

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



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. Polly Johnston Set concert, Roseneath School Hall, Thursday 26 September, 7:30 pm



Hi, we're The Polly Johnson Set! We're a five-piece acoustic band from Wellington who have been performing live together for the past five years. We each write original songs which then get the full-band treatment, transforming from rough edged bundles of potential into fully polished musical gems.

Musically speaking, you might be hard pressed to describe us. We struggle ourselves! Five different voices in the band mean that we're pretty diverse, lyrically and musically, but we firmly believe that's the source of the magic that we seem to create whenever we play together. With guitar, bass, ukulele, cello, banjo, mandolin and even a real fancy shaker in the mix we traverse a range of styles, managing to use each to convey true emotion and excitement. And oh man it is fun.

Support Acts



Toil and Trouble are a fine trio of seasoned performers. Mary Hubble brings wonderful flute/whistle playing and lovely vocal harmonies. Jude Douglas is a superb fiddle player who always finds the perfect harmonies to enhance every song. Ron Craig combines a warm, expressive, voice with beautiful guitar. Expect a wide variety of songs, lovely harmonies and gorgeous

instrumentals.

Annette Esquinet is a singer-songwriter whose songs have a gentle 'Indie-Folk' sound, containing thoughtful observations about life on earth, with an enchanting and slightly mystical twist. Originally from the UK she now based on the Kapiti Coast.

https://www.facebook.com/Annette-Esquenet-singersongwriter-366155407349671/





Hunter Giltrap - the 2016 Winner of the Acoustic Routes Joan Prior Award for Young Performers - is a young musician who has grown up in the folk community. He has a love for storytelling through song, and enjoys doing so through fiddle, guitar and vocals.

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

2. Murray's Musings



Hi Folkies

Acoustic Routes has had its AGM. The standing committee were all returned with the addition of Christine Riordan. I would like to thank everybody who attended, the committee, and welcome Christine. There is a very strong possibility that one or two other people may join your committee in due course. This is extremely encouraging. I would however like an even bigger committee. If any of you reading these muses feel you would like to join our team, we would love to have you on board.

Our last Roseneath concert was opened very ably, with a come-all-ye, (or in more modern speak) an open mic. Thank you to all of you who shared your music with us, Our main guests were a couple, originally from South Africa, who go by the name of the Steampunk Minstrels. They sang their own compositions with wonderful arrangements and are certainly very skilled in all areas. I'm sure Wellington is going to see and hear a lot more from them in the near future.

As I type these Muses, we are getting ready to go for a weekend into the Otaki Gorge at the Riverslea Retreat camp. These weekends are always wonderful socially and musically. In anticipation, thank you so much Annie Mc Gregor.

Keep folking

Murray Kilpatrick

Singer Songwriters

Upstairs at THE OFFICE BAR

of the month 5.30pm to 8pm

& covers - All Welcome.

EVERY 2ND and LAST Sunday

3. Newtown Open Mic upstairs at the Office, NEWTOWN ACOUSTIC SOUND Live Music

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, some tunes or a story. 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.

Contact: <u>kevin.ikin@supermail.co.nz</u>,

<u>newtownacousticsound@gmail.com</u>. The Newtown Acoustic Sound Open Mics run twice a month. The second one this month will be on the Sunday 22 September.

4. Open Mic, Plimmerton Boating Club, 66 Moana Road, Plimmerton, Thursday 12 September, 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. Reports to the 2019 Acoustic Routes AGM

President's Report

The past twelve months have been very much business as usual. We have put on two wonderful concerts at the Roseneath School Hall by overseas touring performers - Himmerland, and Sadie and Jay. There was a participatory Sing Around to celebrate St Patrick's Day, ably compered by Roy Mc Guinness. Another concert featured members of Newtown Acoustic Sound. We celebrated New Zealand Music month with a concert headed by Rachel Darwick, supported by Paddy Burgin, and Makaira Waugh, who created an instant Marimba Waiata band from members of the audience. Lastly, there was a concert featuring three of the four Joan Prior Award recipients. All wonderful concerts and events.

