

The Balladeer

Monthly Newsletter of
ACOUSTIC ROUTES
www.acousticroutes.org.nz

November 2008

ALISTAIR HULETT and DAVID ROVICS

Two highly talented international songwriters, singers, political commentators and activists will hit New Zealand in November for their New Zealand tour. Alistair (left) and David (right) will perform their joint concert in solo sets with some songs performed together.

ALISTAIR HULETT (Scotland) is a powerful and impassioned singer who proudly carries on the folk tradition of the singer as social and political commentator, protester and witness bearer. "One of the defining voices of Scottish music" said Folk on Tap. Alistair's original songs cover a range of topics from life on the mean city streets to union struggles on the barricades, from love songs to songs about the plight of refugees and Gypsies. His latter-day musical history has seen him perform solo and as part of various duos (with Dave Swarbrick and David Rovics, for example) in acoustic mode.

Alistair's website has further information, reviews and photos www.alistairhulett.com



Continued on Page 4

SUNDAY 23 November, 8PM
\$8/\$12 WELLINGTON ARTS CENTRE, ABEL SMITH ST.

Special General Meeting

Friday 12th December 6.30 pm,
Toi Poneke, (Back Room, Wellington Arts Centre, 61-67 Abel Smith St Wellington.

We've had to make two small technical alterations to our Constitution to comply with getting registered as an official "Charity", so this is official notice of the SGM (called by the Committee) which will be held on Friday 12th December 6.30 pm. No other business will be done by the SGM and it will take only 5 minutes. Ten members will be a quorum.

Acoustic Routes

PO Box 27-191 Marion Square
Wellington, New Zealand.
www.acousticroutes.org.nz

president@acousticroutes.org.nz

Acoustic Routes (Wellington Folk Centre) is a club for people who enjoy performing and listening to music with the emphasis on folk and acoustic styles.

Monthly Concerts are held at Toi Poneke (Back Room of Wellington Arts Centre, 61-63 Abel Smith Street), on the fourth Sunday of each month at 8pm. These feature an invited guest performer, with a variety of supporting acts to open the show. Door charges are \$8 for members, \$12 for non-members, and school-aged kids free. Free tea and coffee.

Singarounds are held at Toi Poneke on the first Sunday of the month. These are more informal sessions where anyone can perform or lead a song. Door charge \$5/\$7.

Club Sessions are held at Toi Poneke on the second Friday of the month. There is a Blackboard in the first half and jamming in the second. Door charge \$5/\$7

Jam Nights happen at Toi Poneke on the third Sunday of the month. Door charge \$5/\$7. The emphasis is on making music together as a group - joining in and having the opportunity to lead or add your own flavour to the mix. Murray Kilpatrick will facilitate but everyone will have the opportunity to lead a song or tune

Club Committee 2007-8

President: Mary Livingston 476 6033
president@acousticroutes.org.nz

Secretary: Anne McGregor 233 8567
secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz

Treasurer: Peter Denee

Committee:

Marion Pawson 385 6321

Nik Curry 04 905 4151

Derek Burfield 477 1939

Gerard Hudson 565 3432

Col Wright 478 6175

Balladeer

Janette Munneke 477 2563

Balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz

The Balladeer

Contributions are welcome and should be emailed to Janette by the 15th of the month preceding the month of issue. Publication is the last weekend of the month. Relevant publicity leaflets may be inserted with mailouts, at the discretion of the committee.

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INSTANT PRINT

From the President

When this goes to press it will already be November and we will have had another Wellington Festival under our belts to arm us for a long summer of endless and glorious music. The new committee has been beaver-ing away coming to grips with the heady heights of constitution and form. Which means we understand how things kind of run. But in addition, we have some action stirring in the wings. Col has been pursuing his desire to improve ambience at Toi Poneke, and has acquired a stage (thank you John Sutherland and co!), a backdrop curtain, a coloured spotlight, and a banner for the club. We are planning to alter the lay out for concerts so that performers play to the full audience rather than one end only, and we are looking to see if we can hook micro-phones up to the existing speakers. Other ideas include posters, a colourful backdrop for the other end of the room. This does not mean that we are not going to investigate the possibility of a different venue, but we want to canvass views on this and have time to really think it through. In the meantime, we want to make the most of what we do have.

