

The Balladeer

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

Acoustic  *Routes*

www.acousticroutes.org.nz



September 2023: In this issue

1. AR monthly concert featuring Frank John and Eric Manu with Toil and Trouble, Roseneath School Hall, Thursday 28 September, 7:30 pm
2. Open Mic at The Office, Newtown, Sundays 10 & 24 September, 5:15 – 8pm
3. Open Mic at Plimmerton Boating Club, Wednesday 13 September, 7:30 pm
4. AR monthly singaround, Johnsonville Community Hub, Monday 18 September, 7:30 pm
5. Report on the 2023 Acoustic Routes AGM
6. AR August concert review by Janette Munneke - the Jimmies' final fling, with Divine Pitch and Simple Gifts
7. Ruth and Gerard's UK Trip
8. The Joan Prior Award 2023 (deadline for entries, Sunday 17 September)
9. Wellyfest 2023, Brookfield Outdoor Education Centre 2023 October, guest announcement and call for volunteers
10. AR Membership subs for the year from July 1 are due
11. Balladeer Music Noticeboard
12. Want to perform?
13. About Acoustic Routes
14. Acoustic Routes contacts
15. 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 Frank John and Erin Manu with Toil and Trouble, Roseneath School Hall, Thursday 28 September, 7:30 pm



Originally from Amsterdam, Frank brings his technical brilliance to this New Plymouth-based duo, while his Taranaki-born wife, Erin, provides the driving rhythm guitar and has a reputation for her unique style on the banjo - described by Albi (& The Wolves) as having 'a kinda swagger'.

Whether it's a sizzling acoustic instrumental or the soulful delivery of a ballad, they capture the essence of "guitar and song", through the variations of the acoustic genre – folk, blues, country, bluegrass, swing, classical. All wrapped into a neat Kiwi-Dutch package. They perform some hidden gems, well-known standards, and their own compositions. Currently, they are in the middle of recording Frank's instrumental compositions and working on their follow-up vocal album.

"Beautifully concise guitar playing, tasty harmonies, well-crafted originals and brilliant covers" – Chris Penman

<https://www.facebook.com/frank.and.erin>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/FrankJohnErinManu>

Toil and Trouble are a Wellington based trio comprising Jude Douglas (fiddle and vocals), Mary Hubble (flute and vocals) and Ron Craig (guitar and vocals). They play traditional and contemporary songs and tunes mainly with an English/Celtic flavour. Also included are a few American, Canadian and antipodean numbers. The group are all long-time members of the Wellington folk scene.



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

2. Newtown Open Mic upstairs at The Office, Sundays 10 & 24 September, 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, or newtownacousticsound@gmail.com

3. Open Mic, Plimmerton Boating Club, 10 Moana Road Plimmerton, Wednesday 13 September, 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



4. AR monthly singaround, Rimu Room, Johnsonville Community Hub, 33 Johnsonville Road, Monday 18 September, 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. Report on the 2023 Acoustic Routes AGM

On Sunday afternoon 20 August, Acoustic Routes AGM was held upstairs in the Office Bar. Only 11 members turned up, so the meeting was delayed for 30 minutes until the chair was able to declare those present to be a quorum. Ruth Birnie presented the President's report, acknowledging the work of the committee, including members who left during the year or were co-opted during the year. Peter Whiting presented the Treasurer's report, noting that we had made a loss of \$500 over the year, and suggesting that the new committee look at raising subscriptions.

Next came nominations for the new committee who are: President Ruth Birnie, Secretary Anne McGregor, Treasurer Sue Ikin, and Committee Members Janette Munneke and Helen Dorothy. This is the minimum number for the Committee, but they have power to co-opt further members. Philippa Boy has offered to continue with the Balladeer, and Margaret Pullar has agreed to continue organising the monthly Singaround. Kevin Ikin is willing to continue managing the Joan Prior award, and will also help out on club nights.

The JA Pan award for the most improved performer of the year was awarded to Margaret Pullar. There has been some confusion between the JA Pan award and the Joan Prior award, so the meeting voted to change the name of the JA Pan award to the Most Improved Performer Award.

There was discussion on issues of member benefits, venue options and possibility of changing our concert nights from Thursday. The new Committee will look at these issues.

Ruth Birnie

6. Review, the Jimmies' final fling concert, with Divine Pitch, and Simple Gifts

The Jimmies concert was opened by **Divine Pitch**, called after the name of the pitch they perform in, which is a bit lower than the usual A440. Stephen Riddell and Megan Ward opened with a classic "Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho", before moving on to some of their own songs, "Dark Side of the Soul", written by Stephen about struggling with mental health issues, and "Help Me", "one of those old yelling songs in a modern style", with Megan on fiddle.

