

The Balladeer

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

Acoustic  *Routes*

www.acousticroutes.org.nz

AR Christmas party, December 11

Sue and Kim Rose's Home, Paekakariki Hill Road Pauahatani

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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. Gillian Boucher and Bob McNeill concert, Roseneath School Hall, Thursday 24 November, 7:30 pm



Photo, Donald Laing

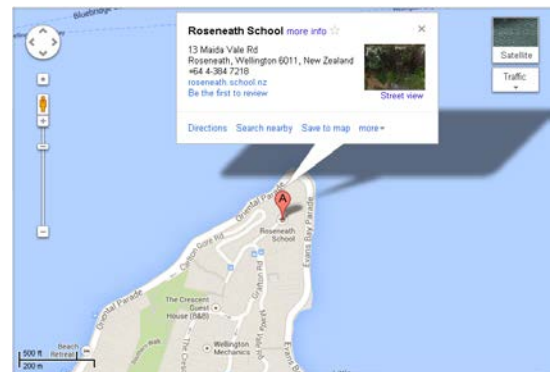
Having rediscovered a musical connection forged on the road ten years ago, award-winning artists, fiddler & step-dancer Gillian Boucher (Canada) and singer/guitarist Bob McNeill (Scotland) are taking audiences by storm with their feisty stage act, compelling songs and riveting tunes. They are kicking off their collaborative debut with a tour of New Zealand, before hitting the road for extensive tours of Canada, the UK and Australia.

Gillian's fiddle style is unique. She seamlessly blends the music of her ancestors with contemporary sounds, enthralling not only with the serene beauty of her music but with her stage persona and skills. With Bob's innovative, rhythmic accompaniment, they present a truly dynamic yet sensitive acoustic conversation that is not to be missed. Heart wrenching slow airs and riveting arrangements of songs and tunes, Gillian Boucher & Bob McNeill take what you know about traditional Scottish music and bring it to another level altogether.

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, didn't the weather man do us proud at Wellyfest this year? Wall-to-wall sunshine on Saturday and Sunday meant plenty of opportunity for outdoor jamming, and I especially enjoyed listening to a combo that included Bob Cooper-Grundy and Kate Marshall, and Tony and Charlene Hillyard. And I heard that there were two certain gurdy players playing on into the evening despite freezing fingers as the sun went down. Lots of Acoustic Routes members featured in the NZ Tradition Bearers Concert, and in the blackboard concerts, including a lovely set by Sue Rose with Murray Kilpatrick and Sue Ellis in the Balladeer tent.

With the festival behind us, there's only one more Acoustic Routes concert this year, and it will be a great one to see the year out with! Scotophiles will love it! Bob McNeill and Gillian Boucher are a relatively new combo who have quickly made a name for themselves playing and singing around the country – see the write-up elsewhere in this issue. (To get the member discount, make sure you bring a means of paying your membership (cash or cheque) if you haven't already joined up this year.)

But wait, there's more! Put December 11 in your calendars for the club Christmas party at Sue and Kim Rose's Home, Paekakariki Hill Road Pauahatanui (more details out soon), and we'll see you there, too.

Keep the music live!

Janette

3. AR Open Mic Upstairs at "The Office", Newtown, Sunday 13 November, 5:30-8 pm.



The AR Open Mic at the Office in Newton is becoming a regular feature the second Sunday of each month, with Newtown Acoustic Sound hosting the other weekly sessions.

The venue is the upstairs room at "The Office" bar in Newtown's main street, Riddiford St, just south of the intersection with Rintoul St. It's a very good space for live music, with food and drink available from the bar downstairs.

Contact: kevin.ikin@clear.net.nz

4. Review, Wellyfest

It was a great festival. The weather gods were kind (despite the soggy Friday) and the music was spectacular – great performances from RhodeWorks who are amazing - you'd never believe they are youngsters until you see them and they led a really good workshop - inspirational for the young people who attended. The Goodland Trio from Sweden (and Auckland) transported us to midsummer in Sweden with long evenings and everyone dancing outside. Crossing the borders with Denys' lovely humour and unique vocals, The Remarkables, Frank Burkitt had us all toe tapping and in some cases dancing. Bill Morris and the Hinterland Band played a stunning set, John Egenes gave us a lesson in how to play a musical saw! Bill had organised a showing of his award winning film about Donna Deane on Friday night - well worth seeing - a touching story well told.

