

The Balladeer

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

Acoustic Routes

www.acousticroutes.org.nz



Note: no AR monthly concert because of Wellyfest

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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 Social Club, Johnsonville Collective Community Hub, 33 Johnsonville Road, Wednesday 2 October, 1.30pm

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? Come along to our new afternoon social get-together!

Acoustic Routes Social Club is like the Buena Vista Social Club - a place where we can go "to hang out with each other", with the common thread of music. First half hour will be songs to join in with Jo Sheffield. Bring instruments - there's bound to be an opportunity to play some music - and voices!

Suggested koha \$5. All welcome.

2. Open Mic, Plimmerton Boating Club, 66b Moana Road, Plimmerton, Wednesday 9 October, 7 pm

Our fantastic host Roy McGuinness is back on the job!



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



3. Newtown Open Mic upstairs at The Office, 124 Riddiford Street Newtown, Sunday 13 October, 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

4. AR monthly singaround, Rimu Room, Johnsonville Collective Community Hub, 33 Johnsonville Road, Monday 21 October, 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. Third Monday of every month.

Entry \$4.



5. AR September concert review

Borrowing the words of another attendee at the concert by Black Eyed Susie, with support acts Duncan Davidson and Pick & Mixolydian, "all acts performed credibly but the main bill was stunning. Excellent musicianship and hugely energetic and vibrant songs. I was most impressed."

That almost sums it up for me too, although I would add that I really enjoyed hearing Bruce and Jo in Pick & Mixolydian - a lovely, quite whimsical set with instruments we don't hear very often including the small pipes. I have very fond memories of attending a one-day workshop in Edinburgh with Northumbrian piper and instrument maker Dave Shaw called "Learn to play the small pipes in a day". I've never had so much fun dismally failing at anything in my life! (Sadly, it seems Dave passed away this year, according to his website.) I'm looking forward to hearing more of Bruce and Jo as Jo pursues her renewed interest in music, singing and dance.

Also, what a treat to hear Duncan again after quite a few years' hiatus. A superb musician, he gave us a great toe-tapping set of jigs, reels, polkas and even mazurkas on box, bouzouki and flute, sharing some of his personal musical journey along the way. He said he was too nervous to risk singing, but now that the ice is broken, perhaps we'll get that next time!

Hearing both Jo's and Duncan's stories of their return to music after an extended period focusing on other things reminded me how important it is to support young people to get involved in music-making - even if it has to take a back seat for a while, it's there to be taken up again when the time is right.

Black Eyed Susie's set was a great mix of the traditional (such as "The Raggle Taggle Gypsies"), covers (including Jimmy MacCarthy's "Ride on"), and self-penned numbers with Susie's "Long Way From Here" written on the night of her father's passing, and "What Then?".

As well as filling the venue with their energy and excellent musicianship, Ramon and Susie provided the sound for their set and for the other performers, which meant that Murray could sit back, relax and enjoy the concert for a change, and bask in the reflected glory as Julie was awarded the Acoustic Routes Most Improved Performer Award acknowledging her continued musical growth over the past year.

Janette Munneke

6. Announcing the Winners of the 2023 Joan Prior Awards

We have had a very strong response to the Joan Prior Young Performers Award this year. There were seven entries, involving up to 13 performers, which means there had to be a selection process. As a result, we are delighted to announce that five young performers will receive the award for 2024.



They are:

- Louis Gradwell - Singer-songwriter. Guitars, bass drums, keyboards, synthesizer. Alternative rock, folk-rock, folk-pop, chamber-pop.
- Ben Quayle - Vocals, acoustic guitar. Folk, pop-rock.
- Annafinau Tukuitoga - Vocals. Guitar, banjo. Country music, bluegrass, Pasifika.
- Zach Newton - Singer-songwriter. Guitar, piano. RnB, folk, pop.
- Lucy Summerfield - Singer-songwriter. Guitar. Folk, Waiata.

