

# The Balladeer

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

## Acoustic Routes

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

### September 2010: in this issue

1. [Bloomin' Youth concert, September 26, 7.30 pm](#)
2. [Acoustic Routes new committee](#)
3. [Martin Curtis at the Katipo Cafe, September 15, 7.30 pm](#)
4. [Note from the president](#)
5. [Annual report for 2009-10](#)
6. [Blind Date concert fun](#)
7. [J.A. Pan trophy 2010](#)
8. [Club night at the Katipo Cafe, September 8, 7.30pm](#)
9. [Draft music plan for 2010-11](#)
10. [Electronic Subs Membership Form 2010-11](#)
11. [About Acoustic Routes](#)

A pdf version of this newsletter can be printed out from the website [www.acousticroutes.org.nz](http://www.acousticroutes.org.nz)  
[\[back to top\]](#)

### 1. Bloomin' Youth concert, September 26, 7.30pm



This month's concert at the Ruby Lounge features five fabulous young musicians who are already doing their acoustic thing out there in the folk scene. Not only is it important for the mature members of the club to feel that they are passing on the legacy and joy of our particular genre of music to the youth of the day, but that we also stay in touch with how the next generation are evolving and developing their craft. COME AND SUPPORT THEM!



**Julia Miller** has been studying contemporary guitar through Studio Sasada in Lower Hutt for several years and recently has been taking voice lessons from Tessa Quayle. Her tastes in music range from Dylan and Neil Young to Ryan Adams and she plays and sings styles from blues to jazz. Julia is currently studying Music Performance at Wellington High School and can be seen busking around Wellington either alone or with friends from her school. She will be playing with **Brittany Blann** on guitar and vocal harmonies for some of her set.

**Emma Wollum** learned how to play 'Heard It Through The Grapevine' on the accordion in the upstairs of the barn in her parents' backyard last August, and realised that she was free at last from the curse of the eternal polka. She boarded a 25-hour flight to Wellington in February of this year to pursue a degree in International Relations and Linguistics at Victoria University, so her future plans include diplomacy work, teaching English as a second language and correcting misplaced apostrophes.



**Anton Thomas** is a homegrown musician steeped in folk and blues music, with a jazz, R'n'B, and funk flavour. At only 20, he is a singer/songwriter with a passionate touch on the guitar and performs mostly original music, comfortable in an instrumental form or vocally. With major influences like Van Morrison, Tom Waits, Stevie Wonder, Stevie Ray Vaughan and Bob Dylan, his music is not to be missed. Playing with him on the night: **Alec Jolliffe** on guitar and **Pat Stewart** on the double bass.

**Lillian Fougere** finely crafts her compelling songs from momentary interactions and snippets of conversation. Growing up on her parents records, Lillian learnt to sing and play guitar (amongst other instruments). From the sun, the moon, the dentist and a stranger talking about dinosaurs, Lillian promises to keep you engaged in her stories (and share a few secrets!). All the way from Holloway Road, Lillian is exactly the sort of up and coming musician we need to hear!



**Meghan Glue** is a 17-year-old singer/songwriter from Wellington. She has been writing her own songs since a young age and has been strongly influenced by folk music. Meghan recently won a song writing contest sponsored by the School of Rock and the Women's Musicianship Award at the Wellington Rockquest semi final. Meghan also performed at Te Papa for Music Month and appears regularly at Zeal.

**The Bloomin' Youth concert will be at the Ruby Lounge**, 14 Bond Street, Wellington, on **Sunday, September 26 at 7.30pm**. Come and join us for dinner and a glass or two in the lovely cabaret style setting. **Door charge \$10 (members) \$15 (non-members) \$5 (students)**.

**PARKING** near Ruby Lounge is difficult at the moment, particularly with all the roadworks blocking off precious spots. Parking on the streets is free on Sundays, and in addition to normal kerbside parks you can park in loading zones provided that it does not have a specified time or a specified type of vehicle on the sign. There is also the parking building opposite Bond St on Victoria St. which is quite cheap after hours. The key is to come early enough to allow yourself time to find somewhere. Then you can sit in the venue smugly sipping on a beverage of your choice while everyone else drives around in circles at the final hour!!!

