

# The Balladeer

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

*Acoustic*  *Routes*

[www.acousticroutes.org.nz](http://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. Mid-month concert: Himmerland with Nuala Kennedy, Roseneath School Hall, Sunday 20 March, 7:30 pm

Here's a special night of dynamic and different music! Whoever remembers this band from Denmark on its previous visit will be excited to see these talented, creative and original musicians again – while those who haven't heard Himmerland before are in for a real treat.



This time around, the band consists of Eskil Romme, a Dane who plays saxophone in many musical outfits; Sigurd Hockings, also Danish and one of his country's most skillful folk guitarists; Ayi Solomon, originally from Ghana though living in Copenhagen, an accomplished percussionist who also sings; and Nuala Kennedy, an Irish singer and flautist who first met these Scandinavians in 2015 in Australia – giving the term 'world music' some real meaning!

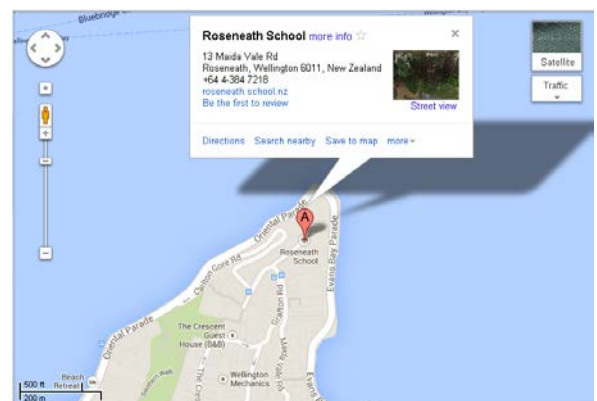
But this music is not a mish-mash of anything and everything, rather the fruit of collaboration amongst four very skilled and creative musicians who mix their own traditions with a bit of jazz, a bit of humour and a lot of spirit.

So come along and give the music-lover in you a night to remember.

**Entry \$20 members, \$25 non-members**

[Roseneath School](#) Hall is a beautiful little space just out of the central city with good acoustics and a proper stage, lighting, etc.

Access is down a short lane off the street (Maida Vale), next to a church and a small row of shops. There's parking in the school grounds and the number 14 bus goes right past.



## 2. AR Monthly Concert, Irish Night featuring Pat Higgins, Roseneath School Hall, 31 March, 7:30 pm



We are putting off our usual fourth Thursday concert until the fifth Thursday to avoid the Easter holiday – and it'll be worth waiting for!

With a nod to St Patrick's Day earlier in the month, we are devoting this evening to Irish music, and opening the floor in come-all-ye style for anyone to contribute their favourite

song, tune or verse.

To enrich the second half of the evening we have a bit of the real thing with esteemed local musician Pat Higgins as our guest.

Those who attended our recent Scottish night can look forward to enjoying again the special pleasure of sharing music amongst friends, while those who missed that occasion have a chance to make amends.



**Entry \$5 members, \$10 non-members**

## 3. Pres sez



Kia ora katoa

There seems to be a glut of cultural entertainment in Greater Wellington at present - a person can hardly move for festivals of something or another, and every day, it seems, another live music date starts up as a regular fixture one should add to the diary. This is all very well for the mobile and solvent, and I suppose for performers, if it means more exposure and more paid work - but it seems as if there are hardly enough nights in the week or days in the weekend to do justice to this excess of opportunities. It's one face of the headlong consumerism that we are constantly badgered into these days – you can buy yourself an endless diet of gratification and never mind about the state of the world, eh?

Perhaps this surfeit is behind the low attendances we have had at the Roseneath hall since the return from the summer break. Whatever the cause, these low turn-outs are a worry to your Committee. I may be stating the obvious when I say that the Committee works only for your musical pleasure – that's our reason for being, so if

only small numbers of people turn up to enjoy what we are organising in the club's name, we have to ask why. There's a financial aspect to this – we don't want to drain the club's bank account by spending on things that don't command your interest – but there's also a very basic issue to be considered of whether the provision of folk music through the mechanism of an entity such as Acoustic Routes is still wanted in our city. I foresee this needing to be addressed at the AGM that must occur in July or August - and some would say it was already the elephant in the room at the last AGM.