Nik has been busy shaping up some grant applications to the council, and Mary has designed some new pamphlets to hand out at the festival. Gerard has been continuing his gallant publicity role while he and Ruth continue to run the sing-arounds and hold our hands on numerous enquiries. We have some wonderful gigs lined up for you...David Rovics and Alistair Hulett in November, Fred Wedlock (also November), and amongst next years bookings are Laura Collins, Faerd, and Mike Harding.



Peter and Annie have been learning their not insignificant jobs re money and documenting everything, and Derek has helped Mary to set up this Balladeer. Which incidentally we have had to do almost blind!!! But we know that everyone will be far too tired to wade through a long Balladeer after the festival so we hope you will forgive its shortness! Marion has been saving herself for when we all start to fade-nah she's just been real busy with other stuff...there is time there is time!! Other people in the wings continuing to help us out are Murray and his Jam Session Sundays, Sue and helpers who post the Balladeer to you all, and John Burnell (soon to be helped by Dale Lacey) in re-vamping the website. Janette Munneke is still closely involved with the Balladeer (for now at least) and there are several wonderful people, including Niels Gedge who are sussing out possible venues around town. So as you can see it's a hive of activity. I am overseas for much of November, so Gerard will be 'acting'.

Just one last thing...Derek made contact with quite a few clubs who did not respond...if you do want material to be included in the Balladeer, it is important to in fact respond to the request, otherwise you could miss out...sorry and all...but there are only so many hours in each week!! Look forward to hearing from you guys next time? Cheers

Mary

Acoustic Routes Dates for November

We have decided to move the 2nd Sunday Sing-around to the 1st Sunday. This usually (but not in November) will avoid the clash from having the 2 events on the same weekend.

The Club events for November are all held in the Back Room, Toi Poneke, 61-67 Abel Smith Street, 8pm, admission \$7 / \$5

Sing-around - 2 November

Everyone who wants to gets a turn (or two) to perform in a supportive atmosphere

Fred Wedlock - 3 November

House concert at MusicHaven

Club Night - 14 November (Friday)

First half blackboard, second half jam session

Jam Night - 16 November

Focus on joining in and playing as a group. Great fun – everyone has the chance to lead and join in.

Club Concert (Alistair Hulett and Dave Rovics)

23 November

Fred Wedlock House Concert

3 November 2008

House concert at Ruth & Gerard's place:

MusicHaven, 56 Park Road, Belmont, Lower Hutt

ph 565 3432 or email ruth@musichaven.co.nz 8pm

Fred has been well known on the UK folk scene for many years (Jasper Carrot paid homage to him back in the late 1970s). He is best known for interpretations and hilarious parodies in the traditional style. Fred wrote classics such as The Great Fish Finger Disaster, and the Oldest Swinger in Town. Admission \$20

Acoustic Routes Christmas Party

Friday 12 December

More information
coming next month



Double-shot Club Concert in October

Review by Gerard Hudson

Scotch & Rye, followed by Carol Bean... what a great evening we had!

It's really great to get a top evening of entertainment presented by performers who are clearly human beings first and performers second, who interact with the audience at an honest and personal level, and whose playing is not only fabulous, but honest, authentic and unadulterated by over-fussy arrangements (and doesn't have bad balance caused by electrical sound systems). All these things are possible at a folk club, and all these things were delivered by our September "Double Shot Concert". The advertised guests alone would have given a great evening – but we also had an introductory floor spot for each guest performer. Helen Gummer opened the evening with her smart songs and always interesting guitar textures (including some more new material... Helen where/when is your album????). The Hex Crystals (Sue Hirst, Mary Hubble and Anne McChesney) pulled out some fabulous vocal harmonies and good humour to open the 2nd half.