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

## 2. Acoustic Routes new committee

Thank you everyone who came to the AGM and voted in August. The newly elected committee is as follows:

President Mary Livingston

Treasurer Peter Denee

Secretary Mike Maguire

Committee members Kevin Ikin, Jaap Jasperse, Phillipa Boy.

Congrats everyone and welcome aboard!

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

## 3. Martin Curtis at Katipo Cafe, 15 September 7.30 pm

This month we have an extra concert at Katipo featuring New Zealand songwriters who come from very different ends of the spectrum. The main guest is singer, songwriter and bush-poet, **Martin Curtis**, from Cardrona, near Wanaka in the Otago lakes district.

**Martin**, originally from England, came to New Zealand in 1975, via Australia. He has been writing and singing songs about his adopted country for well over 25 years, and has recorded 9 albums as well as a DVD, 'Otago My Home'. His first album, 'Gin and Raspberry' featuring songs about Central Otago, is still rated as New Zealand's best selling folk album.



In 1976, **Martin** organised the first Cardrona Folk Festival, which has become an annual fixture on the New Zealand folk calendar. He has toured New Zealand extensively, as well as Australia and the UK, entertaining audiences with his repertoire of Kiwi songs and numerous bush poems, which he has also compiled into a programme for schools.



Martin will be supported by Darrel and Pete who are the **Gracious Deviants**, an acoustic duo based in Wellington. As well as a reasonably accurate description of the band's personalities, 'Gracious Deviants' is in fact an anagram of 'voices and guitars'. Their sound is pure, unadorned acoustic pop music heavy with harmony and steeped in the traditions of the great New Zealand singer/songwriters of the last 30 years. Their repertoire consists entirely of original material and their performances remind audiences that music in its most stripped-down form - homegrown, acoustic, and entirely original - can be the most refreshing and novel.

This NZ Singer/songwriter concert will be at the Katipo Cafe, 76 Willis St, Wellington, on Wednesday, September 15 at 7.30pm. Come and join us for dinner and a glass or two in the cosy cafe setting. **Door charge \$10 (members) \$15 (non-members)**. **PARKING** near Katipo is difficult at the moment, but [see above!](#)

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

## 4. Note from the president

Hi Everyone. Well, here I am for better or for worse for another 12-month stint. Actually I have been getting all fired up again as [the music programme for the rest of this year and next has been firming up](#) at great speed this past month. I wanted to share it with you and have incorporated it into this Balladeer so you can get a feel for it. I have also somehow managed to fit in a fair bit of playing music this last month one way and another, what with Riverslea, Katipo, Mojo and the committee band at the Blind Date concert.

The biggest thing though was preparing for the AGM. It went pretty well overall, and here is a short summary of my take of the main points:

### Summary of meeting (not official minutes)

About 30 people attended the meeting held at the Ruby Lounge, and we rapidly progressed through all of the items on the agenda, including the President's Report for the year (see next mail message), the Treasurer's Report for the year (to be posted on the website after auditing has been completed), reference to the developing music programme for the rest of 2010 and 2011 ([see below](#)), the new subs rates which are due, the J.A. Pan Trophy ([see below](#)) and finally General Business Items 1-3 as follows.

### Item 1 Questions to members.

*1. Are you satisfied with the new venues, the start times, and the nights?*

A wide range of views were expressed in relation to this question. Some members are happy; others find parking a problem. In response, we have highlighted parking tricks under each gig in this Balladeer. There was a general preference for Sunday nights (instead of Wednesday) at Katipo if at all possible. The president agreed to explore options with the owner of Katipo Cafe. Mixed views were expressed re start times. Mid-week especially for those living out of town was difficult to get to Katipo by 7.30. Most people preferred the earlier start particularly on Sunday nights, but asked the Committee to try and finish at 10, instead of dragging on until 10.30. All views were noted.

