



## **BOP Blues Club Recharge Newsletter June 2020**

Well it certainly has been a very interesting life we have all had to live since the Covid 19 pandemic took hold across the globe in March and the whole of New Zealand was forced into Levels of lockdown for almost 9 weeks meaning Stay Home, Be Kind & Stay Safe. The lockdown has had a perverse effect on everyone and some of the hardest hit have been our extremely hard-working local musicians who were unable to perform anywhere in the country.

As a result of these restrictions the BOP Blues Club was forced to postpone our Rotorua Blues Festival which has been a mainstay of the Queen's Birthday Weekend for the last 14 years'!!

The BOP Blues Club Committee decided to follow the social media explosion of online performances over the lockdown period by creating our very own virtual mini festival fundraiser to help the musicians affected by Covid 19. Using some of the artists that we had already approached to feature in the Rotorua Blues Festival 2020, hence the Rotorua "Blues Re Charge" was borne.

The Committee felt it was very important to hold this virtual event over the Queen's Birthday Weekend to uphold the tradition that the BOP Blues Club had built up for over a decade and then to also coincide the event with this years' New Zealand Music Month.

In a very limited amount of time (3 weeks) the artists were sourced the footage was edited and 2 x 2-hour programs were produced to be played online on Saturday May 30<sup>th</sup> and Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup>.

The BOP Blues Club are truly indebted to all the artists that contributed footage to create this wonderful event and we thank you all dearly. We would acknowledge you all individually but there are just too many of you to mention and if we were to miss one of you out, we would probably never hear the end of it...LOL

The Club also send out a huge thank you to the production, edit and technical teams who without their expertise behind the scenes this show would never have been achieved.

Some behind the scenes pic's of Video shoot in preparation of the Blues Recharge Concert



Nikau and the Natives



the House Band



The Blues Busters



Nikau and the Natives & Sound Crew



Nikau Chater



Noel Lamberton



Now that it is looking highly likely that the country will very shortly move to level 1 of the lockdown rules we are happy to announce that the Rotorua Blues Festival 2020 has been moved to Labor Weekend and will be held from Friday October 23<sup>rd</sup> to Monday October 26<sup>th</sup> at our usual fun venues in town. Watch this space!!



Good news everybody!! Our next BOP Blues Club Jam night has been confirmed for Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July from 7:30pm at the Rotorua Citizens Club. For those musicians who are interested in performing at this event get in early and please email Paul Hindrup, our Jam Night Marshall and “Master of Ceremonies” ...lol at [Fifthsun2012@live.com](mailto:Fifthsun2012@live.com)

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. Raffles & Musicians Draw!



Regards,

Paul “Blues Buster” Verney.

