

The Balladeer

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

Acoustic  *Routes*

www.acousticroutes.org.nz



Coming to you from the East Village, NY

April 2017: in this issue

1. Phil Garland Tribute Concert, The Third Eye, Wellington, Thursday 27 April, 7.30pm
2. Message from Paul Metsers to the New Zealand Folk Community
3. Pres sez
4. AR Open Mic Upstairs at "The Office", Newtown, Sunday 9 April, 5:30-8 pm
5. Open Mic, Plimmerton Boating Club, 66 Moana Road, 13 April, 7 pm
6. Review, Winter Wilson concert, 8 February
7. Review, Rachel Darwick concert, 16 February
8. Review Kirsty Bromley and Simon Dumpleton concert, 23 February
9. Balladeer music noticeboard
10. Are you ready to perform?
11. About Acoustic Routes
12. Acoustic Routes contacts
13. 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. Phil Garland Tribute Concert, The Third Eye, Arthur Street, Wellington, 27 April, 7.30pm

The Acoustic Routes Committee invites you to attend and perform at (if you wish) a tribute concert to celebrate something obviously close to Phil's heart – New Zealand folk music. It will be an open mic format. To be sure of a place in the line-up, please contact Kevin McLoughlin at kevinmcl12@gmail.com, 04-385-7010 or 027-213-476 to let him know you'd like to perform.

Entry will be by donation, profits to be donated to something Phil would have approved of. (Email ideas to president@acousticroutes.org.nz).

2. Message from Paul Metsers to the New Zealand Folk Community

Have to say I was very saddened by the news of Phil Garland's death – the quote about "a mighty totara has fallen" is so very apt. I have always been a great admirer of Phil's devotion to and love of New Zealand folk song. He was a great ambassador for it all and certainly deserved the awards he was given in that role.

I had a fair bit of contact with him during his preparation of his book "Faces in the Firelight", a work which does him great credit. I was very grateful for the signed copy he sent me when it had been published and thoroughly enjoyed all the background and anecdotes. Made me feel very nostalgic.

I've recently written a new song (I've called it "The Motherlode") which, although not really a "sequel" to "Farewell to the Gold", is nevertheless set in the gold rush scene in NZ in the 1800s. It's about that legend (I'm sure many of your readers will have heard of it) about the allegedly large, original deposits of gold somewhere up in the mountains above those rivers which so famously instigated the rush for riches in Westland at the time.

I'm looking forward to someday playing it to kiwi audiences to see what they think of it. Hence, my chorus says:

Just like a gambler I've been stuck
Walking down gold-fever road
Stake it all on a stroke of luck
Just to find that motherlode



I do regret that I won't have the privilege of passing this new song on to Phil, bless him, I know he would have been intrigued.

So to finish I'd like to pass my condolences on to all kiwi folkies who will all miss him greatly, I'm sure.

I miss all NZ folkies – and the scene in general very much and remember it with fondness and nostalgia.

With best wishes,

Paul

3. Pres sez

Hi Everyone

Well, another month has passed, and a sad one for the folk community, with the passing of folk legend Phil Garland. As a result, we've cancelled the gig he was to do for us on 5 April. Instead, as a tribute to Phil, we're planning an all-comers concert of New Zealand folk music on 27 April at The Third Eye in Arthur Street, Wellington. It'll be a chance to celebrate some of the great songs and music that have arisen from the experience of living in these 'shaky isles out on the rim'. More elsewhere in this issue.

As many readers will know, Paul Metses was often seen at the Wellington Folk Centre a few decades ago before he moved to the UK. It's great to hear a new generation now picking up his music, most recently Kirsty Bromley and Simon Dumpleton at their concert in March, showing both the lasting appeal and the on-going relevance of his music. It's nice to know that we are in your thoughts, Paul, especially as you have so recently been in ours again.

March was a more normal month for us with only one major concert, but by all accounts it was a good one enjoyed by all. Great to know that we have all these song-makers amongst us! Some of you may have noticed that it was an all-male line-up in March; watch out for our all-female concert later in the year.

Also if you've been working up a set, or even just a few numbers, and would like to perform at Acoustic Routes, do let us know by emailing us at performers@acousticroutes.org.nz – we're keen for members to have the chance to perform and participate.

The past few months have been a mixed bag in terms of venue, and we hope no-one has missed anything due to not knowing where we are! We really appreciate the warm welcome given to us by the Plimmerton Boating Club and The Third Eye and we've really enjoyed the concerts held in both places. We hope to visit them again for specific occasions but we also feel there is value in having a regular concert space, so from May we hope to be back in the newly-earthquake-strengthened Roseneath School Hall. If you have any thoughts or feedback about the venues, we'd love to hear from you – drop us a line at the president's email address.

Meanwhile, your Committee hopes to see you soon at an event near you!

Keep the music live

Janette

4. AR Open Mic Upstairs at “The Office”, Newtown, Sunday 9 April, 5:30-8 pm



The AR Open Mic at the Office in Newton is 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

5. Open Mic, Plimmerton Boating Club, 66 Moana Road, Plimmerton, 13 April, 7 pm

This great night in a lovely venue, hosted by the inimitable Roy McGuinness, is now under the umbrella of Acoustic Routes. 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.



6. Review, Winter Wilson concert, 8 February

The Winter Wilson concert was our first in the Plimmerton Boating Club, which proved to be a nice venue for the event. The gig opened with the harmonies and humour of the Hex Crystals, which had us all (including the main guests and some PBC members who didn’t know they were coming to a concert) very nicely warmed up by halftime.



