

The Balladeer

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

Acoustic  *Routes*

www.acousticroutes.org.nz

Welcome to 2020

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Please let us know if you wish to unsubscribe from receiving this newsletter.

1. Acoustic Routes Concert, Thursday 27 February, 7.30pm

Meet **The Downunderdogs**: Jack Mackenzie, Peter Dyer and Cathy Dyer. This three-part vocal/instrumental blend features first-class flatpicking, stellar songwriting, heavenly harmonies, and lots of laughs.

Like their music, Jack, Peter and Cathy are American born and bred. They enjoy discovering, digging into and arranging "Americana" country, bluegrass, old-time, and swing music. This includes originals by Jack and Peter.

Jack's flat-picking is inspired by Doc Watson. He has picked with Doc and a host of other stars at McCabe's Music—the legendary venue Jack managed and performed at in Los Angeles from 1971 to 1980. He is now building his own Simian Ridge guitars.

Peter plays rhythm guitar and loves singing and yodelling Hank Williams and Jimmie Rodgers. Two of his best known compositions are "Go Ahead and Cry" and "The Immigrants' Song."

After years of listening to Peter and Jack play, Cathy finally added the big double bass and chimed in for three-part harmonies.

The Downunderdogs have been featured at Wellington Folk Festival, Wellington Bluegrass Society, and Auckland Bluegrass Society, and will be part of this year's Kiwigrass Festival.

Admission \$15.00 members/\$20.00 non members.



Karen Munro

Writing songs since a teenager, Karen has been playing round the folk scene in Wellington for a few years. Her songs touch on various genres, from blues to jazz, from trad to country.

Before coming home to Aotearoa, Karen led her wayward youth playing in and sometimes fronting various bands in the UK with a mostly punk, grunge, metal flavour.

A multi instrumentalist, she plays guitar, mandolin and fiddle and accompanies herself on the guitar and occasionally the mandolin.

Karen is in the process of completing her first solo album which she expects to launch later this year.

2. Murray's Musings



Hi everybody

Happy 2020 to all of you. I do hope that the festive season brought you all the joy and happiness that you were hoping for.

Many of you will have attended some of the many festivals that were on around the country. By the time you read this, I will have been to Tahora, Te Rangi and the Auckland festival. Tahora and Te Rangi were wonderful. At Tahora, our Committee member Karen, performed spectacularly at one of the evening concerts, as did a number of other Wellington performers. She and our club Secretary Kevin also performed at Te Rangi. The highlight of this festival was, as usual, the Blind Date Concert and of course our festival Matriarch, Mary's brilliant summing up of that concert.

From all accounts the Whare Flats and Tui Farm festivals were equally as enjoyable. From photos posted in social media, the Tui Farm water fight seemed like wonderful fun.

On Tuesday 21st January, we said farewell to an extremely significant long standing club icon and character, Col Wright. Col was an irrepressible, fun loving and extremely able Australian, who was president of our club through the mid-1970s. He had an enormous input into, and effect on, the club. Col built up the club community. He began producing the Balladeer Newsletter in his very beautiful hand script. He took the National Folk Festival out to the public by staging the final concerts in the Opera House.

His funeral was very well attended by folkies representing many decades of our club. Kevin Meehan and Chris Penman who came all the way from Hamilton both sang beautifully. Robin Brew read a poem that a past Australian friend of Col's had written for him. Annie Van Herk, Marg Pullar and Col's daughter Megan all spoke wonderfully about him. Outside there was mass unaccompanied singing to send him on his way.

At our first Club Committee meeting for 2020 we are going to dedicate our efforts to realising the many varied things you, as club members, signalled you would like to see Acoustic Routes doing in the future. We will do the very best that we can. Have a wonderful year. Keep folkling.

Murray.

3. Obituary - Col Wright

As many of you will already know, we have lost one of the true stalwarts of the Wellington folk community, Col Wright. Col passed away peacefully on Friday 10th January after a long battle with vascular dementia and prostate cancer.

In the words of Annie van Herck, "he was a joy to know, a very generous and active person, always ready to perform, help and organize concerts, parties, run folk clubs... and we all loved his great sense of humour which he never lost, even in the rest home during this last year."



Col played a key role in developing and running the Wellington Folk Centre (Acoustic Routes) and remained a staunch supporter of the Club's concerts and other activities. We will always have a wonderful memory of Col in the backdrop we use for our concerts which he designed and made.

4. Jam Sessions at The Office, Sunday 2 February, 4pm

Bring itchy fingers, twisting antennae and acoustic instruments for harmonic melodic improvisation, shredding, jazzifications to the all new acoustic jam sessions at The Office Bar, Newtown. Join Billy on the First Sunday of each month, 4pm to 8pm, wine and beer available.

5. 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 the footpath.

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

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

6. Open Mic, Plimmerton Boating Club, 66 Moana Rd, Plimmerton, Thursday 13 February, 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. Up Close and Personal Plimmerton. 21 Gordon Road, Saturday 15 February, 7.30pm



We are pleased to be hosting a Scottish small pipes concert with Brighde Chaimbeul & Jamie Murphy. Please bring a small plate to share for supper and your choice of drinks. Cost is \$15.00 per head.

Feel free to arrive from 6:30pm to mix and mingle with concert starting at 7:30pm.

Call Annie to reserve your place on 0274 599 376.

You can also see Brighde and Jamie in Greytown on Thursday 13 February. Call Janette on 0210 236 1951 for details.

From the Isle of Skye in Scotland, Brighde Chaimbeul is hailed as one of the most prolific young pipers of her generation. With Jamie Murphy, one of Ireland's finest musicians together they take inspiration from old Gaelic and Irish tunes, telling stories in their music which has captured audiences across the globe.

'magical, transcendental, super-cool music' – Songlines magazine

8. 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.

9. Open Mic, Newtown Acoustic Sound, Upstairs at the Office Bar, Sundays, 5.30pm-8pm

Open mic hosted by Acoustic Routes and 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.

Newtown Acoustic Sound has been going since 2015. They aim to support musicians of all levels to play to a listening audience. We love original songwriters and give them an opportunity to craft their songs. We enjoy covers and are likely to sing along if we can. The Office is a great little venue, you can be 100 % acoustic but there is a small sound system as well. Come and join us - world famous in Newtown.

- Sunday 2 February Sunday Jam (new for 2020)
- Sunday 9 February Open Mic with Kevin Ikin and Acoustic Routes
- Sunday 23 February Open Mic with Newtown Acoustic Sound

March Dates

- Sunday 1 March Sunday Jam
- Sunday March 8 (watch this space - Newtown Festival)
- Sunday 29 March

There is always something happening in Newtown on Sunday nights!

A BIG THANK YOU TO THE OFFICE BAR FOR THEIR CONTINUING SUPPORT

Contact: kevin.ikin@supermail.co.nz, or newtownacousticssound@gmail.com



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 10 February, 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) 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 most Acoustic Routes events, at events put on by most other folk clubs, plus 10% off strings and tuners 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 Kōha.

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