

The Balladeer

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

Acoustic  *Routes*

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. AR Saint Patrick's Singaround, Roseneath School Hall, Thursday 22 March, 7:30 pm

Celebrate the Saint with a sing-around compered by the inimitable Roy McGuinness. Come with something Irish to sing, play or dance.

Ticket Price: performers \$5, non-performers \$10 (to cover the cost of the venue).



2. President Murray's Musings



Hi all you folkies. The days are getting shorter and a little cooler. I do hope you are all well and happy.

Reviews

Last month there was a very entertaining house concert, in our home by Scot, Alistair Brown. He sang lots of lovely and interesting songs introduced with witty repartee and very funny jokes and stories. A thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Last Thursday was the concert night at Roseneath. First was Crooked Weather, a young English couple who perform beautiful harmonies and very creative instrumental work. A sign of where our music may head in the future - lovely. They were followed by the Faustians, Helena's latest and, may I say, greatest new group. Helena, Philip and Ruby presented a captivating hour of music that included wonderfully tight instrumentals, beautiful harmonies, and infectious rhythms. Two items that stood out for me were a ballad sung to a Crankey presentation and a song sung by Helena and Ruby to an interactive clapping game.

Monthly Happenings

The Open Mic at the Office in Newtown continues, however they are now reduced to two per month. Our Acoustic Routes event is on the second Sunday (see below), run by our very hard working and dedicated secretary, Kevin and the last Sunday is run by Vivienne and Alan. I was part of our last AR open mic and was amazed at the quantity and quality of the performers. This is truly a venue where it is all happening for performers.

Roy is continuing with the open Mic at the Plimmerton Pavilion in association with Acoustic Routes on the second Thursday of the month. These evenings are regularly supported by very large number of extremely able performers. Thanks very much Roy. This is also very much a venue where it is all happening.

What's Coming Up

Wednesday March 21st in the Wellington Salvation Army Citadel, the Australian acapella group 'The Spooky Men' will be giving a concert. Yes they are Spooky and also quite amazing. This will follow on from their performance at WOMAD. I would encourage you to go, they are unforgettable.

The next day, Thursday 22nd, is your chance to sing or play, dance, preferably something Irish, to celebrate the month of Saint Patrick's Day. See details above.

Preparations are in progress to present our first workshop for 2018 in the upstairs room of The Office in Newtown on Sunday the 22nd of April. Our aim is hold a songwriting workshop to encourage budding and current songwriters, on the road to creative fulfillment. If you would like to begin, or further your creativity, then come along, please spread the word and yes, bring a friend or two. We have many very talented songwriters in our community, but they are mostly men and we would love to include some more female songwriters. If you are interested in being part of this, please contact me ASAP president@acousticroutes.org.nz.

Committee

I frequently thank our very dedicated and hard-working committee and the people who help outside our committee. They certainly make my job much easier. Very recently Pam Gerrish Nunn has resigned from the committee. I would like to thank her very much for her dedication and hard work. She will be sorely missed. However, we are very lucky to have Bruce Carey join our happy little band. We are still quite a small committee, and would welcome perhaps another two willing hands. If you would like to join us, please contact me ASAP president@acousticroutes.org.nz. We would love to hear from you.

Younger Set

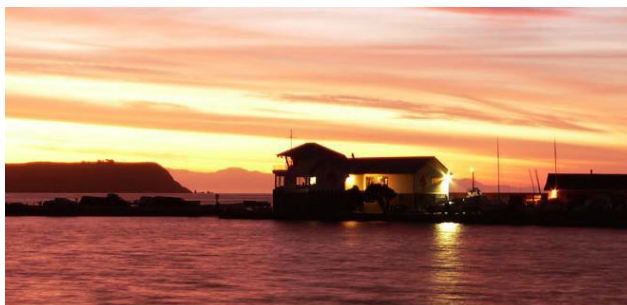
The younger set is planning away for their initial club night, ably led by Matt Jansen, who would love to hear from any younger people, up to in their 30s, maybe 40? If you are interested, or know of people who may be, please contact Matt at mattjansen88@gmail.com or phone him on 0273371985.

