

The Balladeer

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

Acoustic  *Routes*

www.acousticroutes.org.nz



Acoustic Routes AGM, Sunday 18 August, 300 pm
Upstairs at the Sprig & Fern, Tinakori Road

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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. Steampunk Minstrels concert, Roseneath School Hall, Thursday 22 August, 7:30 pm



Steampunk Minstrels is a band with its beginnings in sunny South Africa where Mairi-Anne met Marius and they combined forces as two 12-string guitar players who loved the textural possibilities of a 24-string onslaught.

Mairi-Anne comes from a long line of classical piano and violin performers, but she rebelled and took up the guitar instead, combining the 12-string with her considerable vocal range to perform her own songs with a Celtic feel. She was a University folk club stalwart before she

met Marius, who encouraged her to take up bass in order to expand the duo's sound a bit.

In New Zealand, Marius started jamming with a colleague, Raman Lee, a talented drummer and singer and fellow English teacher. They produced a studio version of Maskanda, a song that Marius wrote about his first encounter, at about age 6, with the guitar and a strolling Zulu minstrel. Together with bassist Christine Wells and with Mairi-Anne on 12-string and mandolin, was formed and immediately lost two of its members when Marius and Mairi-Anne left Auckland for Wellington.

Now in Wellington, the two have occasionally wowed the Newtown Open Mic nights with their unique blend of Celtic and African folk music with a hint of jazz and rock. Don't miss this distinctive and exciting concert.

The first half will be an open mic.

Entry: \$15/\$10 for members. Cash only (no eftpos facilities).

2. Murray's Musings



Hi Everyone

We are right in the middle of winter, cold and wet, however the days are becoming longer and we are heading towards spring with all its promise. We are also heading towards the end of the Acoustic Routes financial year and our AGM is looming. We would love to see as many of you as possible in the upstairs room of the Sprig and Fern, Tinakori Road, 3pm on Sunday the 18th of August. We would greatly appreciate your support and ideas about what you would like to see happening with your club. It would also be lovely to have some of you join our committee and help realise your ideas.

On that note, I'd like to thank all our hard-working committee and people who work outside the committee, who are a vital part of Acoustic Routes. On our

committee I'd like to thank Sue Ikin who so carefully handles our finances and contributes so much to the general running of the club, decisions and the real biggie, keeping me on track. Kevin Ikin works tirelessly as secretary, communicating with everybody about club issues. I'd also like to thank him for running our monthly Newtown Acoustic Sound Open Mic. Kevin has demonstrated enormous, selfless dedication to Acoustic Routes for many years. I'd like to thank Bruce Carey for his work on our committee, a very welcome voice, and his help in all areas with setting up for events. I have personally found his advice, and help with setting up sound for concerts, extremely valuable. I'd also like to thank him for organising 'Pop-Up Open Mics' in association with Acoustic Routes. I'd like to thank Madeline Ashworth for her unfailing support and help, especially managing supper for all our concerts. Thanks Madeline.

From outside the committee, I'd very much like to thank Philippa Boy for producing such a professional Balladeer every month, particularly from the scrawl I send her. If it wasn't for her efforts, you wouldn't be reading this. I'd like to thank Annie McGregor for running her regular house concerts in association with Acoustic Routes and also for running the yearly Riverslea Retreat get together, which will be held once again this year on the 23rd, 24th and 25th of August. Thank you so much for your hard work. I'd also like to thank Roy McGuinness for running his extremely successful and well-attended monthly open mic at the Plimmerton Boating Club, in association with Acoustic Routes. Thanks Roy.

Lastly huge thanks to each and every one of you who attends and supports Acoustic Routes. Without your support, there would be no point in having the club.

There have been a number of wonderful folkie-associated events that I have had the good fortune to attend around the Wellington Region in the last month. Tony Burt ran his yearly Holler at Tatum Park in the middle of July. A wonderfully relaxed and well-attended event where a range of fantastic music could be heard, as well as some fun and valuable workshops. Thank you so much Tony. Derek Kirkland performed as the main guest at a recent Blue Grass Society concert. He was really delightful, armed with his singing sheep and his puppet, and explained the background to many of the songs he had written and sung. It was a slice of Derek's life in humour and song. KToo, our own Kevin's accompanied by Susan Ellis, gave us a lovely afternoon of music in a Plimmerton Up Close and Personal concert recently. Mainly self-penned songs about the West Coast. Thanks to all of you. The Pukerua Bay Club had Charles and Anne as their July guests. They fully lived up to expectations - thoroughly professional music, theatre with messages - really wonderful.

Our own club concert for July featured the past winners of the Joan Prior Award for young performers. I've prepared a review which you can read elsewhere in this Balladeer. Suffice to say that this was, predictably, one of the standout concerts of the year.

Cheers and keep on folkling

Murray Kilpatrick

3. Open Mic, Plimmerton Boating Club, 66 Moana Road, Plimmerton, Thursday 8 August, 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. Newtown Open Mic upstairs at the Office, Sunday 11 August, 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.

Bring two songs to sing, or a poem or two, or some tunes and have an extra item up your sleeve as well, in case there's time. We have musicians of all levels playing to a listening audience in a great little venue, where you can be totally acoustic or use our small sound system. There's a warm welcome for all performers - singers, songwriters,

instrumentalists and poets.

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 Sunday 25 August.

