

# The Balladeer

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



[www.acousticroutes.org.nz](http://www.acousticroutes.org.nz)

## February 2023: In this issue

1. AR monthly concert featuring South for Winter, with Luca Joass and Beans, Roseneath School Hall, Thursday 23 February, 7:30 pm
2. Open Mic at Plimmerton Boating Club, Wednesday 8 February, 7 pm
3. Open Mic at The Office, Newtown, Sundays 12 & 26 February, 5:15 – 8pm
4. AR monthly singaround, Johnsonville Community Hub, Monday 20 February, 7:30 pm
5. Review, Auckland 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Folk Festival
6. Balladeer Music Noticeboard
7. Want to perform?
8. About Acoustic Routes
9. Acoustic Routes contacts
10. 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 **South for Winter**, with **Luca Joass and Beans**, **Roseneath School Hall, Thursday 23 February, 7:30 pm**



With a blend of dreamy acoustic duets, bluesy murder ballads and foot-stomping folk, Nashville-based **South for Winter** are Kiwi Nick Stone and his Colorado-born wife Dani Cichon.

These two songwriters and multi-instrumentalists combine elements including acoustic guitar, mandolin, electric guitar, and suitcase stomp into a genre-bending sound described by American Songwriter as "laden with delicate harmonies, intricate guitar-work and earthy vocals ... impeccable sound".

Their 2021 debut album *Luxumbra*, with GRAMMY-award winning producer Matt Leigh, has received international accolades.

<https://www.southforwintermusic.com>  
<https://www.facebook.com/southforwintermusic>

Christchurch-based singer song-writer **Luca Joass** grew up travelling around the NZ folk scene with his parents, core members of the Wellington celtic-folk band Hobnail. You won't find him much happier than with a guitar in his hands and a song in his heart. Taking inspiration from his folk background, and bringing it an alternative, modern, twist, Luca's songs are rife with catchy melodies and a whole lot of heart.



Inspired by the folk traditions of their native Yorkshire, singer songwriter and multi-instrumentalist **Beans** blends gentle indie folk sounds with a unique lyrical style. Their original songs are rich with humour, honesty and carefully crafted word play, borne of a love of language combined with a vibrant imagination and inner world. A newcomer to the Wellington scene, previously performing on and around the Sunshine Coast, Queensland, Australia, playing to a dedicated local fan base in small venues and festivals.

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

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

To help support the Plimmerton Boating Club, the open mic is now the second Wednesday of the month.

Spread the word.

Same Ole MC.  
Roy McGuinness 021433878



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



Newtown Acoustic Sound's "Open Mic", upstairs at The Office Bar in Riddiford Street, Newtown.

Contact: [kevin.ikin@supermail.co.nz](mailto:kevin.ikin@supermail.co.nz), or [newtownacousticsound@gmail.com](mailto:newtownacousticsound@gmail.com)

## 4. AR monthly singaround, Rimu Room, Johnsonville Community Hub, 33 Johnsonville Road, Monday 20 February, 7:30 pm

Bring songs, tunes or poems to share, or just come to join in. Go into the main room and the Rimu room is on the left. Note the address of the Community Hub.

Tea and coffee provided. Entry \$4. Now confirmed for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month.



## 5. Auckland 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Folk Festival



We had nearly finished setting up camp on Friday when the rain arrived. It was the beginning of a very special festival which I know will always stay vivid in my mind.

What to do next? The water is rising everywhere, and a river is forming below us, running behind the sheds and the barn. Friends are leaving. What will the Festival Committee decide to do? Auckland goes into a state of emergency. The request is made to avoid non-essential travel. I decide to stay put.

What followed was an inspiring celebration of our folkie community and of the power of live music and dance to raise the human spirit, even in the face of uncertainty for all and potentially catastrophe awaiting some who could not get back to their homes because of local flooding.

I cannot praise the Festival Committee enough for how they handled the situation. They made carefully reasoned decisions and communicated them brilliantly. They worked incredibly hard, and the result was an extraordinary credit to them. With all the marquees out of action, the revised programme was shifted to the halls, the sheds, and the barn. This was a truly memorable festival not only for the great performances and events we enjoyed together, but also for the caring and companionship we shared. Emerging back into the big challenges facing the wider world reinforced for me how precious this time was.

