



Presidents Report by Paul Hindrup

Hello all you good people out in Blues land!

First of all an apology – it has been a long time between newsletters from the desk of the president and on behalf of the committee my sincerest apologies. But why the long gap?

Well, quite simply there has been a recent change of guard one could say. Our previous president, Shay Dender, for several personal reasons stood down from the position of president a mere couple of months ago. I would like to thank Shay for all his work as the president and wish him all the best for the future.

So with the change of guard what were the implications for the club now and also in the future?

Well, first of all and this should have been immediately noticeable – there was no Blues Festival at Queens Birthday weekend as you all usually expect to see. The decision to not hold one was not a decision taken lightly – trust me on that one. But the reality of the situation was such that when all is said and done, there is no real benefit to the club for holding this festival in so far as for all the hundreds of man hours and potential financial risk that the club exposes itself to in organising such an event. I want to be clear here – the Bay of Plenty Blues Club wants to acknowledge those entities such as the Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust and First Sovereign Trust have always supported us on a financial level and without their support no festival would have been possible previously. Many thanks to them all and I hope we can continue our relationship as we have in the past. But there are

certain conditions when applying for funding from entities like that that mean there is no real financial benefit to the club. As you would expect there are certain accountabilities that must be adhered to when using money from charitable funds which essentially means anything we don't spend must be returned. The club has no issue with that – we are not about to proceed down any dishonest path as we can be audited at any time ourselves and the law is the law. What we then find is that for the remainder of the year we are back to financially struggling despite the benefit that we bring to businesses particularly in the hospitality sector.

So where to from here? Well, the club has already approached the Rotorua Lakes Council on this matter and I'm happy to say that we are already looking forward to bringing back the festival in 2017. Now there is going to be a lot of work going on in the background over the next 12 months in regards to what for the festival is going to take as there is a vision of not just holding a Blues festival. The committee has a vision whereby Rotorua will become THE destination at Queens Birthday Weekend for Blues music. The BOP Blues Club wants to elevate the festival to transform it into something bigger, brighter and more representative of the many variations and colours that are now part of the Blues genre both locally and internationally. I will certainly be keeping you all updated through our website – www.bopblues.com – as things progress. It's going to be an exciting journey and I hope you all want to come along for the ride.

Speaking of your website, this has been modified and updated recently – many thanks to Ken Parker and Graham of WD Coms who graciously offered to administer and update our website on an ongoing basis with the right technical knowhow. As you probably already know there are some photos and bits of information on the BOP Blues Facebook page, but for all photos, details and announcements about what is happening with the club our website is the only place where you can see all that is happening. Go to www.bopblues.com for all the news. This will also include announcements as to our upcoming AGM which is normally at the end of June. The exact date and venue for this will be confirmed in the near future for all those interested in attending. And I hope that you will – the club wants to grow its membership with both musicians and non-musicians alike. Everyone is able to bring something to the table and the club takes this very seriously.

There have been things still going on regardless though. One recent change that was implemented for your club and jam night this month was a change of venue from Abracadabra to the Lakeside Cafe. As some of you know the BOP Blues Club was holding its club nights at Abracadabra for a few months over the summer and into the New Year. I'd like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Justin and the crew from Abracadabra for their hospitality and support during this time and I would recommend Abracadabra for an evening of "good vibes and good food" to anyone looking for a night out in Rotorua.

However there were some restrictions in terms of the number of people Justin was licensed to have out the back there at any one time and couple of times there it was getting to the point that we would have had to have stopped any more people coming in until some left!

As mentioned the BOP Blues Club now holds their jam night at the Lakeside Cafe, down at the lake front by the Lakeland Queen dock. Our new hosts, Colin and Norma, have been extremely welcoming and accommodating by opening up their establishment on the first Wednesday of every month – they are not normally open in the evenings! Is it anything to do with the fact that Colin is a bit of a blues fan himself? Maybe..... (think smiley emotive). The club held its first jam night there on Wednesday the 1st June and it was a great success. The sound in there is fantastic and it has a real stage that really does give it the real venue feel. I have to say that we really enjoyed having it at the Lakeside Cafe and long may it continue! The BOP Blues Club has felt a little “homeless” since the untimely departing of our dear friend and club stalwart Peter Jongenelen, or PJ as he was affectionately known to us all. With his departure this meant that the long home of the BOP Blues Club – the Belgium Bar – no longer existed but we now feel we are in a place that we can call home.

So just in case you didn't pick it up in that last piece, the BOP Blues Club holds its monthly jam night on the first Wednesday of every month from 7:00pm. As always go to www.bopblues.com for all the details. We encourage musicians at all playing levels to come down and have a go if they are so inclined. There always other musicians willing to provide support and encouragement to nurture and advance the Blues genre. If you want to see and hear a great example of what can happen when given the right pointers come along and listen to what started out as our youth project and has become its own band in its own right – ***“Running Mint”***.



The association with this group started nearly three years ago now and I have to say that maybe we started a bit of a monster. The distance these guys have come is amazing, and has also seen them branch out into classic rock covers. They have played a variety of gigs now and it really is heart warming to see the development and enthusiasm they display as they continue on their musical journey. The youth segment is something that the club wants to re-focus on in the coming months so keep watching this space.



