

The Balladeer

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

Acoustic  *Routes*

www.acousticroutes.org.nz

Johnsonville Club, 1 Norman Lane, Johnsonville



*Wishing you all the best for a lovely Christmas-time
and a wonderful Happy New Year 2026*

December 2025/January 2026

1. **Acoustic Routes Social Club**, Johnsonville Club, 1 Norman Lane, **Wednesday 3 December 1:30 pm**, featuring **Mary Livingston**
2. Open Mic at Plimmerton Boating Club, **Thursday 11 December 7pm**
3. **Acoustic Routes Christmas Party, Sunday 14 December 2:30pm**
21 Gordon Rd, Plimmerton
4. **Newtown Acoustic Sound** Open Mic at The Office, 124 Riddiford Street, **Sunday 14 December 5:15–8pm**
5. **Acoustic Routes monthly events 2026**
6. Review of the **November AR concert** by Janette Munneke
7. **Festivals for summer 2025 - 2026**
 - Whare Flat Folk Festival**, Dunedin **30 December to 3 January**
 - Ballads to Blues Concert and ANZFA Folk Music Awards 3 January**
Wellington's 'Butter Wouldn't Melt' and 'The Wooden Box Band' in the finalists
 - Auckland Folk Festival, 24 to 27 January 2026**
8. **Recent sad losses in the folk community**
 - Costa Botes** Obituary by Carol Bean
 - Archie Fisher** Obituary by Sue Ikin
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**1. Acoustic Routes Social Club, Johnsonville Club, 1 Norman Lane, Wednesday 3 December 1:30pm
Featuring Mary Livingston**

Mary has been part of our local folk scene since she arrived in Wellington 50 years ago,



with forays into classical guitar and various choirs. She has sung with many people...in the early days it was with Dave Nicholson & Mary Hubble. Later, she linked up with Sarah Duckworth & then Robin Brew, the Magpies (acapella 4 part), and Dr Livingston and the Presumptions (band with Don and Jill). Her current singing partner is Sue Chamberlain although Mary and Robin are dusting off their voci for an airing in early 2026! Mary loves to harmonise, and aims to not just come up with something that sounds nice, but that actually tries to enhance the sound of the singer with the tune, - a

technique learned from her barbershop-Sweet Adeline sojourn. Today however we are going to hear Mary as a soloist. She will share a range of songs that she likes to sing on her own, and puts the harmony in with her guitar work. Some will be her own songs, and the rest is likely to focus on her take on some Celtic favourites using a DADGAD tuning on her guitar. Some of the songs will be familiar to you, but others less so. She is pretty excited about doing this, as it is rare for her to sing alone. In the second half, we'll go around the circle and you're welcome to lead a song or tune. All welcome; bring instruments and voices. \$5 charge to go to the musician.

**2. Open Mic, Plimmerton Boating Club, 10 Moana Road
Plimmerton, Thursday 11 December 7pm**

Hosted by Roy McGuinness.

First one for next year will be 8 January 2026

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

Plimmerton Open Mic is Monthly second Thursdays.



**3. Acoustic Routes Christmas Party, Sunday 14 December, at
Annie McGregor and Roy McGuinness's, 21 Gordon Rd,
Plimmerton from 2:30pm, with shared meal/BBQ at 3:30pm**



Our Christmas party will once again be hosted this year by the wonderful Anne McGregor and Roy McGuinness. Please bring a plate of food for the afternoon meal, a bottle of what you like to drink, and of course instruments and songs. Come any time from 2:30pm (**but not before**) and we'll aim to **start the meal between 3:30-4pm** so people who want to go on to Newtown Acoustic Sound afterwards can do that.

Disposable plates etc. will be provided but those of you who have picnic sets could bring them too, to help reduce the waste. The Koha this year is for DCM (Downtown Community Ministry), whose vision is for communities where whānau are housed, connected, and thriving. <https://www.dcm.org.nz/> We warmly invite you, your family and any like-minded and/or musical friends to come along and welcome in the season with music and festivity! Sorry no dogs.

