

The Balladeer

Monthly Newsletter of
ACOUSTIC ROUTES
Wellington Folk Centre
Inc.
www.acousticroutes.org.nz

JUNE 2009

Acoustic Routes Club Concert **Sunday 28th June**
8pm \$12 (Members \$8) Toi Poneke Back Room 61-67 Abel Smith St.

Richard Gilewitz

Richard Gilewitz is possibly one of the strangest men in acoustic music today. He may appear to be an ordinary, mild-mannered guitarist, but the more one hears him talk, the more strange and enigmatic he becomes. It is as if every time he opens his mouth he is blowing a smoke screen. I mention this before getting to the music because much of the charm of a Gilewitz performance is in the stories he tells, none of which directly tell you anything about him. He knows his B-rated movies backwards and forwards. He has a story about almost every major acoustic guitarist in America; he attends mullet tossing contests, and can program a computer to do anything. He wondered aloud to the audience how many ducks he could take out in a fight if he were to be attacked by a flock of the sneaky waterfowl. He claimed that "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" was actually composed by Jimmy Buffet. For an entire evening he told the audiences stories they couldn't possibly care less about, and made them enjoy it.

And between these stories he played guitar.

Richard Gilewitz is one of America's most exciting acoustic guitar artists on the scene today. His music has been recorded by Leo Kottke, and his own album, *Somewhere in Between*, has been praised by critics and peers alike. Gilewitz has opened for Warren Zevon, Montreaux, John Fahey, The Little River Band and the Indigo Girls, if that gives any idea of the artists that choose to listen to him.

He pulled into town in his unpretentious Toyota Corolla, and played to a packed house at the Oyster Bar on April 17. During his two sets he told jokes, played his six-string, told a joke or two, played his twelve-string, thought of another joke that was so important it could not possibly wait, and then played slide guitar. His guitar playing might seem to be merely an imitator's take on Kottke, but his technique, while being no less amazing than Kottke's or Fahey's, is individualistic and shares nothing more than the most superficial similarities with these other acoustic guitar greats.



Throughout the evening, he played a mixture of works by artists who have influenced him, such as Jorma Kaukonen's "Embryonic Journey," as well as his own compositions. Pieces such as "Du Monde Blonde" came equipped with explanations as to why he composed them. He was having amusing trouble with throat lozenges during his performance, despite which he still managed to pull off some very nice singing. While vocals are not his strong suit, they provide a respite from some rather intense instrumental numbers.

His devotion and respect for his music was not lost on the members of the audience, who craned their necks to watch his fingers and stilled their tongues to hear

him play. When Gilewitz becomes enraptured by his music he begins to smile, closes his eyes and his foot thrashes about. When the piece is over, he seems surprised to hear it end. Each number naturally left a craving for another. This was obvious when the audience called him back for an encore. Gilewitz obliged them with his beautiful song "Echoing Wilderness," a number that was recorded by Kottke and retitled "Echoing Gilewitz."

Mark Beshirs Spectrum Mag.

"His complex, energetic originals have made Gilewitz popular on the festival and club circuits as a solo performer."
Rusty Russell, Guitar Player Magazine

"At turns mesmerizing, playful, humorous and wistful Gilewitz is a master of moods when he speaks to his audiences through his guitar...He's always at the service of his inner voice which has a sneaky way of connecting directly to the listener's heart."

Best Acoustic Solo Artist 1994-1999
Weekly Planet Magazine, Tampa, FL

"Gilewitz fingerpicked with such graceful facility and improvised so intelligently that he is a guitarist to follow here!"
Geoffrey Himes, The Washington Post, Performing Arts

ACOUSTIC ROUTES - WELLINGTON CITY FOLK CLUB

VENUE - Toi Poneke, Back Room, Wellington Arts Centre, Abel Smith St
MAIL- 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 EVENTS

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.

Friday Sessions are held on the **second Friday** of the month. Blackboard first half and jam session to follow.

Open Mic. Night on the **third Sunday** this month instead of Murray's Jam night. Door charge \$5/\$7. Play 2 - 3 song sets to give you a chance to follow a theme or your own choice of songs and be heard!

