

The Balladeer

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

Acoustic Routes

www.acousticroutes.org.nz

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NOTE: This newsletter can be printed out from a pdf located on the website
www.acousticroutes.org.nz

1. Rachel Dawick concert, Ruby Lounge, 28 November 7:30 pm

Rachel Dawick is a singer-songwriter, originally from New Zealand and now based in the UK. She has spent the past nine years playing at festivals and clubs here and in the UK, initially as part of an all-female blues-celtic trio "Ruby Blue" and more recently as a solo performer.

Rachel has released two solo albums: *Journeys* in 2008, and *Ed's Bar and Grill*, released at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe last year. Her third album, *Picking at the Bones*, is due out here in February next year. Her voice has been described as combining "the grit of Mary Gauthier, the lilt of Joan Baez and the depth of Natalie Merchant".

Rachel's international reputation as a songwriter has been enhanced lately with the release of two collaborative songs: "Somewhere to Jump" (Aberfeldy), released in August and "Peeling Apples" (Athena Andreadis), which EMI released in September in Greece and the UK. Following her New Zealand visit, she will tour Europe and the United States in Spring and Autumn next year.



OPENING ACT - PAT HIGGINS & THE NEXT BAND



Pat Higgins is an Irish musician living in Wellington. A Galwayman who moved to New Zealand last century, he plays acoustic and traditional songs accompanied on steel string guitar.

Performers he has been inspired by include David Rawlings, Gillian Welch, Joni Mitchell, Paul Brady, Martin Carthy, John Sutherland, Niamh Parsons and Dolores Keane. More recently Pat has mined his own life experience and started song-writing, and this original material is now the majority of his live performances.

Recent performance highlights include opening the Auckland Festival

invitation concert (January 2008), singing live on SKY TV and to 30,000 people at Westpac Stadium, Wellington (June 2008) and the National Celtic Folk Festival in Portarlington Australia (June 2010). Pat has also been a guest at Whare Flat (Dunedin NZ) and Wellington folk festivals, and recently completed a self-produced CD of traditional and original material to support his live performances.

Wellington-based The Next Band are Derek Burfield on bass, Nick Burfield on guitar, and Mike Maguire on ukulele and banjo. Their lively blues are fun to watch and sure get yer toes tapping! This will be their last performance together before Mike heads off for six months overseas.

ENTRY \$15 (\$10 folk club members)

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PARKING near the Ruby Lounge is difficult at the moment, particularly with all the roadworks blocking off precious spots.

Parking on the streets is free on Sunday evenings, 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. Just down the road a bit near the Victoria St entrance to Chews Lane there is another parking building which has 8 parks from 7am to 7pm at a max of \$3 total - not sure if this helps that much. I guess 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!

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2. Note from the President



Hi Everyone

I am back in this land of weather. My goodness this spring seems to have been so extreme, with lows the size of Australia, flooding, snowstorms, hail and so on, not to mention earthquakes. I do hope you are all surviving well out there, and what a relief that Labour Weekend was as kind as you were secretly hoping.

It seems like I missed some grand music while I was away, especially the Bloomin' Youth concert at the end of September which attendees have raved to me about. Definitely something to follow up on, and don't be surprised if you see them back for longer gigs. Talking of younger folks, it was interesting to visit the Bothy Club (a relatively well known folk club in northern England) and find that actually we are doing pretty well on the age demographics here in NZ. We worry about the dearth of young folks in our music, but I was pretty much the youngest person in the Bothy (and it was a well attended night too). So take heart and savour those times when we do manage to span the age groups. Besides, it was a grand night regardless of age!

We have had some very sad moments in the folk scene this year with the death of some very dear friends. A folk memorial service led by MC Robin Brew was held at the festival this year to honour their passing. But I also wanted to mention two very happy events, one of which has already passed, and another that is pending. Earlier this year, Diana Bastion and Julian Ward were married in Nelson (I was the last to find out!!), and now Mike Ukelele Maestro Maguire is about to get married... After a skyped proposal, and tense(!) ensuing week, Mike and Ros decided they would tie the knot this December in Abu Dhabi, and remain over there together to see Ros's contract through until July next year. They promise to hold a big celebration when they return. Go for it, all ye love birds. It's great to see people making happy decisions regardless of the weather, old age and other potentially burdensome impediments!

Which brings me to the next topic which really IS burdensome. Mike leaves not only a musical gap with his departure, but also a secretarial one on the committee. I know that joining the committee is the last thing people want to take on in their busy lives, but we really do need a replacement. If anyone can consider taking on his role even if it's just temporary, it will surely gain you brownie points at the pearly gates. There are eight months from January to the next AGM. Maybe if two people could take it in turns even to do stints or set it to music... Please let a committee member know if you are prepared to consider it :-).



