songs including the aptly named “Bad, bad Girl”...haha, “This Revolution” and an absolutely fantastic tune called “Wild Men and Whiskey”. Great tempo, great lyrics and a very good rhythm too. We will be very happy if she ever wants to perform that song again as the crowd really seemed to like it also and received an outstanding ovation.



Our last act of the night was the returning local lad and bass playing Lloyd Akroyd and the “Sunshine Disciples”, Trojan John on guitar and J.T. on drums, who closed out the night with a very solid performance which included among other things “Little Wing” by the late great Jimi Hendrix and “Come Together” by The Beatles and finally an original song written by Lloyd called “Always be There” which is what we want the BOP Blues Club to be for many a jam night to come....always there.



Some of the members of “The Blues Busters” also played a somewhat “unplugged” set at Crank Worx 2020 at the Skyline Gondola Park in Rotorua on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March which was well received by the people in attendance and we were very happy to have the outstanding harmonica skills of our friend Chris Cubis join us for the last half of our set which really bought an extra dimension to our sound, not to mention “Lady” Di Riddel who extended her repertoire to playing the Cajon as well as her array of percussion “toys” ...great stuff...



The Rotorua Blues Festival is really starting to come together, and we are pleased to announce that we are almost ready for our media release where tickets will become available. The BOP Blues Festival Committee in conjunction with sponsors has the Rotorua Blues Festival booked for Queens Birthday Weekend, the 29<sup>th</sup>,30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> May 2020.

Tickets will be available VERY SOON on our website. Please go to the BOP Blues Web Page [www.bopblues.com](http://www.bopblues.com) for further details.

**The next jam night is on Wednesday the 1st of April 2020 from 7:30pm at the Rotorua Citizens Club.** There are full bar facilities available and a very reasonably priced restaurant for you to enjoy also.... We look forward to seeing you there for another great night of live music and entertainment.

Regards,

Paul "Blues Buster" Verney.