Monthly Concerts are held on the **fourth Sunday** of each month at 8pm (see front page). 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.

Club Committee 2008-9

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

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

Treasurer: Peter Denee

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Gerard Hudson 565 3432

Derek Burfield 477 1939

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Balladeer

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The Balladeer

This newsletter is produced once a month for Acoustic Routes members and other subscribers.

Contributions are welcome and should be emailed to Nik Curry by the 15th of the preceding month. Publication is the last weekend of the month. Relevant publicity leaflets June be inserted with mail-outs, at the discretion of the committee.

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INSTANT PRINT

PRESIDENTS REPORT

By the time you read this in June, April will seem eons ago ... but I must say how much I enjoyed Mike Hardings night. A great turnout, despite the weather which was ghastly, and a very amicable mood set very well by the impromptu floorspotters.

The Pete Seeger singaround was well attended, and a few loyal souls came to the Friday night gathering in May. We are starting to wonder if there are too many Friday nights these days, and our time and purse strings can only muster sooo much!

We will let the Friday nights run for a while longer and see how it goes.

Our two club nights showcasing a range of local talents will also have passed which I am sure will have been a buzzing success. As I am writing this I feel very excited about them, because I feel it in my bones that people are going to excel!

The June club concert will be Richard Gilewitz, who is a very fine musician and exceptionally gifted guitar player, floorspots are open for the first half, get in touch or try your luck on the night.

Mary

Editors Report

Well, I've had six months playing this game now and it's been a steep learning curve! Living out of town I wasn't very current with when and what was happening in the Wellington music scene - and there's lots, and there's more all the time.

I've discovered all sorts of clubs and links and people who appear here and there, wearing different hats in different places, performing in various bands and identities and living the music their own way. And I've had lots of help!

The Balladeer has a long history and is currently the only hard copy newsletter / journal on the folk and acoustic music scene around Wellington. Our ties to other Folk groups and the bluegrass and jazz groups in particular give us a wider voice. Currently producing the Balladeer uses ALL of the membership subscription money for the year.

This limits what we can do as a club in other areas and puts the pressure on making the concerts viable financially as well as musically successful. Any help for the Balladeer would be appreciated.

Looking at the changes around the club and what we, the members, want is probably the most important issue facing Acoustic Routes, and the Balladeer should reflect that. Staying relevant is a tricky thing. Pete Seeger is 90 and though we're not getting any younger, in some ways - the music is. Great songs keep appearing and new folk singers and musicians bloom continually. Yet the old songs are just as important and just as much part of our brief.

What do you think? What path should the club take into the future? What do you want from the Club and the Balladeer? Drop us a line or two and let us all know!

Nik Curry

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS Yes!, we are selling them this year.

They are great value at \$55.00, \$11.00 of which goes to the club.

Cnt. Ruth Birnie: 5653432 0274515486 ruth.birnie@xtra.co.nz

Acoustic Routes (Wellington Folk Centre Inc.) is now a Registered Charity. All donations are now fully tax-deductible. Our Treasurer will assist with further details, for gifts, legacies or bequests

"I don't know anything about music.

In my line you don't have to."

— Elvis Presley

FIRST CLUB CONCERT REVIEW RAH RAH RAH!!!

Full marks to the Committee for another excellent innovation aimed at encouraging wider, grass roots participation in club events. Appropriately timed in the middle of NZ Music Month, I refer of course to the Club Members Special Concert, the first half of which rolled out last Sunday, May 17. Such was the response to the idea (another healthy sign) it was necessary to spread the 10 'applications' across two Sundays.



Despite seriously post autumnal weather-and a clash with the Grada Concert,- a full house was treated to an excellent and varied programme. It was great to see and hear the relatively unexposed Frank Boardman and Derek Burfield with their well balanced melodic set, foot it creditably alongside the likes of well-loved blues balladeer+, John Sutherland. From a similar musical stable, but with a very different delivery, Shayn Wills (often seen with Bullfrog Rata et al. at blues gigs nationwide) made a very welcome first appearance at our club.

