The Balladeer

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



www.acousticroutes.org.nz



Applications are now open for the AR 2016 Joan Prior Young Performers Award. See details below

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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. Tony Burt and Karen Jones concert, Roseneath School Hall, Sunday 25 September, 7:30 pm



Tony Burt and Karen Jones bring together a unique blend of instruments and music that crosses the boundaries of Celtic and Americana traditions.

Tony has adapted airs and fiddle tunes for the Dobro and weissenborn to accompany Karen's exquisite harp performance and blistering paced guitar fuelled Scottish jigs.

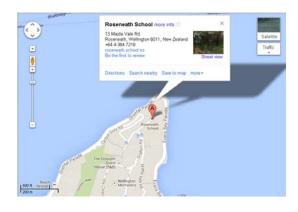
Meanwhile Karen took up the challenge to adapt the Celtic guitar style and apply it to fast rousing bluegrass, Americana tunes and Tony's original compositions.

The idea was experimental at first to see how the Dobro and Celtic Harp sounded together and the rest is history as together they bring a fusion of music and performance not to be missed.

Admission \$15 members, \$20 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

As you may know, I'm currently overseas for a few weeks and missing a couple of Acoustic Routes concerts. I was delighted to hear that the Young Folk concert was a great success, and that Ruth and the other young folk performed very well. Many thanks to the Committee and to Kevin Ikin for all their organisation of that event.

I've spent the last few days having a very folkie time here in the UK – managed with huge determination to beat the jetlag long enough to see Karine Polwart's concert, Wind Resistance, at the Edinburgh Festival. I can't think of enough superlatives to

describe how amazing it was – a great combination of storytelling and songs and music; very moving and beautiful. I felt I'd had almost enough of a boost from that one show to turn around and come home again – but I'm glad I didn't because I wouldn't have seen Dick Gaughan's concert later that week, or got to the Towersey Festival, where I had the great pleasure of seeing lots of 'old friends', including Jez Lowe, Nancy Kerr & James Fagan, Chris Sherburn & Denny Bartley, and Kris Drever & Ian Carr. Some tremendous talent on that stage.

And we have some great talent coming up in Wellington too. I'm sorry to be missing our September concert with Karen Jones and Tony Burt who may be known to some of you. I saw them at the Thunderbird Cafe not long ago, and really enjoyed their kind of fusion of musical traditions and styles. I'm sure it will be a great night.

As you'll also see later in this issue, we're very excited to have a new Open Mic venue at The Office in Newtown, kicking off on the second Sunday of September. More planned for October and November so keep an eye out for updates and on the website. To be sure of getting members' rates for these events, make sure you join up for the new year if you haven't already.

Keep the music live!

Janette

3. AR Open Mic is Back, Upstairs at "The Office", Newtown, Sunday 11 September, 5:30-8 pm.



Thanks to a kind offer from the Newtown Acoustic Sound organisers, Acoustic Routes will be able to start running a monthly open mic session again from September.

As you know, we had to end our open mic at Thunderbird Cafe earlier this year, but with the intention of resurrecting it when the opportunity arose.

Alan and Vivien Downes and Janine Mitchell, who started up Newtown Acoustic Sound on Sundays about a year ago, have invited Acoustic Routes to host an open mic on one Sunday each month and that will start on the second Sunday of September.

It's in the upstairs room at "The Office" bar in Newtown's main street, Riddiford St, just south of the intersection with Rintoul St. Those of you who have been there before will know it's a great space for live music, free of the usual cafe clatter, but with drink and food available from the bar downstairs.

So come along and check it out, bring an instrument, play some songs or relax and listen.

Contact: kevin.ikin@clear.net.nz

4. Calling all young performers aged 15-25 years



Applications are now open for the Joan Prior Young Performers Award



Acoustic Routes established the award three years ago in honour of Joan Prior, who was an inspirational and much-loved member of the Wellington folk community for 30 years. Previous winners have been Flix Rose in 2014 and Daniel White last year. The award is well worth going for, with a \$500 prize for the winner.

The arrangements for the award have been simplified and this year it will be a fully integrated part of the Wellington Folk Festival. There will be a single concert at the festival where the entrants will perform, with a panel of judges selecting the winner.

