



Lily and King

LILY AND KING

By Lewis
Adams

MULTI-INSTRUMENTALIST DUO LILY AND KING ARE LONG TIME STALWARTS OF BENDIGO'S BLUES AND ROOTS SCENE.

"Bendigo has been our second home for many years now," Tony J King (King) told The Bluesletter. "Colin Thompson got us involved in some of the earlier festivals and ever since then we've come back just about every year."

Both members lead busy day to day lives consisting of family, work, and their other musical projects. Such that Tony and his partner in crime, Lisa Sutton (Lily), rarely get time to catch up between gigs. When they do finally get together on stage, the duo combine their infectious energies, smiling and laughing as if no time has passed.

Their live shows are something to witness. Laying down the foundation, Tony provides a stable backing allowing Lisa to launch an eclectic musical display. Between her charming vocal style, her toy piano, and what Tony describes as "dangerous"

trombone solos, Lisa is the clear focal point on stage. The pair remain in sync for each beat, connecting in an almost empathic way.

"Even businessmen in the street would have to drop their briefcases and start dancing," Tony says of the vibrant live performance. Lily & King have a reputation as a festival band and it is easy to tell why.

This energy can be heard in their most recent record, 2017's Bless This Life. Recorded with minimal overdubs, it has an organic, "rootsy" sound and is a reasonable replication of Lily & King on stage.

Bless This Life offers a unique blend of styles ranging from blues, folk, gospel, and even a touch of disco. Standout tracks include the folk punk ditty "One Man Show" and the subdued, evocative "Pocketknife".

Lily & King are part of the killer line-up at the Bendigo Blues & Roots Festival Winter Showcase at Golden Vine Hotel on July 15.

BEN J CARTER IS FINGERPICKING GOOD

By Stephanie Flynn

A FREQUENT VISITOR TO BENDIGO, BEN J. CARTER HAS FOSTERED A DEDICATED LOCAL FAN-BASE THAT CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF HIS FOOT-STOMPING BLUES AND CONTEMPORARY ROOTS TUNES.

After honing his skills as a busker on the streets of Melbourne, Carter turned his attention to writing and recording his own brand of acoustic slide, folk and country-blues.

A talented songwriter, his work pays homage to 1920's delta blues, Americana classics and contemporary roots artists, such as The Lumineers and Mumford & Son, without straying into mimicry.

Carter released his debut album "These Winters They Howl" in 2017. The original album is all about bottleneck slide guitar



Ben J Carter

and lap steel fingerpicking with songs of loss, learning, and new beginnings, all sung with well-tempered harmonies and backed by rich strings.

Take a melodic journey through Americana, roots and blues with Carter at the Bendigo Blues & Roots Music Festival Winter Showcase on July 15 at The Golden Vine.

Tickets are available at the door and the music starts at 12noon and continues through till 8pm.

ALISTER TURRILL

By Nicole
Pretty

HAILING FROM QUEENSLIFF, ALISTER TURRILL DELIVERS AUTHENTIC BLUES WITH AN HONEST-TO-GOODNESS AUSTRALIAN FLAVOUR, TAKING LISTENERS ON AN UPLIFTING JOURNEY

With a dash of percussion and masterful picking, this gravel throated performer belies his years having already shared the stage with Jeff Lang, Geoff Achison and Lloyd Spiegel.

His latest EP 'A Toast to Better Times', delivers a stripped-back modern folk/country-blues record where the quality of his song writing is bared for all.

Turrill will be joined at the Winter Blues Showcase @ the Golden Vine by Toby Johnson on Sunday 15 July and rocks the rails on the Blues Tram Saturday 14 July. Tickets available from Bendigo Tourism.



UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS

JOHN FLANAGAN TRIO - ALBUM LAUNCH AT THE OLD CHURCH ON THE HILL

Saturday June 16 @ 7pm

THE BLUES TRAM WITH ALISTER TURRILL AND SHERRY PARRY

Saturday July 14 @ 2pm

THE BLUES TRAM WITH LUKE WATT AND CAT CANTERI

Saturday August 11 @ 2pm

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH EVERYTHING BBRMF
bendigobluesandroots.com.au/events

WINTER SHOWCASE AT THE GOLDEN VINE

By Nicole Pretty

THE WINTER SHOWCASE @THE GOLDEN VINE ON SUNDAY 15 JULY IS SET TO WARM YOUR DAY WITH A HOT LINE-UP OF 16 STELLAR PERFORMERS ACROSS TWO STAGES, KICKING OFF FROM 11:30AM.

From your local fav's to some fresh new faces, you can expect original sounds from blues, folk, jazz and soul genres.

Lily and King, Dave Diprose, Groove Juice, Jarrod Shaw, Alister Turrill with Toby Johnson, Ben J Carter, Messin' 'Round, Sons of the Blues, Jarrah Thompson, Mariah McCarthy, Wayne Jury, Pat Ward, Spiritus, William Alexander, Uke Joint Jumpers, Alex Murphy with Dan Simons will all hit the stage across

the day, giving their time to support this fundraising event which contributes to the 100s of volunteer hours donated across the year, to bring the 4 day annual festival to the streets of Bendigo again this November. If you're yet to experience the local blues fest gigs, I encourage you to get out and discover the magic of grassroots music.

For the fans, don't forget to renew your Friends of the Festival (FOF) annual pass for free entry to all showcases, half price blues tram and more! Tickets for the Winter Showcase are available at the door, \$15 for adults, \$5 for under-18s (with under-12s free). FOF members enter free – with current lanyard.

COL'S 2 BOB WORTH AS WEATHER COOLS DOWN – LIVE MUSIC HEATS UP!

Colin Thompson
Festival Director

After all the live music offerings we've seen over the past few months, you'd think the regularity of gigs would slow up as the temp starts to drop – but this is Bendigo and the local music scene has plenty on the boil for connoisseurs of quality live music over the cooler months...

The Blues Tram having gone monthly from the start of this year has opened up opportunities for more artists and punters to be able to enjoy the unique offering provided by the partnership between BB&RMF and Bendigo Tramways. The Blues Tram rolls out, on the second Saturday of every month consistently featuring two quality acts, performing their songs for ever appreciative audiences while taking in the sights of Bendigo through the windows of a beautifully restored vintage tram. Our July Blues Tram showcases two refreshing young artists – local songbird Sherri Parry and the well-travelled young bluesman Alister Turrill. On 11 August we feature

fine folksters and accomplished singer/songwriters Luke Watt and Cat Canteri and on 8 September, two fine artists will make their Blues Tram debut: Justin Bernasconi and Kelly Brouhaha. If you haven't ridden the rails with us before, take the opportunity to do so sooner rather than later and enjoy a musical experience you won't soon forget.

The Blues Tram departs Central Deborah Goldmine at 2pm on the second Saturday of the month, tix are just \$35. Book online at www.bendigotourism.com/bendigo-blues-tram or call the Bendigo Visitor Centre on 1800 813 513.

The Old Church on the Hill continues to host a seemingly never-ending parade of top class showcase concerts over the coming months, not the least of which will be the long-awaited album launch of John Flanagan Trio, taking place on Saturday 16 June. John and his band are blessed with two sublime opening acts that night, in Georgie Currie (of The Northern Folk) and

ukulele-wielding songstress Mezz Coleman. Entry is only \$20, or if you buy online just \$15. Doors open at 7pm for a 7:30pm start.

As always, there are a plethora of gigs to be enjoyed, at great venues like these all over town. A big shout out to all those venue owners who value live music and work hard to showcase both local and visiting talent, creating great entertainment for all. Be sure to check out the updates on the following facebook pages, @bendigo.musicnews, @bendigolivemusicguide, @bendigolivemusicscene and of course the Events & Experiences page of Bendigo Blues & Roots Music Festival's website to stay in the know about quality live music events happening in and around Bendigo.

As always, I encourage you to follow our social media - particularly our Facebook page - to keep abreast of the great musical treats happening locally for fans of blues & roots, jazz, soul, folk and singer-songwriters plying their trade on the grass-roots level.