Another newcomer to Acoustic Routes and New Zealand, was Luke Parker, ably assisted by local musos Ian and Nick. His "reggae-folk-soul-funk" set was a little inaccessible from where this old fart was sat, though I could still admire much of the musicianship. Finally, Charles Harter and "whanau" provided a characteristically energetic, interactive and theatrical performance, revealing the talents of many newcomers to our scene. The lead singer-songwriter Peter and the ovarian juggler were especially noteworthy!!!

We eagerly anticipate this Sunday's offering. I hope that you managed to experience at least one of these events. Keep it comin' yours' all

Robin Brew



SECOND CLUB CONCERT REVIEW YAY YAY YAY!

Acoustic Routes Club Member Profile

Shirley McGregor

Folk music first interested me in the very late 50's. The reason for this escapes me but it had a lot to do with my brother learning to play guitar. There were a large number of coffee bars in Wellington. Who apart from Arthur Toms and me and perhaps Frank remember the Casa Fontana downstairs on Victoria Street where there were pumps going most of the time especially at high tide.



I think the most memorable was the Monde Marie on the corner of Roxburgh and Majorbanks Streets. The obligatory fishing nets hung from the rafters, the tables were adorned with candles in bottles, and the seating was far from comfortable and most unsuitable for playing guitar or banjo as there was no room between the seat and table, but everyone managed. The food was amazing Mary had a lot of ideas she found overseas.

In the furthest corner from the door was the musicians table at which reigned Max Whinnie and a selection of singers and instrumentalists. The place was ruled over by the proprietor Mary Seddon. Having been invited to sit with the musicians on a quieter than average night it became my customary place. Mary did not appreciate those she considered unworthy to occupy such hallowed space. On some occasions she invited me to leave. However, I usually ignored such insults and often received a conciliatory cup of well laced coffee. Rather a special treat as NZ at the time suffered from the dreaded 6 o'clock closing and there were no late licenses.

Music was live and the musicians were paid an absolute pittance. It was initially (darn there is no pounds sterling sign on this thing) one pound ten shillings for about three hours. Some more accomplished or favoured people were paid a little more.

Amongst those I remember performing were:- Max Whinnie, Arthur Toms, Val Murphy, Frank Fyfe, Peter Cape, Graham McGregor and the bloke with curly hair who played the banjo. If I ever knew his name it is lost in the sands of time. He flatted on Tinakori road. He was a great musician. We lost him to the Jazz club and then overseas. Anyone recognise himself?

Frank and Mary Fife started a Folk orientated Coffee bar upstairs in Willis Street. "The Balladeer" At the opening we sat on palliases on the floor. Soon there were wooden forms along the walls. The performers were too numerous to mention but I remember hearing Phil Garland for the first time about 1963. It was here that a Folk Club was begun. A broadsheet was published using a Gestetner which necessitated typing onto a gel sheet. The correction fluid stunk worse than nail polish remover and didn't work anyway.

The first Folk Festival was held at the Tech (Wellington Technical College now Wellington High). Not a residential affair but there were workshops and concerts. The Final concert was at the Opera House.

Another time Peter, Paul, and Mary performed at the University Folk Club which was founded by Arthur Toms.

I was saving to go to the UK so missed the Clancy Brothers performance at the Town Hall but they came into the Monde, didn't perform though. Mary was disgusted and disgruntled. "They were only looking for girls and drink she opined." I did however catch them live a few years later in Cardiff an absolutely spell-binding performance.

Nearly thirty years passed. I had a short term contract at IRD and was introduced to the "session" at Molly's and the Folk Club President Ruth Birnie by her son.

Since then I have been actively involved in the Folk Scene and really enjoying life.

Shirley McGregor

John Archer review - Annie McGregor

Grada Review David Earle?

POETRY & STORY TELLING.

Expressions of interest.

I am sure that there are many budding poets and story tellers in the membership of Acoustic Routes who would enjoy the chance to share their poems and stories with us.

I would like to offer you the opportunity to hone your skills at my home once or twice a month and to talk about yarns and ideas about what you would like to do.

I would see it as a way for those people who don't consider themselves as musicians or singers to do something in front of an audience at the folk club or at a festival and get some recognition for their talent.