Our club Secretary, Kevin Ikin, has continued to run monthly Acoustic Routes Sunday Open Mics Upstairs at The Office in Newtown. These events have been very popular and I want to thank Kevin for his continued and dedicated effort.

Other regular events run in Association with Acoustic Routes were Roy McGuiness's hugely successful monthly Thursday evening open mics at the Plimmerton Boating Club. I want to thank Roy for his running of this event.

Annie McGregor has continued to run regular house concerts in her and Roy McGuinness's home. I want to thank Annie for running these events. Also for running the very enjoyable annual folky retreat weekend at Riverslea in the Otaki Gorge Road

Kim and Sue Rose made their lovely home available for the 2018 Acoustic Routes Christmas Party once again. Thankyou Kim and Sue – as always, a very enjoyable event.

We once again ran the Joan Prior Award for Young Performers at the Wellington Folk Festival. I want to thank Sue Harkness and her Wellyfest Committee for their help and cooperation in making this a successful event.

The club has been run throughout this year by a small and very hardworking committee. Without their efforts, nothing would happen. Sue Ikin, our extremely diligent treasurer, has kept track of all our finances, memberships, and ensured

all our bills etc were promptly paid. Thank you so much Sue for your tireless efforts.

Kevin Ikin our secretary has handled all communications with real professionalism throughout the year. Thank you so much Kevin. You manage a huge workload and make my job so much easier.

Madeleine Ashworth always makes sure the supper is ready and sorted for every monthly concert. A very important job. Thank you so much Madeleine.

Bruce Carey has supported me in countless ways, particularly setting up for concerts, advising and helping me with sound, and running pop-up open mics, during the warmer months in association with Acoustic Routes. Thank you so much Bruce.

Although not on the committee, I would also like to offer my grateful thanks to the following people.

- Janette Munneke has filled in gaps, particularly on the door when committee members were otherwise committed.
- Philippa Boy assembles and distributes our monthly Balladeer newsletter in a very professional manner. I am in awe of her skills and dedication.
- John Burnell works behind the scene to organise our on-line presence and electronic communications.
- David Miller has generously reviewed our annual financial accounts.

I feel that our year has been good in some aspects and not so good in others. We have continued to stage consistently very high-quality concerts. However, we are not attracting as many people to these events as we have in the past. There has also been a slight reduction in our annual membership numbers.

At the last AGM. I expressed a desire to run a greater variety of events during the year, to investigate alternative venues for club activities, to build our club's community and sense of ownership, to build connections with other organisations which have similar aims and aspirations to Acoustic Routes, and to involve a wider, and hopefully younger, community with our club. I feel that, to a large degree, we have not achieved these aims. I would ask you, the members of Acoustic Routes, to communicate clearly what you would like to see happen with Acoustic Routes into the future. If at the conclusion of this AGM, you wish me to remain as president for another twelve months, I will do the best I can to achieve your wishes.

Finally, I want to thank all our club members for your continued support. Without you there wouldn't be a club.

Murray Kilpatrick

Treasurer's Report to 2019 AGM: an overview of what lies behind the numbers.

You will note a small profit of \$44.00. The loss would have been \$81 if donated books had not been purchased. It is not big problem, except for the trends that lie behind the figures.

Membership is declining and so is attendance at concerts. Membership declined from 70 in 2017/8 to 58 last year. This is in stark comparison to 95 three years ago. The decline is despite at least four reminders at the beginning of the financial year and a couple when subscriptions are halved at the mid-way point. Most of the members are silent supporters of Acoustic Routes. They may attend the open mics at Plimmerton and Newtown but only about five, apart from the committee, are regular attendees at monthly club concerts.

Normal monthly concerts have been very sparsely attended over the previous year - 20 would be a good night; and that includes the performers, maybe some of their friends, the five regulars and the committee. The most successful concerts, in terms of numbers, were Neil Adam & Judy Turner, Himmerland and Maire Ni Chathasaigh/Chris Newman. Of these three, Himmerland and Ni Chathasaigh/ Newman were outside the normal monthly schedule. At all of those concerts, non-members out-numbered members by a fair proportion. Those three special concerts accounted for approximately half the total income for the year, and even then, by the time venue hire and sound was added in, they barely broke even.