The Young Performers Award is open to solo or duo performers aged from 15 to 25 on 30 September 2016, resident in the Wellington region. It is open to singers and instrumentalists, and to performers of traditional as well as contemporary and original material. The judges will be looking for material that fits the wide range of acoustic music that is played at folk clubs and festivals.

Full details, with conditions and entry form, are on the Acoustic Routes website www.acousticroutes.org.nz. The deadline for applications is Friday, 30 September, so could you please help to get the word out by telling young singers and musicians about the award, and the \$500 prize.

Any questions? Email: kevin.ikin@clear.net.nz

5.



Brookfields Scout Camp, Wainuomata, 21-24 October

Bookings are now open for the Festival at Labour Weekend. Earlybird Tickets must be paid for by 30 September

Festival guests include:

Jojo Smith from Australia, Goodland Trio from Scandinavia, Catgut & Steel all the way from Dunedin!, The Remarkables from Auckland, WAI.TAI - contemporary

Maori, Rhodeworkz - young talent, Crossing the Borders - featuring some very well-known faces, the Frank Burkitt Band - mostly Wellington, Bill Morris and the Hinterland Band - more Southerners, and from the Terrace in Wellington - Free & Frank. Plus The Jimmies celebrating 30 years of wonderful ceilidh music on Saturday night. Plus the usual open mic concerts, and of course the jam sessions.

This year there's an added extra: a three-hour fiddle/mandolin masterclass with Festival favourite, Lindsay Martin. Lindsay's masterclass is designed to help existing players get better – it's not for beginners – and it is also subject to a separate fee, NOT included in the festival registration. \$60 if you buy a weekend ticket; \$100 if not – first in, first served and very limited numbers so he can give everyone attending individual guidance.

See the website - http://wellingtonfolkfestival.us5.list-manage2.com/track/click?u=3a055f51c317e8c3a0b9d5fcc&id=bb658998ab&e=8ac1f50149 for more details and to register and pay. There's a new ticket system with the facility to pay by credit card or internet banking.

People's Choice competition

Wellyfest People's Choice competition: Your chance to win a paying gig at the festival. Just enter by posting a video to Wellyfest Facebook page and get all your fans to vote for it - one vote every day! Check it out, very simple T&Cs look at the web site for details: must be over age 16 and never had a paying gig at Wellyfest. The video of the performance must include everyone who would be performing and you must all be available to play at the festival.

6. Review, AR Young Folk Concert, 25 August

It's always reassuring to hear young musicians perform, knowing that they are keeping traditional and other forms of acoustic music alive and in good hands. That's why I got such a lift from the Young Folk concert, timed to mark the launch of this year's Joan Prior Young Performers Award. It was a nicely balanced programme, with the first half devoted entirely to instrumental music and the second half featuring the songs of the main guest of the evening, Ruth Mundy.

Opening the night were two new performers, students of local multi-instrumentalist and teacher, Bernard Wells, who backed them on guitar. Oskar Raeburn and Jackie Lamb both played mandolin, but quite different styles of music. Oskar played two relatively complex tunes, one a film theme and the other, a music theme from a game. Jackie focused on standard Celtic tunes in her set and made a very competent job of it too, with her dad, Pete, providing percussion on djembe.

Ending the first half on a high note indeed were Skye Chadwick on fiddle and Ceara McAuliffe Bickerton on flute and whistle. Both are only in their mid-twenties but are already highly polished and seasoned musicians. With the driving force of surprise guest, Gerry Paul, on guitar, they delivered blistering sets of tunes, finishing off with "Thunderhead", a tune with a crazy Balkan rhythm that would have had many a musician at sixes and sevens.

Song writer Ruth Mundy brought a complementary change of pace and style to the second half of the show. Ruth arrived in New Zealand from London only a couple of years ago but has quickly made an impact, winning the People's Choice Award at last year's Wellyfest, and releasing her first EP, "Don't Be a Monster" which includes some of the songs we heard during the night. Ruth is a charming performer, with a simple and uncluttered guitar style that allows the listener to concentrate on her pertinent and well-crafted lyrics, covering themes ranging from personal to political. With songs like "F-----" Tories, there's no doubting where her political sympathies lie, but she had the sensitivity to check with her audience about whether the language in her lyrics would cause offence, before letting fly.