I would hope to attract poetry in the style of Baxter, Lawson, Patterson and other rhyming poets. In Australia, this is mostly in the category of 'Bush Poetry' but it can be poetry of personal experiences and observations of other peoples experiences and stories.

If this idea interests you, please contact me and talk about it ,even if you just want to come along and see what happens ,or just to listen. I suggest the **14th June** as a first meeting.

Col Wright 478-6775. Email...col.wright@xtra.co.nz Home address. 53 kanpur rd broadmeadows.



Wellington Bluegras

Levin Folk Club TANIWHA

HINEMOANA BAKER AND CHRISTINE WHITE with the Coast Launch of their new CD:- 'Snap Happy'.

Fresh from WOMAD Taranaki, Taniwha is a Paekakariki phenomenon, a duo making sweet music with anything and everything they have to hand. As singer-songwriters in the folk/pop tradition, their guitars and beautifully woven voices are still their mainstay. But as all artists do, they've been experimenting. Many of their recent instruments have been acquired from Trash Palace, their local recycling station in Tawa.

Hinemoana and Christine present intimate alt. country ballads, hooky pop-songs and laid-back Maori language reggae. There is even some folk-tronica flavours, courtesy of their Casiotone MT-65, and an entirely new instrument made out of a Black & Decker workbench - all coordinated by their sound engineer, the recently relocated, hairdo extraordinaire, Andrew Dalziel.

Full of heart and at times very moving, the songs on Snap Happy deliver a brave, delicate and delightful romp, full of momentum, through many musical moods.

Read more and listen to sound clips at: <http://www.myspace.com/vvvvvtaniwhavvvv>

Levin Folk Music Club Horowhenua Scottish Society Hall, Bartholomew Road, Levin. 7:30pm
Admission \$5, supper provided Open blackboard first half (one item only)
Contact: Anne Campbell (annemc@ihug.co.nz)



CAVERN CLUB OPEN MIC. NIGHT

Hi there, I would like to invite your members to an Open Mic Night I am running at the Cavern Club, 22 Allen Street, Wellington. The details are as follows:

The Cavern Club Wellington are presenting upcoming talented musicians jamming to old classics and originals in an unplugged acoustic mash of melodies and harmonies - gymnastics, cookery demonstrations and short lectures are also welcome!

Starting Wednesday the 8th of April at 9pm and every second Wednesday there after. This is an opportunity for all to come and play/hear songs and have fun.

Soloist and Duo's only please. We supply a full p.a - you just need to bring your instrument.

Turn up, put your name down to play then relax, have a drink or five and enjoy the show. All styles welcome.

Please come along even if you don't play, the audience is as important as the players.

The next night is Wednesday the 20th of May.

Chris Bryant

Professional Musician – Guitar & Vocals

e: chris@chrisbryant.co.nz t: 021 804 203

WILD GEESE @ MAYFAIR

Tuesday June 9 at the Mayfair Cafe, 116 Main St U/Hutt.
Show starts at 7.30 with local performers. Wild Geese onstage around 9pm Entry \$10

Wild Geese are a multi-talented Celtic-folk group from the Wairarapa, In the early days, musicians Brendan Connor, Mike Dew and Rick Laing auditioned to make a short programme of folk music for New Zealand's National Radio. Over the next 12 years they recorded eight half hour programmes which were broadcast nationally.



By 2002 Wild Geese had produced four albums of mostly original songs, the bulk from lead singer Brendan Connor. The third album *Betwixt Time and Place* won the top folk album of the year at the New Zealand National Entertainment Awards in 1997. The band has grown sometimes to a six-piece ensemble performing its music at sessions, concerts, pubs, and wherever people congregate to enjoy this particular brand of contemporary Celtic-styled music.

Kevin Meehan

Acoustic Welsh Dragon at Scorpio's Welsh Dragon

(the pub at the seaward end of Cambridge Tce, just off Courtenay Place).

Hosted by **Roy McGuinness** from 8 pm on the last Thursday of every month.

No cover charge but we pass the ice bucket around for koha.

