

# The Balladeer

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

*Acoustic*  *Routes*

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



*Merry Christmas &  
Wishing peace and  
joy  
To you and yours  
in 2021*

## **December 2020: 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 Christmas Party, Sue and Kim Rose's Home, Saturday 12 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 3 km 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 a charity 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 km from Pauatahanui village, heading north up the Paekakariki Hill Rd. At the end of a long straight, on the right there is a small black and white sign for the golf club. Just passed it, turn left into the drive by the red letterbox. You cross the river on a small bridge and take the left-hand fork to the house. 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. Open Mic, Plimmerton Boating Club, 10 Moana Road, Plimmerton, Thursday 10 December, 7pm

A highly popular monthly event in a lovely venue a sound system.



Contact: Roy on 021 433-878.

## 3. Newtown Open Mic upstairs at The Office



The open mics hosted by Acoustic Routes and Newtown Acoustic Sound finished 2020 with a fabulous evening of diverse music and camaraderie on November 29.

They will resume in February – keep an eye on the website for details [newtownacousticsound@gmail.com](mailto:newtownacousticsound@gmail.com).

## 4. Review, Acoustic Routes November Concert – VicFolk and the Flukes

While Acoustic Routes' concert programme was disrupted in this crazy Covid year, the shows we were able to run certainly didn't lack variety. And that was the hallmark of our final concert for the year too, at the dear old Roseneath School Hall. For both our featured acts, it was a chance to see them again still fresh from Wellyfest or enjoy them for the first time if you didn't catch them there.

First up, **The Flukes** with their ukes. I think I counted 11 of them on the night, all bearing ukuleles and a number of other instruments besides – an occasional accordion, cello, melodica and a spot of percussion in the form of a cajon. They all sang as well.

They launched straight into it with a stonking rendition of "Poi E" and then a bunch of eclectic covers. We heard another Kiwi classic, Dave Dobbyn's "Welcome Home", and Gin Whigmore's "Written in Water"; a song by Swedish duo First Aid Kit, and several others, including "People Are Strange" from The Doors. I found this kitchen table band from Brooklyn utterly charming and refreshing.

After the break, **VicFolk** or to give them their full name, Victoria University of Wellington Folk Club, will be familiar to Wellyfest goers as the crew of inspired young musicians who run the big Saturday night dance and the Friday night welcome Ceilidh, as well as their own ceilidhs.

They presented a variety concert within a concert - a seamless flow of different vocal and instrumental combinations, intermingling songs with tune sets. They opened with a couple of traditional songs: "The Sheep Stealer" and "Mole in the Ground", accompanied by cello and ukulele. Later came the Silly Wizard Song "Queen of Argyll" and "Where Have All the Flowers Gone". In between, blazing Celtic tune sets, on fiddles, flute, bodhran, guitar and a trio of whistles. Then the full Vicfolk ensemble on stage for a set of jigs and a couple of reels as an encore.

VicFolk are a Wellington treasure and it was great to have them at Acoustic Routes again.

Kevin Ikin

(P.S. – I have to pass on this joke that Thomas of Vicfolk told us at the concert: Why is playing music like being run over by a steamroller? If you don't C# you will Bb).

## 5. Summer Festivals

### Whare Flat, Waiora Scout Camp, Dunedin, 30 December – 3 January



Set amid native bush in the idyllic setting of Waiora Scout Camp near Dunedin, Whare Flat is rich in diverse music traditions, workshops and dance events. A safe, family-friendly festival that keeps people coming

back year after year to camp, play music and enjoy the wonderful atmosphere.

Tickets <https://www.whareflat.org.nz/book-now>

## **Ethno New Zealand, Piritahi Marae, Waiheke Island, 23-31 January**

Ethno New Zealand is an artistic residency of traditional/ folk/world music that gathers young musicians – singers and instrumentalists – from Aotearoa and the rest of the world for 10 intense days of friendship, sharing and lots of music and dance! Both individual musicians and bands are welcome. The week culminates with a performance at Auckland festival. <https://www.ethnonewzealand.com/>



## **Auckland Folk Festival**



## **Kiwigrass, Mighty River Domain, Lake Karapiro, Cambridge, 5-7 February**



Kiwigrass is where all purveyors and lovers of bluegrass assemble once a year to share their mutual love of the music born in the hills of Kentucky, and now spread all around the world. From Bill Monroe to Billy Strings, the traditional and the contemporary, all is celebrated at this family-friendly, relaxed annual festival located on the banks of Lake Karāpiro at the Mighty River Domain

<https://kiwigrass.nz/>

## **6. Want to perform at WellyFest 2021?**



After a blast at the 2020 festival, your committee is up for the challenge of repeating the successes next year. To do that we need great talent to perform, host workshops and lead our dance programme.

Applications are encouraged in any of these areas:

- Concerts or other performance
- Dance in a variety of traditional and modern styles
- Workshops on dance, musicianship, performance, specific instruments, cultural and historic influences and evolution of folk music and dance
- Learning (and fun) activities for kids

<https://form.jotform.com/203071709496863>

The application form is not for village green (stallholders and traders) or catering. We'll arrange those separately.

**Applications close on Sunday 7 February.** Subject to pandemic constraints, we expect to be in contact with shortlisted guests by the end of April. We will keep you informed by email, Facebook and our web site of any developments that affect our planning.

