

# The Balladeer

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

*Acoustic*  *Routes*

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

## August 2016: in this issue

1. Young Folk concert, featuring Ruth Mundy, Ceara McAuliffe Bickerton and Skye Chadwick, Roseneath School Hall, Thursday 25 August, 7:30 pm
2. Pres sez
3. Riverslea Retreat, Otaki Gorge Road, 26-28 August
4. Farewell and thanks to Alfred's Artspace
5. The 2016 Joan Prior Young Performers Award
6. Wellington Folk Festival 2016, 21-24 October
7. Review, Wai Tai concert, 28 July
8. Review, Kiwi Folk evening at the Thistle Inn, 1 August
9. Acoustic Routes membership for 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017
10. Balladeer music noticeboard
11. Are you ready to perform?
12. About Acoustic Routes
13. Acoustic Routes contacts
14. Other regular folk events/contacts in the region

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

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

# 1. Young Folk concert, Roseneath School Hall, Thursday 25 August, 7:30 pm



Ruth Mundy is a story-singer whose songs will simultaneously make you smile and break your heart. With folk, protest, and indie influences, Ruth combines frank lyrics with sweet melodies. Ruth has recently recording her debut EP 'Don't Be A Monster' and is enjoying performing in some of Wellington's best loved institutions, including The Southern Cross, The Fringe Bar, Wellington Museum, and the Wellington Folk Festival.

Ruth will be touring during the year ahead, sharing her heartfelt, honest, funny, political, and above all beautiful songs with audiences across New Zealand. To find more, check her out on facebook [www.facebook.com/ruthmundymusic](http://www.facebook.com/ruthmundymusic)

Skye Chadwick was born and bred in Lower Hutt. Originally classically trained in violin, Skye stumbled upon her first folk festival aged 11, and there was no turning back. Incidentally this was also where she collided with Ceara McAuliffe Bickerton for the first time. Skye enjoys playing diverse styles of music, including folk, Celtic, gypsy, and classical.



Hailing from Nelson, New Zealand, Ceara McAuliffe Bickerton is known for her lively performances of Irish traditional music. Growing up in a musical family, Ceara has spent the majority of her life performing with a range of musicians at different concerts and festivals around the country.

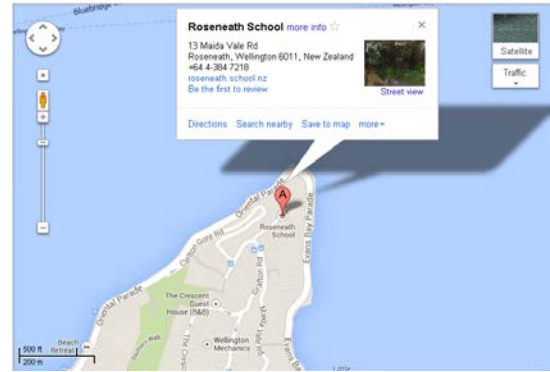
If you are (or know of) a young Wellington musician who'd like the opportunity to play a few numbers to start the evening off, we'd love to hear from you. See our facebook page for more details. <https://www.facebook.com/Acoustic-Routes-89128457590/home>

Please note: this concert is not part of the Joan Prior Young Performers Award – check the details for this year's award below – but it is intended to promote this year's award and stimulate interest among young singers and musicians.

**Admission \$10 members, \$15 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. Pres sez

Hi Everyone

Well, I must say it comes as some surprise to me to be writing to you as the President of Acoustic Routes. My intention to stand only really crystallised moments before the election when it was put to me that I could either be secretary or president, and I've been secretary before, so that wasn't very appealing! Joking aside, I have been thinking about it on and off for a couple of years now, and last weekend, it suddenly seemed as if this might be the right time for me to have another stint at decision-making regarding the club, and in fact, to take a lead role. Only time will tell if I'm right, I guess!

My first duty must be to thank the out-going Committee, and in particular Pam, for navigating us through the past year. It hasn't been an easy one and I take my hat off to the Committee for trying different ways to meet the club's goals and help keep folk music alive and well in Wellington. I wish Pam well on her adventures in Memphis – we had a lengthy handover session last night, and I know how committed you are to the club and its well-being, Pam, so I hope you keep in touch! Some of the other Committee members who have passed on the reins have served for a long time and it will seem strange without them, but they've all offered to help!

Your incoming Committee is also very passionate and keen to take the club to new levels – new members are Madeleine Ashworth, Kevin McLoughlin, and David Fowler, and Liz Auchinvole has taken up the role of treasurer. Annie van Herck has agreed to stay on and will be taking a back seat for the first few months whilst away overseas, and Emma Hart has agreed to stay on as secretary. Our first meeting today had plenty of lively debate and discussion of things we'd like to try, so watch this space.

Congratulations to Alan Downes who is this year's winner of the J A Pan trophy for the member who has shown the most improvement over the year – we look forward to having him perform at Acoustic Routes again very soon.

