

The Balladeer

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

Acoustic  Routes

www.acousticroutes.org.nz

AUGUST SPECIAL DATES

*Acoustic Routes AGM, Sunday 15 August, 3pm
Spring and Fern, 342 Tinakori Road Thorndon*

*Riverslea Retreat August 20-22
To book please contact Annie on 027 459 9376*

August 2021: In this issue

1. AR monthly concert, Tawa Community Centre, 5 Cambridge Street, Tawa, 26 August, 7:30 pm
2. Open Mic at The Office, Newtown, Sundays 8 & 29 August, 5:15-8 pm
3. Open Mic, Plimmerton Boating Club, Thursday 12 August, 7 pm
4. Acoustic Routes AGM, Sunday 15 August, Spring and Fern, 342 Tinakori Road Thorndon, 3 pm
5. Riverslea Retreat, Otaki Gorge Road, 20-22 August
6. The Joan Prior Award, 2021
7. Review, AR August concert featuring Kist, Janine Mitchell, and Nigel Parry
8. Heads up - Acoustic Routes spring fling with Cotton Daisy Backstep, Saturday 18 September, Tawa Community Centre, 5 Cambridge Street Tawa, 730 pm
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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. AR monthly concert, a 'Marinated Evening' hosted by the inimitable Robin Brew, Tawa Community Centre, 5 Cambridge Street, Tawa, 26 August, 7:30 pm



This idea has been quietly "marinating" (sorry, couldn't avoid that) since February 2020...just before the world slipped into a new, dystopian reality.

Please join us, preferably with some kind of musical or other offering linked to 'The Seas and Waters of Our World'. The choice is yours – vocal and/or instrumental; traditional or contemporary, original or cover; solo, duet, or a group effort. It's best to prepare two or three pieces, in case your first choice is performed before you get your chance.

Expect a good selection of hearty, chorus songs for us all to bellow (gently!) along to. However, the aim is to be inclusive, and you are encouraged to participate. If leading music is not really your 'bag', please consider some spoken-word options - a moving or hilarious passage from a novel that 'got to you' recently, a John Masefield poem, Keri Hulme seascape, ...

The venue (last used for our successful St Patrick's Day event) has a large comfortable lounge and the evening will be 'in the round', without microphones, a stage, or any pressure to perform.

Any queries or concerns please email Robin

robingbrew@gmail.com.

Hope to see...**hear** you on the 26th! **D'aaarrrrghhh!!!**



Entry: \$5 for performers, \$10 for others. Cash only (no eftpos facilities).

2. Newtown Open Mic upstairs at The Office, Sundays 8 & 29 August, 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 name, 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

3. Open Mic, Plimmerton Boating Club, 10 Moana Road, Plimmerton, Thursday 12 August, 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.



4. Acoustic Routes AGM, Sunday August 15, Upstairs at the Sprig and Fern, 342 Tinakori Road Thorndon, 3 pm

This is an opportunity to have your say about Acoustic Routes and its direction. Come along and share your views. We will be holding elections for next year's committee, so it's your chance to get involved too and lend a hand. Remember, to vote you must be a paid-up member

Contact: Ruth Birnie president@acousticroutes.org.nz

5. Riverslea Retreat, Otaki Gorge Road, 21st - 23rd August



The Riverslea Retreat is an annual highlight of the Acoustic Routes calendar. A great opportunity to drive away the winter blues with warm company and wonderful music.

Located on the Otaki Gorge Road, Riverslea can accommodate up to 37 people, and a few campers. Tea, coffee and milo are provided and there will be a shared meal on Saturday night. Pillow, pillowcase and

bottom sheet are provided on the bunks.

Charges are \$60 per night and \$30 for a day visitor. On Saturday night there is a wonderful shared meal. Please let me know if you would like to organise a workshop. Contact Anne McGregor to register: annemcgregor@xtra.co.nz or 0274599376

6. The Joan Prior Award 2021

Acoustic Routes (The Wellington Folk Centre) is proud to present the Joan Prior Award, an incentive for young performers that has been running since 2014.

This year the award has been revised, following a review and consultation process, to make it less competitive and more encompassing as an encouragement to young performers.

ACOUSTIC ROUTES - WELLINGTON FOLK CENTRE

the
JOAN PRIOR AWARD
for YOUNG PERFORMERS

What's on offer?

Under the new format, up to seven applicants (depending on the number of performers in each act) will be offered full weekend passes to Wellyfest and feature in a Young Performers concert.

Successful applicants will also receive free membership to Acoustic Routes for a year and be offered the opportunity to perform at a Young Performers concert hosted by Acoustic Routes sometime in the following year. Acoustic Routes will also be exploring opportunities for mentoring young performers.

Who can enter?

Solo performers, duos or trios aged 18 to 25 on September 30, 2021, resident in the Wellington region (the area covered by Wellington Regional Council and Kapiti and Horowhenua Districts).

The award is open to singers and instrumentalists, and to performers of traditional as well as contemporary and original material. All genres of music are acceptable. As a general guide, this includes the wide variety of mainly acoustic music performed at folk festivals.

Applicants are asked to provide video/audio samples of their music and if there are more than seven applicants, there will be a selection process by a panel set up by Acoustic Routes. (This is the same process used by Wellyfest to select its acts).

How to apply

The application process is currently being updated and entries will open in August. The deadline for entries will be mid-September (date to be confirmed).

