

The Balladeer

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

Acoustic  Routes

www.acousticroutes.org.nz

March 2024: In this issue

1. AR monthly concert featuring John Sanders, and Annette Esquinet, Roseneath School Hall, Thursday 28 March, 7:30 pm
2. Open Mic at Plimmerton Boating Club, Wednesday 13 March, 7:30 pm
3. Open Mic at The Office, 124 Riddiford Street Newtown, Sunday 10 March, 5:15 – 8pm (no session on Sunday 31 March because of Easter)
4. AR monthly singaround, Rimu Room, Johnsonville Community Hub, 33 Johnsonville Road, Monday 18 March, 7:30 pm
5. AR February concert Winter Wilson, review by Janette Munneke
6. From the Committee – seeking help to rewrite the AR Constitution
7. Balladeer Music Noticeboard
8. Want to perform?
9. About Acoustic Routes
10. Acoustic Routes contacts
11. 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 **John Sanders, and Annette Esquet**, Roseneath School Hall, Thursday 28 March, 7:30 pm



Fresh from his NZ tour, bassouki world music artist **Jon Sanders** brings his eclectic sounds to Wellington. Featuring tracks that explore the world of sound in the Celtic Folk, Afrofunk and Kirtan genres, Jon will play tracks from his latest project - Tenalach - embracing the synergy between nature and our inner circadian rhythms and tracks from his latest album Nada Brahma (meaning the world is sound in ancient Hindu).

According to *The Irish Times*, "Jon Sanders has developed a unique world music sound and style that evokes diverse cultures in a 'quantum-leaping' way".

Versatile and very innovative, when he plays the bass mandola Jon uses a second pickup to add bass lines, creating a depth and colour to his compositions. With a percussive stomp and emotive vocals, the sounds soar into a new dimension! In contrast, he finger-picks funky back slap guitar and ukeleles giving Mali-inspired rhythms and Celtic melodies. *The Irish Times* arts section, The Ticket, describes his third album Zoukelele as 'a deeply meditative, impishly playful, jazz-tinged collection'.

Spotify, Jon Sanders; www.jon-sanders.com; Facebook, Jon Sanders Music.

Annette Esquet is a Kāpiti-based singer-songwriter who began songwriting in 2012 and has a style all her own. Her songs are full of soft-spoken wisdom - she sets heart-felt lyrics to interesting melodies, accompanied in her own unique way.

For our March concert Annette will be joined by **Jo Moir** - Jo's smooth harmonies and beautifully crafted fiddle accompaniment are a real treat.



<https://soundcloud.com/user-118808073/if-you-want-summer-1>
<https://soundcloud.com/user-118808073/henry-street>

Entry: \$25/\$20 for AR members. Cash only (no eftpos facilities).

Parking on site or catch the number 14 bus to the school gate.

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

Second Wednesday of the month. Spread the word.

Same Ole MC.
Roy McGuinness 021433878



3. Newtown Open Mic upstairs at The Office, 124 Riddiford Street Newtown, Sunday 10 March, 5:15 – 8pm (no session on the 31st because of Easter)



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

4. AR monthly singaround, Rimu Room, Johnsonville Community Hub, 33 Johnsonville Road, Monday 18 March, 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.

Tea and coffee provided. Entry \$4. Third Monday of every month.

5. Winter Wilson concert review



Having enjoyed several of their many 'Live from the Lounge' sessions over the past few years, it was quite surreal to have Winter Wilson live, in person, on the stage at Roseneath, back in New Zealand after a seven-year gap. Surreal and fantastic!

They gave us some new as yet unrecorded material - one called "Home" that came out of a debate about what home really means (I suppose it's

only natural for such a pair of travellers to contemplate what home is) - some from the new album (*The Passing of the Storm*) like "Our love has all been spent" (about leaving) and "I'll wish you good morning" (about being in an opposite time zone from loved ones), and we also had some of their well-known favourites, including "The angry mother", and "Metagama", drawn from their own or family experiences.

Some of their songs come from stories or phrases Dave hears, like "I'd rather be ashes than dust" about Jack London, "Is it true that his eyes are like mine?", "Storm around Tumbledown" and "Still life in the old dog yet"; some come from the instrument or voice, like "Every day brings something new" - a song for Kip to exercise her blues voice and Dave to show his guitar prowess, borrowed riff and all. There were only two 'covers', "The dimming of the day" from the pen of Richard Thompson and the singing of Bonnie Raitt, and the beautiful "An t-Eilean Dorcha (The Dark Island)" by Iain Maclachlan, played by Kip on the flute.

Lockdown spawned at least one song just for fun, which the pair performed as their encore, "What would Johnny Cash do now?"

A lockdown silver lining for me was the opportunity to have several artists performing in my living room, artists like Kip and Dave who generously continued performing and livestreaming, but, man, it was so good to experience the energy unleashed by singing and playing out loud on stage in a hall, with a live audience singing back. It was as if the 'Freo doctor' had paid a little visit to Wellington!

Janette Munneke

6. Help to Rewrite the Acoustic Routes Constitution

Could you help to re-write the Wellington Folk Centre/Acoustic Routes Constitution?

Calling all legal brains! The revocation of the 1908 Incorporated Societies Act means that all organisations currently registered have to produce a new constitution in order to be able to continue under the new Act. It's a fairly leisurely timeframe and MBIE has kindly provided a template to work to. Mary Hubble's agreed to help with the process but if anyone out there is dead keen to help set the template up, please get in touch with either Sue Ikin treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz or Ruth Birnie president@acousticroutes.org.nz. Once we have a draft, the template can then be circulated around current members for comment, additions, or alterations. We'd like to have it ready for the AGM in August 2024.

Boring but necessary!

7. Balladeer music noticeboard

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

a) ~~Up Close and Personal Plimmerton presents Niels and The Gartertones, 21 Gordon Road Plimmerton, Sunday 3 March, 2pm~~ *cancelled*



b) **Up Close and Personal Plimmerton presents Krissy & Peter Jackson, 21 Gordon Road Plimmerton, Saturday 13th April 7:30 pm**



Described as "an extraordinary musician and heartfelt performer," Krissy's music dances with melody and tone. Through her voice and fiddle, she connects deeply with her audience, creating compelling music that transcends genre and stylistic boundaries. Keyboardist, harmony singer and husband Peter Jackson is described as a player "whose quiet brilliance and intuition hold things together beautifully and sensitively."

As a duo, their ability to read the room and adjust their setlist accordingly makes for more than just entertainment but an experience that engages the audience right up until the final note. Songs, tunes, and harmonies that fill the soul and are performed with first-class musicianship.

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

To book, text Annie 027 459 9376.

c) Share your music on 'the Folk Music Hour'

An invitation to send an MP3 to the Folk Music Hour to include in May's programmes is extended to all Kiwi folkies. We'd love to air material from our youngest performers in a Special broadcast, working title Young Folk. If the young musicians of your folk club or family can get a track down with a computer, say, we'd be keen to play it, and introduce them to a broad audience.

The Folk Music Hour is carried by five stations, NZ Specials are repeated on Kiwifolk

internet radio, and our listener base abroad is growing, with our podcasts archived for over 10 years now.

We plan ahead, so early April would be good for including your music this year, but any time is good.

David Calder folkmusichour@gmail.com

d) Check the April Balladeer for the return of The Moon Bar, 167 Riddiford Street Newtown

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.



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.

Join up for the remainder of the financial year for half price from now until June!

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.

9. 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

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

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

Contact: Dave Barnes <http://www.morrisdancing.org.nz/>

Poneke Shanty Club

When: 1st and 3rd 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

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

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