

The Balladeer

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



www.acousticroutes.org.nz

If you would like to perform in this month's AR Irish Blackboard Concert, please contact Ruthe Birnie by 21 March

ruthbirnie@gmail.com, txt 027 451 5486

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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. Celebrating St Patrick, an Irish Blackboard Concert Thursday 25 March, Roseneath School Hall, 7:30 pm

Hosted by the inimitable Roy McGuinness, this will be a fine evening of tunes, songs and poetry to celebrate the Saint.



If you would like to perform, please register your interest with Ruth Birnie by Sunday 21 March and let her know what your two items will be.

ruthbirnie@gmail.com, txt 027 451 5486

Entry: \$5 for AR Members and all performers. Others, \$10. Cash only (no eftpos facilities).



2. Open Mic, Plimmerton Boating Club, 10 Moana Road, Plimmerton, Thursday 11 March, 7pm

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



Contact: Roy on 021 433-878.

3. Newtown Open Mic upstairs at The Office, Sundays 14&28 March, 5:15-8pm



Open mic hosted by 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. In keeping with our names, we've gone totally acoustic, so we don't run a sound system.

Newtown Acoustic Sound has been going since 2015. It aims 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 too and singing along.

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

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

4. Wellington Regional Folk Foundation AGM, Sprig and Fern, Tinakori Road, 28 March, 2pm

The Wellington Regional Folk Foundation Inc organises each year's Wellington Folk Festival (Wellyfest). The AGM is your opportunity to learn how the festival went last year from the festival's Annual Reports and accounts. If you're keen to be involved and contribute to the running of Wellyfest there will be opportunities for new members to join the committee.

The committee currently has the maximum allowed 10 members but two of last year's committee have indicated they will not stand again. We are looking for a secretary (minutes, official record keeping and meeting management) and would be happy if someone would consider joining us to assist with practical organisation - especially the volunteer and/or contracted teams that look after: the festival gate - registrations, cash takings, security; and site hygiene.

Nominations for committee members are welcome. Nominees need to agree to accept nomination so if the nominee cannot attend the AGM we will need their agreement to be nominated in writing and in advance.

Please send nominations (or enquiries or expressions of interest) to info@wellingtonfolkfestival.org.nz.

To vote at the meeting you need to have paid the annual membership subs (\$1). Subs can be paid on the day at the start of the meeting.

5. Review, Acoustic Routes February concert featuring Butter Wouldn't, Melt, Head Full of Bees, & Stephen Riddell

This was a tremendous start to our concert programme for 2021. It was another super variety show and variety was certainly on offer from **Stephen Riddell**, who opened the concert. He sang a selection from his recently released CD, "Sonic Space", accompanied by melodic guitar and harmonica. They included "Buddha of the Backwoods", a song that's been getting some international attention and a Gallipoli tale: "Your Fair Face".

Then we had **Head Full of Bees**, who we were keen to hear again after they first performed at last year's Wellyfest. This trio, featuring the big, rich voice of Simon Harnden, with Henry Burton-Woods on bouzouki and vocals and Jay Kenyon (cello and vocals), performs sea shanties and Celtic instrumentals. This combination, with full vocal harmonies and the unusual pairing of cello and bouzouki, sets this band apart from other performers of these musical genres. Their delivery of well-known sea songs such as "Blood Red Roses" and of course "Soon May the Wellerman Come", entwined with the tunes, did create quite a buzz I have to say, and drew an encore.

After the break, our second trio of the evening was **Butter Wouldn't Melt**, who have been steadily building a profile around Wellington and further afield. They have two strong vocalists, Andrea Reid and Nick Burfield. Nick drives the songs on his vintage arch-top guitar and Andrea colours them on whistles and dulcimers. Underpinning all that is Derek Burfield on double bass. They performed all originals, including several

sweet love songs that definitely melted more than a few hearts in the audience, who insisted on an encore. Their set also included a couple of powerful dark songs – one set in the Napier earthquake of 1931 and one about the murder of a young woman during construction of Wellington’s Mount Vic tunnel, with its haunting “no light at the end of the tunnel” refrain. **Butter Wouldn’t Melt** are working on their first album and after seeing them at this concert, I’m looking forward to that.

Kevin Ikin

Follow up message: Did you leave a woman's black zip fronted cardigan at the concert - Twin Lakes size large? Please contact Sue Ikin on 04 478 4160, or email s.ikin@supermail.co.nz.

6. Balladeer music noticeboard

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

a) Plimmerton Up Close and Personal presents Toil and Trouble, 21 Gordon Road, Plimmerton, Sunday 14 March, 3pm



Toil and Trouble are a trio of seasoned performers. Mary Hubble brings wonderful flute/whistle playing and lovely vocal harmonies. Jude Douglas is a superb fiddle player who always finds the perfect harmonies to enhance every song. Ron Craig combines a warm, expressive, voice with beautiful guitar. Expect a wide variety of songs, lovely harmonies and gorgeous instrumentals.