Alistair and Catriona Cuthill (aka Scotch & Rye) are well known to Wellington musicians both as occasional performers and as the proprietors of Alistair's Music store on Cuba Street (the Balladeer's one reliable

source of paid advertising...) and they look after folkies brilliantly. They claimed at the start of their set that they don't often play as a duo. This confused me as I've often seen them perform together at the Singers' Club and at festivals – even if it is in blackboard or invitation concerts. We were not disappointed. As Scotch & Rye they performed a rare mix of Celtic, other UK traditional, Bluegrass and Country material. Lots of changes of instrument from Catriona, plenty of choruses and good beats to set the toes tapping. Great songs, variation in texture and style, lovely vocals and arrangements. If this isn't a habitual performance pairing it really should be.

Having argued early in the evening about who should play first, and despite protestations, Carol Bean played the second spot. Carol is well known in the Wellington Country-Rock and Blues scenes, but is possibly less well known as a "solo" acoustic performer. Our unplugged Folk Club setting gave an opportunity for Carol to present a more restrained and thoughtful set of songs to those she usually plays "plugged in" with a band. The songs were great, the guitar playing neat and sensitive guest accompaniment from Lester Muddell and from Alistair (grinning "like a possum eating bumble bees" as always) – who obviously just loves being up on stage.

Conclusion: A great evening's entertainment – a packed house and a happy audience. Thanks to all who performed.

Lembas - live and kicking!

Tucked away in Raumati South is one of the hardest working performance cafes in the region. At the helm is local mosaic artist and big-hearted community gal Gail Lewis. Together with plenty of hands-on support from locals muso's Lembas hosts around fifteen performance events a month ranging from all manner of local happenings (art exhibitions, monthly poetry events, band jam nights, open mics) through to a top shelf live music selection. One regular spot on the first Sunday of the month is Acoustic Lounge which presents fine singer/songwriters and ambient performers in a relaxed vibe. The three act gig from 4-6 pm is a well loved community event and koha is appreciated.

Acoustic Lounge on Sunday 2 November starts all upbeat and country with **The Pipi Shack Pickers** (the very smiley Kirsten London on Bass, her main squeeze Andrew London on guitar with the fine fret-

work of Simcha Delft on mandola). Lifting the temperature will be original works from **Troy Hunt** with legs in roots and reggae. The rhythm and colour of residents Karen Clarke and Nigel Parry aka **Gingerjam** will draw things to a close.

Acoustic Lounge in December slides back a couple of weeks to **Sunday 21 December** to accommodate Kapiti Live's blind date event earlier in the month. Heading up the billing for December will be (our very own!) The **Short Blacks** celtic duo -Roy McGuinness on vocals and Julian Ward on guitar. Come one, come all!

To get the monthly Lembas e-letter and be in the know of what's on at Lembas contact gail@lembas.co.nz. Keep an eye out for Women in Jazz, Wayne Mason, Too Funky, The Cattlestops and The Blackseed Summer Sessions all coming up soon.

Karen Clarke

ALISTAIR HULETT and DAVID ROVICS continued

DAVID ROVICS (USA) is one of the most politically sharp and poetically gifted singer/songwriters around today. He has been called the musical voice of the progressive movement in the USA. and "the musical version of Democracy Now!"(Amy Goodman, host of Democracy Now!) Since the mid-90's Rovics

has spent most of his time on the road, playing hundreds of shows every year throughout North America, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and Japan. He will make you laugh and cry!

David's website with further information, reviews and photos www.davidrovics.com

Laftah Fest

27 December - 2 January 2008

Bridge Lodge, Otaki

- ❖ Camping - \$100 (under 5's free)
- ❖ Backpacker style accommodation \$166
- ❖ Daily rate available

Spend a relaxing weekend with friends and family. Play music, make instruments, hang out, join in.

This is a fantastic all-weather venue for a music festival and a great holiday spot. Wonderful facilities with a staged concert hall, jamming snugs, cooking facilities, and fire pit. Confidence course, and our own swimming hole in the Otaki River.

Great selection of campsites, from right amongst it to totally secluded. Don't do camping? Really comfortable and private rooms available. Even some double beds!