Throughout the set, which included traditional tunes and some by Jonathan Berkahn, Megan played a lovely fiddle, and Stephen's backing guitar style was a great demonstration of how to play backing guitar, subtle and supportive. Megan's "Ballad of the East Coast Railway" (up to Gisborne) is her first song and had some nice word twists – played on banjo which seemed fitting for a train song.

Simple Gifts, Philippa Boy and Sue Rose, opened with "Sovay Sovay" on dulcimer (mixolydian) and beautiful vocals. They lent their lovely harmonies to the gentle Paul Metsers song about lovers fighting, "Peace Descends", played on dulcimer as Paul would do it (in reverse Ionian).

This was followed by some humorous advice from jazz singer Abbey Lincoln "Throw it Away", with Sue on guitar – "you can never lose a thing if it belongs to you". Philippa was persuaded to play hurdy gurdy for their finale, "Both Sides the Tweed" by Dick Gaughan.

The Jimmies

The Jimmies played a mix of numbers they've performed over the years, with dance tunes and NZ songs. They opened with "We Will Have Dancing Tonight", on fiddle, mandolin and penny whistle. Kevin Ikin wrote the lyrics for their next piece, to the pipe tune "The Halting March". This was followed by the second rendition of "Both Sides the Tweed" for the night, lovely to hear it again, with beautiful flute and singing, especially as it's been a few years now since Dick has been able to perform it himself.

There was dancing in the aisles for a tune set including "Cock o' the North" and the "Atholl Highlanders" - Robin and Sarah did a good job of representing the "heaving mass of dancers" that The Jimmies are used to having.

Two songs followed, Alan Muggeridge's "Here We Have a Man" and Dave Jordan's "Hills of Coromandel", the latter with Murray Kilpatrick on lead vocals and guitar. During the set, as well as guitar, accordion, mandolin, whistle and banjo, there was some lovely interplay between flute (Mary Hubble) and fiddle (Susan Ellis), great backing from Ann McChesney on keyboard and Kevin McLoughlin on bass guitar.

Ken Allen's tunes written for Ron Craig's daughters Sarah and Kathy on flute, fiddle, accordion, and mandolin were followed by a "rather strident" version of Sir Dave Dobbin's "Outlook for Thursday" and "Six Months in a Leaky Boat" by Split Enz. We were then spirited off to Ireland, for "P Stands for Paddy" (Mary lead vocals), and "Cherish the Ladies", a set of jigs on fiddle, accordion, and flute.

Keeping to the dancing theme, Mary Chapin Carpenter's two-step "Down at the Twist and Shout" followed, featuring Kevin (Ikin) on triangle, and the band finished with a tribute to audiences and supporters over the years, "Here's to You" by the Oyster Band.

All in all, it was a terrific opportunity to relive some of those great moments and hear again some of the numbers the Jimmies have made their own over the years. Lovely to see some past members in the audience too. Great fun with a twist of sadness knowing that it was the end of an era.

Janette Munneke

7. Ruth and Gerard's UK Trip

Just a few notes from the President about where she disappeared to for six weeks in July and August. We landed at Manchester, caught the train to Dewsbury and spent time catching up to family.

Our first musical event was the Gate to Southwell Festival. We only booked for one day there, as we had just arrived in the country and picked up a rental car.

We had a chat with Kip and Dave Winter, who will be performing for us as Winter Wilson in February next year. We also saw Keith Donnelly and Rory McLeod who have played in Wellington in the past.



Next musical event was a visit to Morley Folk Club. Soon after we arrived in the UK Beans Maries let us know that they were going to do a solo spot in a choir concert 20 minutes from Gerard's home. We enjoyed the concert and Beans's sets, and meeting Beans's parents and brother (the choir master).

Next festival was The Great North Folk Festival, run by Richard Grainger and his wife Jeanette. Richard has been out here several times before and will be a guest at Wellyfest this year. Here we saw Steve Turner, and Martin Carthy doing the final set on Saturday night, and met Paul and Liz Davenport who are part of the music scene in Sheffield, which includes Nancy Kerr and James Fagan.



This festival is held at Botton village in the North York Moors - a community for special needs adults. There was a beautiful hall and a few smaller venues. Some of the residents enjoyed participating within their ability. It was a small festival, maybe 300 people, and included lots of singing and participation.

We did a brief trip to Wales to see old family friends, and had lunch with Pat Smith and Ned Clamp, then a one-day visit to Weston-Super-Mare to have dinner with Rosa Conrad's Mum and Dad.

Our third and biggest festival of the trip was the Warwick Folk Festival. We have been to this one before and always enjoyed it. Probably about the size of the Auckland Folk Festival with lots of stalls, an outdoor dance stage for Morris dancers, a massive marquee, a couple of bars selling craft beers, and several smaller venues.



