

# The Balladeer

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

*Acoustic*  *Routes*

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

## Open Acoustic Routes Club Meeting

*The Office, Newtown*

*Sunday 17 November, 3-5 pm*

### November 2019: in this issue

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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 parodies night, Roseneath School Hall, Thursday 28 November, 730 pm

According to one dictionary definition, a parody is “a piece of music or literature that mimics the style of another composer or author in a humorous way”. However you choose to define it, a parody or spoof is an entertaining and probably therapeutic way of having a gentle crack at something or someone that’s getting up your goat.



This will be a singaround night rather than a concert, and it’s all about participation. So, get cracking, find a well-known song or tune and write a new set of words to give us a laugh. It doesn’t have to be a song, you can satirise or lampoon a poem or a piece of prose, too.

In today’s world, there is no shortage of subjects, but if you need inspiration, search out the many parodies that Trump and his tantrums have spawned. There are heaps of existing parodies to choose from. One Kiwi example is “Hung-over Liver”, Marcus Turner’s wicked adaptation of the Paul Metses classic, “Farewell to the Gold”.

Entry: \$5 for participants, \$10 for others.  
Supper (hot drinks and bikkies) provided, and there will be spoofy prizes as well.

## 2. Murray’s Musings



Hi Everybody

Summer sometimes feels as though its just around the corner.

The big news over this last month was Wellyfest. What a wonderful festival! Congratulations and thanks so much for the huge amount of really hard work put in by Sue Harkness and her crew, committee, and helpers from outside the committee. Everybody I’ve had contact with has said that they enjoyed the festival from go to whoa.

I do know that Sue would like some new, younger people on the committee, to plan for Wellyfest 2020. If you would like to get on board, I’m sure she would welcome you.

As part of the festival, the festival committee allowed us to incorporate the Joan Prior award for young performers into their program and we had four extremely talented acts competing for this award. I would like to thank our judges, Sue Harkness, Janette Munneke and Lindsay Martin for what was a very difficult job deciding who would receive this award. To all the contestants, congratulations. In my mind, you were all winners.

I would like to welcome Karen Munro to our committee. We are also looking for a few more people to come aboard.

Christine Riordan is taking over the Balladeer production from Philippa Gander. I'd like to thank Christine for agreeing to take on this role and to thank Philippa for producing such a wonderful newsletter every month for such a long period of time.

Christine is also in the process of taking over as treasurer of Acoustic Routes. Once again thank you Christine for taking over this role and thank you so much Sue Ikin for doing such an excellent job as treasurer for so many years.

As a follow on from the club's AGM, we have agreed to hold a meeting from 3-5pm on Sunday 17 November so that club members can discuss what they would like to see happening with the club in the future (see the notice below). This is an opportunity for you to let us know what you would like. We hope as many of you as possible come along and share your ideas.

Our next club night on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November will be a participatory Parody Night and yes there will be prizes. Start writing your parodies now.

Kim and Sue Rose have kindly agreed to let us once again hold our Christmas party at their lovely home in Pauatahanui on Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> of December. It would be lovely to have you with us.

Wishing you all a musical and lovely summer.

Keep folkling, Murray.

### **3. Newtown Open Mic upstairs at the Office, Sunday 10 November, 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, 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.

No second Open Mic this month because of WellyFest.

Contact: [kevin.ikin@supermail.co.nz](mailto:kevin.ikin@supermail.co.nz), [newtownacousticsound@gmail.com](mailto:newtownacousticsound@gmail.com).

#### **4. Open Mic, Plimmerton Boating Club, 66 Moana Road, Plimmerton, Thursday 14 November, 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. Acoustic Routes – the future – have your say, Upstairs at the Office, Newtown, Sunday 17 November, 3-5pm**

Following the wide-ranging discussion at the August AGM about the Club's operation and future direction, the Committee has agreed to hold a hui or forum this month to provide a further opportunity to hear people's views before coming up with some specific proposals for changing what we do and how we do it. The venue, the Upstairs room at The Office Bar is the same venue as the Newtown Acoustic Sound Open Mic.

Our aim is to revitalise Acoustic Routes and reverse declining membership and attendance at concerts.

The discussion will cover all aspects of the Club's operation, including the frequency, structure and timing of concerts and other events, venues, and different ways of promoting its activities and getting more people involved. We want to hear all of your ideas at the forum and if you would like to send us your thoughts ahead of the gathering you can email them to [president@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:president@acousticroutes.org.nz) or [secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz)

Thank you

Acoustic Routes Committee

#### **6. Meet the new Editor**

After 9 years, Philippa Boy has handed me the editorship of the Balladeer, big shoes to fill so bear with me. As many of you don't know who I am, thought I'd give you a bit of a rundown. I'm originally from Lower Hutt and after I left school I headed out for Scotland where my parents came from. Got as far as Australia and stayed there coming backwards and forwards for over 40 years, living mainly in Queensland. I eventually arrived there when I turned 50 and my children bought me a ticket, have been back 3 times since!

