

# The Balladeer

Monthly newsletter of Acoustic Routes, Wellington's folk music club

*Acoustic*  *Routes*

[www.acousticroutes.org.nz](http://www.acousticroutes.org.nz)

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This newsletter can be printed out from a pdf located on the website

<http://acousticroutes.org.nz/news/the-balladeer/>

## 1. AR Monthly Concert, Irish Night featuring Pat Higgins, Roseneath School Hall, Thursday 31 March, 7:30 pm

With a nod to St Patrick's Day earlier in the month, we are devoting this evening to Irish music, and opening the floor in come-all-ye style for anyone to contribute their favourite song, tune or verse.

To enrich the second half of the evening we have a bit of the real thing with esteemed local musician Pat Higgins as our guest.

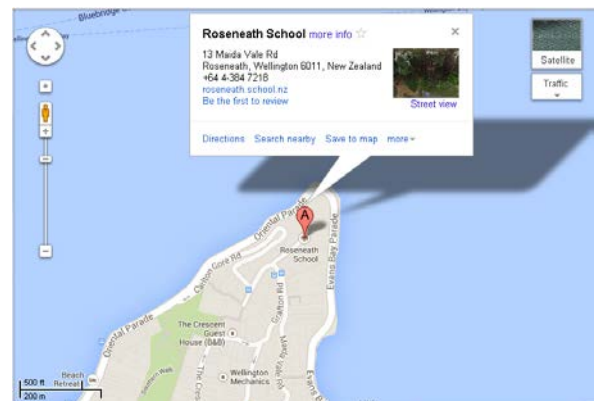
Those who attended our recent Scottish night can look forward to enjoying again the special pleasure of sharing music amongst friends, while those who missed that occasion have a chance to make amends.



**Entry \$5 members, \$10 non-members**

[Roseneath School](#) Hall is a beautiful little space just out of the central city with good acoustics and a proper stage, lighting, etc.

Access is down a short lane off the street (Maida Vale), next to a church and a small row of shops. There's parking in the school grounds and the number 14 bus goes right past.



## 2. Claire Hastings house concert, Dave and Jan Barnes' home, 4 Rangatira Road Tawa, Thursday 14 April, 7:30 pm

An intimate evening of traditional music from Claire Hastings, one of the bright new stars of the British folk scene. She is a folksinger/songwriter and player of guitar and ukelele originally from Dumfries, who in 2015 won the prestigious BBC Radio Scotland's Young Traditional Musician of the Year award.



After graduating with a first class honours degree in Scottish Music from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in 2011, Claire spent 18 months travelling the world with her ukulele, but is now living in Glasgow. This will be her first solo tour of Aotearoa/New Zealand.

Last year Claire's performances included the BBC Proms in the Park with the Scottish Symphony Orchestra and BBC Music Day, singing for the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon in London's National Theatre, at Orkney Folk Festival, at the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh and in the 4 star-reviewed show 'A Man's a Man' at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

April will see the release of her debut album, *Between River and Railway*.

**Entry \$15 Acoustic Routes members, \$20 non-members**

Places can be booked by email ([president@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:president@acousticroutes.org.nz))

### **3. AR Monthly Concert, Mike Harding, Roseneath School Hall, Thursday 28 April, 7:30 pm**

Our April concert features a well-known and well-loved singer-songwriter who has played a big part in the folk scene of Aotearoa New Zealand over many years. With his fine voice, wide repertoire and engaging manner, Mike Harding has won many fans over the years. While they will be glad to see that we have tempted him away from Taranaki for the evening, anyone who doesn't already know Mike's music has a great opportunity here to see what so many of us admire.



Next up will be a new combination Toil and Trouble: this is a trio consisting of Ron Craig, Mary Hubble and Jude Douglas, all fine musicians from our rohe who will be sure to give a good account of themselves on guitar, flute, violin and voice – at least! Come along and hear what they have made out of their combined talents.

And, last but not least – or should that be *first* but not least?! - Deb Harding will be opening the evening with her fine acapella singing.

**Entry \$15 Acoustic Routes members, \$20 non-members**

### **4. Pres sez**



Kia ora katoa – Hello everyone:

One of the things I enjoyed most at the delightful concert that Himmerland gave us on the 20<sup>th</sup> was the sound of different languages in the air – I noticed three – and that's an experience reinforced by the various festivals that bring in performers and artists from overseas for our enjoyment here. It's something we have generally available in the Wellington area to a greater

degree than may be obvious, however, and it's a dimension the club might consider pursuing in the future, if the requisite energy can be harnessed.

