

Hunter Valley

JAZZ

BLUES SOCIETY



December 2008 Issue: 1 Vol : 1

Our association is gathering momentum and staged a Jazz & Blues night at the Bradford Hotel, Rutherford in August and September this year. Over the weekend of 25 & 26 October, members of the society volunteered to assist with the running of the Newcastle Blues Fest at Minmi Hotel. This was a good learning experience as well as a great weekend. A fantastic line up of artists and great weather made for a memorable time. We ran a couple of raffles, over the weekend, and raised some much needed capital, for the society. My thanks to the members who came along to help.

November 9, saw the society run an event at the Paterson Tavern. This time the weather gods were playing games and it was decided to set up under the Pub's front verandah, as it turned out this proved a bonus. We had a really good turn out with several new members signing up on the day. Great music, great food and a really great afternoon's music. Deb and I were fortunate to get

tickets to the annual Patonga Blues Festival on November 15. This is held at the Broken Bay Sport & Recreation facility. The festival is limited to 600 attendees with access by ferry or private boat only. It was a fantastic afternoon of blues, with great hands headlined by Phil Manning. For my money 'Beachhead' stole the show. If you get the chance to catch them, don't miss it. Next year I hope we can, as a society, take a group of Blues Lovers to this event. We'll let you know when it comes up next year!

As most of you now know, we have the opportunity to join with Steam Fest and put on a major blues event, next year on April 18 & 19. We need members to get involved as this is a big undertaking and a successful festival will cement our place in the Blues Calendar. For more information or if you have any ideas about how you could help, please call me on 0401 896 172.

Don't forget our Christmas event at Walcha Water Works on December 14. Look forward to seeing you there.

President

Greg Mutton



Dean Dee pictured above with Mal Eastick and Kevin Borich at the Newcastle Blues Festival

CD Review – “Stop ya bitchin, it’s all too late!” by Finn

Formed some time ago, Finn (formed by J Finn) is a rhythm and blues band known for the covers they play as well as the sometimes provocative originals they perform. They have been performing for over six years and they have played at every blues festival in Australia. Having won the SBS performer of the year and recorded four albums, they are currently touring.

‘Stop ya bitchin’ is from the outset, very much an album about politics. ‘War’, with

its sad and thoughtful minor key, laments the young men who went overseas to fight. “Will the boys come marchin’ home?” the singer asks.

In JHWYM (John Howard’s Who’s Your Master), Finn takes a cheeky cynical look at John Howard and his policies, pointing out our involvement with US policy. The line “When you get to heaven, will God thank you?” gives weight to the fact that there are many who do not like our uncomfortably close ties with the US.

A notable cover on this album is the original

rendition of the famous song ‘House of the rising sun’. With the reggae beat throughout the piece, the almost ‘hillbilly’ guitar break and the tight bass riff at the start, this is a well-played version of this classic.

Overall, this is a CD which is well put together covering some real issues in a light hearted fashion using sound musical ability.

Definitely worth a listen!

Tim Grant

Smiling Jack Smith

Smiling Jack Smith was sponsored to perform in Australia by Dean Dee from Spellbound Music Entertainment. He was one of the leading acts for the Newcastle Blues Festival held in October this year at Minmi. Greg & I had the pleasure of getting to know Smiling Jack Smith since he arrived on our shores 2 months ago.

We first met him at the Newcastle Blues Festival and were quickly taken by his engaging smile and personality. Jack played in venues across the Hunter and around Sydney and we were lucky enough to catch him at a number of them. We thoroughly enjoyed his performances of gentle ballads, solid blues number and calypso dance tunes. He writes all his own material and shared some of the quirky meanings behind them during his shows. He can now add our names to his list of fans!

While sharing a meal at our home we discovered not only did we share a passion for music but also one for fine food. Jack had us salivating as he shared some of the Spanish culinary delights and he gave us a first hand glimpse of his own talent in the kitchen.

It’s been a great experience welcoming Jack into our lives. It wouldn’t have happened without our involvement with the Hunter Valley Jazz and Blues Society.

I look forward to further good times and good music!

Debbie Mutton

Jazz @ Walka Water Works

Come and join us at our end of year celebration!

Kids – friends and family all welcome

Admission – Adults \$10 – kids free . Entertainment from:

Barney Briggs Quartet

and a BBQ meal served from 1pm

BYO drinks – ice – blanket and chairs/tables

Thanks to our sponsors Baker's Delight and Mr Carports!

JAILHOUSE JAZZ AND BLUES MUSIC FESTIVAL

18-19 April 2009

Historic Maitland



WE NEED YOU!!!

The Hunter valley Jazz and Blues Society is proud to announce its 1st Annual Jazz and Blues Music festival to be held in conjunction with Steamfest.

Applications are now being accepted for:

- Headline Jazz and Blues Performers
- Local Jazz and Blues Performers
- Sponsors and Media Partners

Volunteers are also needed to help with the lead up to this event and also during the weekend of the festival..

Visit our website for more information and to download an application form.

Contact us with your thoughts or ideas on how to make this event a success!!

Email: info@huntervalleyjazzandbluessociety.net



Advertise Here!

Place and ad for your business here for \$30 . This newsletter presently goes out to over 80 members and our numbers are steadily growing. Email our president with your details.

Coming up in 2009.....

We're planning a Sunday afternoon gig in February. Date and place to be advised.

Do you have an email address.?

Could members please email our Secretary/Treasurer

dean@spellboundmusic.net to enable your email address to be entered into our database. Thanks!

Join our Society and become part of an organisation dedicated to supporting Jazz and Blues music in the Hunter. You'll make new friends and have a great time as well! Visit our website and download our application form or contact our President or Treasurer/Secretary for more information.

www.huntervalleyjazzandbluessociety.net

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