4. Newtown Acoustic Sound's Open Mic, Upstairs at The Office, 124 Riddiford Street, Sunday 14 December 2025 5:15 – 8pm



PLEASE NOTE: No Open Mic on 28/12/25; NAS will resume Sunday 22 February 2026.

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. Contact:

janinemitchell04@gmail.com, kevin.ikin@supermail.co.nz, or newtownacousticsound@gmail.com

5. Acoustic Routes monthly events in 2026

There will be **no Acoustic Routes events in January 2026**. We hope you (like most of us) will be enjoying festivals and other events and holiday activities. Our first event for the new year will be our Social Club on **Wednesday 4 February** at 1:30pm at the Johnsonville Club, featuring **Deb and Jen Harding**. We'll let you know who's on in the February Balladeer, and we look forward to seeing you there. Our main concert will be on **Monday 16 February**, and we have an out-of-town main guest lined up (Frank John and Erin Manu). In March we have an overseas guest (and old friend) we know you'll love, so the year is shaping up nicely!

Monthly Singaround

Next year we're looking shift the singaround (which currently happens on the third Wednesday in the afternoon) from an afternoon slot to an **evening slot** to give those not available during the day an opportunity to join in. The afternoon singarounds have been going well and are well attended but we're conscious some people are excluded because it's a daytime slot. If you think you'd be more likely to come if it was in the evening and/or you could take a turn at leading the singaround occasionally, please contact Ruth Birnie on President@AcousticRoutes.org.nz. We'd love to get a feel for the likely popularity of the move.

6. Review of the AR November concert with The Madillionaires, with support acts Hunter Giltrap, and The Short(er) Blacks

Our last concert for the year was a lovely note to go out on. **The Short(er) Blacks** opened for us with Julian Ward singing a song for the first time on stage, called Nancy. A bunch of 'classic' Irish songs ('Nancy Spain', 'I love the ground she walked upon' and 'The Boys of Kildare') followed, with great vocals by Roy and beautiful guitar by Julian. Making a glorious comeback after over a year of health issues for both, these guys continue to push the boundaries, with Roy arriving in the driver's seat of the car for the first time in far too long, and Julian on vocals for the first time ever!



Hunter Giltrap continued in a traditional vein, starting with a gospel tune, followed by 'Let no man steal away your thyme', 'The fitter's song' by Ewan MacColl, 'The rigs of time', and concluding with 'The blackest crow'. Lovely renditions and it was terrific to hear Hunter performing solo, with backing and harmonies from the audience chorus, which included a significant number of Pōneke Shanty Club members in full voice.

The main act for the night was talented multi-generational family trio, **The Madillionaires**; Peter, Jude and Joseph, with a mix of originals and singalong covers, including songs by Richie Stearns, Bruce Springsteen ('Tougher than the rest'), Gus van Sant, Bob Wills ('San Antonio Rose'), and Brennen Leigh of McKay and Leigh ('The only other person in the room'). The latter featured a great solo from Joseph Coleman, as did many of the others.



Originals included 'Cowboy needs the blue', and 'Daylight Robbery', both songs that were born out of Jude Madill's happy obsession with cowboy life and the Sundance Kid in particular. All backed by the superb playing on superb instruments by Peter Madill.

The set concluded with a lively rendition of 'Got to get back home', with sometime band member Jenny Kilpatrick joining the line-up.

A nice way to wrap up what has been a year of quality well-attended concerts involving a mix of performers from out of town and the Wellington region. We look forward to more next year!

Many thanks to compere **Charlene Hillyard** and to **Joseph Coleman** and **Gerard Hudson** on sound, all of whom stepped in at the last minute due to illness.

Reviewed by Janette Munneke

7. Festivals for Summer 2025-2026

The 50th Whare Flat Folk Festival; 30 December 2025 to 3 January 2026, Waioara Camp, Whare Flat, Dunedin



Featuring world class musicians from New Zealand and around the world, Whare Flat Folk Festival is four days of music, sun, camping, workshops and jams in the idyllic native bush surrounds of Waioara Scout Camp. Just 15 minutes' drive from Dunedin, Whare Flat is the best way to see in the New Year in Otago.