Looking ahead, we have some great events coming up – a young performers' night this month to promote the Joan Prior award followed by Riverslea Retreat, Karen Jones and Tony Burt in September and two special events in October – more details in the Balladeer, on the website and on Facebook as they come to hand.

Till then, kia kaha, and keep the music live!

Janette

### 3. Farewell and Thanks to Alfred's Artspace

The monthly Sunday singaround that Murray Kilpatrick set up at Alfred Memelink's Artspace in Petone will not run any more. A lot of people have had a lot of fun at these sessions, and Acoustic Routes is grateful not only to Murray for the idea and the commitment he showed to making it happen, but also to Alfred who lent the space and was a great host. The club remains committed to providing opportunities for performance and will be looking for alternatives to offer you in the future.



Pamela

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

### 4. Riverslea Retreat, Otaki Gorge Road, 26-28 August

The Riverslea Retreat is an annual highlight of the Acoustic Routes calendar. A great opportunity to drive away the winter blues with warm company and wonderful music.



Located on the Otaki Gorge Road, Riverslea can accommodate up to 37 people, including people with disabilities and mobility problems. The lounge has a cosy log fire - a lovely room to play and socialize in. There is also a great kitchen and dining area.

Tea, coffee and milo are provided and there will be a shared meal on Saturday night. Pillow, pillow case and bottom sheet are provided on the bunks.

Charges are \$48 per night and \$25 for a day visitor. Please contact Anne McGregor to register: [annemcgregor@xtra.co.nz](mailto:annemcgregor@xtra.co.nz) or 2338567. No payments please until after 1 July 2016 due to a change in accounting requirements. Anne is happy to take payment on the weekend.

## 5. The 2016 Joan Prior Young Performers Award



The Joan Prior Young Performers Award, which Acoustic Routes initiated in 2014, will be running again this year.

Joan was an inspiration to generations of singers, musicians and dancers around Wellington from the late 1950s. Originally from northern England, she was dubbed 'The Johnsonville Songthrush', and had a huge repertoire of mainly British folksong. After she died in 2010 her family donated her collection of instruments, recordings and memorabilia to Acoustic Routes, and this enabled us to set up the award in her name.

The award is open to solo or duo performers aged from 15 to 25 years on August 1st 2016 and resident in the Wellington area, and offers a prize of \$500.

It will be run slightly differently in 2016. Instead of having two stages, with Acoustic Routes hosting an initial concert of entrants followed by the final at Wellington Folk Festival, this year the award will be a fully integrated part of the festival. There will be a single concert at the festival where the award entrants will perform, with a panel of judges selecting the winner. The aim is to simplify the award arrangements and to attract more entries, especially from the growing number of young performers who are attending the festival.

Full details, with conditions and entry form, will be posted on the Acoustic Routes and Wellington Folk Festival websites and associated Facebook pages shortly. In the meantime, you can help get the ball rolling by telling eligible young performers about the award and the very nice prize at stake.

For more information contact Kevin Ikin, ph 4784-160 or [kevin.ikin@clear.net.nz](mailto:kevin.ikin@clear.net.nz)

## 6. Wellington Folk Festival 2016, 21-24 October

You'll be able to buy tickets and book bunks for the 2016 Festival very soon. Make sure you keep an eye on the website [www.wellingtonfolkfestival.org.nz](http://www.wellingtonfolkfestival.org.nz) and the Facebook page: [Wellyfest](#). There will be a limited number of bunks so make sure you get in quick. There will be new options for payment this year and earlybird prices. You'll also be able to prebook and prepay for day and evening tickets - makes it much easier at the gate and we will not have EFTPOS at the gate.

Look at the website to see the great line up of guests including JoJo Smith, Goodland Trio, and of course The Jimmies celebrating 30 years of being a terrific Ceilidh dance band. People's Choice competition opens soon too: Never had a paid gig at Wellyfest? now's your chance - just like Wellyfest Facebook Page get a video of your performance ready and watch out for the competition .

## 7. Review, Wai Tai concert, with support from The PJs and Chris Moses, 28 July

There's a key word to sum up this concert, and that's 'relevancy'. The offerings from all three acts were strong on songs about issues that are all too relevant in today's world. Chris Moses, who opened the night, is a local singer and guitarist who was a highlight of the AR open mic at the Thunderbird while it was running and is also a regular at the Plimmerton Yacht Club open mic nights. Chris has a powerful and percussive guitar style that drives his songs, commenting on the social problems that beset people, as well as issues such as colonialism. His set at this concert included a couple of more tender songs as well. Chris's guitar style and song writing have the same appeal for me as the mighty Paul Ubana Jones.

The PJs are Pamela Gerrish Nunn and Jenny Kilpatrick, who gave us a nicely chosen selection of songs, both traditional and contemporary. Instrumentation was limited to occasional bass or recorder accompaniment from Jenny. Singing is their forte. Their voices blend wonderfully well and the harmonies they produce are very fine indeed. Their other strength is their repertoire. Their songs, whether old or new, are pertinent and that's something the audience truly appreciated. Of particular note, for me, were Leon Rosselson's haunting commentary on the appalling Aberfan disaster "Palaces of Gold", Lynn Clark's anti-nuclear peace song, "Send the Boats Away", which I hadn't heard for ages, and one I especially enjoyed as a tree-hugger of old: "Branching Out", a song about the mystery and magic of trees.