I came back to NZ 4 years ago for family reasons and have been lucky enough to live in beautiful Plimmerton. I don't have a musical bone in my body but love listening to live music and was warmly welcomed to Roy's open-mic nights as an audience member and have since come to enjoy all the concerts involved around the Acoustic Routes banner.

In Queensland I was a volunteer with the first Maleny Folk Festival when it was run out of a garage in Nambour and this has now become the multi-million dollar Woodford Folk Festival held from 27<sup>th</sup> December to 1st January every year. It's an amazing festival and well worth going to.

I am a background worker behind the scenes and happy to do the admin as there are so many talented musicians out there who are much more creative than needing to fill out the paperwork. As times changed and grew from traditional folk music Bill Hauritz, who is the Managing Director of the Woodford Folk Festival, was once asked what is folk music, his reply was "it is music for folk". That is a comment that encompasses so many types of music that we can all enjoy, some may even be outside the box of our traditional way of thinking, especially in this time of multiculturalism.

I also think that we are here to mentor and encourage young people to continue keeping music alive and on the stage. To this end performers also need the audience to support them at local club nights. Hope all the members continue to support Acoustic Routes in this way.

## **7. Reviews, the Joan Prior Young Performers Award 2019**

This year's Joan Prior Young Performers Award produced another fabulous concert, but also a huge challenge for the judges who had to choose a winner. There were eight entrants for this year's award, but with withdrawals due to illness, work and parental commitments, we had four acts for the concert at Wellyfest on Saturday afternoon.

They were all top-class and all quite different, making the judges' task a very difficult one. But in an extremely close decision, Henry Burton-Wood was declared winner of the 2019 Joan Prior Young Performers Award.

Henry is a newcomer to the folk world, joining Vicfolk, the Victoria University folk club, at the beginning of the year and becoming a regular at the Welsh Dragon traditional music session in Wellington.

For the concert, he performed two Irish songs, "Back Home in Derry" and "Carrickfergus", accompanied on bouzouki, a set of reels on the fiddle, ending with the old American gospel song, "Man of Constant Sorrow".



Henry was followed by Mac and Stevie, a young duo from Kapiti College who have been playing together for about two years. They have impressed everyone who has seen them perform at venues such as the Plimmerton open mic and in the Balladeer at last year's Wellyfest. They delivered a fine set of contemporary songs, superbly sung by Stevie, backed by Mac's impeccable guitar.

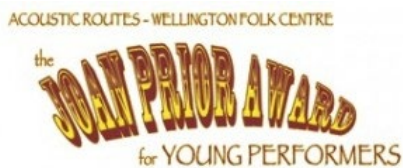
Stephen Riddell, a Wellington-based producer and musician who also plays at the Welsh Dragon sessions, gave us a wide-ranging set of unaccompanied songs, including "Loch Lomond", and instrumentals played on the harmonica. We heard some Irish tunes, "The Lonesome Polecat Blues" and a north Canadian fiddle tune.

The concert was wrapped up by Waolee Tanaka, a Newlands College student from Japan, who performed four pieces on classical guitar, all beautifully played. Her selections included Bach's "Air on a G-string".

We got to hear Henry Burton-Wood on fiddle again, backed by Jonathan Berkahn on accordion, when he received his award at the festival's final Sunday night concert.

Acoustic Routes wishes to thank all the young performers who entered the Joan Prior Award this year, keeping it alive and the standards so high.

Kevin Ikin



The Joan Prior Award concert has become one of my favourite parts of Wellyfest, and this year's was no exception. It's a privilege and a pleasure to be on the judging panel at an event that gives me such hope for the future. In this day and age when they could be sitting at a screen or ingesting music through headphones, it's great to see young people using their talent and energy to produce music in the (perhaps) old fashioned way of actually singing and playing instruments!

Congratulations especially to this year's winner, Henry Burton-Wood. Henry has only been playing folk music since joining Vicfolk at the beginning of the year and is a regular at the Welsh Dragon traditional session. He opened the concert, playing fiddle and bouzouki, and singing traditional Irish songs. His choice of material was very fitting for a folk audience, and his performance was thoughtful and sensitive. He set a high standard from the start, but he did have some stiff competition!

Mac (guitar) and Stevie (voice), from Kapiti College and the only duo in this year's event, played and sang a fine set of songs with skill and aplomb that totally belied their ages. Stephen Riddell treated us to some fine harmonica playing and sang music from a film he made last year (multi-talented!). Waolee Tanaka played a beautiful set of classical guitar tunes, including Bach's *Air on a G string* and lovely rendition of *The Irish Girl*. I hope we'll be hearing from all of them again.