Meanwhile, folk music is traditionally not a market-place commodity but something that people support because of the values it represents as much as the pleasure it gives. So if you still feel a loyalty to this notion, let's see it guiding your entertainment choices in the next few months. We've planned some really great evenings of music both familiar and new for you to enjoy and participate in, so...

ka kite ano – Pamela

#### **4. Sign up now for the AR Blind Date Concert, Roseneath School Hall, Thursday 23 June**



Hi Folkie Acoustics.

It's time to start getting your names to me for the Acoustic Routes 2016 Blind Date concert.

A blind Date concert is where you give in your names and contact details and then two months before the concert, names are randomly pulled out of a hat and put into groups. It is then your job to find out who the others in your group are, contact them and get together and practice to prepare a 20-minute performance for the concert.

It's always lots of fun and you often get to meet and play music with people you have never played or sung with before. The more people entering, the merrier. Please get you names and contact details to me before the AR monthly concert on 28 April, where the groups will be drawn.

Murray Kilpatrick [Julmur@paradise.net.nz](mailto:Julmur@paradise.net.nz) phone 239 9951

Let's make this a great night.

## 5. AR open mic, Thunderbird Café 154 Featherston Street, Sunday 6 March, 1-3 pm

Open to all acoustic performers. Drop in, put your name on the list and do a couple of numbers for the customers. In this friendly and hospitable setting you'll see some familiar faces from other AR occasions, and get some good conversation, eats and drinks as well as music. Turn up promptly if you want to be sure of getting on the list.



Contact: Kevin Ikin [kevin.ikin@clear.net.nz](mailto:kevin.ikin@clear.net.nz)

## 6. AR Sunday Singaround, Alfred's Art Space Petone, Sunday 13 March, 5-7 pm



Those of you who have been to the singaround before already know about the wonderful gallery which has also proved to be a marvellous performance space for the monthly singaround. If you haven't been yet, come and share a song, a tune, a poem or a story. Coffee and tea will be available. Entry: a gold coin for the koha bowl

<http://www.facebook.com/Alfred.Memelink.Artist>

## 7. Review, AR concert 'Songs of Innocence and Experience', Daniel White, with Sue Harkness and Col Wright, 24 February

Apologies to William Blake for borrowing the titles to two of his collections of poems, but it goes a small way to summing up the scope and appeal of another fine night's entertainment that deserved a far bigger audience than the small number who turned up.

As most of you will know, Daniel White won the 2015 Joan Prior Young Performers Award, judged and announced at Wellyfest. Our opportunities to hear him until this concert had been limited to short sets at Acoustic Routes last year and then at the award final. This was a chance to absorb a full set of Daniel's self-composed songs and guitar instrumentals, and as he said, to try an album's worth of songs and tunes on a live audience.

Those of us who had seen Daniel perform before would have been mostly familiar with his beautiful guitar playing and we were treated to that again, with an opening

medley of tunes, a sombre piece performed at a funeral, the up-tempo "Rush Hour" developed while busking on Lambton Quay, and the mellow and reflective "Ariel". However, Daniel has been focusing a lot of attention on his songs lately and they made up most of his concert set. They were mostly songs of young love, including one, "Amazing" written when he was still at school. His gentle voice suits these songs – songs of innocence, if you like - which I found refreshing and appealing. It will be interesting to see where Daniel's song writing takes him from here.

In contrast to this emerging young talent, the first half of the programme gave us the voices of experience; two stalwarts of the folk scene: Col Wright and Sue Harkness.

