

The Balladeer

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

Acoustic  *Routes*

www.acousticroutes.org.nz

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This newsletter can be printed out from a pdf on the website

<http://acousticroutes.org.nz/news/the-balladeer/>

Venue trial

You'll have noticed that we're having our monthly concerts at the **Collective Community Hub in Johnsonville**. We've already had some there in recent months, and we're now trialling it till the end of the year. It is more physically accessible, close to public transport with parking nearby, and more central to get to for our members and supporters on the Kapiti Coast. If you haven't made it to an event there yet, please come along and try it out. We're also holding the new social club event and the monthly singaround there. Note that it is NOT the Johnsonville Community Hub, it is the bright red and white building at 33 Johnsonville Road, opposite NZ Post and adjacent to the standalone Woolworths supermarket carpark. See you there!



1. AR monthly concert featuring **Black Eyed Susie, Duncan Davison, and Pick & Mixolydian, Johnsonville Collective Community Hub, 33 Johnsonville Road (opposite NZ Post), Thursday 26 September, 7:30 pm**



Black Eyed Susie is a band born and bred on the Kapiti Coast, featuring the violin and guitar duo of Susan Colien-Reid and Ramon Oza. Susan has supported many artists including The Blind Boys of Alabama and Ramon is the slick funky blues guitarist with the husky voice who has played since he was 14 including drifting with the “Drifters”, so he’s pretty darn good... Susan and Ramon have worked together for many years and have played

festivals, gigs and venues all over the North Island.

A classically trained violinist, Susan has had many accolades offshore and nationwide with her internationally acclaimed band Carousel, performing at Festivals in NZ and Australia. Ramon is one of NZ's finest guitarists and a song writer in his own right. Together they have written and recorded songs with a strong Celtic / Blues / Funk sound. They are passionate about supporting needs in their own community and have performed and composed songs for White Ribbon Day events, Amnesty International, Food Banks, and Children’s Services. Their performances always include original songs, Fleetwood Mac, Beatles, Fisherman’s Blues, and a Raggle Taggle Gypsy - O.

<https://on.soundcloud.com/PTHEoqSDqDoSKtNV9>



Duncan Davidson is a New Zealand native with a clear passion for trad music. He has mixed Scottish, English and Irish heritage and has become an accomplished multi-instrumentalist with an emphasis on Irish trad and Scottish to a lesser degree. He is most sought after for his playing of the 2-row button accordion but also loves to play the tin whistle, trad flute and bouzouki! He loves sharing his music with live audiences whether in a concert setting or a tasty session in a pub or house alongside his muso friends. Duncan has also been teaching trad music over the last couple of decades and enjoys imparting the skills and nuances he's picked up over the years.

Pick and Mixolydian are a Wellington-based acoustic duo featuring Jo Shrigley on ukulele and vocals with Bruce Omundsen on small pipes, tin whistle, and vocals. Jo’s singing with Wellington’s WOSOSI (World Song Singers) choir cemented her love of things international. As well as picking away at her ukulele, she is studying Music Theory at Victoria University. Highland piping has been a constant presence for Bruce over the last 40 years. Scottish and other Celtic music is a natural choice for the duo, but Bruce enjoys expanding on the mixolydian scale available to his pipes. Together Bruce and Jo have been building a varied folk repertoire and look forward to sharing their joy of music with you.



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

2. Acoustic Routes Social Club, Johnsonville Collective Community Hub, 33 Johnsonville Road, Wednesday 4 September, 1.00pm.

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?

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. See the review of our first meeting below. This time we will start with **songs to sing with** from Charles Harter. Bring instruments and voices!

3. Newtown Open Mic upstairs at The Office, 124 Riddiford Street Newtown, Sundays 8 & 29 September, 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. Open Mic, Plimmerton Boating Club, 10 Moana Road Plimmerton, Wednesday 11 September, 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.



5. AR monthly singaround, Rimu Room, Johnsonville Collective Community Hub, 33 Johnsonville Road, Monday 16 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.

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



6. Report on the Acoustic Routes 2024 AGM

This year our AGM was held on 18 August in the Collective Community Hub in Johnsonville. As usual, it took a while to have a quorum of 15, but we were underway by 2:15. We had a lot of business to deal with, but this was accomplished remarkably quickly.

