

# The Balladeer

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

*Acoustic*  *Routes*

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

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## July 2010: in this issue

- [1. July 25 concert at the Ruby Lounge](#)
- [2. Katipo Café July 14](#)
- [3. Club notes from the president](#)
- [4. Eulogy for Ruth Drawneek](#)
- [5. Call for Blind-date hopefuls](#)
- [6. Book now for Riverslea, August 7-9](#)
- [7. Eric Bogle here in October](#)
- [8. About Acoustic Routes](#)
- [9. About The Balladeer](#)

### 1. Bob Cooper-Grundy at the Ruby Lounge, July 25



This month's Acoustic Routes concert at the Ruby Lounge will feature Bob Cooper-Grundy in two incarnations: B-side and Grits and Gumbo.

Bob Cooper-Grundy is one of the region's hottest country blues and alt-country exponents. Bob is based in the Wairarapa, but has also lived in the USA, and he's known for his southern-style guitar picking and finely crafted original songs, often with wry observations on life.

He'll be playing at the Ruby Lounge in Bond Street, Wellington, at 7.30 on Sunday, July 25.

#### **Support: Philippa Boy and Peter Denee**

Philippa and Peter play a wide variety of tunes and songs. Expect eclectic instruments and a range of music covering quite a few centuries of tradition!

#### **Support: Don Franks**

Don Franks is an ageing rocker with attitude, who leads a dance orchestra at The Pines and plays tenor horn in



Brass Razoo Solidarity Band. He teaches ukulele, piano, and the Slash introduction to "Sweet child of mine".

Don has released two albums of original songs, Don't Stop Now and Safer Communities Together Blues. At the July concert he will play a mixture of covers and new original material.

[\[back to top\]](#)



## 2. Blackboard at the Katipo Café

The second Wednesday of every month is our club night at the Katipo Cafe, upstairs at 76 Willis Street. Car parking in nearby streets is free after 6, so come early and catch up with friends before the concert. Meals are available till 9; snacks, drinks and coffee all night.

The music starts at 7.30 with a blackboard concert, where anyone can put their name up to perform one (preferably rehearsed) item. Later in the evening there's an informal jam session or singaround. No door charge, but a koha is appreciated.

[\[back to top\]](#)

## 3. Club notes from the president

What a strange month June was, with a real smattering of the good the bad and the ugly. We had a very successful "club showcase" concert last month and saw the start of the Museum of City and Sea Sampler Series again in June. The Katipo was an interesting evening with a good turnout and an unexpected number of new faces. The blackboard offerings were fair to middling, but the atmosphere was warm and encouraging so that even newcomers felt able to get up and share a song with us - which is the whole point! The jam at the end turned into a snorter when we were graced with Neil Billington's talents for a further 2 hours of jamming. He seemed to really enjoy playing along with our more folkie style, so that was a real bonus and I went to work the next day looking a bit worse for wear.



For many of us the overwhelming event of the month was the unexpected and tragic death of the lovely Ruth Drawneek. Ruth was simply always there at folk get-togethers, rain or shine, with her shining smile and bubbly countenance. Her death has touched many on the folk scene, and our hearts go out to her family and friends.

Six months into 2010 and with the financial year now over, that heady time of AGMs and club elections is imminent. The treasurer (Peter Denee), secretary (Mike Maguire) and publicity manager (Kevin Ikin) are all seeking re-election. Jill Brasell (Balladeer) and Col Wright (ambience) have decided to step down, so we are seeking at least two able-bodied persons for the committee. Enthusiasm is the main qualification, but someone willing and able to take over the new Balladeer would be particularly welcome. And there is also a golden opportunity for anyone who is keen to hone their event-organising and visionary skills to become president! After my two-year stint I have decided that it would be great for someone else to carry the yoke for a bit. I have learnt a huge amount by doing this task, but you know the saying, "Something's gotta give" - well, that pretty much sums it up for me. Whoever takes on the role will find a very able and willing core of committee to support them. Yes, it takes time and commitment, but it is also very rewarding.

Please do think about it. Of course I realise that people are unlikely to spring out of the woodwork just like that, but if people start thinking about it and networking, maybe eventually a name will surface!

Anyway, my bestest wishes to everyone.

Mary

[\[back to top\]](#)

## 4. Eulogy for Ruth



*As Mary has mentioned, we tragically lost one of our own on June 17 when Ruth Drawneek was killed in a road accident as she moved her last load of belongings to a new home in Te Horo. Family and friends gathered a week later at Otaki Bridge Lodge to farewell Ruth by sharing many memories and musical tributes. Robin Brew officiated, and has kindly allowed us to reprint some of his introductory and closing words.*

Kia ora tatou - a warm and embracing welcome, dear family and friends of Ruth.

For many of us here today, a love of live music, and the camaraderie of that shared experience, is the force that has drawn and bound us into a wider folk music community. This was certainly where I first became aware of the gentle, sparkly presence of Ruth Drawneek, shyly grinning at me across a crowded, late night festival harmony session. Out of this mutual, musical passion developed a close connection and sweet friendship which has endured the years.