Book early

Pukerua Bay

Thursday 6 November

Meets at 8pm. on the first Thursday of each month. The next is the 6th November, at the Kilpatrick's home 9 Donlin Rd. Pukerua Bay. Ph 239 9951. Email julmur@paradise.net.nz

The evening begins with a sing around, where everybody is invited but not pressured to do something to contribute to the evening's entertainment.

We then break for tea/coffee and Julie's famous scones. We are then entertained by a guest artist, if we have chosen to book one for the month.

Our guest for November will be Carol Bean. Carol is well known around the Wellington scene. She fronts her own band. Will be a guest at the Wellington festival and recently performed a really lovely and entertaining solo guest spot at the Acoustic Routes folk club. Don't miss her, she will be well worth hearing.

Neal Hellman Mountain Dulcimer Workshop

Mark your diaries now for the Wellington Neal Hellman Mountain Dulcimer workshop

Neal Hellman, nationally acclaimed performer and teacher of the mountain dulcimer, has been active in performing, writing, teaching, and recording acoustic music for the past 25 years throughout the United States, Europe and New Zealand.

Neal's latest recording, Emma's Waltz, is a colorful dance through traditional and contemporary acoustic music styles. Featuring seventeen different musicians playing compositions from Ireland, Scotland, Finland, America and France.

Neal's other recordings include: Autumn In the Valley, Dream of the Manatee (with Joe Weed) and Oktober County, all on the Gourd Music label. Dirty Linen wrote of Oktober County "the material is first-rate and the musicianship is flawless;" and the Santa Cruz Sentinel said Dream of the Manatee is "just plain beautiful music. The San Jose Mercury wrote "Autumn In

the Valley is well-played and impeccable engineered."

As a teacher, Neal is regularly paid the greatest compliment possible: his festival workshops are invariably crowded with students, old and new, who appreciate his clear instructional style, varied and original repertoire, and enthusiasm for his instrument.

Book your tickets now for the workshop in Wellington 21 December 2008 1 pm to 4 pm @ Toi Poneke (Wellington Arts centre), Abel Smith Street, Te Aro, Wellington. Tickets \$20.

The venue is the same building in which Acoustic Routes (The Wellington Folk Club) has its meetings, but entry is through the front door.

Neal's previous workshop was a huge success so we recommend you book get your tickets early by sending your cheque to;

Remco de Ket, 251 Falloon Settlement Road, R D 8, Masterton 5888.

This workshop is brought to you by Two Dutch Boys and NZDulcimer List.

Bluegrass Society

Fri 21 November, 8.30pm: Club Night

The RFD Boys, from Michigan!

Sat 8 November, 8.30pm

Check website:

<http://www.bluegrass.wellington.net.nz/>

Palmerston North Meet Weekly

The New NZ Folk Bloom

Notes from Palmy...Instalment 1. Sorry Tomo...it was too long for one hit!

Great to see a fresh committee elected recently in Wellington, we're doing okay here in Palmy too. Derek Burfield asked for contributions to the newsletter. Okay, here's some ideas about reviving the folk scene NZ-wide.

Each club meets weekly. This means there's a genuine social group rather than an occasional event, and you get to play often enough that you develop repertoire and skill. If the hall costs too much, have it in a cafe or in homes, taking turns if necessary. If only two people attend, that's still great, they can have a good session and a yak anyway. If only one attends, they can have a good practice.

DIM THE LIGHTS, SET THE SCENE

Set up the context for mood. It used to be candlelight (still is in the best clubs). Dim lights, soft furnishings, warm art decor that relates to the history of human experience, mystery, beauty, comfort, drama. A very good backdrop for the stage, by the way, can be bought at paint shops - get one of those \$20 mid-blue drop sheets and hang it up from points at left, centre and right. This causes folds that softly and beautifully frame any kind of featured guest, removing all visual distractions. Set up some coloured lighting so you can wash the scene with reds or orange or chilly blue depending on the music. Make your own. The audience will dream far more enjoyably in dim light looking at an illuminated stage scene. Strongly discourage cameras with flash or clicks that ruin the moment.

Yeah Tomo we're doin' it!!!! Thanks for your suggestions...some more suggestions will unfold in Instalment 2.

