

The Balladeer

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

Acoustic  *Routes*

www.acousticroutes.org.nz

*Acoustic Routes AGM at the Johnsonville Collective Community Hub,
33 Johnsonville Road, Sunday 18 August, 1:30pm to 4pm.*

*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.*

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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. AR monthly concert featuring Vikki Clayton, Kevin & Rosie, and Don Mackay, The Collective Hub, 33 Johnsonville Road, Johnsonville, Thursday 22 August, 7:30 pm



A Londoner by birth, **Vikki Clayton** got caught up in music early. By the age of 13, she was asking for a guitar and her recognised musical talent led her to the Trinity College London, and eventually an honours degree in Performing Arts. Although she started out singing English folk songs, she continued listening to rock and progressive rock and the rest, as they say, is history, from the folk rockers 'Ragged Heroes' to Fotheringay and Fairport Convention.

Vikki has also recorded eight solo albums with guests including John Giblin (Simple Minds), Martin Barre (Jethro Tull), and

Liam Genochey (Steeleye Span), and sung with other folk luminaries, including Richard Thompson, Ralph McTell, and John Martyn. She can make you laugh, cry, rejoice and celebrate within the first set.

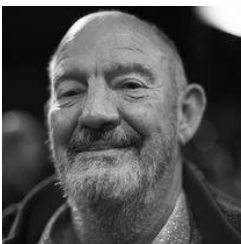
We are delighted that Vikki has made New Zealand one of her three current homes and are excited and honoured to have her as a guest at Acoustic Routes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hm4vFDkRANc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iQHw9TjziHU>

http://www.goldilox.co.uk/engfolk/frames/vikki_clayton.htm

Kevin and Rosie sing traditional unaccompanied folk songs. When they met in the singing circle at Wellington Folk Festival, they already had a voice apiece, then they found their voices agreed with each other, and they have been singing harmony together ever since. Their repertoire is flavoured by Kev's Sussex origins. Farming, songs of the sea, social commentary, history, thievery, and pretty little small birds, sung with feeling: real unadorned old-school trad.



Don Mackay is a Newtown based singer-songwriter best known as one third of "Don and The Divorcees". His songs wander about the borders between folk, country and rock. He has been described as "angry old man shakes his fist at the clouds, and 3 chords".

Entry: \$15/\$10 for AR members. Cash only (no eftpos facilities).
Parking and bus and train nearby.

2. Acoustic Routes Social Club - a new venture! First meeting at Johnsonville Collective Community Hub, 33 Johnsonville Road, Wednesday 14 August, 1.30pm, Koha \$5.

Are you keen to play and listen to music with friends? Just as keen to get together with folk you've been playing music with for years and enjoy their company? Not so keen to go out on cold dark evenings?

We've noticed that attendance is falling off a little from our evening concerts, and have been getting feedback that this might be, at least in part, because there are others like you who aren't so keen on going out at night. As a committee we don't like to think that some members and long-term supporters of Acoustic Routes are missing out on what the club is there for, so we thought having a regular get-together during the day might be a solution. If you like the sound of that, we'd like to invite you to



come along to the inaugural meeting of the Acoustic Routes Social Club. Like the Buena Vista Social Club, it will be a place where we can go "to hang out with each other", with the common thread of music.

At the first meeting, the inimitable Don Franks has agreed to come and perform a few numbers to get us off to a good start. Then we'll have a chat about what form the future meetings should take, dates and times, and what activities you'd like the club to do - for instance, singing, dancing, invited performers, tutorials so you can learn or get better at playing an instrument, jam sessions. And, of course, have afternoon tea!

Ideally, we'd like people who are happy to take a role in organising the get-togethers to volunteer to help organise, but meanwhile some of us on the committee are happy to get it started. If you'd like to be involved, contact Ruth Birnie at president@acousticroutes.org.nz and/or come along to the first meeting. It will only take off if enough people are keen to join the club.

P.S. Bring instruments in case there's an opportunity to play some music!

3. Open Mic, Plimmerton Boating Club, 10 Moana Road Plimmerton, Wednesday 14 August, 7 pm

The Open Mic is still happening, almost as usual, until Roy returns.

Please note: no pre-booked spots this month, put your name up when you get there.

Spread the word.



4. Newtown Open Mic upstairs at The Office, 124 Riddiford Street Newtown, Sundays 11 & 25 August, 5:15 – 8pm



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

5. AR monthly singaround, Rimu Room, Johnsonville Collective Community Hub, 33 Johnsonville Road, Monday 19 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.

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

6. From the Committee – notice of AGM, 18 August, 1.30pm

Kia ora tatou

The Wellington Folk Centre (a.k.a. Acoustic Routes) AGM will be held Johnsonville Collective Community Hub, 33 Johnsonville Road, Sunday 18 August, 1:30 to 4pm.

Some current members are keen to stay on the committee for the coming year, but we would love you 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!

Email a committee member if you'd like to know more about what's involved – Acoustic Routes contact list below at point 13.

Ngā mihi mahana

7. Acoustic Routes July Concert write-up

The July concert was a four-part event featuring solo and group performances and a variety of genres from country to contemporary, to folk rock, self-penned and covers,

humorous and serious, on a variety of instruments by a variety of age-groups.

There were some connections between them, not least being connection itself, connection to the land, and between people. Appropriately perhaps for a midwinter concert, rain seemed to feature in several numbers!

Dean Murray started the night off with a set of songs largely about his deep-seated connection with the land, and the Haewai Collective continued that in the second half.

As Helen Dorothy (our superb compere for the night) pointed out, it was great to hear all the new material by the first three acts - yet more evidence that songwriting is alive and well in Wellington. And as a long-term committee member, I was delighted to hear of the influence Acoustic Routes had provided for Janine of Haewai in the form of a Blind Date concert - remember those? - she was once involved in, providing encouragement at a pivotal moment for her song-writing endeavours.