*2. Are there enough Acoustic Routes events (normally one blackboard session a month and one concert a month)?*

Several views were expressed. The strongest message was that some folk are missing the old singaround (take turns in a circle) format. Some members find the blackboard format threatening for various reasons. Discussion also strayed into the 'plugged vs unplugged' issue. It appears that most members prefer to remain unplugged if possible. However, it was pointed out that unplugged usually meant unheard too! The Committee is going to look into options for re-introducing a singaround evening once a month. We will also explore some more user-friendly options around amplification.

*3. Does the format of each kind of event work well and provide enough variety for members? Is the club providing enough performance opportunities, and are they the kind you want?*

Pretty much addressed in 2 above. The comment was made that we needed to be careful that we do not become too performance-oriented and lose our sense of 'club' for members or one of 'community'. It was also pointed out, however, that the Katipo sessions had a very warm feel and

continuity in attendance that was very club-like and not like any old open mic night around town. We also have at least 4 out of 11 dedicated Sunday events each year for club members (this year it was the Showcase concert, the Xmas party, the Blind Date Concert and the Ceilidh), as well as the Acoustic Routes Riverslea Reviver. The committee agreed to look at the overall balance.

*4. Is a functional, up-to-date club website important to you, or would you be just as happy with a static website that's only updated once or twice a year, plus regular email updates? Is the Balladeer important to you and to the club, or would a Facebook approach be better?*

Emails are the preferred means of communication at the moment. There was a request for the Balladeer to also be sent as a PDF. People want the Balladeer to continue, and did not want us to switch to a Facebook approach. Dale pointed out that the current website design was quite technical and could probably be simplified. Clearly there is follow-up to do here.

*5. What do you think about exploring the possibility of creating a more united umbrella for the Wellington folk music scene, instead of the present rather fragmented situation? How might this happen?*

There was widespread agreement for the committee to explore possibilities with relevant organisers. It was suggested that as a start we should advertise each others' events, and Niels Gedge indicated that he had an open mind around linking the Welsh Dragon night under the Acoustic Routes umbrella.

## **Item 2. Amendment to the Constitution**

It was agreed to amend the Constitution to limit the number of consecutive years an elected committee officer or committee member can remain on the Committee to 6 years.

**Item 3. Life membership** was warmly awarded to Kaye and Tony Larsen for their years of work towards the Balladeer.

These notes above try to capture the essence of what transpired but the official Minutes of the AGM will carry the specifics. It felt like a long but worthwhile meeting. I appreciated hearing everyone's viewpoints on Item 1 above and it provided feedback on the changes brought in over the last 12-24 months during which lots of different things have been trialed. The most vocal contributions on this item largely came from members whose needs are being least met by the current arrangements, but through a show of hands on several issues, it was clear that some of those concerns were shared by others in the room.

We will do our best to address the issues raised. Please remember that the Committee has been acting in good faith on directives signaled from you, the members (via questionnaire responses, discussions, your individual emails, and attendance numbers at different types of Acoustic Routes events). In my view, it is the member's collective responsibility to support and participate in the club activities to make it a happening thing, not the committee's alone! The folk community is at once an ephemeral yet robust beast that comes and goes in many shapes and guises. Needs change and members have widely different views on how it should be... we cannot please all the people all of the time, but we are happy to try, and will adjust where possible. We hope you will too.

So, thanks everyone who came and contributed to the AGM and the discussions. We will be seeking wider input (one-third of members showed up) on key issues, and will act on less material matters as soon as we can. Meantime, we look forward to your ongoing support and participation. A wee reminder: to get your discounts to Acoustic Routes events, please pay your subs if you haven't yet. They are overdue. We even offer electronic payment option through internet banking now...just email Peter at [treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz) for details, or go down to the form below under [item 10](#). Cheers for now and best wishes to all.

Mary

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

## **5. President's annual report (presented to AGM)**

The annual report is sent as a separate mail message, to follow this Balladeer.

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

## 6. Blind Date concert fun



The Blind Date Concert had three groups this year, ably compered by the incomparable, unstoppable Roy McGuinness:

They were: **The Mitchelltown Musos** (Carolyn Love, Mike Maguire, Don Franks, Marion Pawson); **Cowtrain** (Marie and Anne Russell, Mike Savage, Shirley McGregor) and the **Smooth Operators** (Frank Boardman, John Sutherland, Rachel and Ed Clark). We opted for an unplugged sound even though we were at the Ruby Lounge and the groups were suitably varied in their sets, length of sets and degree of patter! First up were the **Smooth**

**Operators** with a full-blown theatrical story narrated and embellished with authentic Yorkshire-New York drawl by Frank, peppered by delightful songs from the band. Each person took the lead on a song, and it was lovely to see Ed and Rachel in particular, back into the folkie groove.

