



ARTIST
SNAPSHOT

MARISA QUIGLEY

By Simon Wooldridge

"I was born in Adelaide but grew up in Darwin. I now live in Beechworth," says the much-travelled, multi-talented Marisa Quigley.

"My mum taught me to read music around the age of eight. I played flute and piano through school and sang in school and church choirs. But it wasn't until my 20s that I got up and sang behind a mic though."

She has performed as far afield as Groote Eylandt and Jabiru in the Northern Territory, Meekathara in WA and in Sweden.

Marisa Quigley & Her Sunday Best are, appropriately, back in Bendigo on Sunday 17 July for the winter edition showcase at the Golden Vine. This will be her sixth visit. And she's keen to get back. "It's such a beautiful, historic town and the people are awesome."

"I met most of the guys in the band through word of mouth up in the north east. I'd been doing the solo thing for a while and was a bit scared of playing with a band to be honest but in the few experiences I'd had of it, my music sounded so much better. Now I love it. I'll be playing at the fundraiser with just my husband on bass though. We met a few years ago at the Uranquinty Folk Festival near Wagga Wagga. We'd both always wanted to be with a musical partner so it's a bit of a dream come true."

Marisa released two albums with former band Chubby Rae & the Elevators: *Live at St. Andrews*, and *She Gets Unruly*. More recent solo releases have seen a self-titled album and an EP, *Gypsy's Lament*.

Expect to Marisa to perform originals like *Sing Me A Lullaby* and *It's Two AM* as well as a smattering of covers from luminaries such as Etta James and Tom Waits.

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SONS OF THE BLUES

By Simon
Wooldridge

Inspired by the likes of Willie Dixon, Robert Johnson, Jimi Hendrix and Elmore James, Sons of The Blues were "born of a lifelong relationships with twelve bars".

Hailing from Castlemaine, Sons of The Blues comprises Patrick Byrne on vocals, guitar and stomp box, and John Phillips on lead guitar. They've been a Bendigo Blues & Roots Music Festival fixture continuously since 2012.

John Phillips' musical pedigree is long and distinguished and his collaborations read like a 'who's who of Australian music' including Goanna, Kixx, The Urban Principle and Za Za Biskit. Patrick Byrne has been mostly a solo artist with a passion for intense, stylised vocal interpretations of the blues. Together they serve up a fine blend of the blues ranging from the subtle interplay of *Kind Hearted Woman* to the full force of *Crossroads Blues*.

Sons of The Blues have a simple philosophy and core belief. "The music is everything!"



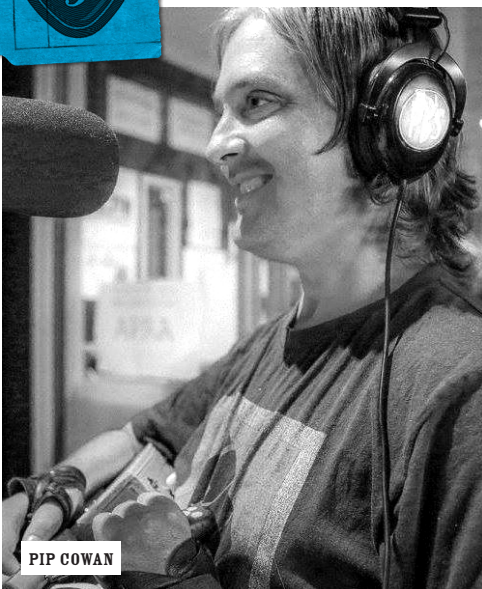
SONS OF THE BLUES

Photo by Peter Weaving

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PIP COWAN

By Simon Wooldridge



PIP COWAN

“Growing up I listened to anything on the radio, but the music that has influenced me most since then is north Mississippi hill country blues.”

Pip Cowan's musical journey took a life-changing turn when he was just 17 – a motorcycle accident near the family farm in Numurkah left him a quadriplegic.

“In the 22 years since I developed a passion for blues and despite my injuries figured out a unique and interesting way to play a

diddley bow (one string cigar box guitar) using a screwdriver. I originally bought one as a souvenir, but eventually got tired of looking at it and learned how to play it.” He had previously played the lap steel guitar but had to give up due to shoulder pain.

His injury hasn't held him back. Last year Pip Cowan visited the US. “I had a brief impromptu jam with a guy I met in a harmonica store in Clarksdale, Mississippi. It was the kind of moment I'd dreamt about.”

RECENT RELEASES

By Simon Wooldridge

Three talented young Bendigo artists have released debut CDs in recent months.

First cab off the rank in March was Bill Barber with *Thanks For Your Consideration* – a polished blues debut that perfectly showcases Barber's developing talents. Barber's vocals – sometimes overlooked considering his guitar playing – really come to the fore on this album. The stand-out track for me, so far, is *Ghost Blues*.

Steph Bitter released her folksy five track

debut EP, *First of May*. There are echoes of a mellower PJ Harvey about it. My stand-out is the haunting *Golden Heart*.

Quick on their heels (friendly youthful rivalry a factor?) came Frank Bell's *White Horse* single. *White Horse* surprised me a bit – a moody, slow-moving, almost menace-laden heavy blues number. Music for a dark room late at night.

It's exciting to have so much young talent in our midst.



BILL BARBER

COL'S 2 BOB WORTH Thanks for picking up The Bluesletter and taking an interest in grass-roots level live music.

As has become the standard, this year's Bendigo Blues & Roots Music Festival (3-6 November 2016) will feature many acts we love inviting back, as well as a rich and varied batch of artists who've never played our festival before.

Expect line-up announcements from July and our full program to be published in September. Our remaining major fundraising events for the year will be on Sunday 17 July at the Golden Vine and Sunday 18 September at the freshly-renovated Newmarket Hotel & Bakery in Charleston Road. Both events will again feature

the brightest local talent as well as a smorgasbord of visiting acts from across Victoria and interstate.

Another exciting September event is renowned US Blues and Roots artist Harry Manx making his Bendigo debut. Thanks to our partners at Capital Venues and Events, Harry Manx will perform a one-off concert on Wednesday 14 September as part of a national tour. For more details and tickets visit www.thecapital.com.au.

There'll be a number of visiting acts from the US at this year's festival in November

– which is only fitting, seeing as it's the birthplace of The Blues! We look forward to sharing names and profiles as the program begins to solidify. Watch this space, or follow our respective social media pages for announcements and updates as they're published. In the meantime, please continue to get out and enjoy your own local music scene. It's always full of pleasant surprises and unexpected rewards.

And keep on supporting venues who support live music – we are all the richer for it when we do.

COLIN THOMPSON – FESTIVAL DIRECTOR