Our Joan Prior winners will get a full weekend pass to this month's Wellington Folk Festival and perform at a special Wellyfest concert, this year to be held in the (world famous in Wainuiomata) Balladeer tent. They will also feature in a concert at Newtown's Moon Bar in November, organised by Don Mackay. And awardees will get Acoustic Routes membership for a year.

7. Wellyfest 2024, Brookfield Outdoor Education Centre, 526 Moore's Valley Road, Wainuiomata, 25-28 October



There's a plethora of great music coming up for all ages at the Wellington Folk Festival. The gate opens at 3pm on Friday, with events running over Friday evening, all day Saturday through to Sunday evening. As well as some superb invited guests, there'll be workshops, ceilidhs, blackboard concerts and an exciting programme especially for younger folk.

You can come for the weekend, for a day, half day, or an evening. A weekend pass entitles you to camp onsite and there are also a limited number of bunks available for

sale. Based on past experience, it can get pretty cold overnight up the valley, so bring some extra layers.

Guest artists

Fred Smith, Australian Folk Music Awards Solo Artist of the Year, and a handful of New Zealand's finest will be playing songs from his rich back catalogue and his new album 'Look', as well as his stunning song cycle 'Sparrows of Kabul' written following a stint working on the evacuation of Kabul.

Nicola Mitchell is a folk/country singer-songwriter based in Te Whanganui-a-Tara/Wellington. She has a strong connection to te ao Māori and whakapapas back to Tainui iwi. She sings with her twin Maegan in a duo called The Mitchell Twins, as well as playing across Aotearoa and Australia with her older sister, Jenny Mitchell. In 2023 she won the Female Vocal Solo Section in the NZ Gold Guitar Awards

ACAPOLLINATIONS will present a multi-lingual, compelling collection of folklore songs, where archaic musical systems are reimagined for three vivacious voices. In this performance, Tui Mamaki (French-Kiwi), Gabrielle Young (Belgian-Kiwi) and Sally Howe (Cook Island-Kiwi) interweave songs from their grandmothers with evocative melodies, stirringly close harmony and stories of longing, harvest and transcendence.

The Kist (Jude Madill, Rusty Tönz and Pat Higgins), is well-known in Wellington for sensitive, authentic songs, channelling the human condition through music. The group's music is rooted in Irish traditional, Gaelic, Te Reo, American old-time. The sound is acoustic, and sensitive for the most part, but with a smattering of up-tempo numbers.

Elyssa Vulpes is a globe-trotting Italian multi-instrumentalist singer-songwriter with over a dozen albums under her belt. She has performed at festivals around the world, including the Edinburgh and Wellington Fringe, the Wellington and Auckland Folk Festival, Wellington Gardens Magic Festival and the Biella Festival in her home country.

Soaking up the Celtic Folk Traditions of Ireland and Scotland and the celebrated Italian singer-songwriters of the 1970s, her music shines a light of hope in our troubled times.

Vox Ethno is an ensemble of five female singers accompanied by a five-piece band featuring contemporary and traditional instruments. They perform mostly original arrangements of traditional (ethno) folk music from the Balkans and across Europe.

Hailing from Auckland, New Zealand, **Rough Town** is a powerhouse ensemble on a mission to ignite the folk scene with their fun, infectious blend of traditional tunes and irresistible grooves. Grasping the universal elements of dance music with both hands, Rough Town is a continuation of the modern Trad Disco movement, drawing inspiration from iconic bands like Four Winds, The East Pointers, Imar, and Lunasa.

Tickets for Wellyfest are available now the Humantix website:

<https://events.humantix.com/wellington-folk-festival-2024>

Wellyfest Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Wellyfest/>

Wellyfest website: <https://wellingtonfolkfestival.org.nz/>

Youth Gathering

The Youth Gathering was a big hit last year at Wellyfest and looks set to be every bit as popular this year. Younger folk aged 5-18 can sign up for a bunch of fun workshops and music sessions, led by some seriously cool tutors and musicians. It's perfect for kids and teens who want to dive into music and have a blast.

