

The Balladeer

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

Acoustic  *Routes*

www.acousticroutes.org.nz



Merry Christmas and every good wish for 2020

December 2019: in this issue

- 1. Christmas Party at Sue and Kim Rose's house, Pauatahanui.
Saturday 14 December, 3 pm**
Bring plate of food for supper, bottle of what you like to drink, instruments and songs, koha for donation
- 2. President Murray's Musings**
Update on AR future, thanks and more
- 3. New Jam Sessions at The Office, Sunday 2 February, 4pm**
1st Sunday of the month starting in February 2020
- 4. Old Time Community Social Barndance, Paekakariki, Saturday 7 December, 7.30pm**
Come on down for a good old knees up, no experience needed
- 5. The Maes at Meow, Sunday 8 December, 7.30pm**
Striking songwriting, intricate instrumental arrangements and stunning vocal harmonies
- 6. Open Mic, Plimmerton Boating Club, Thursday 13 December, 7 pm**
Good music, good food, good company
- 7. Andy Irvine at Meow, Saturday 1 February, 7.30pm**
Irish world music pioneer and icon for traditional music
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1. Acoustic Routes Christmas Party, Sue and Kim Rose's Home, Saturday 14 December, 3 pm

Sue and Kim have once again very kindly offered to host this year's AR Christmas party at their gorgeous rural retreat nestled in a little valley about 3km from the Pauahatanui shops. (It's about the same distance from Wellington as Plimmerton.)



What To Bring

Please bring a plate of food for supper, a bottle of what you like to drink, and of course instruments and songs. We ask that you give a Koha which will be donated to Atareira Family Support Trust in time for Christmas. Disposable plates, etc., will be provided but those of you who have picnic sets could bring them too, to help reduce the waste. Sorry no dogs.

We warmly invite you, your family and any like-minded and/or musical friends.

Instructions for Getting There

Sue and Kim's home is 3.29 kilometres from Pauatahanui village, heading north up the Paekakariki Hill Rd. At the end of a long straight you'll find the golf club on the right. Turn left into the drive just past that, cross the bridge and take the left-hand fork to the house. There is a lot of bamboo on their roadside boundary.

The nearest train stations are Paremata and Plimmerton if you are being picked up by a driver. Cell phone coverage is marginal but if you have any problems phone 04 2379029.

2. Murray's Musings



Hi everybody. Summer is just about upon us and, very soon if you have been very good, the fat man might visit you.

The really major thing that has happened this month was the meeting to discuss what the members would like from Acoustic Routes, as was promised at our AGM. This meeting was held in the upstairs room of The Office bar on the afternoon of Sunday 17th November. I was very heartened, firstly by the number of people who attended and by the willingness to openly communicate their feelings, opinions and ideas. Also, there was a willingness to listen to each other and to take on board what others had to say. The meeting was extremely full on and covered a huge range of topics. I would like to thank all those who attended, our club committee, Kevin, Christine and Karen who simultaneously recorded minutes. In particular I would like to thank Vivian who stepped up and took over as scribe on the whiteboard therefore freeing me to facilitate the meeting. To all of you thanks so much.

There was far too much discussed for me to relay everything here. We discussed what is working for the Club, future activities, suitability of venues, why people do and don't attend various events, what people get from the events we run. Already an attendee has set up the monthly jam session at The Office for 2020 that he proposed at the meeting. Thank you Billy, I think that will be very successful.

The next Sunday, I went to the last Newtown Acoustic Sounds open mic for 2019. There are currently three of these Sunday events each month, two run by Vivian and

Alan and the third run by Kevin Ikin as an Acoustic Routes event. What impressed me greatly was the feeling of community and ownership that has gradually developed around this event. Thank you to the three of you, and to everyone else who supports them to make them work so well. The jam session at the end was really lovely to be part of.

A little earlier in the month, I attended Roy's Plimmerton Open Mic. Well I have to, because I do the sound there. There was nonstop, high quality music, from 7pm until around 11.30pm. Thanks so much Roy, for running this event in association with Acoustic Routes. It has become very successful thanks to Roy's skilled organisation and facilitation, demonstrating what a huge need there is for the opportunity for people to be able to get out and perform. Thanks to everybody who helps and supports this night.

There have been some changes within Acoustic Routes. Sue Ikin has handed over the position of club's treasurer to Christine Riordan. Thank you Christine for agreeing to take on this position. A big thank you to Sue Ikin, who has diligently done this job for Acoustic Routes, for more years than I would care to remember. Sue, your service to Acoustic Routes has been well beyond the call of duty. Thanks so much.

Christine has also agreed to produce our monthly newsletter, the Balladeer. Once again, thanks so much Christine. In the short time, you have been a member of our committee, you have made a huge impact. Christine takes over the Balladeer responsibility from Philippa Boy who has produced a very professional publication every month for many years. Acoustic Routes owes Philippa a huge vote of thanks.

On Saturday 14th December Acoustic Routes will hold its Christmas party, once again at the very lovely property of Kim and Sue Rose. Thank you so much Kim and Sue for agreeing to host us once again.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of our often very hard working and now much larger, committee. In particular, our secretary, Kevin, who takes on a huge load. Thanks so much. Thank you to John Burnell for facilitating our electronic communications. Thank you to Annie McGregor for running the Plimmerton Up Close and Personal concerts in association with Acoustic Routes and also running the Riverslea winter mini festival. Lastly, I'd like to thank all of you for your support. Without you, there would be very little point in the Club existing.

