

# The Balladeer

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



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

Johnsonville Club, 1 Norman Lane, Johnsonville  
(up behind the former Collective Community Hub)

## Highlights this month

- **A special request from the Wellyfest 60<sup>th</sup> organisers**

*There's a hole in the records, dear people, dear people,  
There's a hole in the records, dear people, a hole.*

Organisers of the 60th festival displays have lots of photos of performers up to the early 1970s, but nothing much usable from around 1973 through to 2002. Can you help? See page 4 for more details.

## October 2025: In this issue

1. **Newtown Acoustic Sound** Open Mic at The Office, 124 Riddiford Street, **Sunday 28 September 5:15–8pm – 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration!**
2. **Acoustic Routes Social Club**, Johnsonville Club, 1 Norman Lane, **Wednesday 1 October 1:30 pm**, featuring **Margaret Fordyce and Don Mills**
3. Open Mic at Plimmerton Boating Club, **Thursday 9 October 7pm**
4. **AR** monthly Singaround, 1 Norman Lane, Johnsonville, **Wednesday 15 October 1:30-3:30pm**
5. **Newtown Acoustic Sound** Open Mic at The Office, 124 Riddiford Street, **Sundays 12 & 26 October 5:15–8pm**
6. Review by Janette Munneke of the September AR concert
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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. Newtown Acoustic Sound Open Mic, Upstairs at The Office, 124 Riddiford Street, Sunday 28 September 5:15 – 8pm



### 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Invitational Concert

Newtown Acoustic Sound "Open Mic" is held twice a month upstairs at The Office Bar in Riddiford Street, Newtown, in association with Acoustic Routes, organised by Janine Mitchell with back-up from Kevin Ikin.

Janine and the team are marking the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an **invitational concert** involving many of the original NAS attendees on **Sunday 28 September**.

We know it'll be a great night, with at least one out-of-town guest, founder member **Alan Downes**. (Alan and Janine are also performing at Thunderbird on Friday 26 September.)

Contact: [janinemitchell04@gmail.com](mailto:janinemitchell04@gmail.com), [kevin.ikin@supermail.co.nz](mailto:kevin.ikin@supermail.co.nz), or [newtownacousticsound@gmail.com](mailto:newtownacousticsound@gmail.com)

## 2. Acoustic Routes Social Club, Johnsonville Club, 1 Norman Lane, Wednesday 1 October 1:30pm



Guests will be **Margaret Fordyce and Don Mills**. They say, "We started in the Wellington folk scene back in the early 80's, when the Folk Club was based in Holland St and the National Folk Festival was at Queen's Birthday weekend at St Pat's college, usually in pouring rain, hail and gales. Apart from a brief (well, 14-year) stint in the UK, we are still here (Ry'n ni yma o hyd!). During this time, we've accumulated a varied repertoire of unaccompanied British traditional songs, traditional songs that have been mucked about a bit (often by us), modern songs from all sorts of places and many, many take-offs, parodies and humorous songs and poems. We'll present a small selection of these which we hope you'll enjoy!"

In the second half, we'll go around the circle and you're welcome to lead a song or tune if you wish. All welcome; bring instruments and voices. See the map to the venue on page 5. \$5 charge for the musician.

### 3. Open Mic, Plimmerton Boating Club, 10 Moana Road Plimmerton, Thursday 9 October 7pm

Hosted by Roy McGuinness.

**Please note:** no pre-booked spots this month, put your name up when you get there. Spread the word.  
**Plimmerton Open Mic is Monthly second Thursdays.**



### 4. AR Monthly Singaround, Johnsonville Club, 1 Norman Lane, Johnsonville, Wednesday 15 October 1:30-3:30 pm

Bring songs, tunes or poems to share, or just come to join in.

Hosted this time by Janette Munneke at our new venue (see the map to the venue on the front page.) No charge for entry. Feel free to purchase tea, coffee, drinks and snacks at the bar. Held the third Wednesday of every month.

