

The Balladeer

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

Acoustic  *Routes*

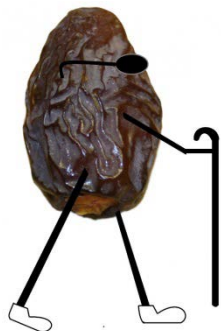
www.acousticroutes.org.nz

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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 Blind Date Concert, Roseneath School Hall, Thursday 23 June, 7:30 pm



The Blind Date (conceived of by one Jenny Kilpatrick, some years ago now) has become something of an institution at Acoustic Routes – well, a habit at least! – and affords great enjoyment to all as contestants perform in random line-ups of two, three or four musicians put together by the organiser Murray Kilpatrick.

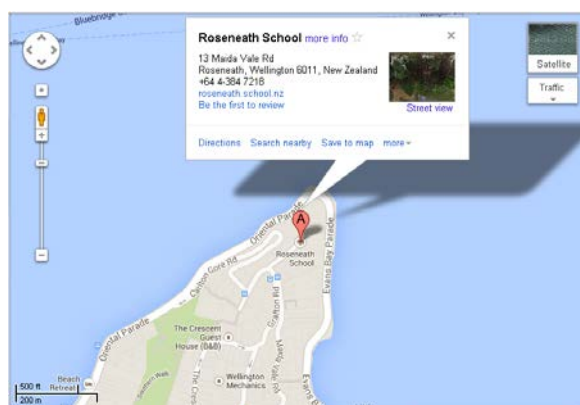
This time, the concert offers not only this year's plucky entrants giving it their best (with only about six weeks in which to forge a musical relationship and create a set to perform in public), but a peek at what some of last year's Daters have been up to since then. You can bank on a touch of bluegrass, a dollop of folk, a dash of blues, and who knows what else...

There'll be music, there'll be costumes, there'll be laughs, there'll be prizes – so come along and cheer on this year's Daters and enjoy an informal evening of fun amongst friends, hosted by the redoubtable Roy McGuiness.

Entry \$10 members, \$15 non-members, \$5 performers

[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. AR Sunday Singaround, Alfred's Art Space Petone, Sunday 12 June, 5-7 pm

Come along to this lovely venue and share your favourite numbers with other local musicians. Hosted by Murray Kilpatrick. Coffee and tea are provided. Entry, a gold coin for the koha bowl.

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



3. Pres sez



Hello everyone – kia ora katoa

Now that the winter is upon us Acoustic Routes activities are thinning out somewhat – I think it's generally recognised that in the cold, dark months of the year people are more reluctant to go out and about, especially in the evenings – but opportunities for different musical getting-together will occur over the next little while, such as the Strathean weekend that Julie Kilpatrick alerts you to elsewhere in this issue, and events in the greater Wellington region marking Matariki.

The Balladeer is the place for you to report back to others on these events, as well as to tell us all what you're listening to, what new folk performers you have discovered recently, and so on – and also, now's the time to reflect on what you'd like Acoustic Routes to be doing in the next twelve months, as we approach the time for this year's AGM (we are planning for a meeting at the end of July, but there will be notices given out about it nearer the time). The folk music world of Aotearoa, just as in other comparable countries, needs to be constantly adapting to the changing cultural environment – but not, I think, giving in to it. This takes thought and energy and commitment – which sounds heavy-duty, but what comes out of that is great fun and a sense of belonging to something that really matters, eh?

Ka kite ano - Pamela

4. Strathean 'Folk' Weekend, 212 Old Hautere Road Otaki, 15-17 July



You are invited to the 2016 Folkus Weekend at Strathean for a weekend of music and good company. This is an opportunity for musicians to get together to share their music, ideas and playing techniques in a comfortable, informal setting.

Arrive from 6.00 pm Friday 15th and depart by mid-afternoon Sunday 17th.

Strathean is a comfortable country house set in a tranquil country garden. There is a large lounge with an open fire and plenty of room for relaxing and playing music. There is basic sleeping accommodation for 28 people in a variety of single and shared rooms. We can accommodate a few extras in camper vans. The large kitchen is well set up with crockery, cutlery and utensils. BYO wine glasses. We will provide tea, coffee, milk, etc, and soup for tea on Friday evening.

