



BOP Blues Club Newsletter July 2020

Well it certainly was great to be back at the Citizens Club for our first BOP Blues Club Jam night since our imposed 3 Month hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic situation that we were all forced to endure.

We were so happy as a Club to welcome back a whole bunch of our true and loyal supporters as well as to welcome some new faces who were all keen to enjoy a night of live music in a family friendly venue.



The night was kicked off with a new guitar player that I have become involved with who moved to Rotorua from the Kapiti Coast a couple of years ago. "VB" is a very talented musician who has been playing Blues music professionally for many years now and we decided to call our new music making venture "The Humbucker Brothers". We were both very happy to be joined on stage by BOP Blues Club Committee members, Paul Hindrup on Drums and Rob Gillies on Bass Guitar. VB was playing an exceptionally beautiful sounding 1958 Gibson Guitar.

We performed 3 very bluesy numbers including "East Side Blues" by Omar and the Howlers and an original the VB and I wrote just the week before called, "The Pathological Liar Blues" and finished with "Mean Old World" originally performed by Otis Rush.



Next on stage were the very polished Keith and Lyndsey who brought their signature and traditional Jazz/Blues style which provides a lovely contrast to what other acts perform on the night. They started their 3 Song set with a fantastic rendition of the classic Billie Holiday tune “God Bless the Child” followed by a Bonnie Raitt track, “Love me like a Man” and finished of with “All of Me” done in their very own special way.



“The House Band” joined us again from “interstate” which was a delight. Ali Morgan (Guitar), Rob Gillies (Bass) and Ian Hunia (Drums) all took turns singing their 3 Songs which included an Anthony Gomes song “Come Down” and “Pretzel Logic” by Steely Dan. These guys gel so well together musically, and we always look forward to having them as part of the night.



The room was then filled with the angelic tones of the wonderfully talented guitar player and singer Alayna Powley who sang the Etta James song “At Last” before being joined on stage by her equally talented father Rob on lead guitar and the keyboard Maestro Hartley Gabolinscy. She then sang the late, great Bill Withers tune “Ain’t no Sunshine” beautifully. Stunning stuff.



The fabulous singer Nikau Chater and her “Natives” were next up and started their set with “Oh Darling” by The Beatles followed by “Glitter and Gold” by Rebecca Ferguson and then “Crossroads” which has been performed by many a great blues musician including Eric Clapton which is the style they did it in. The whole band were in particularly fine form but a special “shout out” to Jimmy Murray on Bass who has added an extra dimension the band’s sound and also to A.J. on Drums whose playing has lifted a level as he seems to be more relaxed about being on stage. A great set of music.



Local band “Hammer On” comprised of Peri Grant on Lead Vocals and Harmonica, Jimmy Murray on Guitar and Vocals, Ali Morgan on Bass, Ian Hunia on Drums were joined on the night by Bernie Clark on Electric Guitar and together performed a sensational version of the Phoebe Snow song “Shaky Ground” sung by Jimmy which was sandwiched between two classic blues tracks “Dust my Broom” by Elmore James and “Why I sing the Blues” by B.B King, just brilliant.



We were very happy to have our good friends “Brown Dog and The Muttley” back at our Jam Night as they bring such a contagious energy to the stage. They were supported on the night by Rob Gillies on Bass, our Club President Noel Lamberton on Drums as well the fabulous “Lady” Di Riddel on percussion. “Call me the Breeze” by J.J Cale was the first song performed followed by the George Thorogood tune “Treat her Right” and then a Brownie “Brown Dog” Brown original “Way back Home”. We are just so blessed to have such talent supporting us on a consistent basis.



The last act for the night was Billy Mac who had also travelled from “interstate” to share his musical talent with us and what a talent it is...

A Dr John tune “One 2AM too Many” was the first song to be presented followed by two Popa Chubby songs, “Same Old Blues” and “I’ll do Anything (you want)”. Billy was joined on stage by some very accomplished musicians not least of which was Reuben Paraha on Drums who had also travelled from out of town and is a keen member and supporter of the Club. Again, very blessed to have such musical talents who are prepared to travel from out of town to help make the night such a success.

Billy was also one of two winners to win the musicians raffle kindly supplied the Rock Shop, the other being Bernie Clark who played with “Hammer On”



Also, a big congratulations to a very excited Janine Potroz who was the winner of our Club Raffle.



Finally, an important reminder to BOP Blues Club Members that you are all invited to attend our Annual General Meeting which is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 5th of August at 5.30pm at The Rotorua Citizens Club. Please note that this will take place prior to our monthly Jam Night at the same venue.

Please all keep yourselves well and happy and we look forward to seeing you again in the very near future.

Regards,

Paul "Blues Buster" Verney.

