

HAMILTON BLUES SOCIETY NZ



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YOUR COMMITTEE:

Chairperson: Gleniss Kehely

Secretary: Dean McGaveston

Treasurer: Mark Flyger

Your Committee Members:

* Joe Lewis

* John Maydon

* John Messent

* Stan Reihana

* Bruce Tollan

Events: Huw Alderman

WebMaster: Maciek Hrybowicz

Newsletter Editor:

Martina Mahy-Dunn



NEWSLETTER

Dates to save:



- 12 December: HBS NZ Christmas Party - - - - - 7pm
 27 January: HBS NZ Sunday Afternoon Blues - - - - - 2pm
 13 February: HBS NZ Blues Night - - - - - 7pm
 23 February: HBS NZ Sunday Afternoon Blues - - - - - 2pm

Celebrity Quote: "My music has been unavailable for too long." – BigJohnny Blue



31st October 2019:

A great night out with four fab' blues divas: Cara Graham, Dannika Frost, Bobbi Prentice and Kim Earl.

Thank you to all supporting musicians and, most of all, the audience for their support.

THE HAMILTON BLUES SOCIETY, in association with THE ROADHOUSE and doublebass promotions presents

MOO'VEMBER BLUES 2019

QUICKSILVER	THE ROADHOUSE	ZEPPA CROSSING	SHOTGUN
Kim Earl	blues	THE CONNEX	
VELVET BULLDOZER		Detour	

9 Hours of the Waikato's Best Blues
 New, Old, Traditional, Southern, Northern, Rock, Boogie, Acoustic, R and B, Delta. Something for everyone

\$10

THE ROADHOUSE
 41 Studholme Street, Morrinsville
 Courtesy Van (local only) 0274 237 194

BBQ snacks for sale

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM
 HBS Events
 Shearers Music, Hamilton
 Music Planet, Hamilton
 The Rock shop, Hamilton

Online: www.doublebass.net.nz/shop/
 Email: hamiltonbluesnz@gmail.com

SAT 23rd Nov from 4pm till 1am

The Committee would like to take this chance to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Be safe on the roads, enjoy the festivities with your family, and have a wonderful holiday break.



You can find our events in Eventfinda and on Neighbourly, but the best way to track what is happening is to follow our Facebook page & website (links to the left)

FACEBOOK LINK:

<https://www.facebook.com/Hamilton-Blues-Society-NZ-1567812810036751>

WEBSITE LINK:
<https://hbs.org.nz/>



Sister Society Agreement:

One's known as the Hammer, the other as the Tron, and they're half a world apart. But blues is about to bring together two cities called Hamilton: one in Ontario, Canada, the other in Waikato. After years of getting mail and messages intended for each other, the blues societies of the respective cities are launching a sister society

agreement. To cement the Sister Society Agreement, both HBS NZ and HBS ON will each exchange an award/trophy, to be given annually in recognition of achievement in NZ and Canada, within the blues community. Details are yet to be confirmed.

As the Hammer group says, "Being sistered with HBS NZ shows the world that being 14,000 kilometres apart can't keep musical families separated but will make the planet a better place by making sure this global village can be a happy place through music." Essentially, continues BigJohnny, "when we can all sit in a circle and play tunes together we're all like kids from everywhere who don't care where we come from because we all have fun."

For The Tron group this is especially true, "To be part of the international blues network, share our blues music, share the fun, and not be 14,000 kilometres apart – distance means nothing". Regular musician exchanges will be part of the deal, starting with "BigJohnny Blue (Mr John Crawford), President HBS ON, Canada, travelling to Waikato's Bluestock Festival in 2020. BigJohnny is bringing guitarist Jon Newton from Bing, Ontario. Local blues society sponsor, The Rockshop Hamilton, will organise workshop for BigJohnny in Auckland, Hamilton, and Rotorua. Here in The Tron, HBS NZ will organise a drummer and bass player to support them.

Like 'a coming of age' the Easter Bluestock Festival will feature truly international artists from across the Pacific for the 25th anniversary. From then, musicians from one Hamilton will visit the other to perform in the future.

Because of the population differences, the blues scene in the two Hamiltons is quite distinct. In the wider Hamilton Ontario area there are about 750,000 inhabitants - and venues to play blues at every day if a musician is keen. The city is also near Niagara Falls and Toronto. Hamilton, NZ, is smaller, boasting a population of 165,000. Biddy Mulligan's Irish Bar has hosted Hamilton Blues since 2006, firstly in Victoria Street and now at the Hood Street premises, supporting blues events at least twice a month. Across NZ, we have a smattering of blues societies and clubs actively keeping the Blues Alive, promoting blues as a genre and keeping the flag flying downunder. In the process of forming a 'blues network', HBS NZ is actively inviting these groups to form a strong network to further future cooperation.