We'll be hearing the Māori language at our July concert of the group Wai Tai but, going further than Te Reo, I know of specific groups of musicians locally performing in the Italian folk tradition and making music from combined Chinese and Kiwi roots – and there is, of course, the well-known combo the Balkanistas (whom we have approached in the past but who cost quite a bit, being so numerous...) – and you may well know of other national or ethnic music being played in and around the city. Although it's perhaps inevitable that the musical traditions of what each of us thinks of as our own inheritance would interest us most, there is a huge range of folk music out there that speaks of tradition, social history and human experience in accessible and enlightening ways.

This month, meanwhile, we are hosting a fine young exponent of Scottish and other British music, Claire Hastings, and one of the best of our own, Mike Harding. And don't forget our upcoming invitation to make your own music – in your very own language – in the Blind Date concert. Murray Kilpatrick is taking names now for a deadline of 28<sup>th</sup> April, with the concert scheduled for late June (contact him at [julmur@paradise.net.nz](mailto:julmur@paradise.net.nz)). Allez-y, alors! as they say in a certain other country...

See you soon,

Pamela

## 5. AR monthly open mic

Hi All,

Sorry to tell you that the April 3rd Acoustic Routes Open Mic at the Thunderbird Cafe has been cancelled and the monthly open mic sessions in abeyance for the time being while the Committee considers the options.

Contact: [kevin.ikin@clear.net.nz](mailto:kevin.ikin@clear.net.nz)

## 6. AR Sunday Singaround, Alfred's Art Space Petone, Sunday 10 April, 5-7 pm



Those of you who have been to the singaround before already know about the wonderful gallery which has also proved to be a marvellous performance space for the monthly singaround. If you haven't been yet, come and share a song, a tune, a poem or a story. Coffee and tea will be available. Entry: a gold coin for the koha bowl

<http://www.facebook.com/Alfred.Memelink.Artist>

## **7. Review, Himmerland and Nuala Kennedy concert, Roseneath School Hall, 20 March**

Perhaps Danish reggae and African drumming mixed with Gaelic trad singing in a fusion of Jazz, together with a thumping DADGAD guitar, may not be your thing. Add a soprano sax playing jigs, and many old folkies (like me) would go running for the hills rather than venturing to such a concert. Luckily I didn't fancy the heather that evening, and I was there. But for the many of you who hung out with the lambs, you missed a treat. Ethnic-blended sounds (WOMAD style) has never really appealed to me because it's often a wall of noise and too loud. But the sound was perfect in this concert, each instrument clear and precise – a tribute to the musicians and also Murray Kilpatrick on the sound desk.

The dancing drummer, Ayi Solomon from Ghana, was a genius at holding the complex rhythms together and leading the band. His energetic solos on the stand-up drums were a sight to be seen, and all achieved on only three skins. The sax player, Eskil Romme, and guitar player, Sigurd Hockings, are both from Denmark. They have visited NZ many times in different musical-masks. Music just pours out of their ears and into the air somehow, with very little effort. I'm so jealous of their dexterity I just want to break their fingers. The guitar blended perfectly with the singing and I can't believe how beautiful the sax is, as a delicate folk instrument (who would have thought).

Nuala Kennedy's (from Ireland) voice is everything I enjoy in trad singing and the main reason I was there. She has a unique Irish north/east way of singing and was a high-light of the evening. "We've gone electric", she announced, before playing wonderful Cape Breton tunes on the Irish flute. It all worked so well, but I did wish the drums would rest occasionally and not force rhythm into some of the slower pieces. The sound mix put her in front of the instruments, which is very important but not understood often. Oh, and boy, can she play the various size whistles. It just makes me madder with finger-breaking envy.

Julian Ward

## **8. Balladeer music noticeboard**

Where you can advertise your music-related items—lessons, instruments, gigs, band members wanted, etc.

### **a) Monthly Blackboard Concert, Plimmerton Boating Club, Thursday 14 April, 7 pm**

Hosted by the inimitable Roy McGuinness, this is a great night in a lovely venue with low cost drinks and food, and a sound system. Put this one on your calendar as a regular event. If you want to find out more, contact Roy on (021) 433-878.