There was an emphasis this year on learning, with many workshops. Goodland Trio taught a delightful Swedish tune which everyone played by the end of the workshop. There was a guitar workshop with James Wilkinson helped out by Nigel Gavin. There were fiddle workshops and kids workshops. We also had a tramping songs workshop led by Peter Berry. A new feature this year was the NZ traditional Bearers session with Niels Gedge. This was a follow-on from the successful Thistle Session and had so many would-be participants and audience that they had to take turns waiting on the veranda.



The ceilidh on Saturday raised the roof of the marquee with the Jimmies playing swinging lilting sets. Celebrating 30 years of terrific ceilidh music. The eightsome reel workshop during the day was good to get us all in the mood. The festival choir was led by JoJo Smith who had promised passion in singing and their rendition of Halleluja and some of JoJo's own songs certainly stood up to that promise. We also had a belly dancing workshop and an Irish set dancing workshop - what a varied programme! Liz Merton gave an excellent class on playing without pain.

The final concert on Sunday night began with WAI.TAI giving a contemporary twist to some Maori tunes, moved through Catgut and Steel's great set, FrankBukitt Band, GoodLand Trio and The Remarkables to end with JoJo Smith getting what sounded like the whole audience joining in her set. There were too many great sessions to cover here, but we couldn't finish without mentioning the fiddle and mandolin workshop given by Lindsay Martin on Monday morning. I heard many people say it was well worth getting up after only a few hours sleep to take part in that. They all learned a lot.

The Balladeer Tent just gets better and better each year. From the Friday night taster with many of the Festival guests performing short sets, to the four local Folk Clubs who played us in on Saturday and Sunday mornings to get us in the mood, to all the new talent who showed up over the weekend it was fabulous to enjoy. Great to be able to get a craft beer while listening and watching.

Thanks to everyone who came along and helped to make such a wonderful weekend – guests, crew and attendees alike it really was a learning and participating festival.

Janette Wallace-Gedge

5. Review, Acoustic Routes at Wellyfest

Acoustic Routes had two events at the festival, the Joan Prior Award concert and ceremony on Saturday (in conjunction with the festival) and the Acoustic Routes concert in the Balladeer tent on Sunday morning.

In spite of its early start, the Acoustic Routes concert got a reasonable audience, and seemed to go down really well. We started with the debut performance by Kevin Squared, made up of Kevin Ikin and Kevin McLoughlin, who performed a great set of New Zealand material from or related to the West Coast – some of it original. They were followed by the Hex Crystals (Mary Hubble, Sue Hirst and Ann McChesney) who were, as always, melodic, mesmerising and mirthful! CCCR, another new combination, finished off the hour, which was too short for performers and audience alike. Made up of Ron Craig, Andrea Coop, Sue Chamberlain, and Christine Rosevear, CCCR also performed four great numbers, with lovely vocal harmonies, guitar, fiddle and bass guitar, making a warm round sort of sound.

The Joan Prior Award concert was at the time quite a difficult experience for me in my role as judge, because I'm all too aware that in competitions someone always has to "lose". On the other hand, they are an opportunity for entrants to spend time and effort really perfecting something. Even the non-winners benefit by having an entry they have honed to competition standard that they can use again. And Saturday's entrants had certainly done a lot of honing. The effort put into polishing performances was clear to all in the very supportive audience, and we judges were quite blown away by the standard of musicianship, performance, audience engagement, conviction and maturity on the part of all entrants.



It was a close competition, but there was a clear winner. Seventeen-year-old Hunter Giltrap performed a set that showed off his diversity, talent and love for the music, and he did it in a way that caused me to forget for moment everything else that was going on in my mind, and simply let the music take me on a journey. As one of the other judges said, Joan would have been proud. I think she would have been proud and very pleased indeed to see what a competition in her name brought to the stage that day, and the contestants should be, too. I hope we get to see a lot more of all of them – and we'll definitely get to see

Hunter again because his prize includes an opportunity to perform at Acoustic Routes.