Col Wright, to whom Acoustic Routes owes a huge debt for his contribution and support over many years, opened the night with a trio of songs, mixing sadness and silliness: an Irish song lamenting the death of a bittern beside a frozen lake, a piss-take about the F-111 fighter jet and Col's own haunting commemoration of the Erebus disaster.

Sue Harkness demonstrated her performance skills and her comprehensive repertoire and knowledge of folk music with a set ranging from trad to music hall. Sue sang the songs mostly unaccompanied after a wrist injury forced her to change her programme and restricted her guitar accompaniment to just a couple of numbers, but her fine voice came to the fore on standards such as "High Germany", "The Blantyre Explosion" (referenced to the West Coast mining tragedy at Pike River), and the New Zealand classic, "Bright Fine Gold", with a terrible tongue twister of a song to wrap up.

Kevin Ikin

## **8. Review, Paul Ubana Jones and Keely Turuwhenua concert, Thursday 11 February**

Attempting to write a review directly after this concert would have produced something incoherent. The point is I was so mightily 'wowed' on the night I may not have made literal sense in the immediate afterglow! Now, on reflection, I find myself brooding over the fact I never went to see Keely Turuwhenua play Botanical Gardens magic in January, and blown away to have shared Paul Ubana Jones's 'heart and soul' in a highly intense, intimate evening.

I had expected a hall humming with the summer vibe of our music-loving crowd. But when it was clear the audience was not going to swell to maximum hall capacity, the show commenced...As soon as Keely began, we knew we were in for one treat of night. Keely's confident guitar and vocals put us all in a relaxed, intrigued state. What made her performance stand out was her subtle use of gadgetry to add layers of harmonies – the level of use of this was perfect, not too much to dominate her main vocal part, but when it was introduced you wanted it.

I didn't feel the need to hear covers from Keely. In her own 'Wide Open Spaces' she sang about seeing the world up-close-and-personal, and we sure felt up-close-and-personal. I was impressed by the closing song 'Home' with its beat, guitar riffs, and

multiple harmonies. I don't know Keely's musical aspirations; maybe she has her sights set on the more popular. But, I like the fact she embraces the folk scene (whilst never pretending to play folk as such), bringing her refreshing vibe and professional approach.

It was obvious there was mutual appreciation between the two artists of the night (the acts a great match by the way, Committee!) After commanding more applause for Keely, Paul explained that he was connecting back to his folk roots. Folk clubs are where it all started for him in London, followed by visits to see many influential blues/rock legends, and classical concerts too. Kicking off with 'Golden Gate' he showed how he first developed his finger-style. 'Who We Are' then showcased some astonishing guitar work, no digit redundant! The intensity built further with an arrangement of The Beatles' 'Norwegian Wood' (and an insight into how his Martin has worn raw in places...). He pumps out a controlled rhythm and bass line while producing some frenetic stuff at the top end. I sometimes couldn't work out what he was doing and marvelled at how he found his way back to the resolve again. Groove is what Paul does so damned well; it's hypnotic.

After the break, we really got to the core of the man. The exposing 'Daddy Don't Live Here Anymore'; the outstanding 'Kings and Fools'. More cover songs given the PUJ treatment included Bert Jansch's 'Needle of Death' and Paul Simon's 'Sound of Silence'. Soundman Murray Kilpatrick coped admirably with everything thrown at him by this mythical creature!

Being at a PUJ concert is like witnessing a magnificent firework display. Explosions of fiery colour ('Bird Without Song'), and smooth fountains of light dissolving into the darkness (guitar notes delicately fading at the end of 'Hear The Rain'). Even his thick ashy hair was a sparkler spitting out light. And oh that icy-wind-of-a-voice hurling through a dark canyon and dissipating into the soft, still morning air...What more can I say?

Helen Dorothy

## **9. Summer Festival Reviews: Tahora**

Off the Forgotten Highway and the festival is never forgotten.

Tahora is a special, magical, healing and rejuvenating place. It's kindly shared by Kerry and Deborah every two years. I have been going since 1987 with a short break (due to giving birth to two daughters). Tony and I returned to our Tahora whanau around 1994 until this year's Festival and hopefully more to come.

