

# The Balladeer

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

*Acoustic*  *Routes*

[www.acousticroutes.org.nz](http://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. Pres sez

Hello everyone

I don't know about you, but I personally cannot believe another month has gone by already ... I believe there has been some extreme weather in NZ in the meantime, so I hope no-one was badly affected, and it didn't stand in the way of making music!

There have been some nice concerts going on on the periphery – Annie McGregor's Up Close and Personal concerts in Plimmerton for example. And I'm told our club concert was a lovely event, enjoyed by all who attended. It's great to see Acoustic Routes members and supporters up on the stage.

This month we have something slightly different – Marie Russell, who I'm sure many of you will know from The Magpies and other groups she has performed in, pointed out to me that one of our recent concerts was an all-male line-up (not deliberate, I assure you, although I'm sure it didn't detract from the enjoyment!). At the same time she mentioned that she was involved with a group of women who were very excited and passionate about material they were working on regarding women's involvement in the trade union movement, so to redress the balance, I invited them to perform for us this month along with a new (all-female) duo from the 'Naki comprising Janet Muggeridge and Renny M – more in this issue.

Do put July's concert in your calendars too, as it features some terrific performers from Christchurch, James Wilkinson and Jacque Walters. There's just no stopping these folk from keeping the music live!

Janette

## 2. AR Monthly Concert, Thursday 22 June, 7.30pm

We've got a double bill for this month's (all-female) concert.

### **FFFF Feisty Feekin' Full-time Feminists - Take The Whole Damn Rose-Bush**



FFFF are: Therese O'Connell, Wendy Davis, Claire-Louise McCurdy, Sue Hirst, Emma Kelly, Marie Russell, Grace Millar and Jane Shallcrass.

Singing stars of the 1970s-1980s women's movement take the stage again with some new additions - reviving some of the songs they sang to keep spirits up on the picket line or at strategising sessions. Some of the lyrics were made up more or less on the spot to a borrowed tune, to mark a particular occasion; other songs came from feminists in Auckland, Australia or beyond.

Expect a roller-coaster ride through the politics of equal pay, discrimination, harassment and reproductive rights, with lashings of fighting spirit. The group will explain the background and in some cases put the words up for audience participation. Audience advisory: frequent use of strong language.

## Renny and Janet

Folk/Indie musician Renny M, sings directly into your heart - dusty vocals, skilful narrative and melodic invention combine as she intertwines her melodic fingerpicking guitar style with heartfelt lyrics that emanate raw emotion.

Renny M transforms the everyday into sublime moments and her songs explore the experiences that bring us to life. These are songs of love, longing and loss, sung with a voice the flavour of bittersweet.

Renny met Janet at the local singer/songwriter night and was impressed by her humour and quick wit, as well as her beautiful mandolin riffs.



A founding member of the iconic kiwi covers band Gumboot Tango, Janet needs no introduction for those of us who have enjoyed her favourite activity – jamming hard out at music festivals. She adds tasteful backing vocals to Renny's beautiful songs, and has been known to perform one or two of her own in the set.

There may be an opportunity for a couple of floor spots from women performers so come prepared if you'd like to do a number or two.

**Admission \$10 members, \$15 non-members**

Venue – the strengthened and refurbished Roseneath School Hall.

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.

### **3. Open Mic, Plimmerton Boating Club, 66 Moana Road, Plimmerton, 8 June, 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.

## 4. AR Open Mic Upstairs at "The Office", Newtown, Sunday 11 June, 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.

## 5. Festival review, Hamsterfest

It's hard to find what to say. Somehow the weather managed to not land a catastrophe on us, and we had an amazing and satisfying festival!

Every single item heard during the blackboards was top class, and how often does that happen? Everyone who played: thank you, you were wonderful, and please \*please\* come again. And it was a special delight to be able to feature Lott Larsson's group with Jamie (I think?) and Yvette Audain (congrats for winning the Bawdy Ballads trophy against stiff competition), and then Helen Stewart and Vrnda Yvrin Page in the final concert - the quality of music was incredible, and it's a real delight of the festival that music like that just cheerfully walks in our front gate.

This is our third year out at Matangi in partnership with Te Iwi o Haua Marae, and we're deeply grateful to them, the Matangi Hillcrest Sports Club (who operate the building), and the Waikato District Council (who operate the grounds) for giving us a home. We might've had early reservations but the welcome they've given us, and the work they've been doing in developing the venue in the last few years, is something we wouldn't get elsewhere.

And after they filled in for a caterer last year we were dead eager to get food from the marae again, and they stepped right up and served up delicious kai all weekend.

The guests were uniformly amazing, and a HUGE thank you to all of them. Noel Armstrong and West of the Divy gave us a wonderful time on Saturday night. And PLott - Lott Larsson and Paul Symons (again!). What a great morning (and late-night session) you gave us, thank you deeply.

We've all been watching RhodeWorkz for some years now and all of it's been a wonder. We had no hesitation at all in putting this incredible group on the same billing as international guests, and watching the entire hall light up for them was magic.

And then: how fortunate were we to have these two? Guitarist Dave Flynn from Ireland, weaving magic and music and damn good craic. Those of us who merely strum just shut up and listened, as the melodies weaving around the songs moved from one rhythm to another and then another before somehow becoming another

tune. And then he did it \*again\*. And Claire Hastings from Scotland, with song after song of sheer soaring beauty. \*And\* in the Gaelic, making those poor humble ones of us with only one language melt in envy and gratitude.

There's so many people to thank for everything they put in. If our maths is right (mine usually isn't) that was the 49th festival that HAMC has put on, so we're hoping to get something even more special going down next year.

We hope everyone got home safely, that Brian Stabb heals up quickly, that tents get dried out, that grass clippings get washed out (... we'll talk to the council about that for next year), and that we'll see you all next year.

Bryce

## 6. 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 & Fern, Thorndon, Monday 12 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](mailto:david.barnes@xtra.co.nz)

## 7. 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)

## 8. 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](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)

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

## 10. Other regular folk events/contacts in the region

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)

Finn's Cafe Open Mic Nights

**When:** 4<sup>th</sup> 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](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, 3.00pm to 5pm  
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)