Performers at Acoustic Welsh Dragon , on 25th June will be:

**Paddy Burgin
Helen Dorothy
Tony Hillyard
Parcel (Barry, Marion, Murray, Sue)**

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 best.

MOJO ACOUSTIC MUSIC

Mojo Acoustic, 161 Willis Street,

7 – 10 pm on the first and third Fridays of each month. \$5 cover charge.

Performers for 5th June ar

Performers for 19th June are: -

Yet to be confirmed

Carol Bean

Sean and Amanda O'Connor

A Scholar and a Gentleman (Jonathan Berkhan and James McNamara)

Pip Payne

Palmerston North Folk Club

Every Friday night, 8pm
310 Church Street, near the Square

Different events every week, always a friendly jam after 10pm; small door charge. All welcome.

Contact: Bruce Thomson, Palmerston North
06 357 7773, or (weeknights)

Wellington 04 232 9974; 021 176 9711
bruce.thomson@slingshot.co.nz

HARMONIOUS EXCHANGE

PIANO ACCORDION Hohner 180 bass. Bellows in excellent condition. Beautiful tone. \$300 neg.
Anne McKay 04 977319

I have an old KASUGA nylon string classic guitar for sale. In very good order plus a spare set of strings \$60. Buyers can contact on e-mail or phone as per numbers below.
04 388-6045 neilcarey@woosh.co.nz

Otaki Live Music Club

Sunday 3rd June, 7pm
Senior Citizens Hall, Rangatira Street, Otaki
\$2 and supper

All-genre Blackboard concert

Contact: Cavan Haines
chaines@pocd.co.nz



ON THE AIR

Access Radio (783 AM)

Celtic Connections: Saturdays 9am
Ireland Calling: Wednesdays 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
Radio NZ National (567 AM / 101.3 FM)

Music 101: Saturdays 2pm

Beale Street Caravan (Blues): Mondays 11pm

Plains FM96.9 'Something for the Weekend'

Pukerua Bay Folk Club

Thurs 4th June 8pm at the Kilpatrick's

9 Donlin Rd. Pukerua Bay.
Ph 239 9951. Email Julmur@paradise.net.nz

Every body is very welcome.
Murray and Julie Kilpatrick.

June events

Thursday 4th June

Pukerua Bay Folk Club
Blues @ the Bristol

Friday 5th June

Mojo Acoustic
Wellington Bluegrass Society

Sunday 7th June

Acoustic Routes **Singaround**

Thursday 11th June

Blues@ the Bristol

Friday 12th June

Acoustic Routes - **Blackboard/
Jam night**

Wairarapa Folk Club
Levin Folk Club
Ceol Alba

Mojo Acoustic
Wellington Bluegrass Society

Tuesday 16th June

Kapiti Live Music Club Concert

Thursday 18th June

Blues @ The Bristol

Wednesday 17th June

Cavern Club Open Mic. Night

Sunday 21st June

Acoustic Routes

Blackboard Concert

Thursday 25th June

Acoustic Welsh Dragon

Friday 26th June

Levin Folk Club
Ceol Alba

Sunday 28th June

Acoustic Routes **Club Concert**

Night RICHARD GILEWITZ

Thursday 28th June

Acoustic Welsh Dragon

Folk Clubs & Contacts

AAcoustic Routes - Wellington City Folk Club

Informal **Sing-around** 1st Sunday, **Jam session / Black board session** 2nd Friday. **Open Mic. session** 3rd Sunday, (this month), **Club Concert** 4th Sunday, **Special Concert** 5th Sunday **8pm. Toi Poneke, 'Back Room' 61-67 Abel Smith Street**
Contact Acoustic Routes Committee - see details page 2

Mojo Acoustic

Mojo Cafe, Upper Willis Street.

Contact Ruth Birnie on ruth.birnie@xtra.co.nz or phone 565 3432.

Mainly Acoustic Music Club

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

No sessions in Dec or Jan - starting again Tues 10 Feb 2009

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, Society Night - 8.30 pm,

54 Richmond Street, Petone. Contact: Andrew Bicknell, 4770069

bluegrass@paradise.net.nz,

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

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, 476-9296

Morris website: <http://morrisdancing.org.nz>

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