

The Balladeer

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

Acoustic Routes

www.acousticroutes.org.nz

Late Breaking News

[Acoustic Routes monthly blackboard concerts are starting again](#)
[1st Friday of the month, Mojo Invincible coffee bar, 161 Willis Street](#)
[1 April 7-10 pm](#)

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

1. Andy Irvine & Rens van der Zalm concert, Meow, 14 April, 7.30 pm



Andy Irvine is one of the great Irish singers, his voice one of a handful of truly great ones that gets to the very soul of Ireland. He has been hailed as "a tradition in himself". Musician, singer and songwriter, Andy has maintained his highly individual performing skills throughout his 45-year career. He went from Sweeney's Men in the mid 60s, to the enormous success of Planxty in the 70s and then from Patrick Street to Andy Irvine & Donal Lunny's Mozaik.

Andy has been a world music pioneer and an icon for traditional music and musicians. As a soloist, Andy fills the role of the archetypal troubadour with a show and a travelling lifestyle that reflect his lifelong influence, Woody Guthrie. To quote the Irish Times, "Often copied, never equalled", his repertoire consists of Irish traditional songs, dexterous Balkan dances and compelling cannon of his own self-penned songs.

Andy is joined by Rens van der Zalm, a musician of multiple talents: a skilled guitarist, equally accomplished on the fiddle, mandolin, keyboards, accordion and whistle. In 2002 Andy Irvine drafted Rens to join him in his "dream band" MOZAIK, together with Donal Lunny, Nikola Parov and Bruce Molsky. They have toured all over the world together for the last 15 years.

OPENING ACT – Tandrom

Fiona Smythe, Simon Burgess and Richard Prowse are the Tandrom Gypsy Trio featuring folk/jazz/tango music.

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

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2. Blackboard concerts resume at Mojo Invincible



No it's not a hoax! In a move to work closer together with the broader folk community (as well as end an extended period of uncertainty) we have decided that this little venue might be just the ticket for resuming our blackboard concerts that were formerly held

at Katipo Cafe. Mojo Invincible already holds acoustic music sessions on other Fridays of the month so we are plugging the last gap and will hold concerts there every first Friday of the month, starting on April 1, 7-10 pm. The address is: Mojo Invincible, 161 Willis St, Wellington.

Sing one or even two songs if you wish (10 minutes max per act) to a friendly listening group of like-minded people. It's a great way to try out your latest number without having to prepare for a full performance set. Entry is free (koha accepted). Open mics can also provide a lively and varied evening of entertainment for everyone and it's a good way of supporting people who are itching to try out this sort of thing. We hope that people will plan to come for a goodly portion of the evening rather than show up, sing a song then disappear. The ambience and coherence of the evening works much better if people stick around. Everyone is welcome; you don't have to belong to Acoustic Routes to participate.

So if you want to perform, just turn up and give your name to the compere to get a slot. Or, just show up anyway for a fun evening. Send any questions to

balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz

See you there!

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3. Singaround, 10 April, Broadmeadows, 7.30 pm



Come and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of our home-based singaround session (join the circle and take a turn to perform if you wish).

This month's singaround is at Col and Annie's - 53 Kanpur Road, Broadmeadows. You are welcome to bring your own beer or wine. There is no door charge, but a koha is requested to cover tea and coffee, etc.

Everyone is also invited to join the celebration for Col's 20th birthday, from 4 pm. Please bring a small plate and drinks if you plan to join the party.

Directions: enter Broadmeadows from Burma Road and take the 2nd left onto Kanpur Road. No. 53 is on the left. (Tel: 478 6775)

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4. Note from the president



Hello everyone

Much of March passed in a whorl of ill-health and natural disasters for me so I feel a bit out of touch with folks at the moment. But musical life has of course continued and I am really pleased to announce our solution for our mic sessions that some of you have been missing from Katipo.

As you all know, Mojo Invincible has been hosting performance evenings successfully for some time now, and they have been looking to try and make it so that there is something there "every Friday". We have decided to adopt one of those Fridays, in fact the first Friday of each month, for Acoustic Routes. The first one is VERY SOON, as in: this Friday 1 April.