Check it out at www.whareflat.org.nz

Featuring Old Man Luedecke (CAN), Jennifer Reid (UK), Triske (WLG), Dragkroka (SWE), Yujing Cui (CHC), Adam & Turner (AUS), Skin & Bone (DUD), Ellen Barry (CHC)

Shaky Hollows (DUD), RD1 (Nelson), the famous Whare Flat New Year's Eve barndance 🥳, plus folk orchestra, choir, dance and music workshops. Check the website or Facebook page for the full list and details including how to get tickets, which are on sale now. <https://www.whareflat.org.nz/>
<https://www.facebook.com/whareflat>

Ballads to Blues and ANZFA Folk Music Awards, Saturday 3 January, Hanover Hall, Dunedin

Stay in town after the Whare Flat Folk Festival for the night of the 3rd of January for the Ballads to Blues Concert at the Hanover Hall in Dunedin - the premier showcase of NZ folk music and the second ANZFA Folk Music Awards Ceremony. Featuring RD1 (Nelson), Chris Penman (Hamilton) and Lara Rose (Dunedin) and resident house band The Dunedin Ceilidh Orchestra.

Twelve kiwi artists entered twelve great albums, and the members have spoken. The six ANZFA Folk Music Award finalists are: **Ari Leason** for *Hello Darling*, **BB Bowness** for *Goodtime Revival*, **Butter Wouldn't Melt** for *Where the Roots Grow Deep*, **Jean Reid** for *And Aye She Sings*, **Sammy Leary** for *Old Bush Road* and **The Wooden Box Band** for *Broken River* — they are vying for any of five possible awards, **Best Traditional**, **Best Kiwiana**, **Best Original**, **Best Americana** and the overall member's choice: **Best Folk Album 2025**. Winners to be announced on the night.

More information here: <https://anzfa.org.nz/> Tickets available here: <https://events.humanitix.com/ballads-to-blues-25> Discount for WFFF goers.

Auckland Folk Festival, 24-27 January 2025, Kumeu Showgrounds, Kumeu, Auckland



Auckland Folk Festival 2026
Kumeū Showgrounds
23 – 26 January 2026

Adam & Marika • Bazurka • Butter Wouldn't Melt
Cassie & Maggie (CAN) • Celtic Ferret • Chelsea Prastiti
Culverake (UK) • Dragkroka (SWE) • Hinekoia
Tomlinson • Hot Diggity • Jeff Davis (USA)
Jennifer Reid (UK) • Marine/Simonson/Wiskari (SWE)
Mel Parsons
Medena Ensemble • Mice on Stilts • Miriam McCombe
Old Man Luedecke (CAN) • Olive Mortimer
Parrot in the Pocket • Petty Grass • Rob Thorne
Scott Cook & Pamela Mae (CAN)
Sammy Leary • Simon Stanley
Tom Cunliffe • Turkey the Bird
ZORA & More!

www.aucklandfolkfestival.co.nz

The Auckland Folk festival is a venerable institution of over 50 years, first conceived and created by the folk and traditional music and dance clubs of Auckland in the 1970s. For the past 30 years, the festival has been based at the Kumeu Showgrounds in West Auckland, where the music venues are spread over gently rolling paddocks and campers meet up with old friends and musical comrades-at-arms to play and dance long into the night. As you can see from the poster, there's an extensive list of overseas and NZ acts booked. Tickets are available now from Eventbrite from the link on the website: <https://www.aucklandfolkfestival.co.nz/>

8. Some sad losses in the folk community here and beyond

Costa Botes 1958-2025 - Obituary by Carol Bean

Award winning film maker and musician, Costa Botes (bo-tess) passed away in Mary Potter Hospice a few days ago from a ten-year battle with the demon cancer.



He continued playing music and making films right through to the end. In fact, just a few days before he died, his brother Achilles and I jammed a few tunes with him so he could play the Les Paul

Gold Top Gibson he'd just bought.

It was his dream guitar. We played the Allman Brothers "Midnight Rider" for a good 20 minutes while Costa created tasty lead breaks and Achilles wove beautiful mandolin lines throughout the whole, and I sang the infamous lines, 'and I'm not going to let them get me, no....'. It made Costa smile to be in his 'happy place'.