Once they've got their Wellyfest ticket, they can fill out the Youth Gathering registration form at the link below, or simply sign up on the day at the Youth Gathering Tent to join in on the fun.

Youth Gathering form: <https://forms.gle/Z88uMpLTnCQgXkqg9>

8. Walker Trust Youth Performance Awards, Wellyfest 2024

These awards are for the best live performance of a traditional folk song or tune. There are two age groups:

- Senior 17 – 25. The best performance wins \$500; 2nd prize \$250
- Junior 11 – 16. The best performance wins \$200. Junior performers will also be eligible for \$50 encouragement awards.

Entrants can be soloists or groups, which will all be assessed on the same three criteria: technical skills, musical skills and presentation. Solo performers can be accompanied by other musicians (of any age) however in this case only the soloist will be assessed.

Entrants should briefly introduce their performance, explaining the reason they chose this music and its history. A set can include a tune and a song, or multiple tunes, and there is a performance time limit of 5 minutes.

For entry forms or more information contact:

- walkertradtrust@gmail.com
- phone/text 021 147 1042
- <https://wellingtonfolkfestival.org.nz/walker-trust-youth-award-2024/>

The Walker Traditional Folk Music Trust promotes songs and tunes, old and new, originating from the traditional folk music of England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales.

9. Balladeer music noticeboard

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

a) Songs 6021 October Events, The Moon Bar 167 Riddiford Street Newtown

Doors open 6pm, music starts 7pm. Tickets \$12 from Eventfinda, \$15 at the door.

6 October (Sunday)	Anna Tukuitonga Robyn Lynn Webber O Juliet The Overdogs
10 October (Thursday)	Rachel Hird No Mans Heath Seamus Johnson + Niel Billington Lost Bird (aka Ali Whitton)
20 October (Sunday)	Estella Romagnoli The Brookyns Terry Shore Elyssa Vulpes

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

b) Balfolk Wellington: Traditional European Dance Classes, Newtown Community Centre - Te Whare Hapori o Ngā Puna Waiora, corner Colombo & Rintoul Streets, Newtown



Weekly classes, Wednesdays 6:00 to 7:30pm
Block 3: 23 October – 27 November

\$60 for the block of 6 weeks
\$15 for casual attendance
Student/unwaged/concession, koha
Cash or bank transfer
[FB Class link](#)

c) Up Close and Personal Plimmerton presents Niels & The Cartertones, featuring special guest Patrick Bleakley on bass. 21 Gordon Road, Plimmerton, Saturday 2 November from 2 pm



A collaboration between four extraordinary Wairarapa-based musicians for a special concert covering many of Leonard Cohen's best loved songs.

Singer songwriter Neils Gedge on lead guitar and vocals has performed in folk clubs, festivals, cafes, and bars throughout NZ and the UK and released two albums of original

songs. Multi-instrumentalist and vocalist Kate Marshall is well known as one of the Raven Mavens, as well as performing with her partner Bob Cooper-Grundy. Bob on mandolin, finger-picking or slide guitar, and vocals is an awesome Americana/blues musician. He and Kate play clubs, pubs and festivals. Bob has opened for Guy Clark, Townes van Zandt, Tom Russell and Jimmy LaFave.

Featured guest artist Patrick Bleakley was part of the iconic New Zealand band Blerta. He has since played with notable musicians including Bruno Lawrence, Bernie McGann, Fane Flaws and Bill Lake, as well as the Wellington Orchestra, and the Jonathon Crayford Trio, and is the bassist for Brazilian singer Alda Rezendez at the iconic Latin Club in Wellington. As a founding member of the popular jazz ensemble, The Troubles, he performs and tours regularly around New Zealand and the world.

Tickets \$20.00. BYO and please bring a small plate for afternoon tea. Tea and coffee will be served. Bookings are essential by texting Annie on 027 459 9376.

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.



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.

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.

12. 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

13. 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