

# **The Balladeer**

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



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

***Notice: Acoustic Routes AGM at The Office Bar  
124 Riddiford Street, Newtown  
Sunday 20 August, 3 pm***

***Acoustic Routes membership subs now due – please see page 7 for details.***

## **July 2023: In this issue**

1. AR monthly concert featuring Bob Cooper Grundy & Kate Marshall, Rachel Hird, and Glenn Barclay, Roseneath School Hall, Thursday 27 July, 7:30 pm
2. Open Mic at Plimmerton Boating Club, Wednesday 12 July, 7pm
3. Open Mic at The Office, Newtown, Sundays 9 & 30 July, 5:15 – 8pm
4. AR monthly singaround, Johnsonville Community Hub, Monday 17 July, 7:30 pm
5. AR June concert with Rob Joass, Don & the Divorcees, and Sean & Rosie O'Connor, review by Janette Munneke
6. The Joan Prior Award 2023
7. From the Committee
8. Balladeer Music Noticeboard
9. Want to perform?
10. About Acoustic Routes
11. Acoustic Routes contacts
12. AR Membership subs for the year from July 1 are now due (you can pay at the July concert)
13. 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 Bob Cooper Grundy & Kate Marshall, Rachel Hird, and Glenn Barclay, Roseneath School Hall, Thursday 27 July, 7:30 pm



Bob Cooper-Grundy has been playing blues guitar and singing country songs for 50 odd years and has opened for Guy Clark, Townes van Zandt, Tom Russell and Jimmy Lafave. He plays finger picking and slide guitar with some virtuoso flourishes.

Kate Marshall plays violin, accordion and flute and sings beautifully. She started with classical piano and singing in choirs and you don't have to listen that carefully to hear Bach and Mozart lurking behind Bob Wills and

Memphis Minnie. In this gig she might add in her new secret weapon of jazz glockenspiel!

Based in the Wairarapa, and regular guests at folk clubs and festivals, Bob and Kate's song list veers between swing sounds of Texas, the blues and jazz, served up in the Bob and Kate way.

Check out their Bob and Kate facebook page for details.

**Rachel Hird** is a Wellington based singer-songwriter who has studied music and played piano for many years. She started writing songs a few years ago with jazz singer Lucy Smyth and is currently a member of Charlotte Yate's Songwriting School. A regular attendee at Newtown Acoustic Sound open mic, she enjoys meeting and connecting with people in the music community. Her songs are inspired by people and situations past and present.



**Glenn Barclay** originally hailed from Auckland, where he had some involvement in the folk scene in the 1970s, but now lives in Porirua, after 40 years in Wellington. He has been playing for many years, sometimes in bands that would average a gig a year, but mainly for relaxation. After a bit of a break, he has begun playing solo, featuring tunes from the broad Americana songbook, including one or two of his own, and is looking forward to the concert.

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

## 2. Open Mic, Plimmerton Boating Club, 10 Moana Road Plimmerton, Wednesday 12 July, 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 9 & 30 July, 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 17 July, 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. Third Monday of every month.



## 5. Review, AR June concert with Rob Joass, Don & the Divorcees, and Sean & Rosie O'Connor

Another great concert with self-penned material. We found out shortly before the date that Ron was unfortunately unwell, so we couldn't have Toil & Trouble as planned, but **Don & the Divorcees** stepped in and gave us a lovely start to the show. It seemed a set of two halves in terms of syllables – with Holly's first song, *Seventeen*, being mesmerizingly mono-syllabic, and Beans concluding with their song called *Biological Reasons*, which made a lovely rhythm out of multi-syllabic words! In between, there was Don's song, *Time is running out*, Holly's *Bubble* and Beans' *Ashdown*. I've heard the latter before and still found it charmingly engaging, influenced no doubt by the

magical surrounding it references, because Ashdown Forest is the real-life Hundred Acre Wood of Winnie-the-Pooh fame.

**Sean and Rosie** haven't been performing as a duo together for long, but you can certainly sense the long-term family and father-daughter bond when listening to them. They started with a song called *Us and Them*, and then braved *Simple Things* written 20 years ago for Sean's wife, singer Amanda O'Connor. Another song was *Pōtiki*, which I for one would like to hear again. They finished off with *Young Wild Rovers*, which Sean wrote about his times playing in Irish pubs to a background of the sports on a large-screen TV.

**Rob Joass's** first song was inspired by a gay guy who grew up in a mining town in Australia, starting with an instrumental about going on a journey, called *On a Westbound Train*. It was nice to get the background story. The first four numbers were about journeys of different sorts, the second being *Baggage*, then *The Last Rodeo*, and the lovely song *Truck Driver* (from the album *Pencarrow*), a love song about being stuck behind a slow truck driver when going to town to buy a ring. I like *Johnny and June* – "I could be your Johnny, won't you be my June" for its reference to two of the greats of country music, and *Holding the Sky* (I think that was the title) for its social commentary about some of the issues society faces today, including racism and mass shootings by kids at high schools. After a song about getting older and "missing the old me", Rob invited Sean and Rosie up again to perform his new love song *Jigsaw Heart* ("your jigsaw heart looks good to me"). Despite being "one of the hardest working musicians in the business" with coming up to 30 years performing, Rob made it a fresh, intimate and collegial performance, bringing the evening to a close with *Goodnight*, with Sean, Rosie, and Beans (on fiddle) joining in.