A very Merry Christmas and a happy new year to all of you.

Keep folking.

Murray.

3. Sunday Jam at The Office, 2nd February 4pm

Bring an instrument, twitching fingers and your own funky selves to the all new acoustic jam sessions at The Office Bar, Newtown. Join Billy on the First Sunday of each month, 4pm to 8pm beginning in February 2020. Groovy tunes provided, wine and beer available.

4. Old Time Community Social Barndance, Saturday 7 December, 7.30pm



Dust off your boots, throw down that apron, put up that hoe, bake them biscuits brown and come on down for a good old fashioned knees up. Fine Oldtime Appalachian dance music provided by Cotton Daisy Backstep.

No experience needed Dances are called
Children welcome Bring a plate and BYO
Some food and drink provided
Dress up old-timey (optional)

5. The Maes at Meow, 7pm, Thursday 8 December

The Mae's, sisters Maggie and Elsie Rigby, have been full time touring in Australia and overseas since 2014, winning over audiences with their striking songwriting, intricate instrumental arrangements and stunning vocal harmonies.

The Maes latest self-titled record is a return to the sisters' folk music roots.



6. Open Mic, Plimmerton Boating Club, 66 Moana Road, Plimmerton, Thursday 12 December, 7pm

A highly popular monthly event in a lovely venue. Low cost drinks and food, and a sound system.

Contact: Roy on 021 433 878.



7. Andy Irvine at Meow, Saturday 1 February, 7.30pm



Andy Irvine is one of the great Irish singers. He has been hailed as "a tradition in himself." Musician, singer and songwriter, Andy has maintained his highly individual performing skills throughout his over 50-year career.

From Sweeney's Men in the mid 60s, to the enormous success of Planxty in the 70s, his duo with Paul Brady in the later 70's and then from Patrick Street to Mozaik, LAPD and Usher's Island, Andy has been a world music pioneer and an icon for traditional music and musicians. Tickets are \$25.00 through Eventfinda.

8. The Good Folking Festival guide to the holidays

Whare Flat (Dunedin): 30 Dec 2019-2 Jan 2020

Tickets through <https://events.humanitix.co.nz/whare-flat-folk-festival>

This year's lineup features Kiwi songwriting icon Barry Saunders (the Warratahs) alongside rising Nashville star Rachel Baiman, who is performing with her partner, fiddle virtuoso George Jackson. Other high profile acts include up and coming Christchurch hotshots Adam Hattaway and the Haunters, and experimental indie-folk artist Motte.

Tui Festival (Tapawerea, Nelson): 29 Dec 2019-2 Jan 2020

Featuring Brendan Power, Chris Priestley, Across the Great Divide, Barrie MacDonald and Jim Perkins. Be in quick as it's likely to sell out.

Website for tickets: <https://www.jambase.com/festival/tui-farm-folk-festival-2019>.

Te Rangi Festival Argyll Road, Otane: Friday 17 – 20 Jan 2020

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/737837819561076/>

Auckland Folk Festival (Kumeu): 24-27 Jan 2020

A star-studded line-up headed by Tim O'Brien. Andy Irvine, Pauline Scanlon, Keeva, Tattletale Saints.... Tickets are flying out the door!

<https://aucklandfolkfestival.co.nz/>. Tickets through eventfinda

Kiwigrass (Waipa): 31 Jan- 2 Feb 2020

Guests include Lonely Heartstring Band (US), AJ Lee and Blue Summit (US), Bluegrass Parkway (AU), Coolgrass (AU), Nine Mile Creek (AU), Downunderdogs (NZ), The Hamilton County Bluegrass Band (NZ), Hot Diggity (NZ), Melling Station Boys (NZ), <https://kiwigrass.nz/> (preceded by a two day Kiwigrass Academy).

Ticketing through the website.

9. Waitangi Day Get Together - A highlight of the Acoustic Routes calendar.

You are invited to our Waitangi Day BBQ/get together from 3:00pm 'til late on **Thursday 6th February 2020**.



We will have the BBQ going from about 5:00ish so bring something for the BBQ to share along with drinks, instruments and voices. Nibbles, salads or desserts appreciated.

There will be some parking space in the driveway for those needing parking close by otherwise if you park on the road please do not park on footpath.

Plenty of parking is available along the beach. Hope to see you and your whanau on the 6th of February.

Contact: Annie & Roy, 21 Gordon Road, Plimmerton. Phone: 027 459 9376.

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 9th December, 6.30pm

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) 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

c) 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

Cheers

Finn McLennan-Elliott

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 Chris at 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 AcousticRoutes

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 2020. 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 or check the website for membership forms <https://acousticroutes.org.nz/join-us/>.

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: Chris Riordan treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz

Balladeer: Christine Riordan 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 the 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 9.15pm

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 7:30pm.

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 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: 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, 3pm to 5pm
Where: Metropolitan Restaurant and Bar, Lydney Place, Porirua
Cost: Free
Contact: Phil McConnell: musicandpoetryatthemetro@gmail.com
Phone 237 9902 or 027 786 5542. www.facebook.com/music.metrobar

Paekakariki Open Mic

Singers, songwriters, poets and musicians welcome. A good sound system and stage. Check in at the door if you'd like to perform, or just come and listen!
When: Last Friday of the month, 7.30pm.
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 the month, 8pm
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 the month, 8pm
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