Kapiti Live Music Club

**Murphy's Law, Waikanae,
Tuesday November 18**

Entry: \$7 or \$5 members (\$15 to join)

Blackboard concert starts 7:30, bring voice instrument

Surprise guest artists at 8:30pm till 10pm or later

Blind Party Christmas Concert

Sunday 7 December, see website
<http://www.klmc.org.nz> for details

Acoustic Routes 2008 Committee



Acoustic Routes 2008 New Committee: Col Wright, Anne McGregor (Secretary), Nik Curry, Mary Livingston. (President), Marion Pawson, Peter Denee (Treasurer), Derek Burfield, Gerard Hudson (Past President).

A Note From Cloudstreet

Hello everyone. It's been a while since our last contact, and we've been up to a lot. A new webpage, and some exciting news contained therein!.

After a busy time in the UK, we're back home in Australia, and heading up to Townsville.

Nic's visiting her parents and John is busy in North Queensland schools this week with the Musica Viva schools programme. He'll be busily spreading the joys of concertina playing across the North. That's occupying a lot of time and

headspace. We'll be back in Maleny for a few local gigs in November. Check the gigs page for details.

(<http://www.cloudstreet.org/gigs.html>) .

Our new web page is up and running (with a few pages still to be changed over to the new look). We've upped the number of videos available and plan to add many more features in the coming weeks. Let us know if there is anything in particular you would like to see on the webpage. Just send an email to this mail@cloudstreet.org with your suggestions.

ENJOY....

Mainly Acoustic

**Tuesday 11 November, 7.30pm
Mayfair Lounge, 116 Main Street
Upper Hutt**

Enquiries Kevin & Sue Meehan - 970 4008

Wairarapa Folk Club

**Friday 14 November
251 Falloon Settlement Road,
RD 8, Masterton**

Contact Remco de Ket or Jenny Freemantle, (06) 370 1021
wairarapafolkclub@paradise.net.nz

Levin Folk Club

Dixie Lix

Friday 14 November

Settish Society & Pipe Band Hall, cnr Bartholomew Road and Middlesex Street.

7:30pm, \$5, supper provided.

Open blackboard first half - one song each.

Hitch up your britches and grab your hat - it's Dixie Lix!

Dixie Lix is a 4-piece acoustic country/bluegrass band. Formed in 2001 with the aim of playing authentic 'old-time' country music.

Comprising Garrett (guitar, dobro), Wanda, (Mandolin, guitar and accordion), Paul (upright bass) and Wayne (5 string banjo, guitar and mandolin), the band perform an eclectic mix of material that covers the Carter Family to Steve

Earle, traditional bluegrass to the Dixie Chicks and everything in between.

Their strength lies in being faithful to the original music, but adding their own 'traditional' flavour to modern material.



Palmerston North Folk Club

Meets every Friday night, 8pm
310 Church Street, near the Square
Opposite Animates Pet shop, easy to find.

Different events every week, always a friendly jam after 10pm. Door charge usually is \$5 non-members, \$3 members. School kids free. All welcome.

Contact:

Bruce Thomson
Palmerston North 06 357 7773
20 Lyndhurst Street, Palmerston North 4412
or (weeknights) 04 232 9974;
bruce.thomson@slingshot.co.nz
021 176 9711

CEOL ALBA

**2ND & 4TH Fridays, Chilton St James,
Lower Hutt 7:30pm - 9:30ish, \$3**

Ph. Lynne Scott, 565 0164;
lynne@scott.gen.nz

Ceol Alba is a club for Scottish music enthusiasts to get together to share and play Scottish music.

Any instrument is welcome, except perhaps bagpipes, as they use a different scale and tuning. Although the main gates are on Waterloo Road, the back gate in Chilton Grove is the best.