It was the PJs' second last performance before Pam heads to the US to take up a visiting professorship at Memphis University. They were the main act at Pukerua Bay this week too. We wish Pam all the best for the next year.

To wrap up a very satisfying night, we had Wai Tai, a group which plays songs and tunes blending Maoritanga with folk traditions. The core of Wai Tai are Robyn Kamira, a singer, songwriter and guitarist (and banjo-ukelele player) who hails from the Far North and Krissie Jackson, a top-notch fiddler as well as singer from Taranaki, who we previously saw with the Frank Burkitt band at Acoustic Routes last year. Their line-up at this concert included Luther Hunt on percussion.

Wai Tai, which translates as 'Ocean Water', describe their music as 'contemporary waiata fused into world sounds' and that, I think, is an apt description. Their set included a tune with Irish-French origins, a Middle-eastern flavoured tune which combined Krissie's fiddle and Robyn's banjo-ukelele. But at the heart of their repertoire are songs in Te Reo, from contemporary as well as traditional sources. They included one with lyrics from Robyn's grandfather and three compositions from the masterly Hirini Melbourne, a teacher of both Robyn and Krissie, who made the promotion of Te Reo through music a mission in his life.

Wai Tai's weaving together of language and instruments was a joy and hearing their songs in Te Reo soon after Maori Language Week reinforced the relevancy of the night. I'm looking forward to seeing them again at Wellyfest this year.

Kevin Ikin



## 8. Review, Kiwi Folk evening at the Thistle Inn, 1 August

For the first time in living memory, the oldest pub in New Zealand hosted an exclusively Kiwi Folk Session, on the first Monday of this month.

Underpinned by Acoustic Routes members, more than a dozen tradition bearers and current songwriters in our own folk tradition sat around the fire and entertained the Thistle Inn patrons. Special mention goes to the flying wedge of Otago emigres to Wellington, whose deep knowledge of the songs added a special flavour. That would be Sue Harkness, Jude Madill and the blokes named Kevin.

The photos show the spirit of the evening and feedback from the singers was really positive.



Photo: Sarah Duckworth

Photos: Janette Wallace-Gedge

And a very special traddie event not to be missed is Phil Garland's concert on Thursday 13 October, being hosted by Acoustic Routes as part of his final tour.

Neils Gedge

## 9. Acoustic Routes membership, July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

It's that time again! Subscriptions are due for the 2016/7 financial year. The subscription form follows and can also be found on the website.

Please note that if you paid a half year sub sometime between December and May you need to pay a new subscription for the full year.

## Acoustic Routes membership, July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017

Single	\$25
Double/family (children under 18)	\$40
Other (Student, life member partners, beneficiaries)	\$15

### What being a member gives you

- An annual programme of concerts by top-class musicians
- Regular performance opportunities at a range of other musical events
- Regular communications about what's on - all put together by a Committee elected by you
- a Membership Card that provides:
  - Discounted entry to club events and concerts
  - Discounted entry to participating folk clubs
  - Discounts on selected items at Alistair's Music, Cuba Street
  - Voting rights at the AGM or any subsequent SGM

### Payment options

1. Complete this form and post it with a cheque made out to Wellington Folk Centre, P.O. Box 27-191 Marion Square WELLINGTON 6141
2. Pay by internet banking to 'Wellington Folk Centre Inc.': ANZ account 01 0505 0182241 00 (*ensure your name is included for reference*) and simultaneously forward your details (as below) to [treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz).
3. Hand your form plus payment to a committee member at an Acoustic Routes event.

**If you do not already get The Balladeer and email update please register for them on the home page of [www.acousticroutes.org.nz](http://www.acousticroutes.org.nz)**

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PLEASE COMPLETE: many thanks for your support

Amount paid:        \$\_\_\_\_\_ Choose one: Single, Double /Family, Other

Donation:            \$\_\_\_\_\_ (Wellington Folk Centre is a registered charity and donations of \$5.00 or more are tax-deductible. A receipt will be issued.)

Payment has been made by cheque/direct credit/other

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR CURRENT E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_



## 10. 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 5 September, 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](mailto:thistle.session@gmail.com)

**b) Trad Singing Session, Upstairs at the Sprig and Fern, Thorndon, Monday 8 August, 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) Monthly Blackboard Concert, Plimmerton Boating Club, Thursday 11 August, 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.

**d) 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)

## 11. 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)

## 12. 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.

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)

## 13. Acoustic Routes Contacts

**President:** Janette Munneke [president@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:president@acousticroutes.org.nz)

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

**Treasurer/Membership:** Liz Auchinvole [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/Acoustic-Routes/89128457590/home](http://www.facebook.com/Acoustic-Routes/89128457590/home)

## 14. 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

#### 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)