The subscription for the year 2025-2026 was set \$5 higher at \$25/15. Our new committee are Ruth Birnie (President), Anne McGregor (Secretary), Sue Ikin (Treasurer), Janette Munneke, Helen Dorothy, and new members Jo Sheffield and Charlene Hillyard. We are delighted to have Jo and Charlene joining the committee. Ruth presented the President's report detailing events and changes over the year, and Sue presented the Treasurer's report, explaining that the club had made a small loss over the year. The new constitution, which had been previously circulated for comment, was ratified.

There were three nominations for the most improved performer award this year, showing a healthy growth in musical development for a number of members. We were delighted that the award went to Julie Kilpatrick whose performance of quirky songs accompanied by ukulele has entertained us in style at the monthly singarounds and other events in recent times.

Life membership is granted to members who have offered a lot of consistent work and help to the club, and that certainly applies (in spades) to our two new life members appointed at the AGM, Philippa Gander and Margaret Pullar.

After general discussion on a number of issues, the meeting closed with plenty of time for afternoon tea and chat.

Ruth Birnie, President

7. Review of the first gathering of the Acoustic Routes Social Club

The other day I wandered into the new monthly music gathering at Johnsonville, Wednesday afternoon at 1.30 and there was a large circle of 25 old and new friends. Lots of instruments and people waiting to join in.

The best was the small concert given by Don Franks at the beginning. A thirty-minute gem of NZ workers and protest folk songs from the man himself.

At any point anyone could join in with voice or instrument, just like the old days of folk clubs.





Dear old Roy McGuinness was there for his first venture out of hospital in three months and I played guitar while he sang an Irish rebellion song. It was a very enjoyable two hours and highly recommended in the future.

Julian Ward

Photos courtesy of Peter Dyer

8. AR August concert with Vikki Clayton, Kevin & Rosie, and Don Mackay

Our 4th Thursday concert last week was a delightful mix of self-penned and trad material.

Don Mackay started us off with a set of his own material, rather gentle hopeful songs, like "Dream peaceful dreams in these best of times", born out of despair at some election results or other - I'll leave that to your imagination. That was followed up with "I'm gonna get myself some summer" (something we could all relate to at a midwinter event!) and a love song to the small people - "maybe it's not about you, maybe it's not about me". I particularly liked the song with the lyric, "who will pick you up each time you fall", and I was just thinking how nice it was to hear chorus songs when Don said "here's another of those songs with one of those irritating choruses ..." - that was Dawn to Dust, and not irritating at all. Don was very sensitively backed by one half of The Divorcees, the lovely Beans on fiddle.

Kevin and Rosie were next, and now we start to get into the real trad stuff, with a song from Petworth in Sussex called Last Valentine's Day, followed up by "(I couldn't give a bugger) I'm a man" - my Word dictation programme insisted I meant 'beggar' but we know better, don't we? I know other people do that song, but it always brings Debbie Gillanders to mind for me! There was a bit of a sea and bevvvy theme starting by now with "I'm a son of a gun for beer" learned from Mike Harding. I think the next song was the Banks of the Bann, and then was one about not forgetting your ocean mate, which I hadn't heard before, and the final very cultured, in French - "J'aime le vin", I think - correct me if I'm wrong.

Vikki Clayton started her set with Lisbon, a song about a man going to sea (or 'see' as Word dictate would have it - I suppose equally relevant); I must admit I didn't make many notes about it, being entranced by Vikki's stage presence and welcoming manner, but I see it's on her 1989 album, *Lost Lady Found*. There followed the story of the proud tailor, Benjamin Bowmaneer - lovely to hear the voices in the audience and there were some we haven't heard for a while, including Margaret and Don.

Vikki paid tribute to Percy Grainger (who "unlike Cecil Sharp, wrote down every beat and every twiddle", and was famous for Lincolnshire songs, such as *Lost Lady Found*) and poet John Clare from Northamptonshire who wrote Mad Meg "I'm thinking of a man..." (Is that so mad? I ask myself...)

Most of the set was traditional (with the exception of *The Mermaid*, written by Vikki) as Vikki was keen to use the opportunity to revisit some of the songs she loves but

doesn't do often these days. Hence it was a window into her past and a meander through her history for us – a real treat for me. With George Collins (a song from Sussex) who died after being under a spell, and The Blacksmith, about being under the spell of love, magic was a theme of the set, as was sailing away to sea, with Lord Bateman, and songs from Grimsby's Shanty Jack, including Reuben Ranzo and Yarmouth Town. Beautifully executed with obvious enjoyment.

From a slightly different era, Crazy Man Michael was especially sung for Anne McGregor because it's her favourite. Despite being slightly derailed by the lighting system having a bit of a hot flush, it was a lovely lyrical finale to a fine collection of songs and music, shared with respect, humility, great knowledge, aplomb and warmth. Darling.