### **b) Trad Singing Session, Upstairs at the Sprig and Fern, Thorndon, Monday 11 April, 6:30 pm**

With Dave Barnes hosting, this session celebrates unaccompanied singing in traditional style. Fine beer and food to be had at the bar. Contact: Dave Barnes [david.barnes@xtra.co.nz](mailto:david.barnes@xtra.co.nz)

**c) Mercury Bay Music Festival, Whitianga, Queen's Birthday Weekend, 3-6 June**

This new festival is an all-ages, free and ticketed, folk/blues/jazz/world music community-run festival. Centred on Whitianga in the beautiful Mercury Bay, it includes concerts, workshops, busking and open mic.  
<http://www.mercurybaymusicfestival.co.nz/>

**d) Ceol Anegas Traditional Irish Music Festival, Nelson, Queen's Birthday Weekend, 3-6 June**

Three days of music, sessions, instrument workshops, a ceili dance and a highlight concert featuring all tutors for 2016. Tutors for 2016 are: John Wynne (Flute) IRELAND; John McEvoy (Fiddle) IRELAND; Susan Miller (Accordion / Free Reed) IRE/AUS; Cian Kissane (Banjo/Mandolin) IRE/AUS; Dougal Adams (Whistle) AUS; Jem Dunlop (Guitar).

To register and for more information go to Ceol Anegas website

<http://www.irishmusic.org.nz>

For updates look for Ceol Anegas on Facebook. Instrument workshop early bird registration ends 31st March. Purchase Concert tickets from Ticket Direct or Theatre Royal Nelson and Ceili tickets at the door on the night. Supported by Culture Ireland as part of the Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme

**e) Want To Review For The Balladeer?**

We have a handful of willing writers who regularly get shoulder tapped to review AR concerts and we are very grateful to them. The AR Committee is offering a free concert ticket to anyone who reviews a concert for the Balladeer. It is great to hear a range of voices and opinions, so if you are interested please contact Philippa [balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz)

## 9. Are you ready to perform?



Are you interested in performing at Acoustic Routes events, including support acts for our monthly concerts? Contact us [performers@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:performers@acousticroutes.org.nz)

## 10. About Acoustic Routes

Acoustic Routes (Wellington Folk Centre Incorporated) is a club for people who enjoy playing and listening to folk and acoustic styles of music.

We have several regular events each month. The second Sunday of the month we host a singaround at Alfred Memmelink's Artspace on the Petone foreshore, from 5-7 pm.

The fourth Thursday of the month generally features a concert, usually with a visiting artist and support acts from amongst our membership. These concerts are at Roseneath School Hall, Maida Vale Road, Wellington.



Membership of Acoustic Routes costs \$25 a year for individuals, \$40 for couples or families, or \$15 for students and beneficiaries. It entitles you to door-charge discounts at Acoustic Routes events and also at events put on by most other folk clubs. Members get priority access to performance opportunities, and can have input into the club's activities. To join, email [treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz).

Acoustic Routes publishes this newsletter (The Balladeer) at the start of every month, and also an acoustic gig guide for the Wellington region (Acoustic Routes update). You can [subscribe online](#), or contact [publicity@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:publicity@acousticroutes.org.nz)

## 11. Acoustic Routes Contacts

**President:** Pamela Gerrish Nunn [president@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:president@acousticroutes.org.nz)

**Correspondence:** Emma Hart [secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz)

**Treasurer/Membership:** Sue Ikin [treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz)

**Balladeer:** Philippa Boy [balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz)

**Acoustic Routes update email:** Gerard Hudson [publicity@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:publicity@acousticroutes.org.nz)

**Performance opportunities:** [performers@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:performers@acousticroutes.org.nz)

**Postal address:** PO Box 27-191 Marion Square, Wellington, New Zealand.

**Website:** [www.acousticroutes.org.nz](http://www.acousticroutes.org.nz)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Acoustic-Routes/89128457590](http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Acoustic-Routes/89128457590)

## 12. Other regular folk events/contacts in the region

### Americana Jam Session

**When:** Upstairs room of The Third Eye – the Tuatara temple of Taste, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, from 4 to 6:30 pm. Join Richard Klein and friends and enjoy some of the Wellington region's finest players and singers of country, blues, Cajun, old-timey, boogie-woogie and all-around good-time American music, and it's an open session so you can join in.

### Ceol Alba Scottish Music Club

**When:** 4th Friday of month, 7.30 - 9.30pm. A club for playing and/or listening to (mostly) traditional Scottish music. Sheet music supplied or downloadable.