Costa gained worldwide recognition with the mockumentary 'Forgotten Silver', created with Peter Jackson. After a thirty-year gap, the film was recently screened at the Embassy Theatre as part of the International Film Festival. The theatre was full of the film's admirers, laughing at parts, gasping, cheering, commenting out loud... 'oh there's me!', and at the end, a standing ovation that lasted until Costa slowly walked out of the theatre — a lone figure with his pork pie hat and cane. I cried.

In the foyer he was signing autographs into his book, *Remembering Forgotten Silver*.
<https://www.amazon.com/Remembering-Forgotten-Silver-fooled-nation/dp/1067073019>

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/sunday/audio/2018998332/costa-botes-remembering-forgotten-silver>

Costa's film credits include 'Stalin's Sickle', 'Saving Grace', 'Lost in Wonderland', 'The Last Dogs of Winter', 'Angie', and 'When the Cows Came Home'. "His work blended craft with compassion, and his influence can be felt in the many filmmakers he guided

and inspired as a teacher at the film school." NZ On Screen.

<https://www.nzonscreen.com/profile/costa-botes>

Costa and I have worked together for well over twenty years. I learned a great deal about filmmaking and editing from him and crewed on several of his projects as a camera operator. Musical instruments lined his studio wall, and I'd take them down one at a time and play while he edited. Then we started playing music together. On the main stage of the Wellington Folk Festival, Costa was the banjo player in my *Mount Misery String Band*. For the next decade, he played a series of guitars in whichever combination of musicians were in my bands. We had a band saying...."does it lift off the ground? If so, then yes. Let's play."

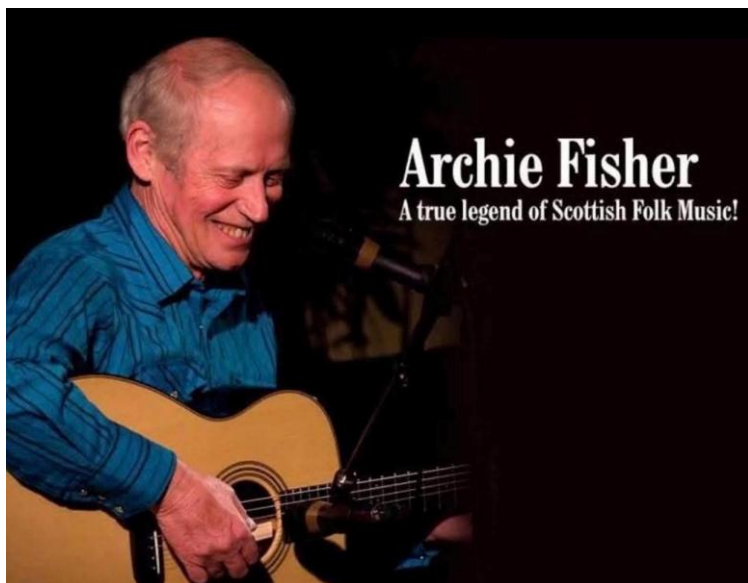
With George Packard on bass and Andrew Grayson on drums, Costa and I had some memorable last few gigs, which Barry Carter filmed. Barry and I will be collating some of that footage and making sure that Costa's best musical moments will be remembered.

By Carol Bean

The Final Trawl - Archie Fisher 1939-2025 by Sue Ikin

For those of you who may not be aware, Archie Fisher died on Saturday 1 November of lung cancer. Archie was a leading figure in the Scottish folk revival from the early 1960s until the present decade. A performer until the last year of his life, he finally retired with a gig at Ardersier Folk Club in late October 2024.

As well as performing and recording with his sisters Ray and Cilla, Archie developed a solo career of his own. At first he covered traditional material but went on to develop



as a song writer in his own right. His best known songs included The Final Trawl, Men of Worth, the epic ballad-style The Witch of the West-Mer-Lands and The Shipyard Apprentice, also known as The Fairfield Crane, written with Buchan and Bobby Campbell. Dark-Eyed Molly was covered by Fairport Convention and Eva Cassidy.