Although the total revenue from concerts exceeded expenditure by approximately \$600, this has come about because there have been several concerts which were participatory or because the performers were not paid. Had we paid the usual fees to performers concerts would have run at a loss.

The Riverslea Retreat continued to operate at a small profit margin and the expenses for the Christmas party were donated.

Membership and donations covered the statutory costs and the surplus, along with bank interest and the profit from the concerts, covered the cost of running the Joan Prior, which amounted to \$787 (\$500 prize money, publicity material and judges' gifts).

Sue Ikin

6. Highlights from the AGM

A dozen or so members attended the AGM upstairs at the Sprig and Fern on Sunday, 18 August. They chose a committee for the 2019-20 year, with Murray Kilpatrick, president for the past two years, being elected for a further term. Murray indicated this would be his last year as president. Kevin Ikin was reelected as secretary and Sue Ikin and new committee member Christine Riordan, were jointly elected for the role as treasurer. Last year's committee members, Madeleine Ashworth and Bruce Carey, are back on board again this year and Murray indicated there are a couple of other people interested in joining the committee.

The JA Pan Trophy, which the Club awards each year to the most improved performer, has gone to Cathy Dyer, a very popular choice. Cathy will be familiar to many folkies and concert goers as bass player and vocalist with The Downunderdogs.

The meeting agreed to keep subscriptions at the existing rates and the Club will go back to its former practice of issuing cards for members.

The Club remains in a healthy financial state (see treasurer Sue Ikin's summary in this Balladeer), but Sue's concern about declining attendances at Acoustic Routes concerts prompted a wide-ranging discussion about that and other issues relating to the direction of the Club. The committee will follow up the discussion by considering issues such as whether the Club should continue to run regular concerts or focus on other events and look at different venues. It will report back to members with its proposals.

Kevin Ikin

7. Enter the 2019 Joan Prior Young Performers Award





After a terrific awards event in 2018, and our July concert showcasing previous winners, we are now on the lookout for entrants for this year's award.

The Joan Prior Award, open to performers aged 15 to 25 years, is run as part of Wellington Folk Festival and has a prize of \$500.

Acoustic Routes is very keen to encourage younger musicians, and if you think you, or someone you know has got what it takes to join the winners of the past five years, we invite you to enter and be in to win!

Go to the Acoustic Routes website, <u>www.acousticroutes.org.nz</u> for details about the award and how to enter. You can also find information on the Wellington Folk Festival website: <u>www.wellingtonfolkfestival.org.nz</u> or by contacting Kevin Ikin <u>kevin.ikin@supermail.co.nz</u>.

The deadline for entries this year is October 1st**.** If you want to be sure of getting updates about the Award, sign up to the mailing list on our 'Email Newsletters' page.





Brookfields Outdoor Education Centre Wainuiomata 25-28 October

Ticket sales for the 2019 Wellington Folk Festival are now open. For bookings and all the other details, go to the website: <u>www.wellingtonfolkfestival.org.nz</u>

There's a fabulous line-up of guests:

Across the Great Divide (New Zealand/Sweden) Alan Downes (New Zealand) Grumblewood (New Zealand) Jenny Mitchell (New Zealand) Jessie Fenton (New Zealand) Richard Grainger (UK) The Bearded Cat (Australia) The Chaps (NZ) The Good Girl Song Project (Australia) The Skiffy Rivets (New Zealand) Vic Folk (NZ) Vigenser & Martin (New Zealand/Australia)

Early Bird discounts are available but must be booked and fully paid for by 11pm on 30 September.

Volunteers wanted

For those who want to attend but may be a bit strapped for cash, we are looking for volunteers to assist with two aspects of the Festival.