A great friend of the club who you may remember from last year's Blues Festival – Isaiah Brunt who hails from Sydney, Australia recently undertook a small tour of some North Island venues culminating in his final performance at Brew bar in Eat Street in March of this year. It was great to see Isaiah back on New Zealand shores as he originally is actually from Auckland. He is a blues artist in the very traditional delta blues style, and certainly look too! He was supported on this tour by well known and world class bass player Rob Patterson, and by our own Peri Grant who provided his own style of blues harp that he is renowned for. It's always fantastic to be able to see and hear such world class musicians in our town. And I'm not joking when I say world class. Isaiah is a former winner of the International Blues Competition held in Memphis on an annual basis. Keep an eye on www.bopblues.com too for another future direction that club is embarking on in regards to its international profile. More on this in coming months.



“Me and my lady Patti Joy with the 2016 Blues Music Award for Acoustic Artist Of The Year. With all the really talented acoustic artists in this category- it's a great honor.”

And finally and very note worthy – our Club Patron, Doug McCloud from the USA has just won the category of best solo artist at the International Blues Competition. Check out Doug's Web Site www.Doug-MacLeod.com

Congratulations Doug and keep those awards rolling! It's been awhile since we have seen Doug over here but that is also something the club intends to rectify. As mentioned before we are looking forward to the 2017 Blues Festival so I guess we'll see what Doug is up to and if we can't coax him to the good old downunder to enchant us with his talents once again.

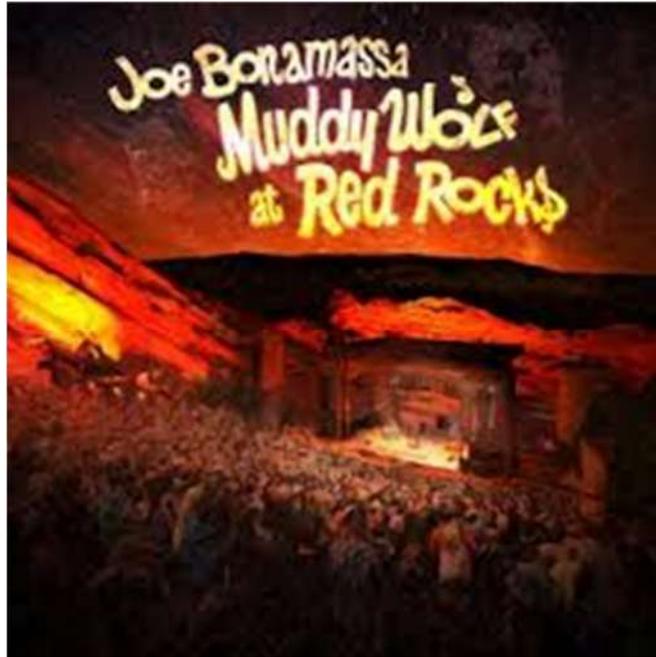
Well, thanks for making it to the end of this exhaustive update on what's been happening with the BOP Blues Club. As president I hope to bring you much more regular updates as things develop and I look forward to working with my committee and our commitment to you to bring the best that Blues music has to offer in New Zealand.

Until then, many thanks for reading!

Paul Hindrup
President
BOP Blues Club

Stews Review for June 2016

Joe Bonamassa - Muddy Wolf at Red Rocks



Here's a very special double Album by a true master of the Guitar, Joe has put together a live recording of a "one off" show at the famous Red Rocks – which is an amazing natural Amphitheatre that is carved into the surrounding bed of rocks in the famous Colorado Rocky Mountains, overlooking the city of Denver..

It was a sold out show of 10,000 people gathering to witness a journey and homage to two masters of the blues, Muddy Waters and Howling Wolf and the live C.Ds have actual recordings at the start of both Muddy Waters and Howling Wolf before Joe takes you on a journey through some classic blues tracks.

On CD 1 a mid-song segue from the past to the present on Muddy's 'Tiger In Your Tank' which is an absolute gem, along with the following track where Joe switches to slide on 'I Can't Be Satisfied' and he then explores some cool dynamics on the next track, 'You Shook Me'.

C.D 2 pulls together an interesting mix of Howling Wolf's songs, and seemed to have overlooked the more obvious possibilities like 'Smokestack Lightning', 'Who's Been Talkin', but does include 'Spoonful' on which he hits an extended note and then fires into another burning solo. There's lots of early Clapton influence coming through Joe's riffs and his solo's throughout this 2nd C.D.

Joe plays with so much power and feel, that you get goose bumps listening as he is embedded in defined lead solo's track after track and you can't help but be impressed with his amazing vocal range. The 8 piece backing band provides all the icing a blues follower could ask for to the genuine and polished musical production.

As you listen to this concert, there's a strong feeling that blues history is being written. In my opinion, Bonamassa has ascended to yet a higher level.

Catch ya next time.

Stew...

B.O.P BLUES

Bay of Plenty Blues Club Incorporated

LATEST JAM NIGHT VENUE

**Starts at 7:00 and goes till late. At the Lakeside Cafe on Rotorua's Lake front
Come along and enjoy some great Music food and drinks.**

**Bop Blues Club Jam nights are held on the first Wednesday of
the Month.**

**This is an opportunity to network with others who
love the Blues, both Musicians and enthusiasts.**

**There will be a
raffle and Musicians lucky draw.**



Free to BOP Blues Club members and participating musicians.

\$5 entry for non members. Membership available.

**We encourage Musicians of all levels, and ages to come along
and Jam - Solo Artists may want to group with others to form
bands, or just join in.**

All to register with Marshall on arrival.

**Come and enjoy a great night of the "Blues"
in our new venue the
Lakeside Cafe!!**