From 1983 to 2010 Archie presented BBC Scotland's Travelling Folk programme, which was a must listen even on this side of the world. Archie toured extensively in the USA and Canada where he formed an enduring musical

partnership with Garnet Rogers (the late Stan Rogers' brother).

In 1991 Archie toured NZ and we were fortunate to have him as a guest at the 1991 Wellington Folk Festival. Farewell Archie, and thanks for the music and the memories over all the years.

For a full obituary go to <https://www.theguardian.com/music/2025/nov/12/archie-fisher-obituary> or <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cyv8g7gv9nno>

By Sue Ikin

Collette Rivers/Nickelsen 1979-2025 - Obituary by Don MacKay

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Colette Nickelsen (aka Colette Rivers) after a brave fight with cancer.

Colette was born in Washington State, and came to New Zealand at age 11. She grew up in Taupo where she began to develop a name for herself in the local music and drama scenes, then became visible to the Wellington music scene after moving south to the Wairarapa in 2016.



Monday to Friday Colette was head of the Drama Department at Rathkeale College in Masterton. In the evenings and weekends she wrote, produced and performed some of the best original music to come out of the region in recent years. She leaves a musical legacy of two great albums Memory Lake (2021) and The Backyard Wonder (2025) and an EP Wandering Thoughts (2019).

We remember Colette as a strong positive and energetic human who kept pushing forwards even in the face of adversity. Colette's final performance was on the Balladeer stage at Wellyfest 2025. Acoustic Routes sends condolences to Colette's husband Alexandre.

By Don MacKay

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. The newsletter can be printed out from a pdf located on the website <http://acousticroutes.org.nz/news/the-balladeer/>

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.



11. 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: Anna Macfarlane balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz
Acoustic Routes updates: 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

12. Balladeer Music Noticeboard

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

Gregory North presents the Life and Rhymes of Banjo Patterson, Island Bay Community Centre (2pm, 3 Dec), Porirua Club (1:30pm, 4 Dec) and Staglands, Upper Hutt (7pm, 6 Dec), tickets \$20 (can buy at the door)
2 hours of poetry and information about Banjo's life – see Aussie bush poet Greg's website for details <https://www.gregorynorth.com.au/#contact>

Janet Muggeridge and Dave Murphy at Thunderbird Café, 154 Featherston St, Friday 5 December 5.30-7.30pm

Driving guitar, melodic mandolin and two unique voices that will get your feet tapping and tug at your heartstrings. Dave & Janet play their own brand of Americana, blues & originals, underpinned by Murphy's fingerstyle acoustic guitar, & huge earthy vocals.

Sonic Delusion at Hilltop, 17 Upland Rd, Saturday 6 December 7pm for 7.30

Too funky for folk & too folky for funk — that's [Sonic Delusion](#)'s happy, funky, and groovy indie pop. Celebrating the release of André Manella's new single "Smoooth", the vibrant Swiss-Kiwi performer is armed with his trusty loop pedal and an array of instruments. Sonic Delusion layers beats, baselines, & melodies into a boogielicious live performance "bursting with more funk than folk can handle. Tea, coffee & snacks provided. BYO anything else. www.hilltophouseconcerts.co.nz/upcoming-gigs/

Mainly Acoustic Music Club, Mayfair Cafe - 116 Main Street, Upper Hutt, Tuesday 9 December 7:30-10pm

- **Special Christmas Concert** featuring **Niels Gedge, Sage +, Harmony Inc, Justin & Margaret Reed, Gary McFadyen, and Don Wilson**
www.mainlyacoustic.co.nz/contact-us-

NOTE: *Lift generously offered to monthly Mainly Acoustic concerts.*

From Ngaio (or nearby) to Mainly Acoustic Music Club most 2nd Tuesday of the months, 7:30pm Mayfair Café, 116 Main Street, Upper Hutt.