### 5. Newtown Acoustic Sound's Open Mic, Upstairs at The Office, 124 Riddiford Street, Sundays 12 & 26 October 5:15 – 8pm



Newtown Acoustic Sound's "Open Mic", upstairs at The Office Bar in Riddiford Street, Newtown, in association with Acoustic Routes, organised by Janine Mitchell with back-up from Kevin Ikin. Congratulations to NAS which is celebrating 10 years of supporting acoustic music with an **invitational concert** involving many of the original NAS attendees on **Sunday 28 September (see above)**.

Contact: [janinemitchell04@gmail.com](mailto:janinemitchell04@gmail.com), [kevin.ikin@supermail.co.nz](mailto:kevin.ikin@supermail.co.nz), or [newtownacousticsound@gmail.com](mailto:newtownacousticsound@gmail.com)

### 6. Review of the AR September concert featuring Barry and Lorna Swallow, with Stephen Hill and Beans Wright

Another lovely concert, with some very thought-provoking original songs in the first half and great renditions of 'covers' and tunes in the second.

#### Stephen Hill

Stephen started us off with some of his songs penned over the past few years. He is an ex-pat Irishman who now lives in the Hutt Valley. I first saw him a month or two ago at the Open Mic in Plimmerton, and was very impressed with his voice, songs, and general sense of gravitas. It was great to see him with the scope to sing for a longer set. Some of his songs were on quite difficult (but relatable) subjects, such as farewelling loved one from a distance during COVID lockdown. Stephen accompanied himself on guitar, harmonica and by whistling!



## Beans Wright

A ex-pat Brit from Yorkshire, Beans has a quirky song-writing style, with a performance style to match. It's always rewarding to listen to their lyrics, and I was pleased that the acoustics in the new venue measured up, with great sound by Stephen Riddell, using our new sound system. Also some songs with a serious message, such the tenacity of the human spirit, and drink-driving. In their typical way of turning things on their head, Beans's song from the point of view of the inner child being left behind by their "grown-up on the outside" was very satisfying.



## Barry and Lorna Swallow



What a delight to hear Barry and Lorna perform a whole set as I've only heard them in short bursts at festival singarounds before. A nice mix of Barry's favourite traditional and contemporary material, with some entertaining stories about his engagement with the artists or the material, and lovely backing from Lorna on her low whistles. We got to hear songs by Ralph McTell, Nic Jones, Nick Hart, Dave Burland (the very long 'Cawsand Bay' and Gerry Farrell. They were complemented by waltzes 'The Duke of York's Troops', 'Miss Rowan Davies', and others, played by Lorna on low

whistles, backed by Barry on guitar. I'm looking forward to hearing more of them in October as they will be at Wellyfest managing the Walker Trust Young Performance Award.

Reviewed by Janette Munneke

## 7. Joan Prior Award 2025 and the Walker Trust Youth Performance Award – a quick update



A quick update – entries for our new-look Joan Prior Award closed on 15 September. Entries are being considered by the judging panel and the outcome will be announced soon once decided and approved by the committee.

Meanwhile the Walker Trust Youth Performance Award is now open for entries. Young people can enter ahead of the Wellington Folk Festival or on the day at the venue. More information here: <https://wellingtonfolkfestival.org.nz/walker-trust-youth-award-2025/>

## 8. A special request from the Wellyfest 60<sup>th</sup> organisers

*There's a hole in the records, dear people, dear people,  
There's a hole in the records, dear people, a hole.*

We organisers of the 60th festival displays have lots of photos of performers up to the early 1970s, but nothing much usable from around 1973 through to 2002.



If you performed at any festival in that period, or have photos of the performers, we would love it if you photographed that photo and emailed it to Gerard Hudson [gerard.hudson.nz@gmail.com](mailto:gerard.hudson.nz@gmail.com)

If your photo is already digitised, please just send that, but make sure it's hi-resolution as thumbnails can't be printed. Thanks, in anticipation.

