

Malone's Irish Taberna

WHAT'S ON - ARTS - FISHING AND TIDES

Waiheke Blues Scene gaining nationwide status

Well respected Kiwi musician Billy TK Jr. spent Anniversary weekend relaxing on Waiheke.

Maybe he had a quiet weekend in mind, a few nice meals, a walk or two along the beach and 'catch up' with friends. Waiheke had other ideas. Sunday found him dining at Malones in Surfdale and for the next few hours getting caught up in the Malones Blues Club.

Continuing in the fine tradition of his father, Billy TK, who has himself jammed on Waiheke in the past, Billy's unexpected appearance at Malones and performance thrilled the crowds. He played guitar and sang alone and with Auckland musicians Dave Alley and Rod Redgrave, who were headlining that day. He even jammed, on request, with a young man up from Wellington. What a lovely, genuine person Billy TK Junior is (I kept thinking I would be so proud of him if he was my son!).

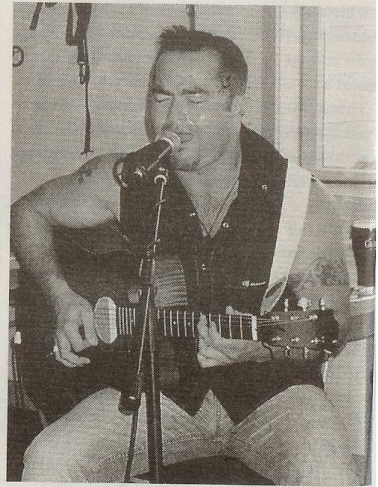
He was happy 'hanging out' and talking to everyone and was absolutely charming, with time for those who came up for a chat.

What did he think of Waiheke's Blues Club? "It is the biggest little Blues Club in New Zealand," he said.

Monday was just as quiet for Billy as he once again found himself pleasing crowds, this time at The Rocks, Ostend. Mix and match music from 5-9.30pm with local musicians - Katy Soljak, Kippa, Mano Pratt, Emere Reweti and Lance Foley. The Rocks also had a successful first jam session the day before with the very popular father and son combination, Johnny and Nick Stephens leading the way.

The word is spreading, live music on Waiheke is being followed by a growing number of visitors from Auckland as well.

Voyager



Billy TK Jr at Malones

News

Sarah with a stunning voice

Meet Sarah Brown, the latest musical talent to arrive on Waiheke.

The 19-year old singer-songwriter this year won the Ovation Rock Shop Songwriter of the Year Competition - the prize was a \$4400 Ovation guitar thank you very much - and was also runner-up in the York Street Acid Test songwriting competition.

Not bad for a girl who started playing guitar at 14 and only started writing her own songs two years ago.

"It's happened very quickly," she says. "It's really exciting."

Sarah recently moved from her home town of Blenheim to Auckland to record an album and decided she didn't want to live in the city. "I looked up Waiheke on a website and liked what I saw." And that's how she arrived here three weeks ago.

She also emailed local businesses looking for work, and having grown up with horses, one of the places she contacted was Sunset Corral. That's how

she met Erica Week, who introduced her to another musician, Barry Caitechon (former Mockers' guitarist), who is playing at Malones this Saturday night and invited Sarah along to perform as well.

"She's got an absolutely beautiful voice, a stunning voice," says Barry. "She's a huge vocal talent and it remains to be seen how she's embraced by the music industry."

He describes her song, *Thinking of You*, with which she won the competition as "a lovely little piece of work".



Sarah Brown is playing at Malone's this Saturday night as a guest of fellow musicians Barry Caitechon and Sean Kelly.

Asked who her musical influences are, who she likes, she reels off Jeff Buckley, Counting Crows, Alanis Morissette and Bic Runga for starters.

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Here come The Handsome Giants

Waiheke bluesman Shayn 'Hurricane' Wills, Simen 'Bluekeys' Taylor and Freddy Limbert take the stage at Malones tomorrow night – Friday – as The Handsome Giants.

Wills – vocals, guitar and harmonica, Taylor – vocals and piano and Limbert – vocals and drums, combine to deliver old school roots-blues and electric rock'n'roll in what promises to be a dynamite show.

Wills says that because they draw from several traditional musical genres, The Handsome Giants have something for music lovers of all ages. Fans of the sixties will recognise the power and energy and blues enthusiasts will love the intricacy.

Recently back from the Matakana Mountain Festival, The Giants are due to play at the Montana Jazz Festival at Easter before heading to Australia's Gold Coast for the prestigious Broadbeach Blues Festival in May.

Wills has been a prominent figure on the New Zealand music scene for more than 20 years and has supported the

likes of Albert King, Robert Cray and Duke Robillard. He has also released three albums: *Rata and Wills – Left That Town* (1992), *The Swampdiggers – It Leaped Up and Bit Me* (2001) and *Shayn Wills – Dead Man's Suit* (2004).

Taylor arrived from Norway in 2001

and has been playing the blues since he was 12.

Limbert has played professionally for 15 years, including drumming for the Midge Marsden Band touring the United States and England. He also played support for BB King.

Tickets can be pre-purchased from Malones for \$5 or are \$10 at the door.



Giants, from left, Shayne Wills, Simen Taylor and Freddy Limbert.

Crazy Canucks' farewell gig

Two Canadians, two guitars and nearly four hours of songs will resonate at Malones Bar in Surfdale this Saturday night. *The Crazy Canucks* are preparing to hit the road.

"We're heading off with our surfboards to Raglan in our 'scalpywagon' bus," says Patrick Bonin.

"Yeah. We go with the wind. We never really know," says the other half of the duo, Jason Martinson.

The pair started playing together in Calgary Alberta last year before Patrick convinced "mega guitar guy" Jason to join him at his "home base" on Waiheke.

They'll be playing rock and reggae covers from artists including Bob Marley, Tom Petty and Bob Dylan as well as their originals.

They hope to return to Waiheke in the future. This Saturday they are playing from 8.30pm to midnight. Entry is free. •



The Crazy Canucks, play their farewell gig this Easter Saturday at Malones in Surfdale.