

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 blackboard concert, Tawa Community Lounge, 28 April, 7:30 pm



Following on from our enjoyable January event, this month we are holding another blackboard concert at the Tawa Community Lounge.

Bring along a couple of songs, poems or a story to share and let's enjoy again the fantastic experience of live music with an appreciative live audience. We will be providing supper and drinking water will be available.

Don't forget the bring-and-buy table where you can bring anything related to folk music that you want to give away or sell. This will be operating from 6:45-7:30 pm, when the concert starts, and during the break.

Acoustic Routes has a small collection of LPs including albums by McIntyre and Spooner, William Clauson, The Dubliners, and Roger Whittaker. We also still have a few copies of books donated by publisher Roger Steele of Steele Roberts: Phil Garland's "Faces in the Firelight"; Neil Colquhoun's superb compilation of N.Z. songs "Song of a Young Country"; "An Ordinary Bloke", the songs and life of Peter Cape; and a few copies of the illustrated edition of Charles Thatcher songs, "Gold's a Wonderful Thing". Proceeds from the sale of these books help to fund the annual Joan Prior Young Performers Award.

Additional treasures looking for new homes include a Tahitian ukulele, mouth harps, and assorted cds and books. The Committee would appreciate you taking home any of your treasures that do not find a new owner.

The venue gathering limit of 40 people still applies, so you need to book your blackboard spot or a seat if you are not planning to perform. Please contact Ruth Birnie ruthlbirnie@gmail.com.

Mask wearing is required unless you are singing, eating or drinking.

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

2. Open Mic, Plimmerton Boating Club still on hold



Contact: Roy on 021 433-878.

3. Newtown Open Mic upstairs at The Office, Sunday 10 April, 5:15-8pm.



Newtown Acoustic Sound's "Open Mic" is back, upstairs at THE OFFICE Bar in Riddiford Street, Newtown, on Sunday 24 April 5.15-8pm. Hope to see familiar faces and hear wonderful music from you all.

Note – there will be no open mic on Sunday 24 because of Anzac weekend.

A reminder that if you are coming to the open mic, current Covid rules will apply, so you will need wear a mask.

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

4. Review, AR March concert featuring UZblokes, Dusty Burnell, and Mary Livingston & Sue Chamberlain

This was another top-notch show, thanks to our stellar cast of performers and our audience who stoically kept masks in place while thoroughly enjoying the evening's entertainment.



The night was not without a wee note of sadness as well, as it was the last chance most of us will have to hear **Dusty Burnell** before he and his family head north to Whangarei. Dusty has established himself as one of the leading lights in Wellington's acoustic music scene, with his multi-instrumental flair and fine singing, whether performing solo or in an impressive line-up of bands.

While Dusty plays heaps of instruments he limited himself to just two for his opening spot, wonderful resonator and acoustic guitars crafted by Peter Madill. As expected, Dusty delivered a variety of songs out of the great American songbook, getting the audience on board right from the start with "Down by the Riverside," followed by a very soulful "Georgia", some blues and bluegrass and wrapping up with the message: "If you want me, you can take me, here I am". We wish Dusty all the best for his move north.

Mary Livingston and Sue Chamberlain have performed together in the past from time to time but are now developing a repertoire as a duo, which is very good news for the rest of us. We had a wee taste at the Acoustic Routes blackboard concert in January. The response was "more please", and they obliged us this night with a nicely crafted set of songs enhanced with lovely vocal harmonies and Mary's tasty guitar playing. They gave their take on a song from the 1930s, "Adieu False Heart", another old standard, "Sentimental Journey", "Diamonds and Rust" from Joan Baez, and naturally, a couple from works of Leonard Cohen: the bittersweet "Where is my Wife Tonight" and "If It Be your Will".



After the break, **UzBlokes**, described in the publicity as “what happens when two grumpy old men meet a young didgeridoo/ bagpipe player”. That very much understates the musically rich and impressive set they performed for us.



Jon Callwood and Pete Hancock have been recognised figures in the wider Wellington folk scene for yonks. Teaming up with Phillip Scott Cowan, who plays just about every instrument that can be blown or squeezed, they have been very busy bees in the last few years, song-writing and recording a bunch of albums.

Apart from one set of traditional tunes, all the songs and tunes we heard at the concert were originals, and pretty damned good they were too. They

included Pete’s “Dancing in Time”, the opening track on the latest CD and “St Peter’s Field”, about the Peterloo massacre; and Jon’s songs “From the Old World to the New” as well as a song for his wife and an historic one - The Cheshire Bowmen”. There was a song from Phil as well: “It’s the Way the Cookie Crumbles”. Jon’s guitar and Pete’s bouzouki underpinned Phil’s astonishing array of electronic pipes and whistles (not forgetting the didgeridoo!), driving sometimes quirky tunes with titles to match: “Tainted Honey” (in bee-flat, ‘cos Phil’s a bee-keeper too), “Getting Over It”, and “The Celtic Folk Music Club of Istanbul”.

If you missed the concert, or want to hear more, you can catch up with these blokes on Uzblokes.com

Kevin Ikin

Photo credits: Gerard Hudson

5. Balladeer music noticeboard

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

a) **Up Close & Personal Plimmerton presents ‘We Wayward Women’ aka ‘The Divas’, 21 Gordon Road Plimmerton, Saturday 7 May, 7:30 pm**



Just imagine a musical fusion of Ab Fab, Miss Piggy and the Topp Twins and you've got a pretty accurate idea of what these two are all about. Music ranging from folk, country, blues and self-penned these ladies can deliver. “We take our music very seriously, but we love to have fun too”

Both are famed for their beautiful voices and between them play several instruments. Sometimes separately and sometimes together they've worked with Van Morrison, Richard Thompson, John Martyn, Fairport

Convention, Joan Armatrading, Ralph Mctell - the list is endless, and they are too modest (old) to remember them all. They've toured the world, played major festivals

and events (did ya spot Gilly at Live Aid?) and armed with nothing but their voices, charm and prosecco they thrill audiences everywhere. Both born in the UK but now happily living in New Zealand.

Arrive from 6:0pm to mix and chat, bring a small plate to share for supper and your choice of drinks. Covid rules apply so please do come along if you are vaccinated and well.

\$15:00 a ticket Call or txt Annie on 0274599376 to book.

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.nz
<mailto:ruthlbernie@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:ruthlbernie@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

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