Beans is off overseas for a few months, so we won't hear Don & the Divorcees again for a while, but we've booked Toil & Trouble for our September concert – something to put in the diary!

Janette Munneke

## 6. The 2023 Joan Prior Young Performers Award

A heads up for young singers and musicians aged 18 to 25 years on September 30 and from the Greater Wellington Region (the area covered by Wellington Regional Council and Kapiti and Horowhenua Districts). Acoustic Routes will be running its Joan Prior Award again this year, with added benefits.



The format is the same as last year, so up to seven applicants will be offered full weekend passes to Wellington Folk Festival at Labour Weekend in October, where they will feature in a Young Performers concert. As well, awardees will be able to perform at a special concert at the Moon Bar, Newtown, organized by Don Mackay in early November.

The award is open to singers and instrumentalists, and to performers of traditional as well as contemporary and original material. Applicants can be a solo performer, or a duo or trio. Check next month's Balladeer and the Acoustic Routes website for more details.

## 7. From the Committee

Kia ora tatou

We are still keen to have some help with the supper provided at half time at our concerts. Not a lot of work – just putting out the cups and supplies, making sure there's water boiled, and whisking everything away afterwards. (We even take the cups home to wash in the dishwasher, so there's not much cleaning up needed.) If helping with supper from time to time appeals to you, we'd love to hear from you. You get into the concert free, and it is a good way to get to know more people in the club.

Ngā mihi mahana

## 8. Balladeer music noticeboard

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

### a) **Songwriters Showcase, The Moon Bar, 167 Riddiford Street Newtown: Sundays 2 & 16 July, 7pm**

2 July Victoria Ferry, Elisha Hobbs, Shan Jordan  
\$15 door, \$12 Eventfinda

16 July Milly Moon, Nigel Parry, Annette Esquenet  
\$15 door, \$12 Eventfinda

### b) **Auntie Social's Thirsty Night Music Club, Auntie Social Lounge, 4 Rintoul Street Newtown: Thursday 27 July, 8pm (free)**

Milly Moon, and Don Mackay

### c) **Up Close & Personal Plimmerton presents 'Lady Bird', 21 Gordon Road Plimmerton, Friday 14 July, 7:30 pm**



Did you know that the collective plural for ladybirds is "a loveliness"? When Mary and Sue discovered this, they felt that it perfectly described the sort of music they have been working on together.

Expect an eclectic range of styles, including some of Mary's originals. Love in its many forms is a common theme throughout the show. It is, after all, what makes the world go around. So be prepared to shed tears of laughter or sadness... and everything in between!

\$20.00 per person. BYO drinks and small plate for supper. Feel free to arrive from 6:30pm to mix and mingle.

Please call or text Annie to book your place, 027 459 9376.

#### **d) New Venue in Central Wellington**

At 118 Tory Street, previous site of Happy and The Cricketer's Arms, is now the UnderCurrent, a cool bohemian look space hosting 2<sup>nd</sup>-hand books, live music and art, coffee, and snacks (wine at events), run by Philip and Helena. Open 11-7 Wed - Sun. Do drop in for a browse.



Our current art on show includes Mary Livingston's wonderful photography. Our first show will be a mesmerising blending of edgy Americana and the spoken word: Carol Bean and Nick Swan with Rob Hack the poet; Sat July 1st, \$15, 7pm.

See The UnderCurrent here:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100092204418766>

And details on the show here:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/929800694946670?ref=newsfeed>

### **9. 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).



### **10. 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).

### **11. Acoustic Routes contacts**

**President:** Ruth Birnie [president@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:president@acousticroutes.org.nz)

**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)

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

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

## 12. Acoustic Routes membership, 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024

We cordially invite you to join (or rejoin) Acoustic Routes for another year of live folk music events and sharing of music, laughter, and friendship.

Individual	\$20.00
Other	\$10.00

(Students, life member partners, beneficiaries and superannuitants)

All subscriptions are individual, based on the age or status of the member.

### What being a member gives you

- An annual programme of concerts by top-class musicians
- Regular performance opportunities at a range of other musical events
- Regular communications about what's on
- Discounted entry to club events and concerts
- Discounted entry to participating folk clubs
- Discounts on selected items at Alistair's Music, Cuba Street
- Voting rights at the AGM or any subsequent SGM
- Ability to stand for election onto the Committee.

### Payment options

1. Pay by internet banking to 'Wellington Folk Centre Inc.': ANZ account 01 0505 0182241 00 (*ensure your name is included for reference*) and simultaneously forward your details (as below) to [treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz).
2. Hand your form plus payment in cash to a committee member at an Acoustic Routes event.
3. Come along to the AGM at The Office Bar, 124 Riddiford Street, Newtown, Sunday 20 August, 3 pm, and pay your sub to have voting rights at the meeting.

PLEASE COMPLETE: many thanks for your support

Amount paid:        \$\_\_\_\_\_ Individual \$20 or Other \$10

Donation:            \$\_\_\_\_\_ (Wellington Folk Centre is a registered charity and donations of \$5.00 or more are tax-deductible. A receipt will be issued.)

Payment has been made by direct credit/other

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR CURRENT E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

### **13. 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: 3<sup>rd</sup> 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)