"I've space for 3 (or 4 at a pinch). No cost – it's an electric car and I'm going anyway. Ring Bill Dashfield 0221 923 326"

Nadia Reid - Enter Now Brightness Tour, Meow Nui, 92 Vivian Street, Friday 12 December 7:30pm

Nadia Reid journeys back to New Zealand in celebration of Enter Now Brightness; her critically lauded fourth album. The Manchester-based expatriate New Zealander is known for her ruminative and well-crafted folk-inflected song writing, and with *Enter Now Brightness* she presents a record of poise and great beauty, the sound of a cellular shift, of pain giving way to tenderness and joy.

Wellington Bluegrass Society, Old-time Music and Bluegrass jam sessions at Alicetown Community House, 38 Victoria Street (cnr Victoria & Buckley Sts) usually on the second Sunday of each month from 2-5pm – *please check the website for latest venue news:* www.wellingtonbluegrass.net.nz/; email: bluegrass@xtra.co.nz

Songwriter Showcase #109 at Moon, Riddiford St, Newtown, Sunday 21 December 6pm – Held every third Sunday of the month.

The last one for 2025 featuring **Karen Clarke Blues Woman, Mahesh Sukhalal, Rachel Hird, and The English Locust.**

Hobnail is performing at the **Days Bay Pavilion, Sunday 21 December 6-8pm.**

Advance notice: Jackie Bristow and Barry Saunders, Wellington Bluegrass Society @ Abandoned Taproom, Petone, 15 January 2026, 7:30pm More info & bookings coming up on <https://wellingtonbluegrass.net.nz/> and upcoming WBS newsletters.

Wellington Bluegrass Society – Society nights starting up again in 2026! First one **Thursday 22 January 2026, 7pm**, Abandoned Taproom, Petone, featuring **Phonic Fever**. Check website for updates.

Beoga, San Fran, 171 Cuba St, Thursday 22 January 2026, 7pm

With a GRAMMY nomination, international tours, and collaborations with some of the biggest names in music, **Beoga** have established themselves as one of Ireland's most exciting and genre-blurring acts. Their sound fuses accordion, fiddle, keyboards, guitars, and vocals into a vibrant, modern take on Irish roots music that feels both timeless and new. www.beogamusic.com

A (Very) Late Sea Shanty Society Christmas, Abandoned Tap Room, 38 Fitzherbert Street, Petone, Friday 30 January 2026, 7:30 – 10:30pm

NAUTICAL GAMES!! /// BEST DRESSED PRIZES!! /// SINGALONG SHANTIES!! /// XMAS-TYPE STUFF!! Your work Xmas-party is going to be lame or cancelled, so put a 2-dollar shop Santa's hat on 2025 and have a sing with Aotearoa's Most Seaworthy Shanty crew. Prepare to be hit by a wave of joy and merriment as the Full Wellington Sea Shanty Society Experience transform the Abandoned Taproom into a shanty wonderland! We got shanty booklets for all ye faithful and merch for Xmas presents. If there's one thing we can all agree on in this country, it's that Xmas needs more sea shanties!

Advance notice: Seel & Sanders (Jon Sanders and Alex Seel) (UK), Wellington Bluegrass Society @ Abandoned Taproom, Petone, Saturday 31 January, 8pm. More info & bookings coming up on <https://wellingtonbluegrass.net.nz/> and upcoming WBS newsletters.

Could you accompany a singing circle / jam band?

Acoustic Routes member Seann Paurini is looking to set up a singing circle of varying experience and mixed ages and is seeking someone who can play by ear and pick up whatever a singer is singing, for up to 1.5 hours once a week at the Johnsonville Library. The focus is on pre 21st Century music and intergenerational chitchat / friendship together in a public setting. He would offer a \$20 koha to the accompanist. If interested, please contact Seann on seann.paurini@gmail.com.

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-McIntosh 0211205961 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/>

Pōneke 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, 8:00pm (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 – Finished for the year

When: 2nd Monday of the month, from about 6.45pm – *Poss restarting Feb 2026*
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 – Society nights

When: **4th Thursday of the month**, 7:00pm – *starting up again 22 January 2026*
Where: Abandoned Taproom, Petone (check website for the latest info)
Contact: Andrew Bicknell, (04) 477 0069, bluegrass@xtra.co.nz
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