



BAY of Plenty Blues Club Incorporated

2018 AGM – PRESIDENTS REPORT

Before one knows it another year has gone by and here we are again at AGM time for the Bay of Plenty Blues Club. It has been year of development again and the future looks to be one that will again be full of developments and changes.

But before I embark on my report proper I would like to start with thanking unreservedly the dedication and commitment of the current / outgoing committee. Obviously without them none of this would be possible – that goes without saying. I am privileged to be associated with such a group of energetic people who only have the clubs best interests at heart.

Our year initially started off with once again the club becoming homeless due to the fact that our previous venue, the Lakeside Café came to the end of its tenure in its current building, that of course being its location in the building that some will remember as the “Five Doors” night club, for some of us it was better known as “Suave Night Club”, and for any generation after that it was likely the Lakeside Café as by that time I was not living in Rotorua. None the less, it was a bit of an iconic building but due to the new earthquake requirements that commercial buildings must now meet the building is to be demolished as it was a council owned concern being part of the original sound shell and adjoining buildings. This meant that not only could the Lakeside Café not continue, but that also meant it was curtains for the BOP Blues Club in that location as well.

At this point I would like it to be known that the club is forever grateful to Colin and Norma for allowing us to be part of their culture for that 12 month period and hold our monthly jam nights at their premises. Their support and enthusiasm over that time was indeed appreciated. They have gone on to enjoy retirement and the committee and club in general wish them a happy retirement and wish them many years of joy ahead.

Enter the Rotorua Musical Theatre (RMT) whose venue the Casablanca Theatre is where we are now having this meeting. Our fantastic committee member, Di Riddel, was instrumental in securing this venue for us as she is also a member of the Rotorua Musical Theatre. I have to admit that initially I had my reservations about the club for the first time in its history being moved out of the C.B.D. and away from the “action” so to speak. Well, those concerns were completely unfounded and all we have witnessed since we started utilising this as our venue is unbridled success. Since moving here our monthly numbers of people through the door has continued to rise and we are now seeing more people support the club then ever! We have seen the return of some old faces which is always great to see but we have also seen a boost in numbers of people that are completely new to the club. It truly has been an encouraging thing for us to see this support coming through the door and certainly bodes well for the future.

Once again this year we did not hold a festival at Queen’s Birthday weekend. As always it is a matter of funding and this type of support is starting to get more difficult to come by as there seem to be more and more organisations seeking financial support and therefore much more competition for the same sponsor dollar. Additionally, this year has been a transitional time for the committee with new members coming on to replace outgoing ones. Previous to

this there had been a certain continuity of committee members but time waits for no one and in recent times we lost a staunch member with Peter Jongenelen passing and other committee members went on to follow other pursuits. So this year the committee has been slightly weak only in the area of the knowledge and experience of putting together the festival and having the numbers to support every aspect of the festival direction. It is a time consuming but ultimately rewarding experience but we do need numbers on the ground so to speak and it is my hope that by close of proceedings tonight that we have a committee that is in a better position to carry this forward again. There have also been some recent developments that potentially hold the potential to elevate the festival to another level, but I cannot divulge at this juncture what that is as it is nowhere near its final form and is only in the first baby steps of coming to fruition.

For myself, due to outside issues not associated with the BOP Blues Club I am this year having to relinquish my position as president, but if at all possible I will be carrying on as a committee member and also continue on with the role as marshal at the monthly jam nights.

Again, I thank all those that have served with me during my tenure as president and wish the next committee all the best of luck and good fortunes taking the club forward.

Paul Hindrup

President

BOP Blues Club