**Where:** Lower Hutt.

**Cost:** \$5 per night

**Contact:** Lynne Scott, 04 565 0164 [lynne@scott.gen.nz](mailto:lynne@scott.gen.nz)

### Contradance with Chilli Jam

**When:** 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month, 7:30 pm

**Where:** St Michael's Parish Hall, Kelburn

**Cost:** \$15 waged adult, \$10 unwaged adult or child and \$30 for a family.

**Contact:** [kevinmcl12@gmail.com](mailto:kevinmcl12@gmail.com)

### Finn's Cafe Open Mic Nights

When: 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month, 7.30 pm. This is a really popular night and a great way to meet other musicians. Hosted by Danilo.  
Where: Finn's Cafe Bar, 2 Beach Rd, Paekakariki.

### International Folkdancing

When: Every Wednesday from February to December, 7.30 to 9.15  
Where: Tarrant Dance Studios, 125 Cuba St, Wellington  
Contact: Cashy Yates (04) 569 1618 [cashy@ihug.co.nz](mailto:cashy@ihug.co.nz)

### Kapiti Live Music Club

When: 2nd Wednesday of the month, an acoustic social evening for listening and/or singing and playing, from 7:30.  
Where: Paul and Kimbra's; 3 Jade Lane, Paraparaumu. Off the east end Mazengarb Road as it changes name and turns toward Kapiti Road.  
Contact: [enquiry@klmc.org.nz](mailto:enquiry@klmc.org.nz) and <http://www.klmc.org.nz>

### Kelburn Pub Live Music

When: Live music every Sunday 3-5 pm.  
Sunday Roots on the first Sunday of each Month, 4-7pm. Hosted by Pip Payne and featuring a different guest artist each month. Details 'Sunday roots' on Facebook.  
Contact: Pip Payne if you want to perform - 027 654 5419.

### Levin Folk Club

When: 2nd Friday of month, 7.30 pm, blackboard concert plus guest artist.  
Entry: Members \$5, Non-Members \$10, Children \$3 (includes supper)  
4th Friday of month, 7.30 pm, acoustic night. \$2  
Where: Horowhenua, Scottish Society and Pipe Band hall, cnr Bartholomew Rd and Middlesex St.  
Contact: Barbara Lucas [bmserendipity@gmail.com](mailto:bmserendipity@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.levin-folk-music-club.org.nz](http://www.levin-folk-music-club.org.nz)

### Mainly Acoustic Music Club

When: (Mostly) every 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm  
Where: Mayfair Cafe, 116 Main Street, Upper Hutt  
Contact: Kevin & Sue Meehan (04) 970 4008  
For enquiries or newsletter email [harrier@paradise.net.nz](mailto:harrier@paradise.net.nz)

Morris dancing: Dave Barnes <http://www.morrisdancing.org.nz/>

### Music and Poetry at the Metro

When: Second Sunday of the month, 3.30pm to 6pm  
Where: Metropolitan Restaurant and Bar Lydney Place Porirua  
Cost: free  
Contact: Phil McConnell: [musicandpoetryatthemetro@gmail.com](mailto:musicandpoetryatthemetro@gmail.com) Phone (04) 237 9902 or 027 786 5542 [www.facebook.com/music.metrobar](http://www.facebook.com/music.metrobar)

### Pukerua Bay Folk Club

When: 1st Thursday of month, 8 pm  
Where: 9 Donlin Rd, Pukerua Bay  
Contact: Murray or Julie Kilpatrick, (04) 239 9951, [julmur@paradise.net.nz](mailto:julmur@paradise.net.nz)



Wellington Bluegrass Society

When: 3rd Friday of month, 8.00 pm

Where: 54 Richmond Street, Petone

Contact: Andrew Bicknell, (04)477 0069, [bluegrass@paradise.net.nz](mailto:bluegrass@paradise.net.nz)  
[http:// wellingtonbluegrass.net.nz/](http://wellingtonbluegrass.net.nz/)

Wellington Scottish Fiddle Club

When: Varies, but mostly monthly around the first Sunday

Where: Depends on who is hosting it this time! A club for learning tunes in the traditional "by ear" style, it welcomes fiddlers of all levels.

Cost: Mostly free

Contact: Iain Matcham, ph 04 568 8635 email [iain@jumbletree.com](mailto:iain@jumbletree.com)