## 9. About Acoustic Routes

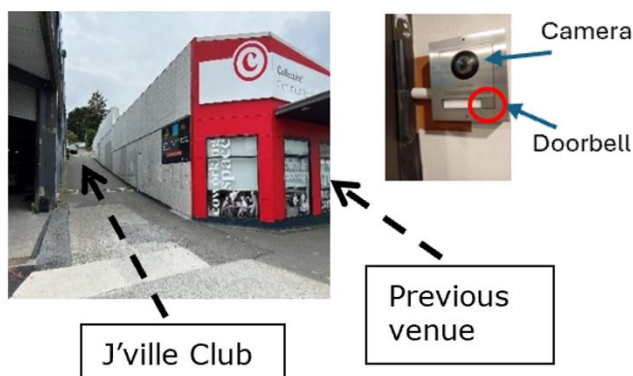
Acoustic Routes (Wellington Folk Centre Incorporated) is a club for people who enjoy playing and listening to folk and acoustic styles of music.

Our main monthly event is **every third Monday** except in January, October and December. It generally features a concert, usually with a visiting artist and support acts from amongst our membership.

Other regular (monthly) events include an informal Social Club with a booked guest, and a Singaround, both afternoon sessions, where attendees can

participate. We also support two Open Mic Gigs: the Newtown Acoustic Sound at the Office Pub in Newtown, and the Open Mic at the Plimmerton Boat Club.

Our venue for the third Monday event, Social Club and Singaround is the Johnsonville Club, 1 Norman Lane, Johnsonville, Wellington, which has parking and a bar, and a lift for wheelchair access.



**Membership:** Members get discounted entry and a say in the club's activities. The membership year is from July to June. To join, go to <https://acousticroutes.org.nz/join-us/>. Payment online is appreciated.

Acoustic Routes publishes this newsletter (The Balladeer) at the start of every month, and an email update about acoustic gigs in the region later in the month. You can subscribe online on this webpage - <https://acousticroutes.org.nz/news/> or contact [publicity@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:publicity@acousticroutes.org.nz).

## 10. Want to perform?

The Acoustic Routes 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).



## 11. 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:** Anna Macfarlane [balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz)

**Acoustic Routes updates:** Anne McGregor [secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz)

**Performance opportunities:** [performers@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:performers@acousticroutes.org.nz)

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

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

## 12. Balladeer Music Noticeboard

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

**Alan Downes and Janine Mitchell at Thunderbird Café, Featherston Street, Friday 26 September, 5.30-7.30pm**

**Burgin, Kerr & Norman, The Undercurrent, 118 Tory St, Te Aro Saturday 27 September 7.30pm** Country, Folk, Americana & Blues

**Albi & the Wolves at Hilltop, 17 Upland Rd, Wednesday 1 October 7pm for 7.30**  
These guys set fire to stages and fill hearts with hope with their energetic and relatable alternative indie folk songs. Tea, coffee & snacks provided. BYO anything more you'd like. [www.hilltophouseconcerts.co.nz/upcoming-gigs/](http://www.hilltophouseconcerts.co.nz/upcoming-gigs/)

**Songwriters Circle Concert, The Pito-One Depot, 193 Jackson St, Doreen Doolan Mall, next to the Petone Library, Saturday 11 October 7pm**  
Featuring **Alfred Hans Murrele, Cindy Muggeridge, Floyd Marsden, & Terry Shore**

**Wellington Bluegrass Society, Old-time Music and Bluegrass jam session at Alicetown Community House, 38 Victoria Street (cnr Victoria & Buckley Sts) Sunday 12 October 2-5pm** [bluegrass@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bluegrass@xtra.co.nz)