Also coming up this month are the Singaround on 10 April at Col and Annie's and a mid-month concert by Andy Irvine. Our end-of-month concert would fall on Easter Sunday this year, so we have deferred it to Sunday 1 May. Details to be announced later this month.

As autumn arrives we are moving into a phase of more club-oriented events and concerts. There seem to have been more overseas concerts this summer than usual - not even sure if it is true as I haven't counted - but I am really looking forward to NZ artists and local performers during May-October. The Showcase concert for May is starting to shape up nicely too, with a good response from you all.

See you soon, Mary Livingston

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5. Review of Kieran Halpin concert at Meow

Kieran Halpin struck me as a sophisticated singer-songwriter, a man with many voices - from soft and sentimental to cutting wit and even harshly political. With a beguilingly smooth but often quite complex guitar style, many of his songs had a compelling emotional intensity. I hear that some people found a couple of songs a bit too strong for their liking, but he didn't hold anything back when expressing a Bob Dylanesque anger at some things in society: the banking system took a hit in one memorable number, when his voice took on a gritty (almost threatening) tone to match the anger of the lyrics.

His material covered a very broad range of life, with lots of humour in there as well, and he is one of those passionate musicians where you easily get drawn into his "musical web" - so, a very strong bond with the audience. This concert was a full but balanced programme delivered by a seasoned songwriter, guitarist and singer whose craft has been honed over 40 years as a professional music-maker. Kieran Halpin is still clearly at the top of his game.

[Peter Denee]

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6. Performance opportunities

Are you ready to perform?

Opportunities are available for support acts for many of our monthly concerts. Get your name on the list so that you can be considered - we are usually booked reasonably well ahead these days but we do refer to our list as new gigs emerge, so don't despair if you don't get a spot immediately. You'll do a 20- to 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.

We don't always know who is keen to have a go, so do please tell us if you want to. Talk to a committee member, or drop an email to balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz

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7. 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 several regular events each month. The first Friday of the month is the open mic

session now held at Mojo Invincible, 161 Willis St. Wellington, 7-10 pm. Come and give your latest song (or 2) a burst by simply turning up and talking to the compere. The second Sunday of the month is the singaround. This moves to a different member's home each month and is a relaxed opportunity to share your latest song or tune, increase your performing confidence, and enjoy the company of other folkies.

The fourth Sunday of the month generally features a concert, usually with a visiting artist and support acts from amongst our membership. These concerts are at Meow, 9 Edward Street, Wellington, until further notice.

Membership of Acoustic Routes 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.

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8. Acoustic Routes contacts

President: Mary Livingston president@acousticroutes.org.nz

Correspondence: Monica Cartner secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz

Publicity: Kevin Ikin publicity@acousticroutes.org.nz

Membership: Peter Denee treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz

Balladeer: Philippa Boy, Jaap Jasperse balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz

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

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

Website: www.acousticroutes.org.nz

Facebook: www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/Acoustic-Routes/89128457590

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9. Other regular folk events/contacts in the region

Ceol Alba Scottish Music Club

When: 2nd and 4th Fridays of month

Contact: Lynne Scott, 565 0164 lynne@scott.gen.nz

International Folkdancing

When: Every Wednesday from February to December, 7.30 to 9.15

Where: Tarrant Dance Studios, 125 Cuba St, Wellington

Contact: Cashy Yates (04) 569 1618 cashy@ihug.co.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: temporarily at 69 Rimu Road, Raumati Beach

Contact: Ruth Birnie, enquiry@klmc.org.nz, <http://www.klmc.org.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

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

Mojo Acoustic

When: Every 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

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

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

Wairarapa Folk Club

When: 2nd Friday of month

Contact: Remco de Ket, or Jenny Fremantle 06 370 1021. Email

wairarapafolkclub@paradise.net.nz

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

Welsh Dragon Unaccompanied Singing Session

When: Every Tuesday from 8pm

Where: Welsh Dragon Bar, Courtenay Place

Contact: Dave Barnes www.myspace.com/davidbarnesnz/

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