



BOP Blues Club Newsletter August 2020

Welcome to another edition of the BOP Blues Club Newsletter so eagerly awaited by our fans from all around the World, (UK, South Africa, Australia, Netherlands, Canada, Chicago, USA) New Zealand, Bay of Plenty and ...Paradise Valley...

Firstly, a huge thank you to well known Tauranga band "Kokomo" who played our inaugural "Blues on Sunday" event at the Rotorua Citizens Club on Sunday 26th July.

A very appreciative crowd chose the sequence of the songs off a flyer provided by Kokomo and as a result enjoyed a fine selection of songs ranging from the original blues man Robert Johnson's "Malted Milk", the humorous "Plastic Jesus", first recorded in 1962 by "The Goldcoast Singers" through to "That's no way to get Along" by the legendary Rev. Robert Wilkins as well as a nice mix of original Kokomo songs thrown in for good measure.

The band are now touring their show throughout the wider Bay of Plenty area and we wish them well and with great success and look forward to hosting them again over Labour Weekend at our Rotorua Blues Festival...more on that later.



Our August BOP Blues Club Jam night was kicked off by the gorgeous tones of lovely French belle, Claudine Lafieur who performed solo on the keyboards and sang a couple of Janis Ian songs, “La Belle da Blues” and “This must be Wrong”. Just a fantastic way to start the night.



We were also incredibly lucky to be graced with the presence of the very, very talented local musician Michael Barker and his sidekick Billy Bong on Harmonica who played three of Michael's original tunes, “Let's get Live”, “Rotten”, written about a particularly toxic politician and “Tick my Box”. Michael's talents really are something to behold as he sang his first song playing keyboards and the second two playing his beautiful white Gretsch guitar and was seen later in the evening filling in on drums.



Next on stage was yours truly singing with the “House Band” and Di Riddel on percussion with her new tambourine and Hartley on keyboards. I wasn’t even going to get up on stage that night but knew that once I got to the Club that I wouldn’t be able to help myself. Started the set with “Honky Tonk Woman” then picked up the pace with “Roadhouse Blues” by The Doors, joined by Peri Grant on Harmonica, and finally really ramped it up with ZZ Top’s “La Grange”. The set was very well received by the supportive crowd.



“The House Band”, made up of Ali Morgan on Guitar and Rob Gillies on Bass were joined by Michael Barker on Drums, Hartley on Keyboards and “Lady” Di Riddel on percussion backed Max Ratana with three great blues songs that got people’s feet tapping and some bodies on the dance floor. The set comprised “All your Lovin” and “Walking by Myself” both by the late, great Gary Moore and “Tush” by iconic Texan Blues/Rock legends ZZ Top.



“The House Band” had a busy night as they then played their own 3 song set. The band all have a turn at singing including Ian Hunia on drums, I love a drummer who can play the drums and sing at the same time and Ian really did do justice to the B.B King song “Come Down”, such talent

Their set also paid tribute to the late Peter Green, one of the founding members of Fleetwood Mac who passed away recently with “Black Magic Woman” in their selection and finished off their night on stage with a very “House Band” version of The Temptations song “Law of the Land”. These guys have such musical experience and we just love having them as part of our monthly jam nights on a regular basis.



Local band “Theory 89” comprised of Terry Oldham on lead guitar and vocals, Deb Oldham on Bass Guitar, Jim Park on Keyboards and Carolyn Scherger on Drums played a great selection of blues standards made up of “Baby I’m coming Home” by Larry Carlton, “I’m tore Down” by blues icon Eric Clapton and a fantastic rendition of “Mary had a little Lamb” by the late, great blues legend Stevie Ray Vaughan. A 3-song set that was again well received by a very appreciative crowd of live music enthusiasts.



The night was rounded out with a slightly different feel this month when local Ukulele band “The Jamminukes” took to the stage. Made up of Mary on Ukulele and lead vocals, Gary on Ukulele/vocals and Esther on Bass Ukulele, they played a mixed trio of tunes from “Maggie May” by Rod Stewart, “Layla” by Eric Clapton and culminated with “The Rose” by Bette Midler. Just a lovely way to round out the evening with another night of eclectic blends of local musical talent.



And to end the fabulous evening, congratulations to member Sherrie Norrie for winning this months Raffle, and the musicians draw was won by Carolyn Scherger drummer from the band Theory “89”.



now a huge reminder that our 2nd “Blues on Sunday” event will be held on Sunday 30th August 2020 from 5pm till 8pm at the Rotorua Citizens Club concert venue featuring the very talented Tauranga band “Hybrid Blues” who will be launching their latest album.



For those of you who have never heard of or seen this local BOP band before, do yourselves a favour, part with your \$15 per ticket and come down and support some serious local talent, you will NOT be disappointed, trust me...

Doors open from 4:30pm with EFTPOS available. We will be holding fabulous raffle draw and there are full bar facilities, a family friendly Restaurant in a relaxed environment very conducive to live music.



And finally, a reminder of the annual Rotorua Blues Festival which is now scheduled to be held over Labour Weekend from Friday 23rd to Monday 26th October 2020.

Regular updates will be forthcoming so please keep an eye on our festival website page www.bopblues.co.nz



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

Regards,

“Humbucker Brother” Paul Verney