There are also major challenges ahead for the Auckland Festival as the financial and other consequences of the deluges become more apparent. I would encourage you to offer whatever support you can to the Festival Committee as they work through this. I am definitely planning to be at the 51<sup>st</sup> Auckland Folk Festival.

Philippa Boy

## 6. Balladeer music noticeboard

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

### **a) Songwriters Showcase at the Moon Bar, 167 Riddiford Street Newtown Sunday 19 February, 7 pm**

Featuring Bill Hickman, Clara van Wel, and Alexander Guy.

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

Contact: Don Mackay [6021songs@gmail.com](mailto:6021songs@gmail.com)

### **b) Up Close & Personal Plimmerton presents Alistair Brown, 21 Gordon Road Plimmerton, Saturday 18 February, 7:30 pm**



Born in Scotland, Alistair Brown has travelled the world with his folk songs and stories. Audiences at concerts and festivals across North America, Australia, New Zealand and the UK have responded enthusiastically to his performances, covering the field from comic ditties, songs of struggle against temptation, odes to conviviality and songs of unashamed sentimentality, to outrageously funny stories from a master of the art.

[www.alistairbrown.com](http://www.alistairbrown.com)

To book your place contact Annie on 0274599376 \$20.00 each.  
BYO and a small plate to share for supper.

**c) Up Close & Personal Plimmerton presents Scott Cook,  
21 Gordon Road Plimmerton, Tuesday 21 February,  
7:30 pm**



We are very excited to be hosting Scott.

In 2007, Albertan songwriter Scott Cook quit his job teaching kindergarten in Taiwan and moved into a minivan. He's made his living as a troubadour ever since, touring almost incessantly across Canada, the US, Europe, Asia, Australia, New Zealand and elsewhere, averaging 150 shows and a dozen summer festivals a year, and releasing seven albums of plainspoken, keenly observant verse along the way.

His latest collection *Tangle of Souls* comes packaged in a cloth-bound, 240-page hardcover book of road stories and ruminations, equal parts introspection and insurrection. The album spent two weeks at #1 on Alberta's province-wide community radio network CKUA, and earned Scott his third Canadian Folk Music Award nomination, for English Songwriter of the Year. Its second single "Say Can You See" was the second most-played song of 2020 on Folk Alliance International's folk radio charts and took top honours for the folk category in both the 2020 UK Songwriting Competition and the 2020 Great American Song Contest.

He is returning to Australia and Aotearoa for the first time since the pandemic, believing more than ever that songs can change your life, and your life can change the world.

To book your place contact Annie on 0274599376 \$20.00 each.  
BYO and a small plate to share for supper.

## **8. 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](mailto:performers@acousticroutes.org.nz).



## **9. 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](mailto: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](mailto:publicity@acousticroutes.org.nz).

## 10. Acoustic Routes contacts

**President:** Ruth Birnie [president@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:president@acousticroutes.org.nz)  
<mailto:ruthlbinie@gmail.com>

**Correspondence:** Kevin Ikin [secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz)

**Treasurer/Membership:** Peter Whiting [treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz)

**Balladeer:** editor Philippa Boy  
[balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz)

**Acoustic Routes update email:** Kevin Ikin [secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz)

**Performance opportunities:** [performers@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:performers@acousticroutes.org.nz)  
<mailto:ruthlbinie@gmail.com>

**Postal address:** PO Box 27-191 Marion Square, Wellington, New Zealand.

**Website:** [www.acousticroutes.org.nz](http://www.acousticroutes.org.nz)

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

*Trad Singing Session with Dave Barnes hosting*

When: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month, from about 6.45pm

Where: The Welsh Dragon Bar, Wellington. 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](mailto:david.barnes@xtra.co.nz)

*Ceol Alba Scottish Music Club*

When: 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:lynne@scott.gen.nz)

*Levin Folk Music Club*

When: 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of month, 7.30 pm, blackboard concert plus guest artist.

Entry: Members \$5, Non-Members \$10, Children \$3 (includes supper)

Club Night: 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.levin-folk-music-club.org.nz)

*Mainly Acoustic Music Club*

When: (Mostly) every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm

Where: Mayfair Cafe, 116 Main Street, Upper Hutt

Contact: Mary Khalil 021 02314505 [mary.khalil@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mary.khalil@xtra.co.nz)

Club committee email: [info@mainlyacoustic.co.nz](mailto: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: 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:iain@jumbletree.com)