Many thanks to Kevin Ikin for doing a fantastic job of organising both the competition and the event this year.

Janette Munneke

6. Review/Feedback, New Zealand Tradition Bearers Whiteboard at WellyFest

I am writing about the whiteboard because I feel strongly that we should celebrate our traditions and identity in this unique and beautiful country. My feelings on this were echoed by my fellow attendees and the two hours flew. We even had an audience and people queuing outside to make their contribution.



We had a feast of songs written by the performers – tales of history, life, quirky kiwiana and celebration of the natural beauty of our country.

We also had Peter Cape, two songs in Maori and a few of our old favourites which would be new to some I am sure. Each performer did one song and we had only just started into a second round when it was time to stop!! Two hours is a long time to devote at a festival but many people stayed while others were free to come and go and the venue was full for the whole two hours.

I would suggest that consideration be given to a bigger venue next time. I think some didn't stay because there were others waiting to come in.

My thanks to Niels and to all who participated

Sue Rose

7. Balladeer music noticeboard

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

a) Next NZ Trad Session at the Thistle, 7 November, 6:30

This is part of a monthly series organised by Liz Auchinvole, held usually on the first Monday of the month, encompassing traditional NZ, Scottish, Irish and Balkan folk music, and Americana. You can access these by joining this Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/thistle.session/> .

If you would like to 'claim' a song so now one else sings it, feel free to contact me. Otherwise try and bring a song someone else is unlikely to sing.

Neils Gedge niels.gedge@gmail.com

b) Monthly Blackboard Concert, Plimmerton Boating Club, Thursday 10 November, 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) Mark and Brenda Liddiard, House Concert, 21 Gordon Road, Plimmerton,



Since 1989, Mark Laurent and Brenda Liddiard have performed together, throughout New Zealand and overseas. Mark's blues/rock background gives him a distinctive edge, but he also writes insightful 'slice of life' songs. Brenda's album *Box of Memories* was a finalist in the 2013 Best Folk Album Award.

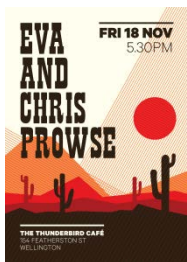
Tickets are \$10.00 each. Please bring small plate to share for supper. Tea and coffee are provided and you are welcome to bring your own choice of other drinks.

Feel free to arrive from 6.30 onwards and we hope to have a general get together and jam session after the concert. Please email, text or phone me to reserve your ticket as spaces are limited.

Annie 0274599376 (04)2338567 annemcgregor@xtra.co.nz

d) Trad Singing Session, Upstairs at the Sprig and Fern, Thorndon, Monday 14 November, 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) Eva and Chris Prowse concert, Thunderbird Café, Featherston Street, Friday 18 November, 5:30 pm

f) Women's Voices Summer Camp, Waihoanga Lodge, Otaki, January 13-17, 2017.

Kia ora singing women

Carol and I would like to invite you to our Women's Voices Summer Camp 2017. We are expecting this to be a very relaxing and nurturing singing experience in the natural surrounds of Waihoanga Lodge, Otaki. All are welcome - no previous singing experience is needed. Spaces are limited and this year will be on a first in bases.



For full information please go to www.carolshortis.co.nz. (There is no registration form, just email with your special requirements and make your payment and you will be registered). Please do not hesitate to contact us with any queries. We are looking

forward to catching up with you while dipping our toes into nature and singing our hearts out.

Kind regards & warmth
Juli & Carol
04 904 0580, 027 813 6207

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

8. 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

9. 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 [subscribe online](#), or contact publicity@acousticroutes.org.nz

10. Acoustic Routes Contacts

President: Janette Munneke president@acousticroutes.org.nz

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 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/Acoustic-Routes/89128457590/home

11. 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, 3.00pm to 5pm
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