I first heard Kip and Dave on the big stage at the Derby Folk Festival in 2015, at which time I was really taken with them. It was a big marquee venue on a very cold night and they were warming up for Eddi Reader, so it was a great concert all round.

However, I enjoyed WW even better in the more intimate venue of the Plimmerton Boating Club, and I think they enjoyed it too.

They were warm and friendly, with great patter between themselves and with the audience, funny and enjoyable introductions, polished performances, and terrific songs.

Their self-penned songs are thought-provoking and based in the reality of day-to-day human endeavour, dreams and reality. From the serious and wistful "Is it true that his eye are like mine" to the more upbeat "Still life in the old dog yet", they were performed with heart and soul. The duo also gave great renditions of other material, from Bonnie Raitt to the trad number The Dark Island (with Kip on flute).

All up a most satisfying and satisfactory night's entertainment!

Janette Munneke

7. Review, Rachel Dawick concert, 16 February



The Plimmerton Boating Club isn't the usual venue for Acoustic Routes concerts, but Roy McGuinness's open mic nights there have shown it works as a live music space and the folk club's decision to hold this concert there (while the Roseneath School Hall is out of action due to earthquake strengthening) proved to be fortuitous. As well as the fine entertainment indoors we were treated to a spectacular light show outside, as the sun set over Mana Island.

I always look forward to Rachel Dawick's visits to Wellington. She's a compelling story teller and she tells her stories in imaginative and well-crafted songs. Her previous tour focused on her "Boundary Riders" project, a collection of songs about New Zealand pioneering women, released in a CD and book package. We heard some of those tales this time, too: Amy Bock the fraudster who was eventually rumbled after hoodwinking a young woman who thought she was marrying a chap called Percy Redwood. We heard about Barbara Weldon, a prostitute who was shipped to Hokitika after plying her trade in Dunedin; and of course, the tough as a nut West Coast gold prospector, Bidy of the Lyell.

Rachel is now living in the UK and working as a lyricist on a new project called "Poor London Working", dramatising the stories of East Londoners. She opened her show with one of those songs about the mudlarks, scavenging for a living in the tidal mud of the Thames. We heard about Jack Black the rat-catcher, and a work in progress, the

story of Bessie Bloom the flower girl.

The potpourri of offerings also included songs off earlier albums, "Ed's Bar and Grill" and "Dirty Linen" as well as a couple of trad numbers – a broadsheet ballad and "Shady Grove". Rachel took a well-timed break when the light show outside threatened to steal the show inside. She joined the audience who were capturing the sunset on their cell phones.



As the sky-scape started to glow, The Short Blacks (Roy McGuinness and Julian Ward) got things cooking indoors in fine fashion with a nice wee set of Irish songs – a couple from Dublin, one from Derry ("The Town I Loved So well") and "Come By the Hills".

It wasn't your average concert. You had to be there.

Kevin Ikin

8. Review Kirsty Bromley and Simon Dumpleton at The Third Eye, 23 February

There were two warm-up acts to start the evening. The first act, Reuben Jelleyman and friends, was great with moderately paced music. It set the mood of the concert very well. It was Celtic tunes, very pleasant sounding and entertaining – a great opening act!

The second act was Hunter Giltrap, the winner of the Joan Prior Award 2016. It was inspiring to see a young performer (Ed's note: Hunter, like the reviewer, is still at high school) – great singing and complementary ukulele. The guitar complemented the singing well and lovely violin solos – a great second act.

The main act, Kirsty Bromley and Simon Dumpleton, gave an amazing captivating performance. The spaces between the songs were very entertaining and didn't drag on. The songs were well-worded with great dynamics. The singing – WOAH! – amazing, soft and delicate yet strong and powerful at the same time.



Simon, who played the accordion and piano/keyboard accompaniment, is an amazing musician. Together they complement each other amazingly. Very inspiring performance.

The first song was a solo song, a great introduction to an amazing singing talent. The songs throughout were well chosen and/or written, with captivating lyrics and dynamics, and the accompaniment also had lovely dynamics and supported the singing

very well. Both Kirsty and Simon had a great stage presence and the performance was great from start to finish.

The Third Eye was an amazing venue for a concert that makes you want to come again. Amazing acts and a very enjoyable concert.

Dominic Rowsell

9. Balladeer music noticeboard

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

a) Trad Singing Session, Upstairs at the Sprig and Fern, Thorndon, Monday 13 March, 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

b) ScottStringNZ Music Camp, 22-29 April, Bella Rakha, West Auckland



Come and immerse yourself in the music and traditions of Scotland! Not just for fiddles - guitars, accordions, keyboardists, bassists and cellists are welcome.

Teachers: Douglas Lawrence, fiddle; Gordon Gunn (Session A9), fiddle; Angus Lyon (Blazin' Fiddles), accompaniment. Cost: \$850 (residential adults); \$650 (residential students); \$500 (day attendees).

For more information or to register, visit www.scotstring.nz or call Anne-Marie Forsyth 021 473 402.

c) 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. Check the website or the Balladeer for updates about the venue.

Membership of Acoustic Routes costs \$25 a year for individuals, \$40 for couples or families, or \$15 for students and beneficiaries – and as we're now into the second half of the financial year, all membership rates are now only half price to join from now until June 2017. Membership entitles you to door-charge discounts at Acoustic Routes events, at events put on by most other folk clubs, and at Alistair's Music. 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

12. 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: Janette Munneke president@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

13. 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

Finn's Cafe Open Mic Nights

When: 4th Wednesday 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