

The Balladeer

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

Acoustic  *Routes*

www.acousticroutes.org.nz



Merry Christmas and every good wish for 2019

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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. Acoustic Routes Christmas Party, Sue and Kim Rose's Home, Saturday 15 December, 3 pm

Sue and Kim have once again very kindly offered to host this year's AR Christmas party at their gorgeous rural retreat nestled in a little valley about 3 km from the Pauahatanui shops. (It's about the same distance from Wellington as Plimmerton.)

What To Bring

Please bring a plate of food for supper, a bottle of what you like to drink, and of course instruments and songs. We ask that you give a Koha, which will be donated to a charity in time for Christmas. Disposable plates, etc., will be provided but those of you who have picnic sets could bring them too, to help reduce the waste. Sorry no dogs.



We warmly invite you, your family and any like-minded and/or musical friends.

Instructions for Getting There

Sue and Kim's home is 3.29 kilometres from Pauatahanui village, heading north up the Paekakariki Hill Rd. At the end of a long straight you'll find the golf club on the right. Turn left into the drive just past that, cross the bridge and take the left-hand fork to the house. There is a lot of bamboo on their roadside boundary. The nearest train stations are Paremata and Plimmerton if you are being picked up by a driver. Cell phone coverage is marginal but if you have any problems phone 2379029.

2. Murray's Merry Musings



Hi everybody on this wet, thundery day following a scorching hot day. Summer is obviously still deciding if it wants to appear this year. Christmas and the festive holiday season is all but upon us.

Looking back over this year, we have had a number of highlights. Acoustic Routes has run a high-quality concert or sing around most months in the Roseneath School hall. These concerts have featured overseas touring artists as well as performers from our own Wellington folkie community. In particular, musicians from the University Folk Club and the Plimmerton Open Mic performed for us. In my opinion, many of our very best concerts have come from our own community's performers, musicians and singers. You are far too numerous to list, but in every case, you have given to us of your very best; all wonderful performances. Thank you so much. This is a part of our club's activities that I want to promote more actively in the future. Many of you are involved in our scene because you like to sing, play and perform and we want to create opportunities so that you can do this and be heard.

Kevin has unfailingly run our very successful open mic at The Office, on a Sunday, each month. Thanks very much Kevin, in more ways than one, you have been the mainstay of Acoustic Routes for many years now.

In association with Acoustic Routes, Roy has continued to run his enormously successful monthly open mic on a Thursday night in the Plimmerton Boating Club Rooms. Thank you so much Roy.

Annie McGregor has run an increasing number of very high-quality house concerts in association with Acoustic Routes, throughout this year. She also ran again our annual mid-winter retreat at Riverslea in the Otaki Gorge. A wonderfully enjoyable event. Thank you so much Annie.

We ran two very worth-while and successful workshops on a Sunday afternoon upstairs at The Office - a song-writing forum and an alternative guitar tunings workshop, wonderfully initiated and run by Pat Higgins. Thank you so much Pat for your expertise, effort and generosity of spirit. I would very much like the club to expand this role. I would love further ideas and offers of help for workshops from members of our community. Having said this, our committee member, Bruce Carey, is planning to run singer song writer events and activities throughout 2019, on behalf of Acoustic Routes. He would greatly value your support.

I would like to thank all of our very small, but very able, dedicated and hard-working committee for their efforts throughout 2019. Sue, our treasurer, ensures we are solvent, makes lots of essential communications and, most of all, keeps me on the straight and narrow. Madeline ensures that you are always well watered and fed at each of our concerts. Bruce, our newest committee member supports and helps with everything, particularly setting up for concerts and the sound gear. His wealth of knowledge and experience is invaluable. Kevin, our secretary, really does the bulk of the work for the club. Kevin does almost everything and he makes my job quite easy. We are, as I have said, a very small committee. It would be great to have a few more of you join us in 2019 to help us to extend our activities.