I'm looking forward now to hearing more young folk at the Joan Prior Award and you can read about that elsewhere in The Balladeer.

Kevin Ikin

7. Reviews, Riverslea Retreat, 26-28 August

When Annie asked me to write a few words about the recent Riverslea Music Gathering I thought what am I going to say?



It's been going for centuries, halfway up a mountain pass, always bleak and raining, and the same old codgers - just getting older. Yes all of that – but strangely I'm never disappointed. I actually come away feeling I've been away and refreshed by friends and music of the highest order. Except for, I must add, a bit of Morris crept in at one point this year. But, on the plus side this fantastic location is near perfect for music, because while the kitchen and dining room can resemble a school staffroom at times the really warm and comfy lounge is near silent.

Blessed be the gods - a quiet music location. The lounge is big with soft seats and a perfect place for music performances, to play delicate pieces, or try instrumental combinations without the horrible chatter and clatter common to most festival locations. A few antisocial types played scrabble all weekend, while others went for river walks which just made the music all that much better in the lounge. It all happened at the Riverslea Retreat.

About forty people attended with some new younger faces mingling - thank goodness. I was only joking about the old codgers above (and scrabble players). The bunkrooms and facilities were just perfect for the high Alps conditions outside, as were the shared meals which helped make the whole weekend very enjoyable. Perhaps, I should add this is one of the worst/best kept secrets in the Wellington folk scene calendar. So don't tell anyone and long may it continue.

Julian Ward

Recipe for Riversleigh

<u>Ingredients</u>

A minimum of 30 people (to make up the whanau) 1 x Hostess extraordinaire Plentiful food & drink supplies 1 x shared dish for Saturday's

Pot luck

At least 20 x Guitars

At least 5 x Mandolins

A couple of Ukes

At least 5 x violins

No more than 2 x Banjos

At least 2 Hurdy Gurdys

An assortment of whistles

1 x game of scrabble

An assortment of accordions, squeeze boxes and shakers

Optional: slippers, various knitting needles and balls of wool (for the knitters!)

Nestled under the Tararuas near Otaki Forks, the Riverslea Retreat is a perfect venue for a relaxing weekend. The communal lounge is large enough to comfortably fit in at least 35 people and their various assorted instruments. Add to this a large dining room and communal kitchen, a wide selection of bunk rooms, good pressure in the shower and you are hopefully beginning to form a mental picture.

The cosy fire that burned all weekend was almost as warm as the welcome received from our wonderful hostess, Anne McGregor, both essential to creating a lovely, ambient and convivial atmosphere. Starting on Friday night, beds bagged and cars unloaded, everyone congregated in the lounge for a sing around.



Chief Cooks

Expertly compered by Jan, the circle kept on going round and round until the small hours as we sang and played, (accompanied of course by a wee dram or two for those who wanted). At one point, I noticed we had a 'knitting couch" with three knitters in a line (male and female) their needles clacking away as they listened to the music.













Saturday was a beautiful day, with the native birds adding their own magic to the music being made inside. Some people went walking, whilst others chatted, played music, read books, played scrabble, knitted or just chilled. Others made good use of the sunny outside deck space to play some traddy tunes!

The numbers swelled for Saturday night's Pot luck dinner (an amazing selection and I would defy anyone not to find more than a plate full to please their taste buds).



We were lucky to have Don along, who tinkled away in the background (on the piano of course!) and provided some wonderful lounge music while we were eating and socialising. Then it was more of the same – with everyone having the opportunity to join in the music. The time just flew and all too soon it was time to head off to bed. One of Saturday's highlights for me was "Game of Thrones" played on Hurdy Gurdy's, so thanks to Philippa and Dom for that and mustn't forget Julian's memorable contribution on the dinner gong!

Most people were slow to rise on Sunday morning and while some headed off, others stayed for a leisurely lunch before the clean-up and all too soon, the goodbyes. Riverslea is all about getting together, laughing, having fun, remembering old stories and making new ones, rather than how far you have progressed on your musical journey! As a relative beginner compared with most others, I so appreciate the encouragement everyone gives each other and the inclusive atmosphere means that anyone is welcome to join in.

