

Presidents Festival Report 2023

Festival event debrief

I'd like to take the opportunity to thank everyone for their hard work at the festival and helping to make 2023 NZ Blues & BBQ an absolutely fantastic event. Please thank all your volunteers and staff in your respective teams for making the event a huge success. This year's event was pumping & felt like we were firing on all cylinders.

Food/Alcohol/BBQ Comp;

This year there was more BBQ food available to buy, the BBQ competition drew a lot of interest and everyone I spoke to, loved the food. The Lamb being wood fired & slow cooked attracted a lot of interest from Festival goers. So, a big hit in that part of the event.

Alcohol sales were down this year but this was mainly due to the Damp cold weather snap, however the coffee cart did well and run out by 7.45PM on Friday. The weather snap blew over part of the fencing, but the logistics team were on it straight away & it was fixed.

The bars were well managed with a steady flow of customers with the local Police doing regular walk throughs and checking the Bars & Audience behaviour. Sat night there was an incident when the Barriers at the back of the VIP area were removed. In swept drunk competitors drinking the dregs from the tins & glasses on the VIP tables. The security eventually moved them on. In future we should not start any strip down until the public has exited the event

Tickets;

Tickets sales are down on last year and with fewer walk-ins due to the poor weather, the festival goers that did attend however had a FAB time & enthusiasm for the event is high despite the weather.

Bands/Sound Production/Staging;

All run like clockwork in the backstage area from registrations to timings & getting them on & off in a timely manner. The bigger backstage area helped this year along with the stage moved forward. Sound production, again world class sounds, with seamless production and no issues. The Video Screens were a major improvement to the event & Atmosphere.

Volunteers

All the volunteers & staff worked hard despite the weather. The weather was against us on Friday & the merch tent didn't have enough protection from the elements so everything was getting wet, we need to improve the Entrance gate & Merch tenting for next year's event

Some volunteers missed the dinner call on Saturday, so in future we need to have better communication between the teams & volunteers with possibly a messenger group so everyone knows what's happening around the site & this could also increase event security.

Fun Day Sunday/ Bands Comp

Great entertainment value, the 7 bands were fantastic with a very close-run competition. The music work shop was also great with fantastic interaction with the youth audience from our Headline stars. The painting comp was also a big hit with the younger children. So, another great day.

Logistics/Pack down

Same as last year, a well-run site with no notable problems. No body used the First Aid tent so no incidents worth a mention. Pack down was smooth & well organised.

Only issue was on Monday the only other committee member to help with the final site check /rubbish clean-up was Gaylene. I managed to rope in some extras as the committee were all worn out from the event over the weekend.

Thank you everyone for your efforts

Terence Oldham BOP Blues Club President & Festival Director