Otaki Live Music Club

Sunday 2 November, 7pm
Senior Citizens Hall, Rangatira St, Otaki
Contact: Cavan Haines, 06 364 8891, chaines@pocd.co.nz

ON THE AIR

Access Radio (783 AM)
Celtic Connections/
Sound of the Pipes: Saturdays 9am
Ireland Calling: Wednesdays 10pm
World Beat: Sundays 10pm
Capital Irish: Sundays 12 mid-day
Town & Country Radio: Mondays 9 pm

Radio Active (89 FM)
Global Pulse: Sundays 8 - 11am
Americana: Sundays 2 - 4pm
National Radio (567 AM / 101.3 FM)
Homegrown: 4pm Saturdays
Beale Street Caravan (Blues):
11pm Thursdays

November Events



Sunday 2

Club sing-around at Toi Poneke

Thursday 6

Pukerua Bay Folk Club
Blues @ The Bristol

Friday 7

Bluegrass Society Blackboard

Sunday 9

Ceol Alba

Tuesday 11

Mainly Acoustic

Thursday 13 July

Blues @ The Bristol

Friday 14

Blackboard Concert/Jam @ Toi Poneke
Wairarapa Folk Club
Levin Folk Club

Sunday 16

Acoustic Routes jam session

Tuesday 18

Kapiti Live Music Club

Thursday 20

Blues @ The Bristol

Friday 21

Bluegrass Society

Sunday 23

Acoustic Routes Club concert
Ceol Alba

Thursday 27 July

Blues @ The Bristol

Folk Clubs & Contacts

Acoustic Routes

Concert 4th Sunday of month, Wellington Arts Centre, Abel Smith Street, 8pm. Informal sing-around 2nd Sunday and Jam session 3rd Sunday, same time & place. See page 2 for details and contacts.

Cross Creek Blues

The First Wednesday of Every Month the Cross Creek Blues Club presents some of the best musicians from the Wairarapa and Wellington in an evening of Blues and Blues related music. Meets at The Tin Hut, Tauherenikau, just north of Featherston.

Mainly Acoustic Music Club

2nd Tuesday of month, 7.30, Mayfair Cafe, 166 Main Street, Upper Hutt. Contact: Kevin or Sue Meehan, 970 4068

Pukerua Bay Folk Club

1st Thursday of the month, 8pm, 9 Donlin Rd, Pukerua Bay. Contact: Murray or Julie Kilpatrick, 239 9951; email: julmur@paradise.net.nz

Wellington Bluegrass Society

3rd Friday of month, 8.30 pm, Petone Function Room, 54 Richmond Street, Petone. Blackboard concert 1st Friday of month. Contact: Andrew Bicknell, 477 0069

Kapiti Live Music Club

3rd Tuesday of month, blackboard 7.30, guest 8.30. Murphy's Law, Main Road, Waikanae. Website www.klmc.org.nz

Levin Folk Club

2nd Friday of month, Horowhenua Scottish Society and Pipe Band hall, corner Bartholomew Rd and Middlesex Street. Blackboard concert plus guest artist: \$5 including supper. Workshop 4th Friday of month (no charge). Contact: Anne Campbell (06) 368-3777

Wairarapa Folk Club

2nd Friday of the month; Contact Remco de Ket or Jenny Freeman-tle, (06) 370 1021 - wairarapafolkclub@paradise.net.nz

Ceol Alba – Scottish Music Club

2nd and 4th Friday s of the month.
Phone Lynne Scott, 565 0164: lynne@scott.gen.nz

International Folk Dancing

Wednesdays 7.45-9.15pm, Deirdre Tarrant Dance Studio, 125 Cuba Mall. Contact: Cashy Yates 569 1618.

Morris Dancing

Pride of Holland Street (men and women): In Recess
Britannic Bedlam Morris Gentlemen: Wednesdays 8pm, Tawa Pipe Band Hall, by Redwood Station. Contact: Ian Appleton 476-4391.
White Rose of Wellington (women): Wednesdays 8pm, Brooklyn Scout Hall, Harrison St, Brooklyn. Contact: Debs Potter, 476-9294
Morris website: <http://morrisdancing.org.nz>

Roomfulla Blues

Every Thursday evening at
the Hotel Bristol, Cuba St,
Wellington

alistair's music LTD

Alistair & Catriona Cuthill

215 Cuba Street

PO Box 9527

Wellington, NZ

Ph (04) 917 4487

Cell (021) VIOLIN