So, there you have it, the very special recipe for Riversleigh – so more than the sum of its ingredients, more a combination of everyone joining together to make it what it is!

Jo Sheffield

8. 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 refer*ence) and simultaneously forward your details (as below) to 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

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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 F-MAIL ADDRESS:		

9. 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

b) Monthly Blackboard Concert, Plimmerton Boating Club, Thursday 8 September, 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) Loose Caboose, Thunderbird Café, Friday 9 September, 5:30 pm Andrew Delahunty, Chris Prowse and Nick Bollinger will be joining forces under the banner "Loose Caboose" to play a selection of folk blues and other musicana at the Thunderbird Café, 154 Featherston St, Wellington.

d) Trad Singing Session, Upstairs at the Sprig and Fern, Thorndon, Monday 12 September, 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

e) Helen Stewart House Concert, 21 Gordon Road Plimmerton, 17 September, 7:30 pm



Helen Stewart is a contemporary singer songwriter hailing from the Waikato. Her songs have wide appeal, from social issues of the day, to songs about NZ and other parts of the world. She accompanies her really interesting voice with simple finger picking on guitar and more recently on banjo.

You are welcome to arrive from 7.00pm. \$10.00 per person and a small plate to share for supper. BYO drinks. Tea and coffee provided. Bring your instruments for a jam after the concert. As space is

limited, please book by contacting Anne Macgregor on 0274599376 or annemcgregor@xtra.co.nz

This is the latest in the Plimmerton 'Up-Close and Personal' concert series which is hosted either by Anne and Roy, or by Janette and Niels, and which has is a wonderful addition to the local scene.

f) Interested in Playing at the Greytown Country Market?

The Wn Jazz Club has been approached by the Greytown Country Market who are looking for a suitable group to provide live music on the 3rd Sunday of each month

from 9am – 1pm. Interested? Please contact Catherine Whyte direct on mobile 027 359 5199 or email 'greytowncountrymarket@gmail.com'.

g) Local NZ Trad Sessions: A Message From Niels Gedge

After our session focussing on NZ Folk at the Thistle, there is strong support for doing more NZ Trad sessions, with the a consensus that current writers in the NZ Folk tradition should be included with the historic songs.

The Wellyfest committee has offered us a session in the Nelson Lounge at Wellyfest. Check the programme for details. This will be run pretty much as we did at The Thistle, unless people put forward other ideas. Liz Auchinvole, who organises the Thistle trad sessions, has offered us quarterly session on the first Mondays from November (but the pub won't be open on Waitangi Day). So the next NZ Trad Folk sessions will be 7 November, 13 February, and 1 May. I can bring my BOSE sound system, which takes a mic and one amplified instrument, so we can have some cutthrough over the pub noise. Start time 6:30 pm. Please send me the names of your songs in advance, and the words if you would like me to circulate them so people can sing along.

Of course we'll be in need of another NZ traddie fix between now and all these good things, so you might like to come and hear Phil Garland performing at the Acoustic Routes concert on Thursday 13 October. It's part of his final tour of NZ.

h) For Sale, Martin Sunburst JDP Diane Pozzi Guitar



Darrin is selling his guitar. Check it out at https://www.martinguitar.com/players/diane-ponzio/ and/or you can call him on 0212703939.

i) 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

10. 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

11. 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.

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 <u>subscribe online</u>, or contact <u>publicity@acousticroutes.org.nz</u>

12. Acoustic Routes Contacts

President: Janette Munneke <u>president@acousticroutes.org.nz</u>

Correspondence: Emma Hart secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz

Treasurer/Membership: Liz Auchinvole treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz

Balladeer: Philippa Boy balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz

Acoustic Routes update email: Gerard Hudson <u>publicity@acousticroutes.org.nz</u>

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/Acoustic-Routes/89128457590/home

13. Other regular folk events/contacts in the region

Americana Jam Session

Upstairs room of The Third Eye – the Tuatara temple of Taste, 4th When:

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/

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