I also want to thank all the other people who help us. I'd like to thank our past president, Jannette who has so often filled the gaps during this year. I'd like to thank John who seamlessly does IT communications magic for us. A very big thank you to Philippa who turns out a wonderful Balladeer every month. I think that is huge job. Thank you to Sue and Kim Rose who once again are generously hosting our Christmas party at their home in Pauatahanui on Saturday the 15th of December. Let's make this inclusive of all like- minded people around the Wellington region - an opportunity for us all to get together and enjoy each other's company, food and music.

I'd also like to thank the organisers of all the other events held around the Wellington region that contribute to our music community. These include Mainly Acoustic, Levin Folk Club, Wellington Bluegrass Society, the Americana Sessions, the Welsh Dragon Sessions, Victoria University Folk Club, The Office Open Mic, The Hop Garden Open Mic, Kapiti Live Music Club, and Paekakariki Open Mic. All these events, and any others I've forgotten to list, add to the rich culture of acoustic music around Wellington.

Lastly, I'd like to thank all of you for being part of our community and supporting us in the many ways you all do. Without you, there would be very little point in having this club.

As will be posted elsewhere in this Balladeer, there are many festivals and gatherings over the summer period that many of you may enjoy attending. These include, Whare Flat in Dunedin, Tui Farm in Nelson, Te Rangi in Otane, and Auckland Folk Festival. Hoping you have a very merry Christmas, a relaxing and fun holiday period and a very happy new year.

Murray Kilpatrick.

3. Open Mic, Plimmerton Boating Club, 66 Moana Road, Plimmerton, Thursday 13 December, 7 pm

A highly popular monthly event in a lovely venue. Low cost drinks and food, and a sound system. Contact: Roy on (021) 433-878.



4. Annual Waitangi Day gathering, Anne and Roy's home, Wednesday 6 February, 3 pm



This annual treat takes place in the great party venue of Anne and Roy's home 21 Gordon Road, Plimmerton. All folkies and musos are welcome.

The party starts at 2 pm, and the barbecue will be going from 4:30 pm. Bring something for the barbie, salads etc., your drink of choice and of course instruments and voices to celebrate the day.

5. Review, Máire Ní Chathasaigh and Chris Newman in concert, 6 November

November was a busier than usual month for Acoustic Routes. As well as our regular monthly concert we had the privilege of hosting a performance by the internationally acclaimed duo, Máire Ní Chathasaigh and Chris Newman, who returned to Wellington on their New Zealand tour following Wellyfest.

Superlatives are often used to describe the performances of this virtuoso pair who have been wowing audiences around the world for 30 years now, with their unique harp and guitar combination. In two 45-minute sets, we were treated to Máire and Chris's magical mixture of traditional Irish music, hot jazz, bluegrass and baroque, and genre-bending moments, as they blended elements of those musical styles into delicious new recipes.



They opened the show with a set of jigs. We heard riveting arrangements of compositions from 17th century Irish harpers, including Turlough O'Carolan of course. They crossed the Atlantic for a set of American tunes, although you don't often hear "Old Joe Clark" played on a 36-string Irish banjo, as Chris quipped. Added to that potent brew were a couple of Chris's own tunes "A Wild Goose Chase" and "Bright Falls The Air". They wrapped up the first half with another contemporary tune, Andy Hornby's "Pheasant Feathers".

There was more rich musical fare on offer in the second half. It included a set of reels from famous Scottish fiddler James Scott Skinner, another Carolan tune, a 18th century slow air encapsulating the old Irish harp tradition, and a couple of Chris's jazzy tunes that really took the harp out of its comfort zone. "Hot Club Harp" had Máire frantically flicking keys on the harp strings to play all those crazy accidental jazz notes. That was a wonder to behold.

The evening finished a little more sedately with a tune incorporating an old Saxon carol off Chris and Máire's Christmas Lights album and a contemporary tune, "Ginny's Waltz, as an encore.

Aside from the wonderful performance, one of the pleasures for me was hearing two fabulous New Zealand made instruments. Chris was playing a brand new Davy Stuart guitar and Máire a new harp made by Shane Stewart. They had met the instruments for the first time only the day before Wellyfest started. From the playing they got during the festival and following tour, both harp and guitar had truly "come out".

