

# The Balladeer

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



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

## **Acoustic Routes AGM, The Office Newtown, Sunday 20 August, 3 pm**

*Acoustic Routes Membership subs are now due for the year starting July 1*

*Subs can be paid online, at the AGM, or at the August concert.*

*See item 9 below for details and payment options.*

## **August 2023: In this issue**

1. AR monthly concert featuring The Jimmies, with Divine Pitch and Simple Gifts, Roseneath School Hall, Thursday 24 August, 7:30 pm
2. Open Mic at Plimmerton Boating Club, Wednesday 9 August, 7:30 pm
3. Open Mic at The Office, Newtown, Sundays 13 & 27 August, 5:15 – 8pm
4. AR monthly singaround, Johnsonville Community Hub, 21 August, 7:30 pm
5. AR July concert with Bob Cooper Grundy & Kate Marshall, Rachel Hird, and Glenn Barclay, review by Janette Munneke
6. The Joan Prior Award 2023 (deadline for entries, Sunday September 17)
7. From the Committee - Acoustic Routes AGM, The Office Bar, 124 Riddiford Street, Newtown, Sunday 20 August, 3 pm
8. Balladeer Music Noticeboard
9. AR Membership subs for the year from July 1 are now due (only paid-up members can vote at the AGM)
10. Want to perform?
11. About Acoustic Routes
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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/>



## 2. Open Mic, Plimmerton Boating Club, 10 Moana Road Plimmerton, Wednesday 9 August, 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 13 & 27 August, 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 21 August, 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, July concert with Bob Cooper Grundy & Kate Marshall, Rachel Hird, and Glenn Barclay

There was quite a family theme to the concert this month. Wellington based singer-songwriter **Rachel Hird** opened the night for us with a beautiful set of self-penned songs inspired by family members. The first was *Take Me Back to Karamea*, inspired by her grandfather's letters written when he served in the Great War. This was followed by *Wintersweet* and a lovely song written for her sister Erin. Another song about Karamea followed, this one about Umere on the Karamea River, somewhere I'd never heard of, but I could hear the sound of water rippling over 'vagabond stones' in the keyboard backing. Finally, a song for Rachel's mother – "I hear you laughing through the page" – about reading her mother's diaries.

**Glenn Barclay** originally hailed from Auckland, and now lives in Porirua. After many years playing in bands, he's now going solo, and we were treated to a mix of covers and self-penned material. A John Hiatt set to start with, with *Robber's Highway*, *Aces up Your Sleeve*, and *All the Way to the River*. One of the great things about the variety of people we have performing at the Acoustic Routes is getting introduced to new music you might otherwise have missed. Glenn's next number, the mesmerising *Land of Plenty*, was one of these, by Abigail Lapell, and I look forward to hearing more by her. It was good also to hear Glenn's own song *The Great Escape*.

**Bob Cooper-Grundy and Kate Marshall** are a duo based in the Wairarapa. Their first number, *Moonlight Blues*, with Bob on guitar and Kate on accordion and vocals, took me into another world and I felt as if it was "just me and the nighttime" for a few moments there! The next song *Levelland* by James McMurtry was definitely another world – the tabletop flat lands of the southwest of America – and another songwriter to follow up. It was back to New Zealand for Jenny Mitchell's *One Day* next, and one of Bob's own songs, *Bless Their Little Hillbilly Hearts*. I love the sense of humour in that and Bob's *Positive Drinking* song.

Kate's song *1940s Man* painted a parallel world too, but it's the portrait of her ex-mother-in-law Nansie that has stayed with me, with the lines about how she "bore the brunt of it, put a front on it" – as did so many women, particularly of that generation. Those 'standards' like *Embraceable You*, *Brownsville Blues* and *Statesboro Blues* were a welcome reminder for me of how much I love 'them blues' and made a good foil for Bob's and Kate's own songs, but the latter were the highlight for me, expertly performed by very talented musicians. Kate said on her way out that she'd really enjoyed performing to a listening audience. That's us, folks! I'll listen to that anytime.

