

February-March 2021 Issue 21 Page 1

HAMILTON BLUES SOCIETY NEW ZEALAND

NEWSLETTER



Dates to Save Follow Hamilton Blues Society NZ on Facebook for fresh updates about our events and Bands.

First Blues Night 2021 Thursday 11 February 7pm Live blues at Biddy's on Hood Street – back bar. Gold coin. Whiteboard.

Sunday Afternoon Blues 28 February 2-6pm Biddy's front bar. Four great bands. Gold coin donation.

Pirongia Blues Festival Saturday 6 March midday-11pm

The acts are booked for our first big event for 2021 at the "Five Stags" Bar & Restaurant

Blues Night Thursday 11 March 7pm Biddy's back bar.

Frankton Thunder charity event Sunday 14 March

9:30am-4pm Frankton, Hamilton – 3 HBS bands 12-3pm.

More details on page 2.

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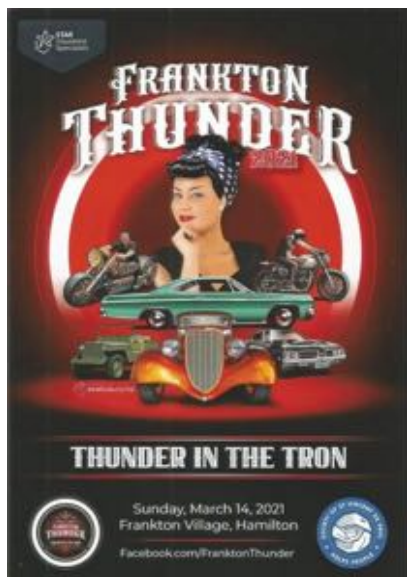
Get ready for. Bluestock Easter 2021 Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 April The Global COVID situation means BigJohnny Blue cannot visit from Canada and Bex Marshall will not be visiting from the UK. *Commit these dates to your diaries NOW and keep an eye on the HBS website for updates.*



HBS members are visiting other Clubs at their week-night or weekend club sessions:-

- Bay of Plenty Blues are at Rotorua Citizens Club on the 1st Wednesday of each month.
- Tauranga Blues meet at Jack Dusty's Ale House, Otumoetai on the 2nd Wednesday.
- Auckland Blues Music Club promotes events all around Auckland, every month – follow them on Facebook.

The annual **Frankton Thunder** automotive and community festival will be held 9.30am to 4pm Sunday 14 March 2021 in and around Commerce St, Frankton, Hamilton.



Blues bands will play on the HBS stage, corner of Commerce Street and Lake Road - **Side Hustle 12-1pm**, Mark 'Fatt Max' Hill 1-2pm and **Velvet Bulldozer 2-3pm**.

The festival includes displays of custom, classic, special interest vehicles, club displays and motorcycles along with plenty of live entertainment, food and street stalls, photo-rama, Miss Frankton Thunder, burlesque, street theatre, the Thunder Ink tattoo competition and Steam Punk. The supporting **Thunder Cruise** 'Toys for Charity' event (for cars and bikes), assembles at Cambridge raceway 8.30am and leaves for Frankton at 9.30am.



Summertime Blues – a tale of loss with a happy ending pending

At Raglan, not so long ago, our good friend Sönke Dwenger sadly lost his pride and joy to the Whaingaroa Tide when he dropped his high quality camera into the harbour depths. Sönke, a long time honorary HBS member, with his wife Wiebke, has provided many fabulous photos and videos of us and our events over many years – always voluntarily. See their work on our Facebook page and website (hbs.org.nz). Watch [A Blues Night Out](#) here.

Well, the Auckland Blues Music Club and Hamilton Blues Society NZ are also saddened by Sönke's loss and plan to help him by holding fundraising events to offset the cost of a replacement camera. (Tauranga and Rotorua Blues have also been invited to join in.)

Auckland Blues Music Club will hold an event on Sunday 28 February, 3pm till late, at the Longroom in Ponsonby. **Hamilton** is planning an event either Sunday 21 March or Sunday 28 March (coinciding with our Sunday afternoon Blues) at Biddy's in Hamilton. *Follow our Facebook page for details.* Dean has already received offers from HBS members and associates for raffles.