Programme

Friday night Informal socialising, singing and music making
Saturday daytime Voluntary workshops (contact me if you would like to run one),
sessions, singarounds
Saturday night Shared meal, informal concert, music making

What to Bring

Sleeping bags or bedding and pillows, towels
Instruments, song books and music
Food to contribute towards the shared meal on Saturday night
Food of your choice for your own breakfasts and lunches
Liquid refreshment of your choice

Because accommodation is limited people will be booked in strictly in the order that they reply. Be in quick, because we are already half full. No need to pay in advance. Julie will try to allocate beds according to peoples wishes but please understand that this is not always possible. Day visitors are welcome.

Cost: \$100.00 for the full weekend; \$50.00 one night; \$20.00 day visitors;
\$30.00 day visitors staying for Saturday night meal.

To reserve your place of for more information please contact Julie or Murray Kilpatrick, email Julie.k@paradise.net.nz or phone 04 239 9951.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Julie

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5. Review, Mike Harding Concert, 28 April

We had a good turnout on April's regular club night to hear Mike Harding, with supporting spots from Deb Harding (accompanied by Mike, Lisa and Jude Douglas) and from Toil & Trouble (Ron Craig, Jude Douglas and Mary Hubble).

After a few microphone issues, Deb & crew decided to go acoustic and proceeded to sing the very poignant *Pinjarra Dreams*, from Chris While & Julie Matthews *Ballads of Child Migration*. Deb and Lisa's beautifully blended harmonies were given very sensitive accompaniment by Mike on guitar and Jude on fiddle. This was followed by *Moon Cradle* (Loreena McKennitt), also very easy on the ear, and, with a little extra help (as well as an audience which needed no prompting to join in) a very satisfying rendition of *Bread and Roses*, with some very slight variations on the lyrics I have known, but for the better in my opinion.

Deb & friends were followed by one of Wellington's many pop-up groups, which is not to suggest that they're ephemeral, more that new combinations are always being formed. This group – Toil & Trouble – consists of Ron Craig (guitar & vocals), Jude Douglas (fiddle & vocals) and Mary Hubble (vocals, flute and bionic hip), quality ingredients for a good brew and they certainly delivered. We were treated to a mixture of songs and tunes, giving all three a chance to take centre stage. Ron led off with *Hidden love* (Peter Case), also taking the lead later on Dick Gaughan's very moving *Different Kind of Love Song* and on *The Loneliest* (Stuart Abbott, John

McCusker & Heidi Talbot). Jude & Mary featured their instruments on John McCusker's *Anne McGuire's Silver Wedding* and *Emma & Jamie's Wedding*, and Mary took the lead on (an old favourite of mine) *The Shores of Old Blighty* (Graham Miles). I was torn between basking in the lovely harmonies and joining in on that one (surprise – I joined in). Once again the combination of lovely voices, sensitive accompaniment and good material made for very enjoyable listening.

And what can I say about Mike? We were treated to a combination of oldies – starting with *Eketahuna*, which got everyone joining in and bringing out their smiling selves, set to enjoy what was to come – and less familiar (to me anyway) numbers such as Mike's own evocative songs *South West* and *West (the Coast)*. Ideas like "a piece of the mountains in every grain of sand" and "winding back the sun" really pull you into the songs.



Mike's voice handles with ease the humorous (a 1930s Victoria Tramping Club song about double bunking, and a song about an unfortunate Stratford policewoman who stranded her car on railway tracks while in pursuit of a malefactor) to the serious (*Down in the Brunner Mine*, *Alexander Whisker's Song* – this latter set by Bev Young) to the poignant *Old Flames* (Harding) and Wayne Gillespies's *Invercargill*.