Janette Munneke

## 6. Calling Young Performers: the 2023 Joan Prior Young Performers Award



Entries are now open for the 2023 Joan Prior Young Performers Award, which Acoustic Routes (The Wellington Folk Centre) is running again this year to support young performers aged from 18 to 25 years.

The award will follow the same format as last year. Up to seven applicants (depending on the number of performers in each act) will be offered full weekend passes to Wellington Folk Festival. They will feature in a Young Performers concert at Wellyfest.

As an added attraction, following the Festival, the JPA winners will appear in a special Young Performers Showcase at the Moon Bar in Newtown, on Sunday, November 5. It will be hosted by Don Mackay, who runs the popular Songwriter concerts there.

The award is open to singers and instrumentalists, and to performers of traditional as well as contemporary and original material, living in the wider Wellington region. Applicants can be a solo performer, or a duo or trio.

All genres of music are acceptable. As a general guide, this includes the wide variety of mainly acoustic music performed at folk festivals.

You can find full details of the Joan Prior Award and the entry form on the Acoustic Routes website <https://acousticroutes.org.nz/joan-prior-award/>

The deadline for entries is Sunday, September 17.

If you know of young performers who may be interested, please pass this on.

ANY QUESTIONS? Email: [secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz)

## 7. From the Committee

Kia ora tatou

The Wellington Folk Centre (a.k.a. Acoustic Routes) AGM will be held on Sunday 20 August, 3 pm at The Office Bar, 124 Riddiford Street, Newtown.

Some current members are keen to stay on the committee for the coming year but there is an opportunity to join the band of people who keep the club ticking along each month, bringing live folk and acoustic music to Wellington. It's rewarding and usually not terribly onerous, especially if we can spread the load amongst a few people!

Have a chat with a committee member if you'd like to know more about what's involved – Acoustic Routes contact list below.

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 6 & 24 August, 7pm**

6 August Laldy, Catherine Bullock, Billy Lyrical, Lucy Wilson  
\$15 door, \$12 Eventfinda presales

20 August Rob Joass, Sean and Rosie O'Connor, Alan Downes, Nycki Proctor  
\$15 door, \$12 Eventfinda presales

### **b) Auntie Social's Thirsty Night Music Club, Auntie Social Lounge, 4 Rintoul Street Newtown: Thursday 10 August, 8pm (free)**

10 August Keeva with Caoimhe Lane, and Don Mackay

24 August Greta O'Leary and Don Mackay

### **c) VicFolk "Awesome August" Ceilidh: Saturday 12th August, 7-10pm**

Venue: Northland Memorial Community Centre, 5 Woburn Road, Wellington. Doors open 6:45pm, for dancing at 7:15pm.

Tickets are \$10 / \$5 unwaged, at <https://events.humanitix.com/awesome-august-ceilidh-2023>



Tickets are capped at 100 - online sales only, no door sales - and are all fully refundable. If you're not able to come because of sickness or for any other reason, ask for a refund so tickets can be reallocated to other people who want to dance.

On-street parking is available outside the hall and on nearby streets. The number 22 bus goes right to the venue, and the 2, 18, and 21 also get you pretty close (within a 15-minute walk).

#### **d) Wellyfest 2023 Youth Gathering**

Kia ora koutou! This year's Wellington Folk Festival will include a new full Kids and Youth programme, the Youth Gathering! It's free with the entry ticket! Keep your eyes peeled on the Wellington Folk Festival community FB page for more info, but if you can't wait email us! [wff.youthgathering@gmail.com](mailto:wff.youthgathering@gmail.com) See you there!

Nga mihi nui  
Karen Jones and Youth Gathering Team

#### **e) 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.



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

Single	\$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

#### **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 to a committee member at an Acoustic Routes event.

PLEASE COMPLETE: many thanks for your support

Amount paid:        \$\_\_\_\_\_ Single \$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: \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. 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).



## 11. 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).

## 12. 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)

### **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)