- 1. **First aiders** Those with current first aid certificates or who are medically qualified (GP, nurse) to provide first aid services. We're looking for about 5 people to each work two five-hour shifts over the Festival. You'll have radios so can be free to attend events you'll just need to be able to respond if needed. The Festival supplies the First Aid kit.
- 2. **Hygiene workers** Duties include supplying all the toilet/shower blocks with soap, towels and toilet paper regular cleaning of the blocks, setting up rubbish bins around the site and ensuring they are emptied regularly, cleaning all the halls, kitchens and accommodation after everyone has left the site. You will need to be able to either work Friday afternoon with the setup crew or Monday until mid-late afternoon for the clean up. Ideally, one of the hygiene crew will have access to a ute or van to make the job easier.

No payment, but free tickets to the volunteers. If you're interested, please email us at info@wellingtonfolkfestival.org.nz with the role you're interested in.

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

Single\$25.00Double/family (children under 18)*\$40.00Other (Student, life member partners, beneficiaries)*\$15.00Where 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
- Pay by internet banking to 'Wellington Folk Centre Inc.': ANZ account 01 0505 0182241 00 (*ensure your name is included for refer*ence) and simultaneously forward your details (as below) to treasurer@acousticroutes org pz

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 9 September, 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

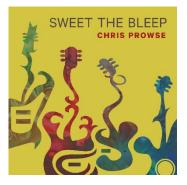
b) Fig Tree Cottage Greytown, Specials for Folkies

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: <u>https://www.facebook.com/figtreehomestay/</u> 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) Tui Award-winning Wellington musician Chris Prowse has released his third album - a real departure from *Trouble on the Waterfront* (about the 1951 waterfront lockout) and *There Goes The Shiner* (based on John A. Lee's stories about the rouseabout Shiner Slattery).



Sweet the Bleep is an instrumental album that explores the versatility of the guitar and features Chris (guitars, el tres Cubano, synths, and timpani), Richard Prowse (double base), Andrew Delahunty (harmonica) and Evan Prowse (synthesizer).

It opens with a suite of three short tunes inspired by the natural wonders of Fiordland, and tours through Prowse's many influences – from jazz, folk, son Cubano, to the abstract – and relights a cigarillo with 'The Tune with No

Name', reminiscent of a sound track for Clint Eastwood's famous character 'The Man with No Name'. The album features just one cover – Kenny Burrell's beautiful 'Soul Lament'.

Available at Spotify, Apple Music, Bandcamp, i-Tunes and Slow Boat Records, 183 Cuba Street. For CD orders, email **info@proco.co.nz**.

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 <u>balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz</u>

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 <u>performers@acousticroutes.org.nz</u>

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 <u>treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz</u>.

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 <u>subscribe online</u>, or contact <u>publicity@acousticroutes.org.nz</u>

13. Acoustic Routes contacts

President: Murray Kilpatrick <u>musicianmurray@gmail.com</u> Correspondence: Kevin Ikin <u>secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz</u> Treasurer/Membership: Sue Ikin <u>treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz</u> Balladeer: Philippa Boy balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz Acoustic Routes update email: Murray Kilpatrick <u>musicianmurray@gmail.com</u> Performance opportunities: <u>performers@acousticroutes.org.nz</u> **Postal address**: PO Box 27-191 Marion Square, Wellington, New Zealand. **Website**: <u>www.acousticroutes.org.nz</u>

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 <u>cashy@ihug.co.nz</u>

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 KapitiRoad.

Contact: enquiry@klmc.org.nz anhttp://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 <u>dalewebb143@gmail.com</u> Website: <u>www.levin-folk-music-club.org.nz</u>

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 <u>mary.khalil@xtra.co.nz</u> Club committee email: <u>info@mainlyacoustic.co.nz</u>
- Website: <u>http://mainlyacoustic.co.nz/coming-attractions/</u>

Morris dancing: Dave Barnes <u>http://www.morrisdancing.org.nz/</u>

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, <u>bluegrass@paradise.net.nz</u> 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 alllevels.Cost: Mostly free
- Contact: Iain Matcham 04 568 8635, email <u>iain@jumbletree.com</u>