Kevin Ikin

6. Review, Acoustic Routes variety concert, 22 November

The end-of-year variety concert turned out to be a veritable cornucopia of musical and song-writing talent. First up was the 2017 winner of the J.A.Pan trophy for 'most improved' talent, Bruce Carey, with a range of self-penned material, including songs featuring the West Coast, would-be forgotten (if not for Bruce) ferries working Cook Strait, Cuba Mall, protest, strange lights at Kaikoura and evil in the heart of man (as evidenced in the bombing of the Trades Hall in Wellington). The tip of the iceberg of seven years' work apparently, and a great tribute to the effectiveness of a beginner's song-writing workshop with Charlotte Yates.

Bruce was followed by a "new/old" combo, in the form of Holly Carrington newly in Wellington from the States via Auckland, and Ron Craig, a linchpin of Acoustic Routes and the Wellington folk scene for decades. They clearly both love a good story well told (or sung, in this case), and thank goodness they do, because I never woulda heard some of them if it hadn't been for Holly and Ron! That Chris Stapleton song ("If it hadn't been for love") is my favourite kind – simple on the surface, but a lot of layers.

Pat Higgins and band started the second half, with wooden flute, uilleann pipes and cello. Pat, Kris Neilsen and Ruby Mae Solly created a gorgeous soundscape together, solidly grounded in Celtic and Gaelic history, and the lived experience of Pat's extended family. More great story telling, including the true story of Pat's wife's relatives coming to NZ in 1840s. The pipes were fabulous throughout, and at times I could have sworn it was a harp Ruby was playing, not a cello. I enjoyed this set for the synthesis of traditional, covers and original material. There was even a lovely rendition of Purea Nei, written by a very prolific songwriter, Hirini Melbourne.

And the final act for the evening, Australian singer songwriter Vic Manuel with Ruby Mae Solly and friend Daniella. 'Eclectic' the intro said – I'm still wondering if it was all only one act, there was such a variety of musical styles, from ballads to boogie to bluegrass/gospel to anti-war protest. Even one about falling in love with a stranger on a train. And one that sounded distinctly like Leonard Cohen with a bit of Jacques Brel mixed in. Underpinned throughout by a nice sense of humour and fabulous backing especially by Ruby, who played that cello like a giant deep-throated violin.

Terrific to have a good audience turnout for the final concert of the year too. Now bring on the Summer festival season!

Janette Munneke

7. The Folkie's Holiday Programme Guide

Lots of good things coming up in the holiday months and here's a bit of a run-down of events.

First up is **Whare Flat Folk Festival** from 30 December to 3 Jan Visit whareflat.org.nz for more information but there's a star-studded guest list for sure, including Welly acts, Frank Burkitt Band, the Andrew London Trio, and Gillian Boucher and Bob McNeill. Early bird registration closes on 9 December.

Over Wellington Anniversary weekend there's two events to think about. Bookings are now open on www.carolshortis.co.nz for the next **Women's Voices Summer Camp** at Riverslea, Ōtaki from, 18 to 21st January 2019. Join Carol for this beautiful weekend of singing, swimming, eating delicious vegetarian food (thank you Lillian!), singing, adventures and more singing!

The other Wellington Anniversary Weekend event is the 22nd **Te Rangi Festival**. "A gathering of friends, old and new. To play and listen to music. To eat, laugh, relax and have fun.' Everyone who wants to perform can. This is done through a series of blackboard concerts. A strict two song limit. We don't jump for joy at 28 min songs haha!" 212 Argyll Rd, RD1 Otane, Central Hawkes Bay. 021550287

\$70 ADULT Koha

Teens still at school and with whanau \$20

Children free

Overnight stay(one night and day) \$25

Daytrippers \$10

Concert only \$5.00

Lots of information on Facebook and the website is storylink.co.nz/festival/

The following weekend, 25-28 January, is the **Auckland Folk Festival** aucklandfolkfestival.co.nz where Nigel Parry will be our local hero. Tickets are on sale now through the website.