5. Acoustic Routes Annual General Meeting, Upstairs at the Sprig & Fern, Tinakori Road, Sunday 18 August, 3.00 pm

Come and find out how your Folk Club has been doing, elect a committee for the next year and have your say. We'll provide the nibbles. Remember, to vote at the AGM, you need to be a paid-up member of Acoustic Routes. There's a subscription form in this Balladeer. You can renew your subscription at the meeting, or through the website, www.acousticroutes.org.nz

6. Riverslea Retreat, Otaki Gorge Road, 23-25 August



The Riverslea Retreat is an annual highlight of the Acoustic Routes calendar. A great opportunity to drive away the winter blues with warm company and wonderful music.

Located on the Otaki Gorge Road, Riverslea can accommodate up to 37 people, including people with disabilities and mobility problems.

Tea, coffee and milo are provided and there will be a shared meal on Saturday night. Pillow, pillow case and bottom sheet are provided on the bunks.

Charges are \$55 per night and \$30 for a day visitor. Please contact Anne McGregor to register: annemcgregor@xtra.co.nz or (04) 2338567.

7. Review, Joan Prior Awardees concert, 25 July

From the mid-1950s, the late Joan Prior, sometimes known as the Johnsonville Song Thrush, was an extremely active, influential and significant part of the Wellington folk scene. Several years ago, her family donated many of her music and dance-related books and records to Acoustic Routes. Most were sold to members and the accumulated funds were set aside for an annual award to encourage young performers.

Acoustic Routes has made four such awards and there were to have been four acts, however Hunter Giltrap was suffering from a terrible cold/flu and so, sadly, had to withdraw.



The concert opened with the first award recipient, Flix Rose - a wonderfully engaging performer. She has a very lovely, expressive and clear voice with a huge range. Singing mainly self-penned songs, she had the audience entranced for the whole time. I also particularly liked one of the few non-original songs she sang, a Celtic version of Shule Aroon.

Daniel White was the second performer who I don't think I'd heard before. He played a very beautiful fingerstyle guitar medley of mainly contemporary songs and tunes. He is indeed an accomplished and very tasteful musician who had the audience floating along with his lovely clean melodies. Although he said that he wasn't a singer, he closed with a very special and moving song that he had written for his father.

The final act consisted of Emily Griffiths and Thomas Stonehouse, who enlisted the help of Johnathan Berkhan for a high-powered line up. We were treated to a series of jigs, reels, polkas and slip jigs all played in world class style. These three had the whole room tapping their feet from go to woah. Emily sang several songs beautifully and evocatively between the sets of tunes.

I came away from the concert very happy that the music we love is safely in the hands of such extremely good musicians, singers and performers. If you were unable to make this concert, you have missed one of the highlights of the year.

Murray Kilpatrick.



The 2019 award, open to performers aged 15 to 25 years will be held again this year, as part of Wellington Folk Festival and has a prize of \$500. Entry details will be out soon, so please let young singers and musicians know.

8. Wellyfest, Brookfields Outdoor Education Centre, Wainuiomata, 25-28 October

Wellyfest has announced its first four guests for 2019.



Victoria Vigenser and Lindsay Martin met at Wellyfest and now they are back as a duo to share what they have been working on.



Mix Celtic airs and vibrant dance music with Americana and Swedish tunes and you have Across the Great Divide.



Flowing vocal harmonies and classy playing across Americana, swing, country, folk and bluegrass – the Skiffy Rivets



Mixing baroque, jazz and traditional folk music in a vintage rock setting – Grumblewood.

On-line sales will open in August. Check the website:
<http://:wellingtonfolkfestival.org.nz>

9. Acoustic Routes membership, July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

Single	\$25.00
Double/family (children under 18)	*\$40.00
Other (Student, life member partners, beneficiaries)	*\$15.00
Where one person is over 65 and the other is under the membership is *\$40.	
Where both parties are over 65, or receive benefits the membership is *\$30	

What being a member gives you

An annual programme of concerts by top-class musicians
Regular performance opportunities at a range of other musical events
Regular communications about what's on
Discounted entry to club events and concerts
Discounted entry to participating folk clubs
Discounts on selected items at Alistair's Music, Cuba Street
Voting rights at the AGM or any subsequent SGM

Payment options

1. Complete this form and post it with a cheque made out to Wellington Folk Centre, P.O. Box 27-191 Marion Square WELLINGTON 6141
2. Pay by internet banking to 'Wellington Folk Centre Inc.': ANZ account 01 0505 0182241 00 (*ensure your name is included for reference*) and simultaneously forward your details (as below) to treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz .
3. Hand your form plus payment to a committee member at an Acoustic Routes event.

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PLEASE COMPLETE: many thanks for your support

Amount paid: \$_____ Choose one: Single, Double /Family, Other

Donation: \$_____ (Wellington Folk Centre is a registered charity
and donations of \$5.00 or more are tax-deductible. A receipt will be issued.)

Payment has been made by cheque/direct credit/other

NAME(S): _____

POSTAL ADDRESS: _____

POSTCODE: _____ Phone number _____

YOUR CURRENT E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

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 12 August, 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) **Fig Tree Cottage Greytown, Specials for Folkies**

Fellow folkies can book our holiday cottage at a reduced rate - \$85 per night - anytime until 13 September. You can see the cottage on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/figtreehomestay/> and on Air BnB to get an idea of where it is and what it's like (note that the special rate is not available through AirBnB).

The cottage sleeps a maximum of five people (with three sleeping in the sitting room) and includes a kitchen with two burner stove, microwave and coffee machine as well as a bathroom, separate bedroom and sitting room. We can also make our caravan available (especially suitable for kids!) and that sleeps two in sleeping bags.

The cottage is at the back of our garden with own access and parking. You can be as private as you wish. To book please contact Niels and Janette 0210236 1951 or email: greytowncottage@gmail.com

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 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@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, 730 pm.

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