So what does "Tahora" mean to us as pilgrims making this winding journey to Kerry and Deborah's. Here are some comments from the "oldies" and "newbees" that experienced Tahora 2016.

"It was quiet without the drummers."

"It was amazingly tidy and in such good nick."

"Sitting there and listening to music wafting past the rolling hills was just bliss."

"More chilled out!" "No wasps" "The renovations, garden, garage all the recent work that has been done looks amazing."



Photo: Eve Manning

"The poppies. ... Wow."

"The Shearers Quarters fitted all of us in and around for the evening concerts and daily catch ups. Even though Kerry and Deborah have built their wing at the side, we all felt that we were still welcome and the energy felt the same as thirty years ago."

"It was organic....more like the old days. There were things to do but more time for jams."

"There were plenty of opportunities for people to participate. If there was a need for a concert or an event Kerry would let those people organize it. For example, I felt that a trad singing session would be a good idea and mentioned it to Robin Brew who organized it for the following day."

"I like Tahora, I like the place and the people and the sense of continuity."

One festival visitor said "Tahora was life changing for us; we sold up our property in Auckland and have since brought land in the country to set up a future festival site."

" It's a great opportunity for people to play music, play, laugh, be silly, have mud fight battles or just be and read."

"It's my special place."

For me I reconnect with wonderful friends and have time to create new friends. I find "Tahorans" greet me with big hearts when I arrive and are always willing to help support me in a blackboard concert. Others have experienced the same generosity with their time.

Every Tahora has new "Tahora virgins"; this year included the Frank Burkett Band, Tony Burt and Karen Jones and quite a few others who contributed their own songs in the evening concerts and loved meeting new friendly faces.

Finally, after so many wonderful comments, a very special thanks to Kerry and Deborah who have opened their place to become "our place" for a week.

Kia Ora Tahora.

Charlene Hillyard



## 10. Balladeer music noticeboard

Where you can advertise your music-related items—lessons, instruments, gigs, band members wanted, etc.

### **a) Monthly Blackboard Concert, Plimmerton Boating Club, Thursday 10 March, 7 pm**

Hosted by the inimitable Roy McGuinness, this is a great night in a lovely venue with low cost drinks and food, and a sound system. Put this one on your calendar as a regular event. If you want to find out more, contact Roy on (021) 433-878.

### **b) Trad Singing Session, Upstairs at the Sprig and Fern, Thorndon, Monday 14 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](mailto:david.barnes@xtra.co.nz)

### **c) Coastella International Music Festival, Southwards Car Museum (Kapiti Coast), 26 March (Easter Saturday)**

Coastella International Music Festival organised by Gerry Paul and his friend Paul has an awesome line up, including the undeniably charming 8 piece band from Melbourne Sex On Toast playing raw early 80's funk and heartfelt blue eyed soul; NZ songwriting legend Don McGlashan; Silver Scroll winner Lawrence Arabia; country singer and wandering minstrel Delaney Davidson; three acts from Ireland including chart topper Noelle McDonnell along with ex Gráda singer Nicola Joyce; Morena Dub from Brasil, 22 piece Balkan Orchestra the Balkanistas; Mara TK and so much more.

There will be plenty of entertainment for the kids and the Kapiti Food Truck Collective will be there with a variety of tasty morsels. Craft breweries Tuatara & North End and Zeffer Cider will be there along with Tohu Wines and Foxtan Fizz to keep you cool in the historically great Easter weather.

Check it out on the website, facebook and twitter and tickets are already on sale through Eventfinda with a limited early bird offer of only \$65 + booking fee! There will be return buses from the Wellington CBD on the day, tickets also available through Eventfinda for just \$25.

### **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 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](mailto:balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz)

## 11. Are you ready to perform?



Are you interested in performing at Acoustic Routes events, including support acts for our monthly concerts? Contact us [performers@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto: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.

