

Rotorua Blues Festival



MIDGE MARSDEN
 RION LYDON / WIZARD & OZ / ANDY PHILLIPS
 PLUS MANY MORE

FRI 31ST MAY
 SAT 1ST & SUN 2ND JUNE 2019
 QUEENS BIRTHDAY WEEKEND

VENUES
 • BARCODE
 • AMBROSIA
 • SOCIAL CLUB
 • BREW BAR

LAKELAND QUEEN
 ROTORUA
 CITIZENS CLUB

B.O.P. BLUES

Coming Up:

NEWS: Bay Of Plenty Blues Music Club has reported funding cuts affecting their Queen's Birthday Blues Festival.

Committed to 'keeping blues alive' the Hamilton Blues Society has eight bands appearing on a dedicated HBS stage at Barcode, Arawa St, Rotorua:

Saturday 1 June from 5pm 'til midnight

Check the HBS Facebook page. The BOP Club and HBS could certainly do with your support over this weekend.

Recent Past Event: Blues Stock

20 April 2109 — **Feature Act: The Flaming Mudcats, The Conmen, Joe Lewis Band, The Toads (Tokoroa), B-Side Boys (Tauranga), Art Gecko, Blues Busters (Rotorua), Steam Pudding (Te Aroha), and Situation Vacant (Huntly).**

Earlier in the morning Haggis Maguiness (Harmonica) and Max Macdonald (Slide Guitar) held workshops.



The Flaming Mudcats



The Conmen



BLUES STOCK

EASTER

Joe Lewis Band ft. Sean

Blues Stock was well supported by so many bands and enjoyed by everyone there. A small turnout, but what a great venue. Big thanks go to The Backyard Bar and Eatery in Whatawhata, and Cameron for a great effort on sound. Thanks also for a huge effort from Dean and Huw - what a great crew! See you next year.



The Toads



Blues Busters

Photo credits: Cara Graham

Message from Roger and Krissy from The Backyard Bar and Eatery: "We want to thank the Hamilton Blues Society for such a great day, and to all of you great musicians - you guys are the best!! We look forward to seeing your faces. Thanks from The Backyard Bar and Eatery."

Committee Member Profile:

JOE LEWIS



(CLICK HERE FOR MORE)

Joe first got into music around 12 years old just so he could skip out of some classes at school. Joe continued learning guitar on and off throughout high school with his music tutors telling him he would never amount to much with his music due to his hands not being big enough for the guitar. He was living in Auckland and playing in heavy rock/ metal bands and there were times where the front man would leave 10 minutes before a gig and he would have to jump up to the challenge of singing and playing guitar at the same time. Jump ahead to 2013 and he started work at Biddys on Victoria Street as a chef and later on as a duty manager, little did he know this would be a turning point for his music, 2014 rolled around and Mark Flyger decided it would be fun to stick Joe's name up for open mic. It was here Joe joined 10 Foot Leap and was the front man for a few gigs. Afterwards Flyger told Duncan Otto and they decided to throw together what would be know as the Joe Lewis Band...but more on JLB another time...

Band Profile: The Toads

The band began ca. 2011, the two of us, Neil Hood (drummer/singer) and I, Gary Price (guitarist), did small gigs and played background music at informal gatherings with Neil doing all the singing. Allan Guscott joined ca. 2009 with a keen interest in playing guitar but never having played in front of people, although ca. 2010 he started getting guitar lessons. At that time open mic or jam nights began in one of the local Tokoroa cafes and by the end of 2011 Allan accepted my suggestion that he come along to some of these nights and play some rhythm guitar for Neil and I, this took him to the next level on his road to stardom. Allan very soon became a good reliable player and companion in our small group. Then in 2013 a young guy, Kendall Larsen and his mum, popped into my small guitar shop in Tokoroa and asked if Kendall could come in once a week for some work experience, which he did, and I realised he was quite a good musician for his age. Allan, Neil and I felt that it would be a great to have a bass and drums to work with, especially if we wanted to do better gigs. From that point The Toads were born but it did take some time to gel as a group, and all the music we were doing was acoustic at that time, but we were getting better and better. However, the dynamics changed completely when we decided to go electric, wow! What a buzz, and we have never looked back even though we revert acoustics from time to time. We are the odd bunch, we make no apologies for the fact that we love what we do. And the fact that we are all so different from each other is what makes us all such good mates. Other people have been included over this stretch, people have come and gone, but us four core elements have remained. Summarising our differences: I (Gary) am middle aged, partially blind and a luthier. Allan, similar age as me, is a dairy farmer. Neil (and I won't say his age) has been retired a little while now. Kendall is 22 and keeps the rest of us young. We all have a great time when we play together, and I am especially proud to have seen The Toads grow as a group, and to be able to play music with these guys I call my mates.



Artist Profile: Lightnin' Hopkins

Samuel John 'Lightnin' Hopkins (March 15 1912 – January 30, 1982) was an American country blues singer, songwriter, guitarist and occasional pianist, from Centerville, Texas. Rolling Stone magazine ranked him number 71 on its list of the 100 greatest guitarists of all time. Hopkins was born in Centerville, Texas, and as a child was immersed in the sounds of the blues. He developed a deep appreciation for this music at the age of 8, when he met Blind Lemon Jefferson at a church picnic in Buffalo, Texas. That day, Hopkins felt the blues was "in him". Hopkins's style was born from spending many hours playing informally without a backing band. His distinctive fingerstyle technique often included playing, in effect, bass, rhythm, lead, and percussion at the same time. He played both "alternating" and "monotonic" bass styles incorporating imaginative, often chromatic turnarounds and single-note lead lines. Tapping or slapping the body of his guitar added rhythmic accompaniment. Much of Hopkins's music follows the standard 12-bar blues template, but his phrasing was free and loose. Many of his songs were in the talking blues style, but he was a powerful and confident singer. Lyrically, his songs expressed the problems of life in the segregated South, bad luck in love and other subjects common in the blues idiom. He dealt with these subjects with humour and good nature. Many of his songs are filled with double entendres, and he was known for his humorous introductions to songs. Hopkins died of oesophageal cancer in Houston on January 30, 1982, at the age of 69. His obituary in the New York Times described him as "one of the great country blues singers & perhaps the greatest single influence on rock guitar players." **Now go to their Wikipedia page to find out the answer to this question: Where is his 'Gibson Hollowbox' guitar displayed?**

Want to know more about them? Click on the photo of Lightnin'



Sister City Societies Agreement
(Click here for more)

What? You may or may not be aware that there exists a town called Hamilton, just 60 miles from Toronto, a Hamilton Blues Society. Yes, in Canada. The HBS Ontario (HBS ON for short) have been recognised as the Blues Capital of Canada and they wish to form a Sister-City-Agreement with little old Hamilton Blues Society in NZ. The paperwork only needs signing. More information will follow on our Facebook page.

New Sponsor:
(Click here for more)

We have accepted an offer from The Rock Shop for sponsorship and an agreement to work together in a closer relationship: musicians with a nation-wide supplier of musical instruments and accessories. We look forward to working more closely with the Rock Shop.



Did you know that Hamilton Blues Society sponsors a community radio show called *The Blues Room*, hosted by Nate Taiapa, playing every Wednesday at 9.00pm on Free FM (89) so check it out ! **CLICK**