They were followed by the **Mitchelltown Musos**, dressed to kill, with a very professional and tight delivery to their set. Dreamy was the theme identified by our judges **Robin Brew** and **Cathy Dyer**! And **Cowtrain** all dressed up in glorious red with cowboy/girl themes and narrative jokes during tuning parts of the set provided a wonderful unpredictable suite of songs with unique flagellatory instruments at hand to keep the audience under control! During the judges conferring, **the committee** sang some songs reflecting their commitment to what counts the most, ie music, and you could tell they had definitely practised a bit despite all those reports and admin duties they carry out for the rest of us. Thanks **committee**! So after deliberating deliberately, the awards of the night were ponderously announced by **Robin** and **Cathy** as follows:

**The Bob-Cooper-Grundy Best Dressed Award:** Mitchelltown Musos (for outrageously flaunting a bit of thigh)

**The Golden Plectrum Best Lead Break(s):** Don Franks (cornet) and Mike Maguire (ukulele)

**The Linda Sorensen Chocolate Fish Award for the Best Original Work(s):** Frank Boardman and Don Franks

Other highly worthy mentions of merit included:

Most frequently changed outfits of the evening: Roy McGuinness

Most soulful solo: Anne Russell (Cow Cow Boogie)

Most unusual break: kazoo and whip (Anne and Marie Russell)

Thanks everyone for sharing your music with us and entertaining us to a timely end of the evening at 10pm.

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

## 7. The J.A Pan Trophy 2010

Nominations for the award for the most improved performer this year included Annie van Herck, Peter Dyer, Niels Gedge, Annie McGregor and Jude Madill. There were 2 winners by show of hands: **Annie van Herck and Annie McGregor**. The winners will share the engraved trophy for a year, and are both entitled to perform a floor spot at a club concert. Congratulations Annie and Annie.

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

## 8. Club night at Katipo Cafe, September 7, 7.30pm



The second Wednesday of every month is our club night at the Katipo Cafe, upstairs at 76 Willis Street. 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.

**PARKING** near Katipo is difficult at the moment, but [see above!](#)

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

## 9. Draft music plan



The draft music plan, ie where we have got to booking for upcoming gigs between now and May 2011 is tabled below. Blackboard/jam nights may change (see president's notes Item 1 discussion above), but for now they are scheduled for the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Singaround nights may be re-introduced but the venue and event-day have yet to be worked through.