Here we saw Enda Kenny and Keith Donnelly performing. We also caught up with Pete Grassby, Ian Goodsman and Ella Beardsall (was Lynn), Kirsty Bromley, Shez Wright, and our own Helen Dorothy, who will be back with us very shortly.

Final catch-up was at Skipton with Celia Briar, who will store the tent (and hopefully use it) until next time we are in the UK. We had a wonderful trip and look forward to the next one.

Ruth Birnie and Gerard Hudson

8. Calling Young Performers: the 2023 Joan Prior Young Performers Award – entries close 17 September



Entries are still 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, 5 November. 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

9. WELLYFEST 2023, Brookfield Outdoor Education Centre, 20-23 October



The much-anticipated guest lineup for the 2023 Wellington Folk Festival has been unveiled! Mark your calendars for October 20th to 23rd, as we gather once again at the picturesque Brookfield Scout Camp for a celebration of folk music, culture, and community.

After a hiatus of several years, the Committee are excited to announce the return of overseas guests to our festival. Prepare to be enchanted by the fantastic assembly of international and local artists, all coming together to create an unforgettable experience for folk music enthusiasts of all ages. The guests are:

Himmerland	Denmark
Richard Grainger	UK
Turkey The Bird	Aotearoa
Adam McGrath	Aotearoa
Triske	Aotearoa
Hot Diggity	Aotearoa
Beans Maries	Aotearoa
Mehana	Aotearoa

The Committee are also busy developing the workshop and dance programme and will make further announcements over the coming weeks, including the opening of the early bird registration. There is also a brand-new youth programme! Heaps of exciting stuff coming so watch this space!

Call for Volunteers

As with previous years, the festival would not succeed without the invaluable input from volunteers. If you'd like to get involved, there are volunteer positions available. Dependent on the hours volunteers put in to assisting with festival housekeeping, set

up and breakdown, the festival will offer a hefty discount or free entry into the festival. The teams and skills needed are:

- First Aid – two people with level 2 first aid skills – preferably with ATP
- Security and registration – checking and selling tickets, cash and EFTPOS handling, venue ticket checks
- Housekeeping and hygiene – rubbish bin clearance and cleaning the loos and showers
- Site setup and breakdown – general furniture shifting, venue and site setup and experienced people with construction site experience to help with stage, sound and lighting rig setup. Training certificates for Sitesafe and working at heights are highly desirable for a few people.

If you'd like more information about any of these opportunities, please send an email to info@wellingtonfolkfestival.org.nz and they will forward to the relevant committee member.

10. 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 .
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: _____

11. 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 3 & 24 September, 7pm

- 6 September Lost Bird, The Brooklyns, Donal Gunning, Mahesh Sukhalal
Presales \$12 from Eventfinda or \$15 at the door
- 24 September George Young, Toby Sussex, Robyn-Lynn Webber, Louis Gladwell
Presales \$12 from Eventfinda or \$15 at the door

b) Auntie Social's Thirsty Night Music Club, Auntie Social Lounge, 4 Rintoul Street Newtown: Thursday 7 & 21 September, 8pm (free)

- 7 September Toby Sussex and Don Mackay
- 21 September Goodnight My Darling, and Don Mackay

c) Ukelele Swing Club of Johnsonville's Women's Suffrage Anniversary Concert



Tickets \$10. All proceeds go to Women's Refuge. For advance bookings contact Lynn swingclubukes@gmail.com

d) Wellyfest 2023 Youth Gathering

Kia ora Folk whanau

We are super excited to announce that we now have a working group organising the youth programme at this year's festival! They are: Karen Jones, Andrew Bicknell,

Sayaka Kirkman, Vanessa McLellan, Cassandra Bahr, and Jo Sheffield. They have heaps of great ideas but need a few more from our youth whanau!

So...do you have a teenage son or daughter? If so, if you could get them to fill out this wee survey, it would be really really helpful! We are providing a programme for ages 5 - 18 years this year and are committed to providing a great programme for our young adults this year. And..... we even have some new enticing awards as well! However, so that we can get a great programme together, we would love it if your teen son or daughter could fill out this survey! We would like to provide a rich programme which would include as many of our youth's ideas as possible.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeLJi8KxVAcAFrSQ4kokVoDTayYbpoi8v77Qyh8ZxvaJGfIIA/viewform?usp=sharing>

So please ask them to fill this out and then send it back to us!

Nga mihi nui! Thank you sooo much!

12. 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.



13. 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.

14. Acoustic Routes contacts

President: Ruth Birnie president@acousticroutes.org.nz

Correspondence: Anne McGregor secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz

Treasurer/Membership: Sue Ikin treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz

Balladeer: editor Philippa Boy balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz

Acoustic Routes update email: Anne McGregor secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz

Performance opportunities: performers@acousticroutes.org.nz

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

Website: www.acousticroutes.org.nz

15. 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: 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

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