

# The Balladeer

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

*Acoustic*  *Routes*

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



*Merry Christmas &  
Wishing you peace, joy, and  
lots of music in 2024*

## December 2023: In this issue

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This newsletter can be printed out from a pdf located on the website  
<http://acousticroutes.org.nz/news/the-balladeer/>

# 1. Acoustic Routes Christmas Party, Sunday 10 December, Anne and Roy's home, 21 Gordon Road, Plimmerton, 2.00 pm



This year's Christmas Party is at a venue that will be familiar to many of you, because it has been the scene of many an up-close-and-personal concert, not to mention the annual Waitangi Day gathering. We're lucky to be able to continue the recent tradition of holding our Christmas party on the Kapiti Coast, this year hosted by the magnificent Anne McGregor and Roy McGuinness.

Please bring a plate of food for the evening meal, a bottle of what you like to drink, and of course instruments and songs. We ask that you give a Koha, which will be donated to Atareira Mental Health Support in time for Christmas. Disposable plates etc. will be provided but those of you who have picnic sets could bring them too, to help reduce the waste. Sorry no dogs.

We warmly invite you, your family and any like-minded and/or musical friends to come along and welcome in the season with music and festivity!

# 2. Open Mic, Plimmerton Boating Club, 10 Moana Road Plimmerton, Wednesday 13 December, 7pm

Second Wednesday of the month. Spread the word.

Same Ole MC.  
Roy McGuinness 021433878



# 3. Newtown Open Mic upstairs at The Office, returning in February 2024



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)

Check the February Balladeer for details.

## 4. A Summer of Festivals

### **Whare Flat Folk Festival, 30 December 2023 to 3 January 2024**

Waiora Camp, Whare Flat, Dunedin

Billed as being the best way to bring in the New Year, the festival's headline acts include Fiddlesticks, Sadie & Jay, Mishra and Thompson Springs. Featuring world class musicians from New Zealand and around the world, Dunedin Folk Club's Whare Flat Folk Festival is four days of music, sun, camping, workshops and jams in the idyllic native bush surrounds of Waiora Scout Camp (15 minutes' drive from Dunedin).

Find out more on [the website](#), or on the [facebook page](#).

Stay in town the night of the 3rd for the 2024 Ballads to Blues at the Hanover Hall, Dunedin. The concert features Fiddlesticks, Half Light (Rennie Pearson & Bob McNeill) and Martin Curtis. Tickets for the concert will be available soon, through the website <https://anzfa.org.nz/ballads-to-blues>

### **Auckland Folk Festival, 26-29 January 2024**

Kumeu Showgrounds, Kumeu, Auckland



Now into its fifth decade, the Auckland Folk festival is a venerable institution, first conceived and created by the folk and traditional music and dance clubs of Auckland in the 1970's. For the past 30 years, the festival has been based at the Kumeu Showgrounds in West Auckland, where the music venues are spread over gently rolling paddocks and campers meet up with old friends and musical comrades-at-arms to play and dance long into the night.

Despite the wash-out of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Festival in January 2023, the brave festival organisers have decided that Festival 2024 will go ahead! To keep up-to-date with this one, go to the [website](#) and sign up for the newsletter or go to the festival's [Facebook site](#) where a guest list is available.

## 5. Review of the AR October concert showcasing local treasures, reviewed by Janette Munneke

**Robyn Lynn Webber's** first time performing at an Acoustic Routes main concert included three self-penned numbers: A New Version of Me, about getting a recharge on an island holiday; a song about Nana who secretly left a child behind in Scotland (lovely lyric – "you kept it in Pandora's box"); and the third a love song, Still in Love With You. Taken from her real-life experiences, Robyn Lynn's songs are of travelling and going through a breakup, amongst other things that we come up against in our daily lives. You can buy her album on [Bandcamp](#).

**Margaret Pullar** was the winner of the Acoustic Routes Most Improved Performer Award (formerly the JA Pan trophy) at the AGM this year, and well-deserved it was, too. This was also her first time performing at an AR main concert. Margaret's choice of songs reflected her journey to "the big stage", starting with Union Maid, by Woody Guthrie, a song she learned at Lynn Blann's ukulele group, followed by a COVID song (with a positive ending). Margaret followed that with an upbeat Titanic song, and finished off with a number by one of her favourite songwriters, the beautiful Home to

Me (is anywhere you are) by Tom Paxton. For John, of course!

The first half was finished off with the return of **Helen Dorothy** who has been in the UK for some months. Helen sang a poem by Michael O'Leary that she had put to music, From P.H.D. to PhD, and one of her own called Far From the Light, about the captured colossal squid now still-life at Te Papa, sadly no longer roaming at large in the ocean. Then she set us a test to identify the subject of her newest song, a beautiful number called Sleepy Transformation – the clue was in the title. In typical Helen style, it was lyrical, melodic, and thought-provoking, with a lovely guitar accompaniment. I'm looking forward to the next album.