We have not progressed the singaround yet, but it is not forgotten. This is because we are all in limbo over Katipo, and I have been away, and we are shortly to be down on committee numbers. Perhaps we could kick the singaround off at someone's place as an interim measure until we have a more solid plan? Any takers?

That's probably enough from me for this month.

Best regards to everyone and see you at the gig in November.

Mary

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3. Bloomin' Youth concert review

Ruby Lounge - 26th September 2010

"Wow!" is the word heard most often during and after this special night which showcased the talents and abilities of eight young Wellington musicians who enchanted, surprised and wonderfully entertained a large and supportive audience at the Ruby Lounge in September. Not only was each performance executed with a maturity that belied the ages of the performers, but the songs they crafted were highly original and expressed ideas and emotions not usually expected from such youthful, blooming people - some still at college!

The evening started with Julia Miller and Brittany Blann (who, it eventuated, had never played on stage before) singing lovely harmonies together, followed by Emma Wollum who amazed us with her dexterity on the accordion and her witty songs. She was followed by Anton Thomas, Pat Stewart and Alec Jolliffe who had our toes tapping with some driving songs accompanied by great guitar and harmonica work. After the interval Lillian Fougere sang some of her lovely philosophical numbers and the evening ended with the accomplished Meghan Glue, no stranger to the stage, singing superbly some of her own compositions.

We will follow the musical careers of these young people with great interest and as Mary has said in her note, I am sure that we are going to see some of these young folk back for a longer stint. It was such a pleasure to MC! Acoustic-folk music is well and truly alive.

Mike Maguire

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4. Review of Acoustic Routes Welcome Concert at the Wellington Folk Festival

It was a cracking Wellington Folk Festival, this one. The planets lined up to produce kind weather over the weekend. That is, it didn't rain. What we had instead was a deluge of wonderful music. And the Welcome Concert on Friday night, hosted by Wellington's Acoustic Routes this year, played a big part in that by triggering the initial cloudburst, so to speak.

The line-up of selected local performers was a good indicator of the increasingly diverse Wellington acoustic music scene, with trad, contemporary, jazz and country all getting a look-in. The concert opener, Kim Bonnington, covered the country end of the spectrum with another strong set and she was in fine voice too. Celia Briar and Mary Hubble gave us a selection of mainly Celtic tunes, beautifully arranged for harp and flute. Celia is heading back to the UK for a while very soon, so it was great to hear this lovely duo in concert again before she sets off. Then another duo who have developed a great rapport. Acoustic Routes president Mary Livingston and Robin Brew's set of old and new songs included what I think is the definitive rendition of "Corinna, Corrina". Big Yellow Caravan rounded out the first half of the concert and put some swing into the night with some gypsy and French jazz, a touch of Django and yes, that was the theme to the "Onedin Line".

Niels Gedge brought on his "Old Boys Network" (Derek Burfield on bass and Peter Cogswell on percussion and harmonica) for a mellow, bluesy set to open the second half. It included a glimpse of Niels' songwriting talent, and altogether too much of a glimpse of Roy McGuinness's legs (one of them, anyway), when he made a surprise appearance in "Long Tall Texan" mode. Barry and Marian Carter have been collaborating on all sorts of musical projects since relocating to Wellington from

the US five years ago, and drew on their wide-ranging repertoire for their spot, enhanced by Marian's very classy clarinet playing. The concert was wrapped up with great gusto by Charles Harter and "Project Charlie", in a set of original songs: two of Charles' serious songs as he put it, followed by two silly songs (his quote, not mine). One attempted to unravel some of the mysteries of ants, and the other, by Mike Maguire who added vocals and ukelele to the mix, was more about the attractions of a certain damsel (Conchita?) Loved the dancers - Muy bien!

So, a warm welcome to the weekend's music feast. Perhaps the only thing missing from this concert was one of the rising younger stars in the musical firmament who are increasingly making their mark at the annual folk festival and other local venues.

Kevin Ikin

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5. Performance opportunities

a. Update on the Katipo Cafe



The second Wednesday of every month used to be a club night at the Katipo Cafe. Sadly though, and as most of you are already aware, the Katipo Cafe has been sold. I met with new owners last week. They showed me their plans and while it certainly won't have a red interior any longer, they are going for a rustic look with lightly stained wood on at least one wall, and brick on another. I think it would still be suitable for our purposes with a different but nice feel to it. However, the main glitch is that they have not yet decided whether or not they want to be open for music in the evenings. They are supposed to let us know over the next two weeks as their renovations draw to completion. We may yet need to look for another venue as I know many of us are missing our singing-fix. We may have to come up with an interim arrangement for the remainder of the year depending on what happens. If Katipo does not work out for whatever reason, I am now sure that another door will open. In fact some are already ajar, so who knows, we might just bite the bullet anyway. Thanks to all of you have come up with suggestions. They have been really helpful.