And if you're still not all folked out, **Kiwigrass** at Narrows Park, Hamilton from 1-3 February has an amazing guest line-up including Bluegrass Parkway (Aus), Hamilton County, Rhodeworks and The Pipi Pickers. Visit www.kiwigrass.nz for more information about ticket and accommodation costs. Tickets are on sale now.

8. 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 10 December, 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) Up Close and Personal Plimmerton presents 'Ravenmavens', 21 Gordon Road Plimmerton, 9th December 3:30-5:30 pm

Up Close and Personal presents the original Raven Mavens in the intimate setting of Roy and Annie's lovely abode, with a set of original and cover songs gleaned from the last seven years of performing and recording.

Tickets are \$10.00 each. Please bring your own choice of drinks and a small plate of food to share for afternoon tea.



Feel free to arrive from 2:30pm to mix and mingle.

c) Up Close and Personal Plimmerton presents Victoria and Lindsay's CD Launch 'The Gap', 21 Gordon Road Plimmerton, 14 December 7:30pm



So exciting to be hosting the NZ official release of 'The Gap'. This really will be a spectacular evening. It's a special day, so bring your mate and it's \$50 for two tickets and a CD or \$20 for ticket only.

Gritty songs and silky-smooth music. All-original and a bit wild, their style is rooted in folk but resembles everything else. Social comment and complex imagery is a theme in Vic's writing, brought to life through her punchy guitar and strong vocal. Add Martin's virtuosic licks to paint the pictures, and this is a show not to be missed.

Their debut album "The Gap" consists of Vic's originals, underpinned by double bassist and engineer James Geluk (Frank Burkitt Band, Fables) and features a handful of extraordinary musicians from both sides of the ditch. Every track is lovingly wrapped in Martin's exquisite strings but somehow still captures a sense of raw, folky magic.

Please BYO drinks and a plate to share for supper. Tea and coffee will be provided. Doors open at 6:30 to mix and mingle, concert starts at 7:30. Call or text Anne 0274599376 to book your place.

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL.

d) Ethno New Zealand 2019

Are you between the ages of 17 and 30? Does a summer traditional/world music experience on the west coast of Auckland sound like you? Ethno NZ 2019 is being held at the Hoani Waititi Marae near Oratia from 18-28 January and the camp ends with a concert at the Auckland Folk Festival.

Ethno NZ is a unique week of young musicians teaching other their traditional music, sharing their cultural experiences and taking part in workshops. For further information visit the website

<https://ethnonewzealand.wixsite.com/ethnonz/ethno-new-zealand-2018>
or email ethnonewzealnd@gmail.com

e) **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 offers 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

9. **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

10. **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 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

11. **Acoustic Routes contacts**

President: Murray Kilpatrick musicianmurray@gmail.com

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 musicianmurray@gmail.com

Performance opportunities: performers@acousticroutes.org.nz

Postal address: PO Box 27-191 Marion Square, Wellington, New Zealand.

Website: www.acousticroutes.org.nz

12. 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 Music Club

When: 2nd Friday of month, 7.30 pm, blackboard concert plus guest artist. Entry: Members \$5, Non-Members \$10, Children \$3 (includes supper) Club Night: 4th Friday of month, 7.30 pm \$2 koha.

Where: Facebook: Levin Folk Music 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 Hall, cnr Bartholomew Rd and Middlesex St.

Bookings: Bookings: Dale Webb dalewebb143@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: 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

Paekakariki Open Mic

A pleasant user-friendly Open Mic night. Singers, songwriters, poets and musicians welcome. A good sound system and stage. Check in at the door if you'd like to perform, or if you don't need ten minutes of fame, just come and listen!

When: Last Friday of the Month, 7.30 pm. 30 November, not running in December. 2019 dates to be announced
Where: St Peter's Hall, Beach Rd, Paekakariki
Cost: Entry by Koha to cover hall and sound system costs.
Contact: tonyfuell@gmail.com or 021 0231 9547

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 04 568 8635, email iain@jumbletree.com