Janette Munneke

9. The 2024 Joan Prior Awards for Young Performers



Just a fortnight to go now before entries close 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. The deadline is Sunday, September 15. We have had a number of entries, but if you know of young performers who may be interested, please pass this on.

The award will follow the same format as last year. It 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 included. For full details and the entry form go to the Acoustic Routes website. <https://acousticroutes.org.nz/joan-prior-award>

10. 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) 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: _____

11. Balladeer music noticeboard

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

a) Songs 6021 September events

- 1 Sept: Songwriters' Show #90, The Moon Bar 167 Riddiford Street Newtown. Opens 6pm, music starts at 7pm. \$15 door, \$12 Eventfinda presales.
 - Megan O'Donovan, William Jackman, Cindy Muggeridge, Bill Hickman.
- 4 Sept: Acoustic Evening, Jack Hackett's 52 Taranaki Street Te Aro, 6 pm. Koha entry.
 - Rachel Hird, Robyn Lynn, Hanne Jostensen, Don and the Divorcees.
- 15 Sept: Songwriters' Show #91, The Moon Bar 167 Riddiford Street Newtown. Opens 6pm, music starts at 7pm. \$15 door, \$12 Eventfinda presales.
 - Michaela Tempers, Ari Leason, Cecilia’s Crop, Nigel Parry

26 Sept: Thirsty Might Music, The Moon Bar 167 Riddiford Street Newtown. Opens 6pm, music starts at 7pm. \$15 door, \$12 Eventfinda presales.

- David Harris, Burgin, Kerr, Norman, Zoe Scott, Toby Sussex

Check Facebook for details:

<https://www.facebook.com/p/Songs6021-100057360403800/>

**b) Up Close and Personal Plimmerton presents Bob McNeill & Even the Lost
21 Gordon Road, Plimmerton, Saturday 7 September, 7:30 pm**



Even the Lost is a folk-rock band from Wellington. The creation of multi award-winning songwriter Bob McNeill, Even the Lost is inspired by folk, rock and pop from the nineties, mixing electric and acoustic sounds to create a warm backdrop for their songs of love, loss and misadventure. They mix their original songs with covers from people like John Moreland, Joan Osborne, Anna Tivel, Antje Duvekot and The Grateful Dead.

A three-time winner of Best Folk Album at the New Zealand Music Awards, Bob McNeill is one of New Zealand's best known folk artists. A guitarist and prolific songwriter, he has toured in North America, Australia, Ireland and the UK and his songs have been covered by artists in New Zealand, Scotland, Australia and the US. The Dominion Post compared him to Jackson Browne, James Taylor and Dougie MacLean. New Zealand Musician compared his songwriting to Bruce Springsteen and Mark Knopfler.

Em Griffiths has a voice to woo the staunchest of hearts. Rich, soulful and tender, it will break you, and mend you again. From Whangārei, and classically trained, Em is also Even the Lost's multi-instrumentalist, playing mandolin, keys and fiddle.

Rob Henderson is one of New Zealand's best bass players. He has toured widely here and in Australia with a variety of acts. A wizard jazz bassist in constant demand in Wellington, he also plays with NZ's bluegrass supergroup You, Me, Everybody.

This will be a fantastic not-to-miss concert!

Website: www.eventhelost.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/eventhelost>

\$20.00 per head, BYO and a small plate to share for supper.
Phone or txt Annie to book your place: 0274599376.

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



Weekly classes, Wednesdays 6:00 to 7:30pm

Block 2: 21 August-25 September

Block 3: 23 October – 27 November

\$60 for the block of 6 weeks or \$15 for casual attendance
Student/unwaged/concession, koha

Cash or bank transfer

[FB Class link: https://www.facebook.com/share/Sjo4afgYHMPeEeBb/](https://www.facebook.com/share/Sjo4afgYHMPeEeBb/)

Next Newtown Bal, 7 September

- Music and tune session: 1:30 to 2:30pm (free)

A casual music session for musicians would like to discover some Balfolk tunes alongside our band.

Our band for this session: Bernard Wells, Vanya Howell-Kress and Tara Kendon

- Bal folk: 3 to 5 pm - \$15 or koha for students or unwaged

This will focus on social dancing but Laureline will still call the dances so everyone can jump in and enjoy. Beginners and new dancers are also welcome so don't hesitate to bring along friends.

[FB Event link: https://www.facebook.com/events/964426178701414/](https://www.facebook.com/events/964426178701414/)

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 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.

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

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