Finally, Acoustic Routes now has a private Facebook group - only members who join the group can view it, but all AR members can post on it. If you want to find out what is going on around our Folky Community and have a Facebook account, please join. Feel free to post relevant things on this site as often as you wish.

Happy Folking, Murray Kilpatrick

3. Open Mic, Plimmerton Boating Club, 66 Moana Road, Plimmerton, Thursday 8 March, 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. To find out more, contact Roy on (021) 433-878.



4. AR Open Mic Upstairs at 'The Office', Newtown, Sunday 11 March, 5:30-8 pm



Newtown Acoustic Sound Open Mics upstairs at the Office Bar in Newtown are now running twice a month, on the second and last Sundays, rather than weekly as in the past. There was a big turn out to the first one for the year , hosted by Acoustic Routes, so if you are busting to try out a new song or dust off an old favourite, this is the place to go. This month's Open Mics will be on Sunday 11 March and Sunday 25 March.

Contacts:

newtownacousticsound@gmail.com

kevin.ikin@supermail.co.nz

5. Wellington Folk Foundation AGM, Sprig and Fern, Thorndon, Sunday 18 March, 3 pm



Membership subs are due (\$1) and can be paid at the meeting.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 2017 meeting (minutes of 2017 AGM will be posted on our website)
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. President's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Appointment of Accounts Reviewer
7. Election of officers (President, Secretary, Treasurer)
8. Election of up to seven committee members
9. Setting of subscription
10. Vote of thanks to outgoing committee members
11. General business

Please note a number of committee members are standing down in 2018. If you would like to have an impact on how Wellyfest is run and contribute to the festival, please consider standing for committee. Nominations for committee members are welcome. If the nominee cannot attend the AGM to accept nomination, please tender their agreement to be nominated in writing.

Apologies and nominations to info@wellingtonfolkfestival.org.nz

6. Review, the Faustians and Crooked Weather, 22 February

Acoustic Routes' first concert for the year was a good 'un, featuring two quite different acts that complemented each other very nicely.

Opening the night we had Crooked Weather, an English duo who are touring New Zealand. Back home in Yorkshire, Holly and Will normally play in a four-piece with drums and bass. Here, we saw them stripped back to two acoustic guitars and vocals, but their set of self-penned songs worked well in that format. Reflective songs for the most part, with some edgy guitar breaks from Will, making good use of his foot pedals. "Rabbit Holes" was a good example of that, an older song of theirs with a rocky break. We heard one locally inspired song, "Stoney Bay Blues", written after a visit to the Coromandel. They wrapped up their set with an element of theatre, coming down off the stage to give us the vibrations of their foot-stomping accompaniment to "When I See You Again".

The Faustians, who kept us engrossed us for the second half of the evening, also added a touch of the theatrical to their set, which I'll come back to shortly. They formed in 2016 as an old-time band centred on Helena's wonderful claw-hammer style banjo, fiddle and vocals, with Philip's deft accompaniment on guitar, and Ruby cementing it all together with her bass and backing vocals. In keeping with the music, they sang and played through a single old fashioned microphone called Myrtle, which delivered a natural and well-balanced sound to the audience.

As to be expected, the Faustians gave us a selection of traditional songs and tunes, reflecting Helena's immersion in Appalachian mountain music. Mixed with that were Helena's own songs, in the old-time style, but with lyrics evoking some nice touches of humour and wry observation. An example: her "anti-gospel" song "Ride for Glory" - sounds like gospel but with a different message. Another stand out was Helena's hurricane story, "Knit One Purl", about an old lady in a wheel chair who calmly carried on knitting as the flood water rose to her waist.



Then on to the first public performance of The Faustians homemade "crankie", a scroll of images (drawn by Helena) cranked across a lightbox to the accompaniment of an old Doc Watson ballad. It was low-tech and old fashioned with the appeal of the magic lantern shows that entranced audiences in the past. A final song, "Cumberland Gap", wrapped up a charming evening.

