

The Balladeer

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

Acoustic  *Routes*

www.acousticroutes.org.nz



June 2022: In this issue

1. AR monthly concert featuring Whimzik with Steampunk Minstrels and Pick & Mixolydian, Roseneath School Hall, Thursday 23 June, 7:30 pm
2. Open Mic at Plimmerton Boating Club is back Wednesday 8 June, 7 pm
3. Open Mic at The Office, Newtown, Sundays 12 & 26 June, 5:15 – 8pm
4. Don't worry, mate, she'll be right – a review of Mike Harding's concert, 26 May
5. Balladeer Music Noticeboard
6. Want to perform?
7. About Acoustic Routes
8. Acoustic Routes contacts
9. Other regular folk events/contacts in the region

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 **Whimzik with Steampunk Minstrels and Pick & Mixolydian, Roseneath School Hall, 23 June, 7:30 pm**



Whimzik aka Glenn Kastrinos and Kjelsty Hanson live in Hawkes Bay and have been playing traditional music together for many years. Kjelsty comes from Montana and plays a variety of percussion instruments including bodhran, bones and spoons. She also turns into characters that will stir the imagination. Kjelsty has been a sculptor for many years and brings her artistic vision into her stage performance. Glenn has been playing traditional music since the seventies and competed in fleadh cheols (Irish traditional music competitions) in New York City and Ireland. He plays fingerstyle guitar, irish flutes and whistles and sings. He is drawn to unusual tunes (especially waltzes) from Appalachia, Idaho, Ireland, Brittany and Scandinavia.



Music is about experiencing emotions, and their playing will bring a laugh one minute and a tear in the next. They can't wait to share some music with Acoustic Routes.

Steampunk Minstrels



Steampunk Minstrels is a largely acoustic guitar-based band with Mairi-Anne on mandolin, twelve string and bass guitar and Marius on six and twelve string guitar. They play original music which is a fusion of African and Celtic music with a hint of rock and jazz. They were part of the regular Folk Club scene in South Africa until parenthood struck and have recently re-emerged on the Wellington music scene. It is a real pleasure to have them back at Acoustic Routes.

Pick and Mixolydian

Pick and Mixolydian are a Wellington-based acoustic duo featuring Jo Shrigley on ukulele and vocals with Bruce Omundsen on small pipes, tin whistle, and vocals.

Jo has been part of Wellington's WOSOSI (World Song Singers) choir for over 4 years, which has cemented her love of things international. As well as picking away at her ukulele, Jo is studying Music Theory at Victoria University.



Bruce also joined WOSOSI recently, which was a spark for the idea of forming a folk duo. Highland piping has been a constant presence for him over the last 40 years, highlighted with many trips back to his ancestral roots in Scotland. Scottish and other Celtic music is a natural choice for the duo but Bruce enjoys expanding on the mixolydian scale available to his main instrument.

Together Bruce and Jo have been building a varied folk repertoire and look forward to sharing their joy of music with you.

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

Please note: The Acoustic Routes Committee has agreed on the following approach under Orange Covid Level.

- Some audience members may not be fully vaccinated and/or may choose not to wear a mask, since these are no longer mandatory requirements.
- The Committee encourages audience members to be fully vaccinated and wear a mask for their own protection.
- Workers and volunteers at gatherings must wear face masks unless they are exempt.

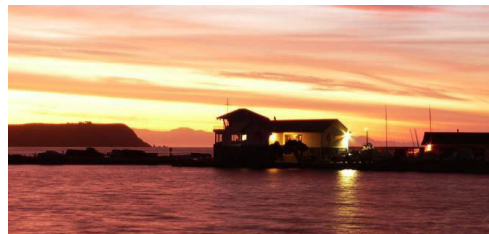
2. Open Mic, Plimmerton Boating Club, 10 Moana Road Plimmerton, Wednesday 8 June, 7pm

Open Mic at Plimmerton Boating Club is up and running again on the second Wednesday of June at 7pm. From July onwards it's back to the second Thursday in the month.

Looking forward to seeing you all again soon.
Hope you've all improved cause you've had enough time! 😂😂😂.

Spread the word.

Same Ole MC.
Roy McGuinness 021433878



3. Newtown Open Mic upstairs at The Office, Sundays 12 & 26 June, 5:15-8pm.



Newtown Acoustic Sound's "Open Mic" is back, upstairs at THE OFFICE Bar in Riddiford Street, Newtown, on Sundays 12 and 26 June, 5.15-8pm. Hope to see familiar faces and hear wonderful music from you all.

