



THE BLUESLETTER

15TH EDITION

WINTER 2017

#BBRMF17

9-12 NOVEMBER 2017



TASHA ZAPPALA

SPREADING THE BLUES

BY SHANE WORRELL

Tasha Zappala, a singer-songwriter from Queensland, is returning to play her third Bendigo Blues & Roots Music Festival in November.

But before that, she will return to the city to give punters a preview of her own brand of post-folk blues for the Winter Showcase at the Golden Vine Hotel.

Growing up in north Queensland gave Zappala an appreciation of the importance of bringing

quality music to audiences in regional settings.

“Regional festivals are especially important in Australia because we are so far away from each other and the rest of the world,” she said.

“They create an environment that allows the community to let go of social barriers and make lasting connections with each other, artists and the unexpected.

“It takes people on a journey that allows them to be inspired, step outside of the everyday and to discover unknown possibilities.”

BLUES FESTIVAL A FAVOURITE FOR MATT KATSIS

BY SHANE WORRELL

Melbourne-based singer-songwriter Matt Katsis brings his brand of blues/roots and folk music back to Bendigo for the Winter Showcase.



MATT KATSIS

“I love jumping in the van and getting out of the big city (Melbourne) whenever I can. A large part of my live playing is based around playing in regional areas,” he said. And Bendigo has quickly become a destination of choice for the one-man band. “I have played BB&RMF for the past two years and the festival quickly became a highlight of the year.”

“I make use of live looping and the percussive elements of the acoustic guitar to build up song forms and approach my live playing as a one-man band with foot percussion like kick drum and tambourine.

“The sound is evolving, as is the journey – I picked up the guitar almost 20 years ago and have been gigging and recording original music for around a decade now.”

CAMERON JAMES HENDERSON

BY SIMON WOOLDRIDGE

“I did a regular gig for a while at a shoe shop where at the end of the gig I could either be paid in money or shoes. Often, I went for shoes...”

Cameron James Henderson’s musical journey is a mix of the expected (“listening to my Dad’s record collection of Cream, John Lee Hooker and Jimi Hendrix had a big impact.”) and the less expected (an honours degree in classical guitar, and the aforementioned shoe shop gig arrangement).

The young blues man from Pitt Town, an hour north west of Sydney, who has Chicago and Phoenix gigs under his belt already in 2017, is on his fourth visit to Bendigo for the Winter Showcase.

“People genuinely love music in Bendigo and are so encouraging and hospitable to artists coming through.”

He has two CDs to his name, *Distorted Hope Blues* and *Storm Rollin’ In*, and a third with his *Dubious Blues Trio* side project, who he describes as “an instrumental psychedelic surf jazz band”.

Cameron James Henderson’s journey was determined at a young age: “In early high school my mate had an electric guitar and once I played that I decided that’s all I wanted to do from then on.”

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THE 15TH EDITION OF THE BLUESLETTER, THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BENDIGO BLUES & ROOTS MUSIC FESTIVAL WAS WRITTEN BY SIMON WOOLDRIDGE, SHANE WORRELL & COLIN THOMPSON WITH DESIGN & LAYOUT BY STUDIO INK.



THE BARREN SPINSTERS

BY SIMON WOOLDRIDGE

BB&RMF 2016 was the Barren Spinsters' first Bendigo visit. Front man Brendon Houlahan enjoyed the experience.

"As a punter - I loved walking the streets, the town felt so alive," he said. "The Tram Depot were kind enough to put us up for the weekend. They have a whole shed full of Trams (as you'd expect). It was awesome, I felt like a big kid. I love Bendigo."

The Barren Spinsters are back for the Winter

Showcase at the Golden Vine, two other local gigs that same weekend, and are confirmed for BB&RMF 2017.

There might only be two of them – Brendon has recently been joined by new drummer Matt Tennant – but they pack a punch with their big bluesy-rock sound.

In the eight months or so since their last visit they've been busy working on new material – much of which will debuted at the Golden Vine. "One of the tracks is a 15-minute medley of at least seven songs," Brendon said. "If we're not collapsing off stage at the end of our set, we're not doing it properly."

COL'S 2 BOB WORTH

COLIN THOMPSON
FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

2017 has seen another cracking year of music in Bendigo so far. We hope you're making the most of it.

Programming for the Festival in November is under way, and by the time you're reading this we will have announced the bulk of our artist line-up for this year. We can't wait to share more news about the Festival proper in due course but, in the meantime, there's plenty to talk about and plenty of great music events to be enjoyed.

Our Winter Showcase/Fundraiser at the Golden Vine Hotel is another monster with 16 quality acts playing across two stages on Sunday 16 July. The Blues Tram has a great roster of acts playing for the rest of the year and we're currently considering whether to go monthly in 2018 - based on recent levels of popularity. For the detailed program, and to buy tickets to ride The Blues Tram, please visit Bendigo Tourism's website: www.bendigotourism.com/tours/bendigo-cbd/bendigo-blues-tram.

The Old Church on the Hill in Quarry Hill continues to host some of our favourite singer-songwriters -

both local and touring. These concerts, specifically staged for discerning 'listening' audiences, are run on a semi-regular basis for now; sometimes monthly, sometimes more often!

Be sure to also check out what's coming up at Ulumbarra and The Capital as well.

Please visit the 'Events' tab on our website and subscribe to our mailing list to be kept in the loop with BB&RMF partnered and endorsed gigs. We're very lucky to have such great theatre venues in Bendigo who provide a rich and diverse program of events all year round. With so much quality live music to be enjoyed on a weekly basis, central Victoria really is the place to be. But as the saying goes though: 'use it or lose it'. Please keep supporting venues who host bands and artists on a regular basis, so that Bendigo continues to have a live music scene that is the envy of other regional centres. It's easy to follow our Facebook and other social media pages and get timely information about Blues & Roots gigs happening in the Greater Bendigo area, so jump online and get in the know.

SOME UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS

Lloyd Spiegel launches new album *This Time Tomorrow*
at The Old Church on the Hill,
Saturday August 12 at 7.30pm.

Lily and King, and Alawishus Jones & The Outright Lies
at the Golden Vine, Saturday
August 26 at 9.00pm.

The Blues Tram with Geoffrey Williams, and DIGG,
Saturday September 16 at 2.00pm.

Forthcoming release of Midweek Blues' debut album *Last Days of May*.

Release of Four Lions' third album, *Golden Triangle*, in Oct.

And of course in November...
140+ artists playing at over 40 venues
across four days at the seventh
Bendigo Blues & Roots Music Festival - November 9-12, 2017.

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