Meanwhile I wish our newest winner all the best in his musical journey and look forward to hearing him at Acoustic Routes and around the Wellington folk scene.

Thanks to Mike Moroney on sound, Murray Kilpatrick for great roadie skills, Lindsay Martin and Sue Harkness for their musical ears, and to Kevin for his superb organising and compering.

Janette Munekke

## 8. Balladeer music noticeboard

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

### a) **Up Close and Personal Plimmerton presents Annette Esquenet & Steph Casey, 21 Gordon Road Plimmerton, Sunday 3 November, 2pm**



Annette Esquenet 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 is now based on the Kapiti Coast.

Steph Casey is a Kapiti Coast singer-songwriter who has just returned from a five-week tour of USA music hotspots - Nashville, the Appalachian Mountains and historic Plymouth, Indiana. Her sound is a mix of indie-folk and alt-country, and her debut album *Whisper & Holler* went straight to number four in the New Zealand charts. Her new album *The Seats in My Car* has been getting five-star reviews in New Zealand and the US and on public radio stations around the world.



Please bring your own drinks and a small plate for afternoon tea from 2pm. Concert starting at 3pm.

\$10 per person. Book your seat with Annie on 0274599376

### b) **Trad Singing Session, upstairs at the Sprig and Fern, Thorndon, Monday 11 November, 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) Up Close and Personal Plimmerton presents the Muggingtons, 21 Gordon Road Plimmerton, Saturday 16 November, 7:30**



This is one not to be missed. *The Muggingtons* formed in 2018 when Kim was asked to sing at a wedding. Flatmate at the time, Michael Muggidge, would stomp the floorboards out in his bedroom while he sang and played his way through his evenings so she asked him if he would join her to add some colour to the set. They arrived at the gig to find them listed as Kim Bonnington and Michael Muggington and so a duo was born.

*The Muggingtons* are impressing Wellington audiences with their set choices that celebrate the best of Michael's picking and their combined vocal diversity. An evening with *The Muggingtons* includes old time country duets from acts such as the Louvin Brothers as they seamlessly travel the historical highway and move into more modern territory to celebrate the likes of Gram Parsons and Gillian Welch.

Tickets \$10.00 per head. Please bring your own drinks and a small plate to share for supper. Feel free to arrive from 6:30 pm to mix and mingle with concert starting at 7:30pm.

**d) SummerSing 2020, Brookfields Outdoor Education Centre, 17-20 January 2020**



This **festival of community singing** is on Wellington Anniversary weekend. Open to all. Brookfields is a gorgeous and large venue, with beautiful tracks of maturing native forest and kayaking possibilities. We hope that you have had a **joyous year** and that you will be able to join us in the new year for some wonderful **community & singing** to start off the year and to be part of creating a successful event.

*juli usmar & carol shortis* 027 813 6207

For registration please email [summersingnz@gmail.com](mailto:summersingnz@gmail.com)

**e) Auckland Folk Festival seeks ephemera**

It's our 50th in 2023 and we'd love to be able to show off our full history as we lead up to this, but a computer was lost some years back that held a bunch of things.

We are looking for:

- Posters (especially these)
- Programmes (physical copies especially)
- Photos of the festival and guests (physical or digital)

We'd love to scan physical copies of things also, so don't worry if you only have one and want to keep it! We just want to make sure we have copies of lots of these things.



I'd love to hear from you

[artists@aucklandfolkfestival.co.nz](mailto:artists@aucklandfolkfestival.co.nz)

Cheers

Finn McLennan-Elliott

#### **f) 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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)

## **11. Acoustic Routes contacts**

**President:** Murray Kilpatrick [musicianmurray@gmail.com](mailto:musicianmurray@gmail.com)

**Correspondence:** Kevin Ikin [secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz)

**Treasurer/Membership:** Sue Ikin

[treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz) **Balladeer:** Christine Riordan  
[balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz)

**Acoustic Routes update email:** Murray  
Kilpatrick [musicianmurray@gmail.com](mailto:musicianmurray@gmail.com)

**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)

## 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](mailto: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](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 3-5pm.

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:** Dale Webb [dalewebb143@gmail.com](mailto:dalewebb143@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: Mary Khalil 021 02314505  
[mary.khalil@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mary.khalil@xtra.co.nz) Club committee  
email: [info@mainlyacoustic.co.nz](mailto: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](mailto:musicandpoetryatthemetro@gmail.com)  
Phone (04) 237 9902 or 027 786 5542  
[www.facebook.com/music.metrobar](http://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](mailto: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](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 04 568 8635, email [iain@jumbletree.com](mailto:iain@jumbletree.com)