

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 28 March, 7:30 pm

Celebrate the Saint (a wee bit late but still the same month) with a sing-around. Come with something Irish to sing, play, dance, or a poem or a story.

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



2. Murray's Musings



Hi Everybody

The wonderful events in and around our community continue to grow.

The Newtown Office Open mics attract good crowds of interesting and high-quality performers. My thanks to Kevin for running the Acoustic Routes Open Mic and Vivian for running the other open mic sessions

Thanks also to Roy for running the Plimmerton Open Mic in association with Acoustic Routes. The February evening was very well attended.

Thank you to Annie Mc Gregor for running a number of very successful house concerts, in association with Acoustic Routes.

Thank you to our committee member Bruce Carey, ably assisted by Juli and Cam, for launching their very successful pop-up open mics throughout the Wellington region. I am pleased to announce that these are now officially part of the Acoustic Routes regular programme.

Bruce has also indicated that he would like to run events through our club, to promote singer song writers. If you have a particular interest in this, please get in touch with him and share some of your ideas.

Recently I have encountered a number of Wellington-based musicians, singers, and groups, who have really impressed me and demonstrated the considerable depth of talent that exists in our region. Paddy Burgin's Wooden Box Band gave a wonderful performance as the main guests at the last Mainly Acoustic Folk club in Upper Hutt. The recent launch of The Polly Johnson Set's new CD was really wonderful (I had never seen or heard them before). We aim to feature them in a concert, later this year, if it can be arranged.

Our February concert featured six acts from our own folkie community - see the review below. A really wonderful night of music. Thank you very much to each of you.

The 17th of March, as most of you will know, is Saint Patrick's Day so on the fourth Thursday of this month, we will stage an Irish sing around. Please bring a song or a tune, or two, to share, for this celebration of Irish music.

Himmerland, the awesome band from Denmark, will be touring New Zealand again in April, with Scottish singer and viola player Mairi Campbell. They will be playing in Wellington on Saturday 13 April. More details in the next Balladeer but put it your diary now.

Thanks so much to our small, but very hard-working committee. Thanks also to Philippa who every month, turns my notes into a suitable introduction for the Balladeer.

Keep Folking

Murray Kilpatrick.

3. Newtown Open Mic upstairs at the Office, Sunday 10 March, 5:30-8 pm



Open mic hosted by Acoustic Routes with Newtown Acoustic Sound. It's the friendly little performance space, upstairs at The Office Bar in Riddiford Street.

There's a warm welcome for all performers - singers, songwriters, instrumentalists and poets. Expect to do two items, or three if you open the evening or there's time at the end for more.

Contact: kevin.ikin@supermail.co.nz; newtownacousticsound@gmail.com The Newtown Acoustic Sound Open Mics run twice a month. The second one this month will be on

the last Sunday 31 March.

4. Open Mic, Plimmerton Boating Club, 66 Moana Road, Plimmerton, Thursday 14 March, 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.



5. AGM Wellington Folk Foundation Inc, Upstairs Room, Sprig and Fern, Tinakori Road, Saturday 24 March, 3pm



The committee is seeking new people to contribute to the management and design of the Festival. All executive (President, Secretary,

Treasurer) and committee roles are open for nominations. In particular, we are seeking nominees for the role of Secretary and Treasurer.

YOUR FESTIVAL NEEDS YOU AND YOUR IDEAS TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

6. A huge thank you for the koha collected at the Christmas party

At the Christmas party last year those attending donated \$339.00 to the Atareira Trust, which was gratefully received. The money was used towards providing a Christmas barbecue for the residents of Easy Access Housing and for some treats for the New Year period as the trust residents are often faced with a bleak time. The programme coordinator said in his thank you letter "it is very heart-warming to know that people out in the community are so caring and compassionate towards those who have so little".

7. Review, The Book A Berth Concert, 8 February

It's hard to believe that this was Acoustic Routes' first concert for 2019. The year has launched itself under full sail and it feels like we are half way through it already. We had an enthusiastic response to the call for performers to sign up for a berth and we had a crew on board in no time at all. It was a variety show in every sense, with the half dozen acts offering a flavoursome menu that would have satisfied most tastes.



KAREN MUNRO, a regular at the Plimmerton Open Mic, opened the show in feisty fashion with a set of mostly her own songs, including an anti-war song about Vietnam and a bluesy number which she wrote, she said, when she was a lot younger. She writes excellent lyrics and accompanies them with strongly played guitar. Watch out for the album she's working on.