To keep up to date, sign up to the mailing list on our 'Email Newsletters' page:

<https://acousticroutes.org.nz/news/>

Any questions? email: secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz

7. Review, AR August concert featuring Kist, Janine Mitchell, and Nigel Parry, 22 July 2021

July's concert, with three great acts, was really a showcase of local song-writing, singing and instrumental talent. All three acts performed a mix of their own material and covers, so we heard traditional numbers as well as material by Hirini Melbourne, Clannad and My Friend the Chocolate Cake.

Performing with Jack Binding (lead guitar and vocals) and Kevin Ikin (mandolin), Janine Mitchell opened with two environmental songs, "How can I fathom the heavens" and "Kiss the ground". (The lyric "Where will the honeybees go?" resonated with me because I'm reading *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* at the moment.) There were songs about life events, with some great instrumental back-up, and after a brief interlude to put out more chairs to accommodate the crowd, the trio finished with a satisfying sing-along "Blowin' in the wind". Especially good to see our newest life member, Kevin Ikin, up on the stage playing mandolin and harmonica.

Nigel Parry also started with an environmental theme with his song with a language warning. Something about trucks, I think? - I had my ears covered so I can't say for

sure. The lovely self-penned "Rosemary's rosy doorway" was next, a gentler dig at progress, followed by two great classics "Twa corbies" and "The King of Rome". Another self-penned number to finish, "The Notch whalers", accompanied by Pat Higgins on flute.

Kist opened with a self-penned (by Pat) migration song called "The Kist", which the band is named after. Kist is a Scottish word for chest; a word that's used to denote a treasured collection, and this was indeed a collection of great songs with beautiful use of instruments to paint soulful soundscapes. Pat Higgins (vocal, guitar, flute), Rusty Tonz (cello and vocal), and Jude Madill (vocal, fiddle, banjo and guitar) drew from Celtic, Canadian and Māori traditions to tell stories of human experience. From the old world ("The Hag with the money") to the new ("Lonely Lake Town blues" by Richard Inman, "Purea Nei" by Hirini Melbourne, and a beautiful cello number by Aussie band My Friend the Chocolate Cake) and back again to the old ("Chonnlaigh ghlais an Fhoghmhair" by Clannad, and the gypsy poaching song, "Go from my window") – a kist-ful of treasures for sure.

Can't wait for the next Acoustic Routes gig!

Janette Munneke

8. AR spring fling with Cotton Daisy Backstep, Saturday 18 September, Tawa Community Centre, 5 Cambridge Street, Tawa 7.30 pm

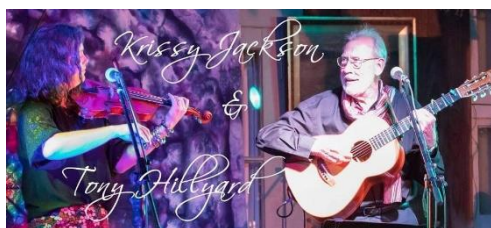


Admission \$15.00 (\$10.00 for members, Gold Card holders, students and beneficiaries).

9. 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 Krissy Jackson and Tony Hillyard, 21 Gordon Road Plimmerton, Saturday 8 August, 3 pm



Krissy Jackson & Tony Hillyard
She's a little bit quirky - he's a little bit trad.

This talented duo weave fiddle fireworks and lyrical guitar with silky vocals, to craft their arrangements for songs and tales that stir the blood and soothe the soul.

Arrive from 2:30pm to mix and mingle. Tickets are \$15:00. BYO drinks and a small plate to share.

Please phone or text Anne on 027 459 9376 to book your seat.

10. Acoustic Routes membership, 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022

All subscriptions are individual, based on the age or status of the member.

Single	\$20.00
Other	\$10.00
(students, life member partners, beneficiaries and superannuitants)	

What being a member gives you

An annual programme of concerts by top-class musicians
Regular performance opportunities at a range of other musical events
Regular communications about what's on
Discounted entry to club events and concerts
Discounted entry to participating folk clubs
Discounts on selected items at Alistair's Music, Cuba Street
Voting rights at the AGM or any subsequent SGM

Payment options

1. Complete this form and post it with a cheque made out to Wellington Folk Centre, P.O. Box 27-191 Marion Square WELLINGTON 6141
2. Pay by internet banking to 'Wellington Folk Centre Inc.': ANZ account 01 0505 0182241 00 (*ensure your name is included for reference*) and simultaneously forward your details (as below) to treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz.
3. Hand your form plus payment to a committee member at an Acoustic Routes event.

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PLEASE COMPLETE: many thanks for your support

Amount paid: \$_____ Single \$20 or Other \$10

Donation: \$_____ (Wellington Folk Centre is a registered charity and donations of \$5.00 or more are tax-deductible. A receipt will be issued.)

Payment has been made by cheque/direct credit/other

NAME(S): _____

POSTAL ADDRESS: _____

POSTCODE: _____ PHONE NUMBER: _____

YOUR CURRENT E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

NAME(S): _____

POSTAL ADDRESS: _____

POSTCODE: _____ PHONE NUMBER _____

YOUR CURRENT E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

11. 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.



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.

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.

13. Acoustic Routes contacts

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

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

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

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/>

Poetry at the Fringe

What: A free entry programme of poetry and music with open mic session and guest performers
Where: The Fringe, 26-32 Allan Street, Wellington
When: 3rd Sunday of the month, 4-6pm
Contact: <https://www.facebook.com/poetryatthefringe/>

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