If you would like to assist, email: hamiltonbluesnz@gmail.com with 'Fundraiser' in the subject line.



St Juergen Blues Band – Ramblin' on my Mind

Sönke Dwenger hails from a village in rural northern Germany, around 100 km northwest of the city of Hamburg and around 20 min drive to the North Sea. He and his wife, Wiebke, have visited family in New Zealand for many years, indulging in travel and music as they practise their crafts as photographers, videographers and story-tellers. In Germany, Sönke has been a member of the 8-piece St. Juergen Blues Band for 14 years – guitar, harmonica and vocals (in the photo above it's Sönke wearing the big hat). In 2013 Sönke co-founded the Octopus Garden Rock band where he is lead singer and frontman and Wiebke has been adding some harmony for a few years. In NZ Sönke has made good friends at HBS Blues and Auckland Blues Music Club. Members of both German bands have been following these Blues Societies' activities with great interest. A [St Juergen Blues Band original](#).

We've been busy since December...



All photos © sonke-dwenger.de



Waihi Beach Blues, Brews & BBQ's What a day! Sun, sun and more sun – Dean suffered sunburnt toes but everyone else remembers a fantastic day filled with fantastic music. Well supported by HBS members and bands, with Sean Lurman and Haggis Maguinness sharing their talents across the day. Our HBS stall offered merchandise and a special raffle of John Mayall's personally signed biography, 'Blues from Laurel Canyon', which raised almost \$200 for HBS.

Yes, *THE* John Mayall – *more about that follows below!*

WAIHI BEACH HOTEL

Blues, Brews & BBQ's

SAT 9 JAN MIDDAY-8:30PM

\$25 PRE-SALE

ON SALE NOW
ticketspace

With Special Guests

HAGGIS MAGUINNESS & SEAN LURMAN

THE HOLY POCKET
JIMI KARA BAND
NIKAU & THE NATIVES
HYBRID BLUES
THE CONMEN
THE DIRTY TONES
HILLMEN HUNTERS
NICK BRIGHTWELL
BROWNDOG & THE MUTLEYS

Blues Night & Christmas Party A last fabulous Blues bash before Christmas. Christmas is all about family, guests and Summer isn't it? Our line-up included Roger McLay with his son Leon on drums, guests Theory 89 from Rotorua BOP Blues and specially re-formed Fat Willy featuring our Phil Walsh with Paul Martin, Mike Wilkie from the '90s and Ross McMillan (drums), Rob Hogg on (keyboards) specially re-formed for us in 2020, and our Summer drummer, Eric Otoka.



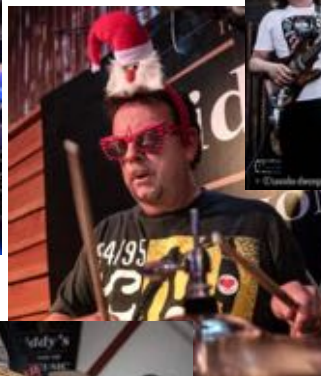
All photos ©sonke-dwenger.de

John Mayall's 'Blues From Laurel Canyon – my life as a blues man' published November 2019. Last year HBS organised two copies signed by John Mayall himself.

- One specially inscribed copy was presented to Nate Taiapa to thank him for his dedication and commitment to running the The Blues Room show for 13 years and to celebrate his birthday. Nate is a Life Member of HBS.
- The other copy was made available at the Waihi Blues, Brews and BBQ's as a raffle prize. The raffle was kindly drawn by Tony Bullen of The Dirty Tones and the winner was Ange.
- See for yourself [Blues from Laurel Canyon by John Mayall](#)



Recent pics – most were taken by Sönke Dwenger



Membership information

Remember that your \$20 membership (renewable April) gets you:-

- Discounted house wine and beer at Biddy Mulligans
- Discount available at the ROCKSHOP – discuss with the Manager
- 10% discount off your musical purchases at Shearers
- Chances each Blues Night to win prizes
- Discounted entry to special HBS concerts
- Database notifications of upcoming events
- This cool news update in your mailbox
- And Blues Music events galore!

Keep up to date and share your views at:
Hamilton Blues Society NZ on Facebook

Our website: hbs.org.nz