Phonic Fever certainly created some heat and humour in their set, and I really enjoyed the phlegmatic interpretations of known numbers and harmonies by Ratproof. Lovely to see the next generation bringing their perspectives and talents to the music.

Janette Munneke

8. Calling Young Performers: the 2024 Joan Prior Young Performers Award

Entries are now open for the 2024 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.

ACOUSTIC ROUTES - WELLINGTON FOLK CENTRE



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 17. 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 15**.

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

We're setting up a dedicated email address for Joan Prior Award queries - it should be on the website very soon. Check back in a couple of days if not there now.

9. Acoustic Routes Membership, 1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025

It's that time of the year again and subscriptions for the new financial year are now due. Subscription rates haven't changed, but the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 now requires everyone to consent to becoming a member. The subscription form has been amended to reflect this. If you are renewing your subscription by direct credit to the club's bank account please go to the form, copy the wording and email treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz with the consent, current address and email address and the date of the direct credit.

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 Acoustic Routes 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) and the consent line to treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz .
2. Hand your form plus payment to a committee member at an Acoustic Routes event.

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PLEASE COMPLETE: many thanks for your support

I acknowledge that by paying the subscription I have consented to becoming a member of the Wellington Folk Centre under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022.

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: _____

10. Balladeer music noticeboard

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

a) Up Close and Personal Greytown Presents Vikki Clayton, Studio 73, 73 Main Street Greytown, Sunday 4 August, 4pm



We are delighted to be welcoming back our favourite songstress Vikki Clayton. Vikki says of herself 'At heart I'm a folk rocker'.

Recent reviews include: "*Crystal clear vocals*", The Guardian; "*No Mean Songwriter*" Rock and Reel A great opportunity to hear an engaging and professional singer songwriter with a wide repertoire.

Bookings by txt to 02102361951. or book through Eventfinda. BYO welcome, snacks provided. \$20 on the door,

See you all soon!

Janette Wallace-Gedge

b) Up Close and Personal Plimmerton Presents Peter & Jack, 21 Gordon Road, Plimmerton, Saturday 10 August, 7:30 pm

In the early 1970s two young men more than ten thousand kilometres apart, Peter Madill and Jack MacKenzie, became very involved in both folk music and the construction and repair of instruments that were used. As it turned out, their respective universes were not only parallel, but converging.

They first met at the 2019 Wellington Folk Festival, where both were displaying their luthiery work and also performing, Peter with the Madillionaires and Jack with the Downunderdogs. Their first short stage performance together, at the last Mid-Winter Holler (February 2023), was very well received, as was a subsequent gig at the Wellington Bluegrass Society.



They have different approaches to the music, but the common thread of the folk music tradition draws together their diverse repertoires with harmony vocals and solid flat picking. There is the possibility of an appearance of the pedal steel guitar that Jack has been teaching himself to play, and there will be unique humour and stories.

www.madillguitars.co.nz www.simianridge.co.nz
www.audioculture.co.nz/articles/peter-madill-guitar-maker

\$20:00 per head. BYO and small plate for supper. Arrive from 6:30 to mix and mingle. Please phone or txt Annie to reserve your seat - 0274599376.

c) Helen Dorothy with Neil Billington, Wellington Bluegrass Society, 54 Richmond Street, Petone, Saturday 10 August, 8:00pm

Acoustic Routes committee member Helen Dorothy's songs are a celebration of life in the details of experience both familiar and unexpected at the same time. She paints with words and sound, taking us into a personal landscape that transforms the everyday into something unique. Harmonica player Neil Billington is a master on his instrument; his extraordinary musicianship adds colour tone to Helen's songs. (Photo courtesy of Gerard Hudson, Musichaven Images)



Tickets \$25/\$20 members. For more information and bookings go to <https://wellingtonbluegrass.net.nz/event-detail/>

d) VicFolk Mid-Year Ceilidh, Northland Memorial Community Centre, 5 Woburn Road, Northland, Saturday 17th August, 7-10pm

This will be a very fun night of dancing and socializing, 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.

The number 4 bus goes right to the venue, and the 2, 18, and 21 will get you within a 15-minute walk of the hall. There are some parking spaces outside the hall and along the residential streets in the area.

Doors open 6:45pm and dancing will start at 7:15pm and go until 10pm. Tickets are \$10, \$5 for unwaged, available online only, and capped at 120. Proceeds going back into club funds to support further VicFolk workshops and events. Refunds will be available so please stay at home if you are sick.

Looking forward to seeing you there!
<https://events.humanitix.com/vicfolk-midyear-ceilidh>

e) Simple Gifts at the Raumati Social Club, 34 Poplar Avenue, Raumati South, Sunday 25 August 3-5 pm



Simple Gifts are Sue Rose and Philippa Boy - two friends who share a love of harmony singing and very eclectic musical tastes. They revel in unusual arrangements of traditional and current songs accompanied by a range of instruments including Appalachian dulcimer, guitar, and hurdy gurdies.

Free entry, house special pizzas \$10.

f) Songs 6021 will be back at The Moon Bar in September

Check the September Balladeer or Facebook for details
<https://www.facebook.com/p/Songs6021-100057360403800/>

11. 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 performers@acousticroutes.org.nz.



12. 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.

13. 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

14. 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.
Details: 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: Fiona Armstrong 021 120 5961 mail to: fionastrongmc@gmail.com
Club committee email: info@mainlyacoustic.co.nz
Website: https://mainlyacoustic.co.nz/coming_attractions/

Morris dancing: 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: Contact: Andrew Bicknell, (04) 477 0069, bluegrass@xtra.co.nz
<https://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