DAVID EARL was next, a singer songwriter who's been taking his music in a new direction with key-board accompaniment, as regulars at Newtown Acoustic Sound's open mic will know. That was certainly the case with most of his set, taking us for "A Walk in the Park" and introducing us to a street character, Magic Jack. But he gave us a real cross-cultural experience with his opening number, a song in Reo about Matariki, accompanied on a Japanese wood flute.



NIGEL PARRY AND RUTH PRENTICE wrapped up the first half in very stylish fashion. Ruth's melodic violin under-pinned Nigel's finely crafted songs perfectly. We heard two of his songs about whaling in the Marlborough Sounds, a new one called "The Notch", and an earlier one, "Nine Pairs of Eyes". Then an old favourite "The Day the Bank Closed its Doors", and a sweet love song to finish.

JOHN AND SUSAN SUTHERLAND are always a delight to listen to, with a huge palette of songs to choose from and John's top notch finger-picking to carry them along. Their's was a set of two halves. John opened with a powerful Levon Helm song (remember him, the drummer and singer from The Band?), followed by a trade-mark blues, "Taken the Last Train And Gone". Then, a couple, of songs from Susan: Gillian Welch's "Silver Dagger" and a song with a 100 year pedigree, "Was I?"



Ktoo - Kevin McLoughlin and Kevin Ikin, were up next, with some new songs, added to their repertoire since their CD of West Coast songs released in 2017. They included "Ten Miles Down the Road", a song by Adriann Smith and Kevin M, about making family connections in Ireland, Kevin I's song about West Coast aviation pioneer Bert Mercer, and "Black River Mine", John Archer's take on the Pike River tragedy.

THE PJs – Jenny Kilpatrick and Pamela Gerrish Nunn, finished the night in fine style, making the most of their beautifully blended voices to deliver a gutsy set that opened with Richard Thompson's "Down Where the Drunkards Roll, and included a song from Australia, "The Bridal Train", about war brides boarding a train to begin the long journey to their new homes in the US. The PJs use occasional backing from recorder and acoustic bass but what stands out is the rapport they achieve with their singing.



Kevin Ikin

8. Mark the date - Himmerland, April 13 at Roseneath Hall



From Denmark, Ghana and Sweden, Himmerland is inspired by the exciting and very varied cultures of the five incredible musicians in the band. They seek to fuse the different cultures and genres but always with respect for the origin of the traditions. This year they are happy to be joined by Mairi Campbell from Scotland.

This will definitely be one of the musical highlights of the year.

Check next month's Balladeer for details.

9. Acoustic Routes membership deal

Membership subscriptions have been halved for the remainder of the financial year. Go to the Acoustic Routes website for subscription rates and a membership form: www.acousticroutes.org.nz

10. 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 11 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) **A Feast of Scottishness**

Emily Smith and Jamie McClennan at the Bluegrass Society, Saturday 9 March, 8 pm

Multi award winning Scottish singer Emily Smith and New Zealand born songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Jamie McClennan have been making music together for over fifteen years. With rich vocal harmonies, accordion, fiddle and sublime guitar backing, they are one of the most vibrant duos on the UK folk scene today.

Check <https://wellingtonbluegrass.net.nz/> for details

Simon Kempston at Mainly Acoustic , Tuesday 12 March, 730 pm

An award-winning songwriter and an inspiring, poetic lyricist, Simon's songs are amongst the most thought-provoking you are likely to hear, often sidestepping the usual themes of love and attraction in favour of offering social commentary and an insight into the everyday lives of people. His love of Celtic landscape coupled with his travels abroad, particularly in Eastern Europe, have also

influenced many of his lyrics. Fascinations with architecture and English literature from a young age have created a distinct and unique lyrical style. Check <http://mainlyacoustic.co.nz/> for details.

c) Wallis Bird in concert, San Fran Cuba Street, Saturday 23 March



Wallis is the two times winner of Ireland's Meteor Music Award and represents a new, modern Ireland. From stripped-back folk confessionals to edgy contemporary pop raves, the intensity of her sound will pin you to the wall – and she is funny as.

With special guest artist, amazing songwriter **Kerryn Fields**.

Tickets and info <http://www.wallisbird.com>

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/wallisbird>

d) 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

11. 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

12. 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

13. 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

14. 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 an <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: 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@extra.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, 730 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/](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