**Mainly Acoustic Music Club, Mayfair Cafe - 116 Main Street, Upper Hutt, Tuesday 14 October 7:30-10pm**  
Featuring The Bottom Bunk Club [www.mainlyacoustic.co.nz/contact-us-](http://www.mainlyacoustic.co.nz/contact-us-)

**The Zimmermans, Southern Cross Garden Bar, 39 Abel Smith St, Saturday 18 October 8pm** Eight musicians. Endless Dylan.

**Songwriter Showcase #107 this time at NIOM Bistro next door to Moon, (due to a double booking) Riddiford St, Newtown, Sunday 19 October 6pm**  
Held **every Third Sunday of the Month**  
Featuring **eline, Ktoo** (Kevins Ikin and McLoughlin), **Robyn-Lynn, and Stephen Roy Hill**

**Don and the Divorcees album "Bit Players"** is available online (at all the usual places). Here is the link to it on Spotify -  
<https://open.spotify.com/album/48tWbatJVEFH3RRuoGWTVI?si=b6qNTIewRtmTK39AYCZ6BA>

**Wellington Folk Festival, 24-27 October, Brookfield, Moore's Valley Road, Wainuiomata** – see below for an update, and go to <http://wellingtonfolkfestival.org.nz/> & <https://www.facebook.com/Wellyfest> for more info.

### 13. Wellyfest 2025 Update



It's all systems go for Wellyfest '60 years young' 2025!

*First though - Early bird tickets close on Sunday 28 September!!*

There's a small increase in most prices this year, so do get in early to keep your costs down. On the plus side, registrations for children aged 12 or under are free, and there's another great youth programme running this year, included in the Festival registration for children and youth aged 5 – 18.

Plans for the youth programme are well underway, with a bunch of fun workshops and music sessions lined up, 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.

For a full breakdown of ticket prices, please see the [ticket page](#) on the website. (There's merch for sale there as well!) Or go straight to [the Humanitix page](#) to book now.

The Festival Committee would love to hear from you if you'd like to volunteer for any duties (contact [nigel.parry@gmail.com](mailto:nigel.parry@gmail.com)) or know of someone who would like to have a stall on the Village Green (contact [alexanderdouglaswright@gmail.com](mailto:alexanderdouglaswright@gmail.com))

Work is progressing on acknowledging the 60<sup>th</sup> festival and all the years before it. You should see some publicity coming out in the days to come on the [AudioCulture](#) website and in local regional newspapers.

There's also a full dance programme, and Ruth and Jude are looking forward to seeing you in the Balladeer tent.

And of course, there's a great line-up of overseas and NZ invited guests too!



Adam and Marika, Fiona Ross, Rhys Crimmin, The Trenwiths, Two if by Sea, We Mavericks.

For more info, go to <https://wellingtonfolkfestival.org.nz/> & <https://www.facebook.com/Wellyfest>

## **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](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.

Details: 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: Fiona Armstrong-McIntosh 0211205961 [fionastrongmc@gmail.com](mailto:fionastrongmc@gmail.com)

Club committee email: [info@mainlyacoustic.co.nz](mailto:info@mainlyacoustic.co.nz)

Website: [https://mainlyacoustic.co.nz/coming\\_attractions/](https://mainlyacoustic.co.nz/coming_attractions/)

*Morris dancing:* Dave Barnes <http://www.morrisdancing.org.nz/>

### *Pōneke 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: 2nd 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: 3rd Friday of the month, 8pm

Where: Check the website for latest

Contact: Andrew Bicknell, (04) 477 0069, [bluegrass@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bluegrass@xtra.co.nz)

[www.wellingtonbluegrass.net.nz/](http://www.wellingtonbluegrass.net.nz/)

### *Wellington Scottish Fiddle Club – for learning in the "by ear" style*

When: Varies, but mostly monthly around the first Sunday

Where: Depends on who is hosting it each time. All levels welcome.

Contact: Iain Matcham 04 568 8635, email [iain@jumbletree.com](mailto:iain@jumbletree.com)