We have several regular events each month. The first Sunday of the month is an open mic session at the Thunderbird Café in Featherston Street, from 1-3 pm.

The second Sunday of the month we host a singaround at Alfred Memmelink's Artspace on the Petone foreshore, from 5-7 pm.

The fourth Thursday of the month generally features a concert, usually with a visiting artist and support acts from amongst our membership. These concerts are at Roseneath School Hall, Maida Vale Road, Wellington.

Membership of Acoustic Routes costs \$25 a year for individuals, \$40 for couples or families, or \$15 for students and beneficiaries. It entitles you to door-charge discounts at Acoustic Routes events and also at events put on by most other folk clubs. Members get priority access to performance opportunities, and can have input into the club's activities. To join, email [treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto: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](mailto:publicity@acousticroutes.org.nz)

## 13. Acoustic Routes Contacts

**President:** Pamela Gerrish Nunn [president@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:president@acousticroutes.org.nz)

**Correspondence:** Emma Hart [secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz)

**Treasurer/Membership:** Sue Ikin [treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz)

**Balladeer:** Philippa Boy [balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz)

**Acoustic Routes update email:** Gerard Hudson [publicity@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:publicity@acousticroutes.org.nz)

**Performance opportunities:** [performers@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:performers@acousticroutes.org.nz)

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

**Website:** [www.acousticroutes.org.nz](http://www.acousticroutes.org.nz)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Acoustic-Routes/89128457590](http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Acoustic-Routes/89128457590)

## 14. Other regular folk events/contacts in the region

Americana Jam Session

When: Upstairs room of The Third Eye – the Tuatara temple of Taste, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday, from 4 to 6:30 pm. Join Richard Klein and friends and enjoy some of the Wellington region's finest players and singers of country, blues, Cajun, old-timey, boogie-woogie and all-around good-time American music, and it's an open session so you can join in.

#### 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](mailto:lynne@scott.gen.nz)

#### Contradance with Chilli Jam

When: 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month, 7:30 pm  
Where: St Michael's Parish Hall, Kelburn  
Cost: \$15 waged adult, \$10 unwaged adult or child and \$30 for a family.  
Contact: kevinmcl12@gmail.com

#### Finn's Cafe Open Mic Nights

When: 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month, 7.30 pm. This is a really popular night and a great way to meet other musicians. Hosted by Danilo.  
Where: Finn's Cafe Bar, 2 Beach Rd, Paekakariki.

#### International Folkdancing

When: Every Wednesday from February to December, 7.30 to 9.15  
Where: Tarrant Dance Studios, 125 Cuba St, Wellington  
Contact: Cashy Yates (04) 569 1618 [cashy@ihug.co.nz](mailto: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](mailto:enquiry@klmc.org.nz) and <http://www.klmc.org.nz>

#### Kelburn Pub Live Music

When: Live music every Sunday 3-5 pm.  
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: Pip Payne if you want to perform - 027 654 5419.

#### 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. \$2  
Where: Horowhenua, Scottish Society and Pipe Band hall, cnr Bartholomew Rd and Middlesex St.  
Contact: Barbara Lucas [bmserendipity@gmail.com](mailto:bmserendipity@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.levin-folk-music-club.org.nz](http://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: Kevin & Sue Meehan (04) 970 4008  
For enquiries or newsletter email [harrier@paradise.net.nz](mailto:harrier@paradise.net.nz)

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

#### Music and Poetry at the Metro

When: Second Sunday of the month, 3.30pm to 6pm

Where: Metropolitan Restaurant and Bar Lydney Place Porirua

Cost: free

Contact: Phil McConnell: [musicandpoetryatthemetro@gmail.com](mailto:musicandpoetryatthemetro@gmail.com) Phone (04) 237 9902 or 027 786 5542 [www.facebook.com/music.metrobar](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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, ph 04 568 8635 email [iain@jumbletree.com](mailto:iain@jumbletree.com)