

The Balladeer

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

Acoustic  *Routes*

www.acousticroutes.org.nz



*Merry Christmas
Wishing you peace, joy,
and lots of music in 2022*

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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 postponed to 2022

Despite our best efforts and fervent wish to celebrate our community and our music, unfortunately the Committee have had difficulty finding a suitable venue for a party under the current Covid restrictions. We will try again next year.

We wish you all a wonderful festive season and summer and look forward to lots more great music in 2022.

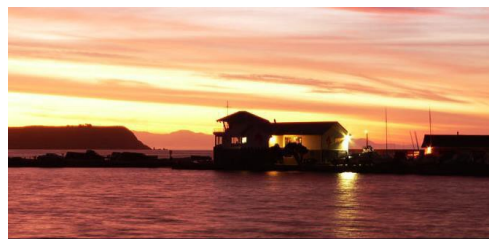


*What is Christmas?
It is a tenderness for the past,
Courage for the present,
Hope for the future.*

Agnes M Pahro

2. Open Mic, Plimmerton Boating Club, 10 Moana Road, Plimmerton - hoping to see you in February

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



Contact: Roy on 021 433-878.

3. Newtown Open Mic at The Office, update for 2022



NEWTOWN ACOUSTIC SOUND will be hoping to resume its Open Mics in February next year. We would like to be able to return to its regular venue upstairs at The Office Bar in Riddiford Street, but that will depend on the Covid situation and conditions under the new traffic light system for managing the disease.

The final Newtown open mic for this year was held at the Houghton Bay Hall on Sunday, 28th November. Not the usual venue, but the hall provided more space for people to spread out and comply with Covid Level 2 conditions. There was a big turnout and an amazing variety of music from the 21 acts who performed.

newtownacousticsound@gmail.com.

4. Review, Acoustic Routes November Concert featuring Karen Munro and Band, Wandering Thyme, and Ratproof

This was our second concert under Covid Level 2 restrictions and like October's Young Performers concert, it was fully booked as people flocked to enjoy another evening of top-quality live music.

The focal point of the concert was the release of **Karen Munro's** new CD, "Across the Blue", hot off the production line after a labour of love stretching back over the past year or so. The album is a beautifully crafted collection of Karen's compositions, mixing songs of protest and social commentary with more personal experiences. The arrangements, playing and production on the recordings are all top-notch.

Most of Karen's concert set featured songs from the CD, and her band included some of the musicians who play on the album: Chris Moses on lead guitar and bass, Jude Madill on fiddle and Phil O'Connell on bodhran. Cindy Muggeridge on piano and Jo Sheffield on mandolin joined her on the night for an energised live performance. Karen opened with her heart-felt plea, "Don't Import the Hate", written after the Christchurch Mosque attacks. She did a solo version of her song about Vietnam, "Bombs Rain Down". Other songs from the CD followed, included "Scrambling in the Mud", "Follow Your Heart" and a song for the season, "When It's Christmas". The set included a newer song about equal pay that also pulls no punches.

The opening act for the concert, **Ratproof**, were an absolute delight. They describe themselves as a group of twenty somethings who grew up surrounded by folk music and got together at Wellyfest. They enchanted us with their performance of mainly American style songs from the likes of Gillian Welch, accompanied on banjo, fiddle, mandolin, guitar and flute and well harmonised vocals. Ratproof represent the new generation of folk musicians who are thankfully keeping the music alive.

Adding more magic to the night were **Wandering Thyme**, a family trio from Oregon, USA, now living in Wellington, where they have quickly become part of the folk community. Bob, Rene and Cara (who also plays fiddle in Ratproof), did a heart-warming set of mostly their own songs. I found Rene's song about parent trees feeding their young particularly thought provoking.

So, that was Acoustic Routes' final concert for 2021. Who knows what next year will bring? In the meantime, I recommend you have a listen to Karen Munro's album, "Across the Blue".

Kevin Ikin

5. Balladeer music noticeboard

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

a) Beautiful old Bluthner piano available FREE!!



This lovely 1898 Bluthner piano has been in the same family for generations, but due to a shift of house, cannot be kept. It has a good rich tone and has been recently tuned.

Phone Rongo - 0223039009; or Heeni - 0273351535 or 049042349

b) Wind Instruments for Sale

Moggie Grayson has been asked by the family of the late Margaret Stenhouse to sell her collection of assorted wind instruments. Please contact Moggie if you would like more information (04) 3848-213.

Heinrich bass recorder, good condition - \$400; Heinrich bass recorder, scuffed, with cleaning brush - \$300; Moeck descant recorder, with cleaning brush - \$120; Aulos tenor recorder, plastic - \$90; Kung tenor recorder, \$250; stainless steel flute - \$25; Aulos alto recorder - \$23; black queen - \$50; Dark brown wooden flute - \$50; Brown Chinese flute - \$50; Indian or Indonesian flute - \$100; 7 chromatic mouth organs.

6. 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.



7. 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.

8. 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

9. Other regular folk events/contacts in the region – please check websites or email for updates

Trad Singing Session with Dave Barnes hosting

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 to be had at the bar.

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

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

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