Cheers

Gerard Hudson  
for the Wellington Folk Festival Committee

## 7. Balladeer music noticeboard

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

### a) **Polytropos concert, Breaker Bay Hall, 150 Breaker Bay Road, Thursday January 14, 7:30**



Oscar West and Rennie Pearson are celebrating ten years of playing and touring together as the traditional music duo *Polytropos*. They have just released their first full-length album.

Multi-instrumentalists West and Pearson are masterful, passionate players of Celtic music arranged in an adventurous, conversational style. Their infectious stage presence and musicality has been a hit with audiences since their debut concert at Wellington Folk Festival in 2011 and in the intervening years they have worked extensively as professional musicians both in New Zealand and internationally.

\$20 door sales

### b) **'Begotten Not Made' – announcing Pat Higgins' first novel**

This is a true story of two sisters, Winnie and Tessie Kelly, set in rural county Galway in the aftermath of the Irish struggle for Independence. The country has made its choice for freedom from British rule and now in their late twenties, Winnie and Tessie both have choices of their own to make. Their decisions separate them until eventually they are

brought together again in tragedy, loss, love and a kind of redemption.

'Begotten Not Made' will be the featured book on Radio New Zealand's 9 to Noon book review on 10th December 2020. There will be an Author's evening including a scene reading from Begotten Not Made, on Dec 4th from 7 PM at Lower Hutt Irish Society.

Print copies are available from Pat Higgins at [RudallCarte@gmail.com](mailto:RudallCarte@gmail.com) or from Another Chapter Bookshop in Riddiford St. Newtown. \$35 + 5\$ postage.

### c) Instruments for sale

Peter Denee, a long-time Acoustic Routes stalwart and precious friend who left us a year ago, had a great collection of acoustic instruments. His family are keen to find new homes for some of them with people who will continue Peter's legacy of beautiful, eclectic music.

Tahitian ukulele with case \$250 – needs new fishing line



Pair of fine 3-hole pipes, high and low g rosewood?

\$100

Large handmade didgeridu, great sound. Offers?



Set of jaw harps ('Jews harps') \$30

If you are interested in any of these, please contact Philippa Boy 021 464640  
[gurdyphilippa@gmail.com](mailto:gurdyphilippa@gmail.com)

#### **d) Legacy Books for Sale**

The Wellington publisher, Roger Steele, a long-time supporter of New Zealand folk music, is closing down his publishing business and has made stocks of music books available to Acoustic Routes. The club greatly appreciates Roger's support and generosity and we will be doing our best to find good homes for them.

- Neil Colquhoun's revised edition of "Song of a Young Country";
- "An Ordinary Joker – The Life and Songs of Peter Cape";
- Phil Garland's "Faces in the Firelight"; and
- "Gold's a Wonderful Thing" - Charles Thatcher's songs of the New Zealand diggings, edited by Robert Hoskins.

There are still a few for sale, so be in quick. \$20 each, except for the smaller Charles Thatcher book which is \$10. Two books for \$30 or all four for \$50. Proceeds to go towards funding the Joan Prior Young Performers Award.

They will be available at our events, or you can contact Acoustic Routes' secretary Kevin Ikin ([kevin.ikin@supermail.co.nz](mailto:kevin.ikin@supermail.co.nz)) to place an order.

## **8. Want to perform?**

The 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 at [performers@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:performers@acousticroutes.org.nz).



## **9. 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.

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).

## **10. Acoustic Routes contacts**

**President:** Ruth Birnie [president@acousticroutes.org](mailto:president@acousticroutes.org)  
<mailto:ruthbirnie@gmail.com>

**Correspondence:** Kevin Ikin [secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz) **Treasurer/Membership:** Karen Munro [treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz)  
<[karenguitarist@hotmail.com](mailto:karenguitarist@hotmail.com)>

**Balladeer:** editor Philippa Boy, producer, Stephen Riddell  
[balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz)

**Acoustic Routes update email:** Kevin Ikin [secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz)

**Performance opportunities:** [performers@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:performers@acousticroutes.org.nz)  
<mailto:ruthbirnie@gmail.com>

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

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

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

### *Trad Singing Session with Dave Barnes hosting*

When: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month, from about 6.45pm

Where: Upstairs at the Sprig and Fern, Thorndon. 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)

### *Ceol Alba Scottish Music Club*

When: 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:lynne@scott.gen.nz)

### *Kapiti Live Music Club*

When: 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 of 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>

### *Levin Folk Music Club*

When: 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of month, 7.30 pm, blackboard concert plus guest artist.

Entry: Members \$5, Non-Members \$10, Children \$3 (includes supper)

Club Night: 4<sup>th</sup> 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](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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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/>

### *Pukerua Bay Folk Club*

When: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month, 8pm (no club night in January)

Where: 9 Donlin Rd, Pukerua Bay

Contact: Murray or Julie Kilpatrick, (04) 239 9951, [musicianmurray@gmail.com](mailto:musicianmurray@gmail.com)

### *Wellington Bluegrass Society*

When: 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month, 8pm

Where: 54 Richmond Street, Petone

Contact: Andrew Bicknell, (04) 477 0069, [bluegrass@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bluegrass@xtra.co.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)