**Tony Ricketts and Jenny Kilpatrick** kicked off the second half singing songs by Dick Coker. Dick was a very versatile and prolific songwriter who lived variously in Auckland and Wellington, and was known particularly for his humorous songs, as Tony and Jenny illustrated with aplomb, starting with The Bloody Hell Song, followed by a protest song, Parlez-vous Anglais, the Pimple Song and the Streaker Song, and finishing with First-hand Experience.

**West Road**, that is, **Ron Craig** on guitar and vocals, **Andrea Coop** on vocals and fiddle, and **Christine Roseveare** on vocals and bass, rounded off the night. They sang 1962 by Ron Hynes ("That's all gone, won't come back again..."), Keep Your Distance by Richard Thompson, and the lovely bluegrass number, Don't This Road Look Rough and Rocky, written by Charles Justice and Japanese-American fiddle player Shoji Tabuchi, who died in August this year (according to the interweb). They continued the nostalgia theme with the Joan Baez song, Diamonds and Rust, and a beautiful combination of a John Beavis's song The Maritime, and The Water is Wide. Their encore was an upbeat number, Paul Brady's song Rainbow.

It really was a club concert with lots of members on the stage, and others pitching in to help with setting up the sound gear as we couldn't get into the venue as early as we'd have liked – hats off to Murray who managed the set-up and sound checks in record time!

Speaking of the venue, it was our first time running a concert in the Johnsonville Collective Community Hub (where we have our regular third-Monday-night sing around) and people I spoke to seemed to find it a good venue and location. If you were there and have any feedback about it, we'd love to hear it! Please let your Committee know by emailing any of the email addresses in the contact section of the Balladeer. We agreed at the AGM in August that we'd try out suitable venues if we found them – always on the lookout for options to make our music more accessible to more people – and it would great to have your opinion.

## **6. Balladeer music noticeboard**

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

### **a) Final Songwriters Showcase for 2023, The Moon Bar, 167 Riddiford Street Newtown: 3 December, 7pm**

A great line up with Lost Bird, Bill Hickman, Beans Maries and Milly Moon. Doors open from 5:30pm, Music from 6:30pm. \$12 from Eventfinda or \$15 at the door.

[Songs6021@gmail.com](mailto:Songs6021@gmail.com) Follow us at Songs6021 on Facebook and Instagram.

**b) Christmas Ceilidh Dance with VicFolk, Northland Memorial Community Centre, 5 Woburn Road, Northland, Saturday 16 December, 7:15-10:30pm**

Come celebrate the spirit of Christmas with a VicFolk ceilidh! This will be a very fun night of dancing and socialising, no previous dance experience required. Bring as many left feet as you want! All dances will be taught and walked through before we start up the music with our amazing band. Dress up in festive attire if you wish, though make sure it is practical for a good dose of aerobic exercise.

The number 22 bus goes right to the Northland Community Hall and the 2, 18, and 21 will get you to within a 15-minute walk of the hall. Doors open 7:15pm and dancing will start by 7:45pm and go until 10:30pm.

Tickets are \$10, \$5 for unwaged, online only and capped at 100. Please check the Facebook page for the ticketing link. <https://www.facebook.com/VicFolkMusic/>

Refunds will be available so please stay at home if you are sick. Looking forward to seeing you there!

**c) The Zimmermans play Bob's Santa Show, Meow, 9 Edward Street Wellington, Sunday 17 December, 7:30 pm**

It's coming on Christmas and everyone loves a Christmas party. Wellington Bob Dylan interpreters, The Zimmermans, have just the ticket for you - Bob's Santa Show, over two hours of Bob Dylan favourites to foster celebration and festivity... There'll be everything from simple acoustic folk, through big band blues and gospel, to unforgettable Dylan anthems.

Be there, bring your friends, and join the chorus. Make it your Christmas party. It'll be like no other. Tickets from <https://moshtix.co.nz/v2/event/bob-s-santa-show/158799> Doors open at 6.30pm. Show starts at 7.30pm.

## **7. 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).



## **8. 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).

## 9. Acoustic Routes contacts

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

**Correspondence:** Anne McGregor [secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz)

**Treasurer/Membership:** Sue Ikin [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:** Anne McGregor [secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz)

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

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

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

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

### *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](mailto: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: 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 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](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/>

### *Poneke Shanty Club*

**When:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month 7-9pm

**Where:** The Welsh Dragon Bar, 10a Cambridge Terrace, Wellington

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

### *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](mailto:musicianmurray@gmail.com)

*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)

*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)