The songs took us all over the country from up north (*Alexander Whisker's Song*) via Pakuranga (Kath Tait's *Poor Dim Sally*), the *Banks of the Waikato* (Phil Garland), Eketahuna, Stratford, *Paekakariki* (Ken Avery), Wellington (*Coffee Bar Blues* by Peter Cape), West Coast, Arrowsmith (*Ghosts of Arrowsmith* – a Dennis Hogan poem set to music by Read Hudson), to Te Anau, Invercargill and anywhere in between (Phil Powers' *Denim Blues* and David McKee-Wright's *While the Billy Boils*). Truly a feast of New Zealand history and music, with every course a treat, delivered in Mike's rich voice with just the right level of accompaniment to compliment the songs, and with a warmth and lightness of touch which made for a very smiley drive home.

Sue Hirst

6. Review, Other Roads Concert, 12 May

To say that the weather was inclement last Thursday would be an understatement – it was wild - and the brave who ventured out to the Other Roads concert were treated to an evening of excellent music.

The evening opened with **Helen Dorothy** presenting a lovely set of songs, mostly about the natural world, as observed and written about in her charming style. Who would have thought it possible to sing about a giant squid with sympathy and beautiful atmospheric guitar? It was good to hear songs from her new cd but also to meet again some old friends like "The Eucalyptus Man". Helen uses her voice and guitar to great effect and her disarming manner on stage ensures her audience of a rewarding experience.

Then **Other Roads** took the stage and gave us another reward for making the effort to get to Roseneath. The group is blessed with a range of voices which provide rich and warm harmonies as well as accomplished musicianship on guitar, mandolin, bouzouki and particularly fiddle on the part of Gregor Borland. His skill on that instrument was manifest in the beautiful solo "Island Trio" and in his sympathetic treatment when accompanying songs.



Their song writing is assured and imaginative, apart from the self-confessed lack of wit with regard to titles, which was an ongoing joke. My particular favourite was "Rosemary's Garden" and Dave Walmisley especially proved adept at being able to write songs to move the listener. Other Roads are great entertainers and their stage manner and easy involvement of their audience makes them firm favourites. An evening with them is one well spent.

John and Susan Sutherland

7. Review, Springtide Concert, 26 May

Springtide and more -

Last Thursday night, Roseneath school hall was festooned with a truly wonderful array of instruments and performers. A feast of music awaited us. I have it on good authority from a regular that the audience was a great turnout. (Thanks, Robin)

First up was **AGM** or **Awesome Gurdy Machine** a quintet of three on hurdy gurdies with Dominic Rowsell, Merrilyn Moonen and Philippa Boy joined by Liz Merton on percussion and Tim Barrie on Oud. We were treated to unique sounds and music evoking far off countries and times. Included in the set was French, Turkish and Spanish sephardic music. One piece in particular was played at breathtaking speed, the three gurdies keeping amazing time together. Probably the highlight for me was an exquisite taxim that Tim and Liz started, with the gurdies then joining in echoing the oud. Throughout the performance Liz was full of fun, energy and expert drumming leaving the gurdy players free to power up their gurdies and go for it. Nice to see Dominic, a younger supporter of Acoustic Routes, performing on stage.

Then in wonderful contrast, singer/songwriter **Nigel Parry** performed New Zealand songs, some of them originals. His delivery of words, voice and guitar was beautifully crafted. Amongst the songs written by Nigel "Nine pairs of eyes", a personal favourite of mine, records the history of the whaling family the Peranos. He was lucky enough to meet the members of the Perano family on his recent tour of the South Island.

A tea break in which to chat then on to the main act, **Springtide**, a trio from Australia who come to us on their tour of the North Island. We were so lucky to have the opportunity to hear them. Hammered dulcimer player Jackie Luke grew up in the Waikato. She was joined by Greg Wilson on Celtic harp & accordions and

innovative cellist Rita Woolhouse. They produced a repertoire that featured Celtic classics (e.g. O'Carolan, Dougie McLean) interwoven with music from around the world. They also write their own tunes, and Jackie's songs reflect her Kiwi heritage. One in particular that stood out for me was about the tragic 1863 Orpheus shipwreck in the Manukau Harbour. It was written from the point of view of the figurehead on the prow of the ship. Jackie's words were original, well-chosen and poignant with a family connection adding extra depth and meaning. The three Springtide performers are masters on their instruments, each taking their turn to wow us. There was humour and toe-tapping, beauty and tragedy. We were even treated to a song from Lord of the Rings.

