

The Balladeer

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

Acoustic  *Routes*

www.acousticroutes.org.nz

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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 featuring UzBlokes, Dusty Burnell, and Mary Livingston and Sue Chamberlain, Thursday 24 March, Roseneath School Hall, 7:30 pm

UzBlokes

What happens when 2 grumpy old men - Jon Callwood and Pete Hancock - meet a young didgeridoo/ bagpipe player - Phillip Scott Cowan? Answer - UzBlokes. When they get together all that matters is 'Let's make music!'.



Jon Callwood, on guitar, banjitar and vocals, identifies his roots as being in traditional folk music in the North of England and New Zealand, but now enjoys genre-defying song writing and recording - humour, nostalgia, social comment, whatever comes along.

Phillip Scott Cowan (aka Bagpipe Boy) brings real diversity to the mix with Highland bagpipes, Scottish small pipes, practice chanter, whistles, didgeridoo, electronic pipes, melodiphone, and vocals. As he says, 'with only 9 notes you have to be pretty creative at times and be inspired by people saying you can't do *that* on the pipes'!

Pete Hancock on bouzouki, guitar and vocals describes himself as 'another product of the 60's North of England folk revival'. Since then, he has played in various bands and line-ups in New Zealand and for him, creating new music with UzBlokes 'has brought the passion to life again'.

Dusty Burnell

Multi-instrumentalist Dusty Burnell has been playing stages throughout New Zealand and Australia for the past 5 years. He has played in as many line ups as he has strings on his instruments. His diverse background ranges from Cajun to Indie Rock but always layered with a heavy dose of Blues and Americana. Audiences will take a trip through the American Song book touching on High Lonesome ballads, Jazz standards, Old Time, trad Folk and country songs that hurt so much you'll empty the bottle.



Mary Livingston and Sue Chamberlain



Photo courtesy of Gerard Hudson

After a bit of diversion into other creative pursuits, Mary is excited to be back into her song writing, guitar playing and learning new repertoire with Sue (although she still has a preference for anything haunting or harrowing). Sue loves singing many types of music - jazz, country, show tunes, world music and the wide umbrella that is folk. Mary and Sue have sung together sporadically in the past, but in 2022 they have started seriously sharing their musical experiences to develop an eclectic repertoire which they are keen to share.

Entry: \$15/\$10 for members. Cash only (no eftpos facilities).

Covid Protocols

A venue gathering limit of 40 people will apply so please RSVP to Ruth Birnie to confirm your place ruthbirnie@gmail.com.

Everyone will need to be fully vaccinated, with a pass, or have a vaccine exemption. You will need to sign in at the door and keep your masks on indoors.

If you are not feeling well, please stay home and get tested.

2. Open Mic, Plimmerton Boating Club still on hold



Contact: Roy on 021 433-878.

3. Newtown Open Mic upstairs at The Office, Sundays 13 & 27 March, 5:15-8pm



Newtown Acoustic Sound's "Open Mic" is back, upstairs at THE OFFICE Bar in Riddiford Street, Newtown, on Sundays 13 & 27 March, 5.15-8pm, and then every 2nd and last Sunday of the month going forward (Covid permitting of course).

Hope to see familiar faces and hear wonderful music from you all.

A reminder that if you are coming to the open mic, current Covid rules will apply, so you will need to scan in, show your vax passes and wear masks.

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

4. Heads Up – something new at our April concert

At this stage, the plan is to have another blackboard concert at the Tawa Community Centre, on the same lines as our very enjoyable January event. The Committee has decided to trial having a bring-and-buy table where you can bring anything related to folk music that you want to give away or sell. Prospective 'donors and recipients' are invited to contact Philippa at balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz so we can advertise what is likely to be available or wanted.

In this unpredictable world, please check for an update in the April Balladeer.

5. Review, AR February concert featuring Julie Bevan, Kaboodle, and Triskele

This much anticipated concert was a little bubble of magic at a time when the opportunities to enjoy live music events have been rather squeezed. Much anticipated, because after having to cancel concerts twice last year, it was third time lucky for Acoustic Routes to have guitarist and composer Julie Bevan as a guest. Lucky indeed, because this concert, featuring Julie with support acts Triskele and Kaboodle, was a delight.

I have to admit that Julie Bevan had been off my music radar before this night. Not anymore! Julie plays Spanish guitar, beautifully, and her repertoire of instrumentals including her own compositions are strongly influenced by Brazilian samba and flamenco styles. She played as a duo at this concert, with Aaron Stewart on double bass. If his name is familiar, that's no surprise. He plays with country artist Mel Parsons and Wellington's T-Bone Trio, amongst others.

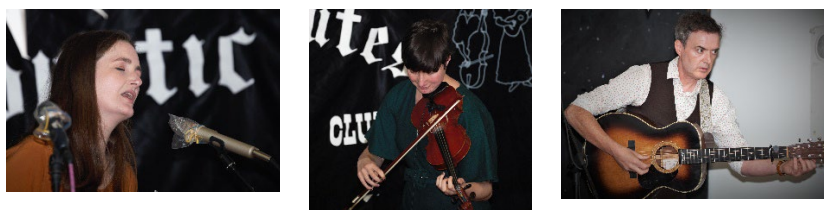


Photo courtesy of Brent Bevan

Some of the pieces they performed are on Julie's latest album 'Kaleidoscope', recorded in Wellington and Brazil. She is accompanied by bigger bands on the album tracks, but the guitar-bass combination that we heard worked beautifully, like two instruments beating from the same heart.

Their set featured a number of Julie's originals, including "Windflower" and "Waltz of the Owl" and ended with a jointly composed tune, "The A-frame Lullaby", which Julie described as their version of "Good Night Kiwi".

Opening the show in fine fashion was **Triskele**, and with this classy combo of leading Celtic musicians you would expect nothing less. Triskele, formed only last year, are Emily Griffith on fiddle, Bob McNeill on guitar and Ceara McAuliffe Bickerton on flute and whistles. They gave us a very tasty musical sandwich: two songs by Bob and John Doyle, sung by Emily and Ceara, with two absolutely cracking tune sets top and bottom. If you get the chance to hear Triskele, grab it!



Photos courtesy of Brent Bevan

Taking us to the break, **Kaboodle** and it was a real treat to have Diana Bastion and Julian Ward back performing for us again after a wee break. Diana's voice and Julian's

open-tuned guitar were as rich and harmonious as ever, with a selection of songs about love and war. They opened with a song by a Civil War soldier, blended with an instrumental version of Eric Bogle's heart-wrenching anti-war anthem, "All the Fine Young Men". As an intriguing variation, Julian set aside his guitar and accompanied one song on an instrument that looked like a fancy wooden briefcase but sounded like a harmonium when opened and played. I'm sure it has a name; I just forgot to ask.



Photos courtesy of Brent Bevan

No need to ask though what the performers and audience felt about the night – great big warm fuzzies.

Kevin Ikin

6. Balladeer music noticeboard

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

a) Australian National Folk Festival, EPIC, Canberra, 14-18 April

Desperate for a Festival? At this stage, the NASH is going ahead with an all-Australian cast. Check the website for details www.folkfestival.org.au and sign up for their excellent email information service. Tickets are still available, although the Early Birds have sold out.

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 Acoustic Routes

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.nz
<mailto:ruthlbinnie@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:ruthlbinnie@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 – 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

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.

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