Kevin Ikin

7. 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 5 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) Orientation Week Ceilidh Dance with VicFolk, Monday 5 March, Tuatara Third Eye, 30 Arthur St, 7-10pm



If you love good music and bad dancing, come along to the o-week ceilidh. There's a live band from VicFolk, VUW's own Celtic music club, and all the dances will be called. No need for any experience, or a partner. Ceilidhs are the easiest and most fun dancing you'll find anywhere, and where else will you get a live gig for a fiver?

\$12 General admission, \$5 Students (at the bar). Come and check it out!

c) St Patrick's Day Céilí with VicFolk, Saturday 17 March, Aro Valley Community Centre, 7-10pm

High-energy céilí dances with VicFolk's own band and guests. All the dances will be called and no experience is required. Come and give it a go!



\$12 General admission, \$5 Students (at the door)

d) Spooky Men's Chorale, Salvation Army Citadel, Vivian Street Wellington, 21 March, 8pm

The legendary Spooky Men are an internationally acclaimed vocal ensemble from Australia. As thunderous as a herd of wildebeest, as sly as a wagonload of Spike Milligans and as sonorous as a cloister of monks, the Spooky Men's Chorale emerged from the Blue Mountains of NSW seventeen years ago and armed with no more than their voices, a nice line in deadpan and an ill-matched set of hats, have been gleefully disturbing audiences throughout Australia, NZ and the UK ever since. It will be the Spookies' second visit here. Not to be missed!

Bookings:

<https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/2018/the-spooky-menrs-chorale/wellington>

Check them out here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UNrAgbzMXOI>

e) Two great house concerts: "Showdown – Erin & Frank/Katie & Danny"

These duelling Duets - Erin Manu & Frank John (Taranaki) and Katie Charlton-Jones and Danny Priestley (Hawkes Bay) – come together for 2 House Concerts in March.



Kate's unique, exquisite voice draws you right in from the first note, it is a voice that cuts through the ordinary and leaves you wanting more. Lead singer of iconic AUS/Irish band Riogh, Danny's rich, powerful voice is described as going right into your soul. Now based in NZ, he has added mandolin and

guitar to his set. Erin silenced the Balladeer at Wellyfest 2017 with her renditions of 'Red Dirt Girl' and 'Damn The Dam' and lifted the room with her trademark driving rhythm guitar, with a soulful take of 'Jolene'. Frank's voice has been described as Doc Watson-like, and his picking as "brilliant, yet understated".

Saturday, 24 March, 7pm - Up Close and Personal in Plimmerton - Annie and Roy's home, 21 Gordon Road, Plimmerton. Contact Anne McGregor annemcgregor@xtra.co.nz or (04)2338567 and 027 4599376.

Sunday, 25 March 4pm - House Concert in Levin – Yvonne and Paul's home, 86 Gladstone Rd, Levin. Contact Dale dalewebb143@gmail.com or 027 2079695.

f) 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. Want to perform?



AR Committee would like to hear from you if you are interested in performing at our 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. 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

10. Acoustic Routes contacts

President: Murray Kilpatrick president@acousticroutes.org.nz

Correspondence: Kevin Ikin secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz

Treasurer/Membership: Sue Ikin treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz

Balladeer: Philippa Boy balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz

Acoustic Routes update email: Murray Kilpatrick
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

11. 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

International Folkdancing

When: Every Wednesday from February to December, 7.30 to 9.15 pm

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 3-5pm.
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 the Pub if you are interested in performing.

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.
Where: Horowhenua, Scottish Society and Pipe Band hall, cnr Bartholomew Rd and Middlesex St.
Bookings: Dale Webb dalewebb@clear.net.nz Website: www.levin-folk-music-club.org.nz Facebook: Levin Folk Music

Mainly Acoustic Music Club

When: (Mostly) every 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm
Where: Mayfair Cafe, 116 Main Street, Upper Hutt
Contact: Mary Khalil 021 02314505 mary.khalil@xtra.co.nz
Club committee email: info@mainlyacoustic.co.nz
Website: <http://mainlyacoustic.co.nz/coming-attractions/>

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 04 568 8635, email iain@jumbletree.com