Last Thursday, while engaged with the friendly shop assistant at Commonsense Organics, my cellphone rang. I found that there was no place anywhere in my being to accept or begin to make sense of the shocking news I heard. It took many days to begin to absorb the reality of what had happened. This process continues for me, and I suspect for many of you it will have been a similar experience - for this was no ordinary or natural death. Trying to make some sense of Ruth's death is, I believe, one of the reasons for us to be together today.

This dear woman we know and love for many things: the warm smile, never far from her lips; her throw-away, hair-tossing, infectious and tinkling laughter; her loyalty and true generosity of spirit, expressed in a range of practical and spontaneous ways – as friend, mother, colleague, musician, dancer, farmer, horticulturalist, and lover of our natural world.

Ruth, you gently touched so many of our lives in so many ways. We honour you. We mourn you. We miss you terribly.

Earlier this week, several of us gathered at the beautiful place which was to be Ruth's new home and the start of her new life. I was touched, though not surprised, by the spirit of enthusiastic and practical cooperation as we planned today's event, met with the funeral director, and started the process of preparing the property for our influx later today. Ruth would have basked in the glow of our collective labours...

Our sharing today will not have resolved our sadness, but I suspect it has brought more lightness into our collective being. And to me, the essence of Ruth was, and is, "lightness". So please, come and share your light, your sadness, laughter, songs and stories as we gather at Ruth's new home.

*A public Facebook page in Ruth's memory is at [www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=130529043635786&v=wall](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=130529043635786&v=wall)*

[\[back to top\]](#)

## 5. Call for Blind-date hopefuls

Yes, it's that time of year again, when you get the chance to volunteer for one of the club's favourite annual events: the Blind-date Concert. Performers' names go into a hat and are drawn out in groups of 4-5 (depending on numbers), which will be announced at the July concert. Each group will then have 4 weeks to come up with a 15-20 minute spot for the August concert at the Ruby Lounge (following the club AGM). Using your creativity to the max, you will be amazed at what surprising results can emerge from seemingly unlikely groupings. It's fun to watch, and even more fun to participate in.

There are even prizes to aim for:

- The Linda Sorenson Chocolate Fish Award for the best original music
- The Golden Plectrum Award for the best lead instrumental break
- The Bob Cooper-Grundy Award for the best dressed band.

To be in the draw, please submit your name by July 20 (ie, do it NOW) to [secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz)

[\[back to top\]](#)

## 6. Book now for Riverslea, August 6-8

The annual Acoustic Routes midwinter getaway at peaceful Riverslea Lodge, Te Horo, will be from Friday 6 August (from 6pm) to Sunday 8th August (after lunch). Relax, play music, walk by the river, catch up with folkie friends. Maybe run an informal workshop if you've got something to share (talk to Anne).

Bring bedding for bunkroom accommodation, and your own food including something for a shared meal on Saturday night. Tea, coffee etc provided.

Cost is \$90 for the weekend, \$45 for one night, or \$25 if you just come for the day.

Enquiries and bookings to [annemcgregor@xtra.co.nz](mailto:annemcgregor@xtra.co.nz) or 233 8567.

[\[back to top\]](#)

## 7. Eric Bogle here in October



Eric ("The band played Waltzing Matilda") Bogle is doing a 'final tour' of New Zealand later this year, and Acoustic Routes is lucky enough to be hosting his only Wellington concert on October 31 at the Ruby Lounge.

It's perhaps unfortunate that Leonard Cohen also picked this time to do his own (second) 'final tour' of New Zealand, but Eric is typically undaunted by the competition. His response, when we asked if he would like to choose a different night, was "Nah, I reckon I can sing far more depressing songs than Leonard, so I'll take my chances! "

So this is a heads-up, folks: Eric Bogle is heading our way the weekend after the Wellington Folk Festival, and this may be your last chance to see him.

For more info about Eric Bogle, check out his website, [www.ericbogle.net](http://www.ericbogle.net)

[\[back to top\]](#)

## 8. 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.

We have two main events each month: a blackboard concert and singaround at the Katipo Cafe, upstairs at 76 Willis Street, on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm, and a concert at the Ruby Lounge, 14 Bond Street, on the 4th Sunday of the month at 7.30 pm, with featured performers and support acts.

Membership costs \$25 a year for individuals, \$40 for couples or families, or \$15 for students and beneficiaries. It entitles you to door charge discounts at Acoustic Routes events and also at events put on by most other folk clubs. Members get priority access to performance opportunities, and can have input into the club's activities. To join, see Peter Denee, who's usually on the door at club events, or email him at [treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz)

### Acoustic Routes contacts

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[\[back to top\]](#)

## 9. About The Balladeer

Acoustic Routes publishes The Balladeer at the start of every month to keep members and other interested people informed about club events and news. Members are welcome to submit relevant news, views and reviews. In the middle of every month, the club also publishes an update email which is an acoustic gig guide for the Wellington region. Anyone can submit listings for appropriate concerts or events.

To subscribe (or unsubscribe) to either publication, to correct your email address, or to submit copy, contact

[publicity@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:publicity@acousticroutes.org.nz)

[\[back to top\]](#)