Mary

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b. Are you ready to perform at the Ruby Lounge?



Opportunities are available for support acts for our monthly concerts. You'll do a 20 or 30 minute spot in the first half of the show, before the main invited guest. It's a great thing to work towards and can stretch you on your musical journey.

Current Acoustic Routes members will be given priority, and it helps if we can get to see a sample of what you can do (at the Katipo, or in a video clip or CD). We don't always know who is keen to have a go, so do please tell us if you are available. Talk to a committee member, or drop an email to president@acousticroutes.org.nz

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6. Members' news, views and reviews

This is a possible new feature for the electronic Balladeer. Please contact us if you have something you would like us to consider for publication here.

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7. Subs 2010-11

Thanks to everyone who has already paid their subs. Acoustic Routes Treasurer Peter Denee is looking forward to hearing from those of you who haven't got around to it yet. Please remember to let Peter know your contact details, including email. You can:

* post a cheque (made out to WELLINGTON FOLK CENTRE INC) to Acoustic Routes WFC : P.O. Box

27-191 Marion Square WELLINGTON 6141

* 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 to treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz

* pay direct to a committee member at an Acoustic Routes event.

Single, \$25; double/family (children under 18), \$40; student, life member partners, beneficiaries, \$15.

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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 (currently in limbo-see item 5a above), and a concert at the Ruby Lounge, 14 Bond Street, on the 4th Sunday of every 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

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) in the middle of every month. To subscribe to either, contact publicity@acousticroutes.org.nz

Acoustic Routes contacts

President: Mary Livingston president@acousticroutes.org.nz

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Acoustic Routes update email: publicity@acousticroutes.org.nz

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

Website: www.acousticroutes.org.nz

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9. Other regular folk events/contacts in the region

Pukerua Bay Folk Club

When: 1st Thursday of month, 8 pm

Where: 9 Donlin Rd, Pukerua Bay

Contact: Murray or Julie Kilpatrick, (04)239 995, julmur@paradise.net.nz

Mainly Acoustic Music Club

When: 2nd Tuesday of month, 7.30pm

Where: Mayfair Cafe, 166 Main Street, Upper Hutt

Contact: Kevin & Sue Meehan (04) 970 4008

John & Susan Sutherland (04)528 2016

Wellington Bluegrass Society

When: 3rd Friday of month, 8.30 pm
Where: 54 Richmond Street, Petone
Contact: Andrew Bicknell, (04)477 0069, bluegrass@paradise.net.nz
www.huttcity.com/wellingtonbluegrass
www.myspace.com/thebluegrassclub

Mojo Acoustic

When: 2nd, 3rd and 4th Friday of month, 7pm
Where: Mojo Invincible, Willis Street
Contact: Ruth Birnie 04 905 3838, ruthbirnie@clear.net.nz
Niels Gedge 970 1170, n.gedge@xtra.co.nz

Acoustic Welsh Dragon

When: Last Thursday of month, 7.30pm
Where: Welsh Dragon Bar, Courtenay Place
Contact: Roy McGuinness
Niels Gedge 970 1170, n.gedge@xtra.co.nz

Welsh Dragon Unaccompanied Singing Session

When: Every Tuesday from 8pm
Where: Welsh Dragon Bar, Courtenay Place
Contact: Dave Barnes www.myspace.com/davidbarnesnz/

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

Kapiti Live Music Club

When: 1st Wednesday of month, unplugged, acoustic rounds: 7:30 till 10pm
3rd Wednesday of month, blackboard, 7.30 pm, guest 8.30
Where: Valhalla Lounge and Garden, Poplar Avenue, Raumati South
Contact: Susan Colien-Reid, enquiry@klmc.org.nz, www.klmc.wellington.net.nz

Ceol Alba Scottish Music Club

When: 2nd and 4th Fridays of month
Contact: Lynne Scott, 565 0164 lynne@scott.gen.nz

Levin Folk Club

When: 2nd Friday of month, 7.30 pm, blackboard concert plus guest artist. \$5 entry includes supper
4th Friday of month, 7.30 pm, acoustic night. \$2
Where: Horowhenua, Scottish Society and Pipe Band hall, cnr Bartholomew Rd and Middlesex St.
Contact: Anne Campbell annemc@ihug.co.nz

Wairarapa Folk Club

When: 2nd Friday of month
Contact: Remco de Ket, or Jenny Fremantle 06 370 1021. Email
wairarapafolkclub@paradise.net.nz

The Ruby Lounge

When: weeknights and weekends day/night, see calendar on website
Where: 14 Bond St. Wellington.
Contact: www.therubylounge.co.nz

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