If you missed the night, I hope this tells you something of what was and is the wonderful welcoming box of chocolates that is Acoustic Routes. If you were there, then I am sure you have your own delightful memories of the evening.

Sue Rose

8. Balladeer music noticeboard

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

a) **The Thistle Traditional Folk Music Session, Monday 6 June, 6:30-8:30 pm**

Here's an open invitation to musicians (and listeners) to gather to play together in the main bar of this historic pub. Contact: Liz Auchinvole thistle.session@gmail.com

b) **Monthly Blackboard Concert, Plimmerton Boating Club, Thursday 9 June, 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.

c) **Trad Singing Session, Upstairs at the Sprig and Fern, Thorndon, Monday 13 June, 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

d) **Jo & Helen House Concert, Margaret Pullar and John Hutton's Home, 129 Mairangi Road Wilton, Saturday 18 June, 7:30pm**



Jo Sheffield hails from Levin while Helen Stewart comes from Pirongia in the Waikato. They are a new duo who were inspired by the love of the folk singer songwriter Kate Wolf, to just give it a go and start singing together and to see what transpires.

Jo plays guitar and mandolin while Helen also plays guitar and tinkers with an old banjo.

Their repertoire combines a mix of contemporary covers also original songs with some traditional folk thrown in for good measure, all enriched by their distinctive

harmonies. Bring a cushion just in case. \$10 at the door, with tea and coffee at the break. Contact Helen Ph: 0276828190 or email: helenstewart@no8wireless.co.nz or Margaret Ph: 04 971600

e) Newtown Acoustic Sound Special Concert, Mary Watson & Peter Edmanson, Office Bar Newtown 19 June, 7 pm

Mary has been the lead singer of Noir for many years and Peter was guitarist in her band (and is now branching out into solo acoustic), but they reunite for this one night special performance at NAS. So be early to grab your seats. This promises to be an excellent evening.



Open mic from 530 pm, main act starting about 7pm. Entry by Koha

Sessions upstairs at the Office Bar, Sunday 12 and 26 June (no Session on the 5th because of Queen's Birthday Weekend), 5:30 - 800 pm.
newtownacousticssound@gmail.com

f) Re-Release of the Album 'Down a Country Road'

Kiwi-Pacific Records will be releasing the newly digitised album of 'Down A Country Road' at the Folk Under The Mountain Folk Festival this coming May. Two of the original backing musicians are no longer with us, having passed on in recent times. This album serves as a tribute to the huge musical talent of the late great Alistair Hulett, still a teenager in 1970, who is featured here playing concertina and penny whistle along with the late wonderful musician and friend Dave Hart, who not only played on the early recording, but also added some more of his musical expertise to further enhance the songs again in 2013.

Since the album's initial release in 1971, a couple of songs developed a life of their own - 'Smoko' winning best new bush song for the Australian Bush Band 'Leaping Lizards' in the 1980s, while 'Farewell To The Grey' can be regularly heard as part of the West Coast Goldfields media presentation at the Hokitika Museum. Although half of the tracks have been preserved as originally recorded, the remainder have been enhanced by the addition of some further sympathetic accompaniment. The newly digitised CD also features two new tracks, which were recorded around the same time frame helping to give the album a more rounded presentation of our Kiwi folk music heritage.

g) 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

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

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.

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

11. Acoustic Routes Contacts

President: Pamela Gerrish Nunn president@acousticroutes.org.nz

Correspondence: Emma Hart secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz

Treasurer/Membership: Sue Ikin treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz

Balladeer: Philippa Boy balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz

Acoustic Routes update email: Gerard Hudson publicity@acousticroutes.org.nz

Performance opportunities: performers@acousticroutes.org.nz

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

Website: www.acousticroutes.org.nz

Facebook: 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, 4th 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

Contradance with Chilli Jam

When: 4th 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

Finn's Cafe Open Mic Nights

When: 4th 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

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 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
Website: 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

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 Phone (04) 237 9902 or 027 786 5542 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

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
[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