### 2010-2011 ACOUSTIC ROUTES MUSIC PLAN TO DATE

| DATE                  | LOCATION  | EVENT  |
|-----------------------|-----------|--|
| <b>SEPTEMBER 2010</b> |           |  |
| Weds 8 Sept           | Katipo    | Regular BB/jam   |
| Weds 15 Sept          | Katipo    | Martin Curtis Concert. Support act Gracious Deviants   |
| Sun 26 Sept           | Ruby      | Bloomin' Youth Concert : Julia Simmonds, Emma Wollum, Lillian Foucher, Anton Thomas, Meghan Glue |
| <b>OCTOBER</b>        |           |  |
| Fri 8 Oct             | Ruby      | The Chaps in Concert. No support act [cancelled]   |
| Wed 14 Oct            | Katipo    | Regular BB/Jam   |
| 22-24 Oct             | Wellyfest | Welcome Concert Friday night at festival   |
| Sun 31 Oct            | Ruby      | Eric Bogle Concert. John Sutherland support  |
| <b>NOVEMBER</b>       |           |  |
| Weds 10 Nov           | Katipo    | Regular BB/jam   |
| Sun 28 Nov            | Ruby      | Rachel Dawick Concert; Pat Higgins support   |
| <b>DECEMBER</b>       |           |  |
| Weds 8 Dec            | Katipo    | Regular BB/Steve Turner  |
| Sun 12 Dec            | Ruby      | Xmas Party   |
| <b>JANUARY 2011</b>   |           |  |
| Weds 13 Jan           | Katipo    | Regular BB/Jam   |
| Sun 30 Jan            | NONE      | Auckland folk festival   |
| <b>FEBRUARY</b>       |           |  |
| Weds 9 Feb            | Katipo    | Regular BB/ Phil Drane concert 2 <sup>nd</sup> half  |
| Sun 27 Feb            | Ruby      | Tim O'Brien Concert (afternoon and evening)  |
| <b>MARCH</b>          |           |  |
| Thur 3 Mar            | Ruby      | Kieran Halpin Concert. Support TBC   |
| Weds 9 Mar            | Katipo    | Regular BB/jam   |
| Sun 27 Mar            | Ruby      | Ken Nicol in Concert. Support act TBC  |
| <b>APRIL</b>          |           |  |
| Weds 13 April         | Katipo    | Reg BB/jam   |
| 22-24 April           | -         | EASTER-No Ruby Concert at this stage-suggestions?  |
| <b>MAY</b>            |           |  |
| Sun 1 May             | Ruby      | Catgut and Steel in lieu of Easter weekend concert   |
| Weds 11 May           | Katipo    | Regular BB/Jam   |
| Sun 22 May            | Ruby      | Showcase Concert for Members   |

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

## 10. Electronic Subs Membership Form 2010-11

Please complete form at bottom of section-Thank You

### ACOUSTIC ROUTES MEMBERSHIP SUBS

Fees for 1 July 2010 - 30 June 2011

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Single                                       | \$25 |
| Double/family (children under 18)            | \$40 |
| Student, life member partners, beneficiaries | \$15 |

## WHAT BEING A MEMBER GIVES YOU

- An annual programme of concerts by top-class musicians (international and local); regular performance opportunities; a range of other musical and social events; regular communications about what's on - all put together by a Committee elected working for you.

## A MEMBERSHIP CARD THAT PROVIDES:

- Discounted entry to most club events and concerts
- Discounted entry to participating folk clubs
- Discounts on selected items at Alistair's Music, Cuba St.
- Voting rights at the AGM or any subsequent SGM

## PAYMENT OPTIONS

1. Post cheque (made out to **WELLINGTON FOLK CENTRE INC** ) and details (below) to Acoustic Routes WFC: P.O. Box 27-191 Marion Square WELLINGTON 6141
2. Pay by internet banking to account payee '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](mailto:treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz)
3. Hand your form plus payment to a committee member at an Acoustic Routes event.

.....

## PLEASE COMPLETE

Amount paid:     \$\_\_\_\_\_ Choose one: Single, Double /family, Student

Payment Method. Choose one: posted cheque/internet banking/other

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

POSTCODE: \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR CURRENT E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

.....

*Many thanks*

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

## 11. 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:

1. a blackboard concert followed by a singaround or a jam, at the Katipo Cafe, upstairs at 76 Willis Street, on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm, and
2. 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 most 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 the person on the door at club events, or email [treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz) or, [see item 10 above](#)

Acoustic Routes publishes The Balladeer by email 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.

The club also publishes a monthly update of folk and acoustic music events in the Wellington region, which is emailed around about the 15th. Anyone can submit listings to this update for appropriate concerts or events.

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

#### **Acoustic Routes contacts**

**President:** Mary Livingston [president@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:president@acousticroutes.org.nz)

**Secretary:** Mike Maguire [secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz)

**Publicity:** Kevin Ikin [publicity@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:publicity@acousticroutes.org.nz)

**Treasurer:** Peter Denee [treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz)

**Balladeer:** [balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz)

**Acoustic Routes Update Email:** [publicity@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:publicity@acousticroutes.org.nz)

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

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

**Please pass this newsletter on to whoever should have got it but didn't: they may not be on the mailing list, or their mailbox may have been full and their Balladeer copy rejected.**

**To subscribe, unsubscribe or update please email (for now) [publicity@acousticroutes.org.nz](mailto:publicity@acousticroutes.org.nz)**

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