Feel free to arrive from 2pm to mix and mingle.

BYO drinks and a small plate to share for afternoon tea.

\$15 per head. Call Anne on 027 4599 376 to book you place.

b) Greytown Up Close and Personal presents Vikki Clayton in concert, 75 North Street Greytown, Sunday 14 March, 5pm

We are delighted to welcome Vikki again as our inaugural guest for Acoustic Routes Wairarapa music club.

Vikki is an English Folk singer who has played and sung with such artists as Fairport Convention and John Martyn. Vikki's voice has been described as silvery toned. She'll be playing her own compositions as well as some covers.

After Vikki's session and some supper, we'll have a few floor spots for local and visiting musicians.

Please book your chair! Txt to 02102361951.

\$10 on the door for the musician.



c) Vic Folk Ceilidh, Thistle Hall 293 Cuba Street, Saturday 20 March, 7pm



Come and join Vicfolk as we dance the night away to tunes from our very own ceilidh band. No experience, partner, or coordination required: the dances are very easy and our callers will guide you every step of the way. Bring all your friends or come and meet some new ones!

Discounted online tickets available from <https://www.eventbrite.co.nz/e/142189890791/>

Door sales (cash only): \$15 adults/\$10 unwaged

Doors open at 7pm, dancing starts at 7:30pm.

Health note: if you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19, however mild, then please stay home. There will be plenty more ceilidhs in the future, and we'll look forward to seeing you there. This event will only take place at Alert Level 1.

d) Songs of the Sea Singing Workshop, Aro Valley Community Centre, 48 Aro St Sunday, March 21st, 2-5pm.

This open singing workshop will be centre around different songs of the sea. Most songs will be call and response, with choruses for people to join in. This will be led by Simon, a member of the London Sea Shanty Collective.

A small donation to cover the venue hire will be welcome.

Contact: s.r.harnden@gmail.com

e) Hamsterfest's 50th, Paeroa Racecourse, April 1-4

This family friendly festival celebrates all folk and acoustic music. Highlights include concerts from national guest artists, blackboard concerts, workshops, a tradition bearers session, a cèilidh, and a main concert on the Sunday night. Hamsterfest is notably more hands on than other music festivals, with plenty of opportunities for attendees to perform and informal jam sessions liberally scattered throughout the weekend.



It's a camping festival - onsite accommodation consists of a beautiful tree lined meadow, so be sure to bring a tent or camper and to prepare accordingly. There are showers and toilets onsite and limited kitchen facilities, with some catering services.

Early Bird Prices until 25 March:

Weekend Adult - \$95

Weekend Youth*/Student/Beneficiary - \$60.00

Weekend Family** - \$220.00

<https://www.facebook.com/events/665176847494373/>

f) Canterbury Folk Festival



<https://canterburyfolkfestival.org.nz>

g) Calling All Women Artists for NZ Music Month – a message from David Calder

NZ Music Month features this May will include a special programme of womenfolk, so if you can send an mp3 or a link to one of your songs that would be great. Drop us a line for other ways of sharing your material.

Cheers, David Calder folkmusichour@gmail.com

<https://www.accessradiotaranaki.com/shows/the-folk-music-hour/>

7. 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.



8. 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.

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.

9. Acoustic Routes contacts

President: Ruth Birnie president@acousticroutes.org
<mailto:ruthbirnie@gmail.com>

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

Balladeer: editor Philippa Boy, producer, Stephen Riddell
balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz

Acoustic Routes update email: Kevin Ikin secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz

Performance opportunities: performers@acousticroutes.org.nz

<mailto:ruthbirnie@gmail.com>

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

Website: www.acousticroutes.org.nz

10. Other regular folk events/contacts in the region

Acoustic Routes Wairarapa Music Club

When: Usually 2nd Sunday of the month, 5pm (check with Janette)

Where: 75 North Street Greytown

Cost: varies - koha for the guest

Contact: Janette Wallace-Gedge, txt 02102361951

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

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 of Mazengarb Road as it changes name and turns toward Kapiti Road.

Contact: enquiry@klmc.org.nz and <http://www.klmc.org.nz>

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/>

Pukerua Bay Folk Club

When: 1st 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

Trad Singing Session hosted by Dave Barnes

When: 2nd and 4th 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 at the bar.

Contact: Dave Barnes david.barnes@xtra.co.nz

Wellington Bluegrass Society

When: 3rd Friday of the month, 8pm
Where: 54 Richmond Street, Petone
Contact: Andrew Bicknell, (04) 477 0069, 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