Usual Covid common sense:

- Follow any restrictions as per The Office requirements
- Vaccine passes are no longer required, but we do ask you to be masked unless seated and let's try to keep 1m distance.
- Please don't come if you have ANY symptoms – go and get tested instead.

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

4. Don't worry, mate, she'll be right – a review of Mike Harding's concert, 26 May

Mike's gig on Thursday at Acoustic Routes was a stroll around the country and a wander down memory lane for many of us in the audience. In a way, it's a shame that so many of them are only to be found down that memory lane, because there are so many great songs by so many great song writers we don't hear very often these days – but hats off to Mike for keeping them alive, as he has always done.

After a very harmonious selection of "English-as" songs, including humour and songs with a wartime theme from Deb Harding and Mary Hubble, it was straight on with our NZ journey.

We started off in the local area with Paekakariki by jazzman Ken Avery, and Coffee Bar Blues (and reference to the Monde Marie) by Peter Cape, then we had a sojourn up country with Spell-o and While the Billy Boils, followed soon after by Wool-away Jack and Sheep-o Joe, and later we were taken down a country road I know. There were love songs from Kath Tait and Dave Hollis, and we were even taken to Wayne Gillespie's Invercargill, and back in the end to Eketahuna. Meanwhile, naturally in current times, war and peace songs had an outing, with Alexander Whisker's song, Gorlem and Isabel.



Mike said he'd been bringing out songs you can sing at the likes of Tradfest, and "you find out what a good song is when you can stand up and sing it in front of a bunch of people without an instrument or any other bells and whistles". I'd say you also find out what a good singer is when he can stand up and sing song after song in front of a bunch of people with only a guitar, delivering humour, pathos, irony, great stories and great characters with equal conviction and panache. It's funny to think of some of those songs being performed at Tradfest, having only been written in the eighties, but they are already part of our tradition, and certainly a backdrop to my life over the past few decades. My highlight came partway into the second half when a certain rainbird in the tea-tree flitted through – Peter Cape's song was one of the first I learned when I became involved with the New Edinburgh Folk Club in my student days and has always been a favourite.

I was sorry there were none of Mike's own songs, but perhaps he doesn't feel they've reached traditional status yet! Or perhaps they weren't specifically 'kiwi' enough to make the cut for a NZ Music month concert, or there was just too much to choose from. In any case, it was great to travel those NZ acoustic routes with Mike in the driver's seat, and to feel, for a couple of hours anyway, that perhaps one day soon, she will be right again, mate.

Many thanks to Mike, Deb and Mary, and to the Acoustic Routes committee for arranging such a quintessentially New Zealand concert for NZ Music Month.

Janette Munneke

5. Balladeer music noticeboard

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

a) Songs 6021 at the Moon Bar, 167 Riddiford Street Newtown, Sundays 5,12, and 19 June, 7 pm

- 5 June - Colette Rivers, Alan Downes, Bill Lake
- 12 June - Renee Milner, Julie Lamb Outfit, SODA
- 19 June - Laldy, The Godwits, Butter Wouldn't Melt/Tall Folk (combined set)

Doors open from 6pm, music from 7pm, door charge \$10

Contact: Don Mackay 6021songs@gmail.com

b) Auntie Social at the Moon Bar, 167 Riddiford Street Newtown, Thursday 2 and 16 June, approximately 6:30-7:45 pm

- 2 June - No Mans Heath (featured performer), and Don Mackay (host)
- 16 June - Clara van Wel (featured performer), and Don Mackay (host)

No door charge

Contact: Don Mackay 6021songs@gmail.com

c) Interested in Participating in a Documentary about Acoustic Routes?

Stephen Riddell has decided to make a documentary about the history of Acoustic Routes and the Wellington Folk Scene so he is looking for people to help tell this story. In particular, he is looking for people who were around the club in the early days who would be keen to be interviewed about their experiences.

He is also looking for photos and video clips from the club's history, so if you have these rifling about then please let him know.

Contact: stephen@riddellproductions.com

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 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.

8. Acoustic Routes contacts

President: Ruth Birnie president@acousticroutes.org.nz
<mailto:ruthlbirnie@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:ruthlbirnie@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 (**CURRENTLY IN ABEYANCE**)

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