Special General Meeting Outcome:



A Special General Meeting held on Sunday 27 October unanimously passed the motion that HBS change its name to **HBS NZ**



The HBS 2020 Easter Bluestock will be held over two days at Whatawhata Backyard Bar and Eatery. Performer lists are to be confirmed and will be released soon.

Early Days HBS from Mike Garner

For most of the 1990s, I hosted a regular radio show, The Rock Sunday Blues Show, when the station, The Rock FM, was still broadcasting nationwide from its Hamilton studio. The show often received requests to organise a blues event for local fans in Hamilton. Regular listener, Sally Cable, contacted all of them for me and together they arranged an event on Sunday afternoon 2 July 1995, at the Cask and Grill pub in Victoria Street – a bar which has long since gone. I brought along my band, The Blues Healers, to host the event and invited muso friends to come and play too. The bar was packed. Here is the report of the event, in the August 1995 issue of The Bluesletter:

Hamilton NZBS* members form new blues club

'Blues On Sunday' is the theme of a monthly gathering organised by NZBS members in Hamilton. The first session, on July 2nd, was well attended and the entertainment provided by Mike Garner and Ronnie Taylor. Several local musos lent their support, including fellow 'Blues Healer' Paul Garner on guitar, bassist Trevor Hunter, drummer Bruce Dennis. Damian and Johnny Funk came over from Raglan with Ronnie. Photographer Kent Blechynden blew some harp, and Bluesletter feature writer, Doug Bygrave called in on his way home from Tauranga to Auckland, to give us some fine guitar playing. Ronnie, of course, gave a strong performance of his funky blues that rounded off a very enjoyable afternoon. The venue, the Cask and Grill in Hamilton's Victoria Street, and the timing, 3pm to 6pm on a Sunday afternoon, met with universal approval. Several members volunteered to organise future events so, at a meeting hosted by Sally Cable, plans for the remainder of the year were drawn up. Sadly, Ronnie Taylor, who contributed his support to the founding event of the club, passed away in September 2019 in Rotorua. On a brighter note, Doug Bygrave is still performing, as guitarist for the fabulous Auckland blues band, The Flaming Mudcats. Bruce Dennis continues to be a key figure in Hamilton's live music scene. Paul Garner now lives in the UK, performing regularly there and in Europe with his own band. Not mentioned in the article but also performing at the event was Andy Phillips from Cambridge. Andy now lives in Melbourne where he gigs regularly as well as teaching guitar. HBS members who attend the Rotorua Blues Festival will have seen Andy perform there several times over recent years.

[Dean's note: Andy is a regular visitor to Blues Nights when in Hamilton.]

The first committee consisted of Sally Cable (now Sally Garner), Pauline Sinel, Andrea Morrison, Neil Reid, John Williamson and myself. With the assistance of the Melbourne Blues Appreciation Society, this committee set about writing the constitution and establishing the Incorporated Society status, changing the club name to The Hamilton Blues Society Incorporated." **Mike Garner 10 November 2019**

Footnote: *NZBS = the New Zealand Blues Society, the readership of The Bluesletter magazine, sadly discontinued in 2000.



BigJohnny Blue

Artist Profile: Big Johnny Blue!

He lives in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. He has his own website, so definitely click on the arrow to find out more about him. He has a small red notebook sitting on his kitchen counter. It's packed full of chords and lyrics to original songs, and is the constant companion of its owner. You never know when a new song or lyric idea will hit you. The total number of original songs written by BigJohnny Blue (John Crawford) exceeds 300, and the little red book holds the latest and freshest ones. Some have said he sounds like John Lennon - no objections here! BigJohnny Blue is playing regularly.

Equally capable as a sideman or front man, and working in all contemporary styles including rock, folk, pop, country, and rhythm and blues, BigJohnny Blue knows over six hundred tunes. His audience skills are polished and he is an experienced businessman and entrepreneur. BigJohnny Blue is a key mover and supporter of the development of HBS ON.



\$20.00 Membership per year (renewable April) gets you:

- * Discounted house wine and beer at Biddy's (Hood St.)
- * 10% discount off your musical purchases at Shearers
- * Discount available at the Rockshop, discuss with manager
- * Chances each Blues Night to win prizes
- * Discounted entry to special HBS concerts
- * Database notifications of upcoming events
- * And access to these cool newsletters.



Membership fees are now due

at the new rate of \$20 per annum.

We like you to pay your subscription at the door on an event night because then you can confirm your contact details, and HBS will give you a new card.

If you would like to pay by internet banking then please pay directly into the HBS bank account listed below, but please don't forget to put your name in the reference field: **Account: 01-0370-0080503-00**

We also have EFTPOS facilities available now!

The Hamilton Rockshop has brought its extensive range and quality to the wider Waikato area since 1999.



Our sponsor:
342 Barton Street
CBD, Hamilton, 3204
Phone: (07) 838 3450



HBS sponsors the community radio show 'The Blues Machine' hosted by Mark 'Fatt Max' Hill Wednesday nights from 9-10pm on Free FM(89) so check that out !!

