

The Balladeer

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

Acoustic Routes

www.acousticroutes.org.nz

Special Announcement: AGM, Meow, August 28, 6 pm Join the Committee!

We are looking for a new President, Treasurer and Committee Members to join Kevin, Monica and Philippa.

Special thanks to Mary, Peter and Jaap who are stepping down.

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

1. Kaleidoscope Concert and A.nnual G.eneral M.ayhem Meow, 28 August, 6:00 pm



The AGM is scheduled for **6-7 pm**, and is not long or complicated. If you have not already been on the Committee, it is a chance to get a feel for how Acoustic Routes works, and for everyone it is an opportunity to offer your skills and enthusiasm to make it even better!

There are only four items that have to be on the agenda - receiving the annual report from the President and also from the Treasurer, the election of Officers and Committee Members, and appointment of the Auditor. Our outgoing President, Mary Livingston, is offering her report in this edition of the Balladeer, so you can come prepared.

Other business will include: confirmation of the current subscription rates; and nominations for election of the J A Pan Award for 2011. Note that you need to be a financial member to vote at the AGM and to stand for office - but you can pay up on the night!

After the AGM, **starting at 7:30 pm**, we will be entertained by a **Kaleidoscope** of Acoustic Routes luminaries who have volunteered to get together and create music across a range of colourful genres.

Blue: blues, bluegrass and country

Red: protest and political

Green: nature and environment

Yellow: contemporary folk (from the 60s forwards)

Purple: roots, trad, celtic

The usual prizes will be awarded: Golden Plectrum Award for best instrumental break, Cooper-Grundy Award for best dressed group, Chocolate Fish Award for best new original song. **Free entry!**

And a fabulous way to ease into the AGM - Richard Klein and friends will be having their usual **Americana jam session from 4 to 6 pm** (shortened because of the AGM). You can hear some of the Wellington region's finest players and singers of country, blues, Cajun, old-timey, boogie-woogie and all-around good-time American music, and it's an open session so you can join in.

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2. Who's the most improved performer?



The J A Pan Trophy is a tradition of the AGM. It's awarded to the club member voted the most improved performer of the past year by the members present. Folk club legend has it that the trophy was originally a cheap plastic cup with the word 'JAPAN' written on the base. It has evolved into a lovingly maintained hand-carved artifact that has been extended several times to accommodate more winners' names.

The winner holds the engraved trophy for a year, and is entitled to perform a floor spot at a club concert if they wish. Last year's winners were Annie McGregor and Annie von Herck.

Nominations can be made at or before the AGM, so have a think about it. Remember, the award is for the most improved performer, not necessarily the 'best'.

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3. Wellington Folk Centre Inc (Acoustic Routes) President's Annual Report for the Folk-Year September 2010-August 2011

A Recap of the Year

Acoustic Routes began the year with the election of a new committee: Mary Livingston, Peter Denee, Mike Maguire (succeeded by Monica Cartner), Jaap Jasperse, Philippa Boy and Kevin Ikin. As you will recall we were plunged into chaos almost immediately after that by the sudden closure of Ruby Lounge, followed closely by the sale of Katipo Cafe. It truly caused us much stress and angst while uncertainty raged over venues combined with the holiday period. Things finally settled once Meow took us on and got used to our folky ways. It took a bit longer to establish a blackboard concert night but we have held some very nice evenings at Mojo, although numbers have been a bit patchy. We also brought back singarounds after members requested that something be re-instated. We decided to trial home-based singarounds, rotating around members' homes each month. On the whole these have been fairly successful, although there does not appear to be a

core of regulars. Some hosts have really enjoyed holding these sessions, but I feel that the response has been a little mixed so members may wish to revisit this format.

We held a highly successful Acoustic Routes opening concert for the Wellington Folk Festival in 2010 and have now been invited back for the Friday night in this year's festival. This will be our third appearance in a row as a club at Wellyfest.

Financially we have pulled ahead again from last year, and the club is in a very strong position now. Being in slightly noisier venues means that sound and equipment has more of a role to play, and we need to be able to afford to maintain or replace things. We also want to ensure that while striving for the best bangs for bucks for club members at AR events, the musicians who entertain us also get paid at fair rates. We believe that we have been achieving this on a regular basis.

Participatory events, as always, have proved popular and we have seen a number of new (and younger) performers join the club's activities this year. We have seen steady attendance at Meow and I look forward to discussion at the AGM about the coming 12 months.

Club concerts and events 2010-11

A summary of the year's club concerts is below:

<i>Month</i>	<i>Main Club Concert</i>	<i>Other significant Events</i>
September	Bloomin' Youth Concert (5 great acts from younger folk in the region)	Martin Curtis concert
October	Eric Bogle Concert	Wellington Folk Festival Welcome concert
November	Rachel Dawick	Panic when Ruby Lounge folded!
December	None	Christmas party at Mary's
January	Steve Turner	Summer break; singaround at Mary's
February	Phil Drane; Tim O'Brien two oceans concert	Waitangi Day Party at Annie and Roy's, singaround at Jill and Don's boatshed, Neil Colquhoun Booklaunch
March	Ken Nicol; Kieran Halpen	Singaround at Monica's; Ken Nicol guitar workshop
April	Andy Irvine and Rens van der Zalm	Mojo B/B session; singaround at Col and Annie's
May	Two Club Showcase Concerts	Mojo B/B session; singaround at Pat's; President's Regional Moot
June	Kristina Olsen	Mojo B/B session; singaround at Mary's
July	Marg Layton and friends; Piers Hayman	Mojo B/B session; singaround at Marie's
August	Blind date Kaleidoscope concert	Riverslea retreat; Mojo B/B session

A conscious decision to reduce the number of AR events from weekly to twice a month was made at the end of 2009 to reflect the increase in complementary regular folkie events such as Mojo Acoustic, Welsh Dragon and others. Rather than compete for audiences, we considered this to be a more pragmatic approach. However, at the request of club members, singarounds were re-inserted into the mix in January 2011.

The 2010 Blind Date concert featured four interesting acts including a committee band with club

members and friends. A new venture with the Bloomin' Youth Concert at the start of the year was a fantastic success featuring Julia Miller and Brittany Blan; Emma Wollum, Anton Thomas, Alec Jolliffe and Pat Stewart; Lillian Fougere, and Meghan Glue. Two of the musicians who met at that concert have since gone on to make a recording together.

Acoustic Routes hosted the Welcome concert at the Wellington Folk Festival in 2010 that featured 5 acts from the club, including Charles Harter and friends, Niels Gedge and friends, Mary Livingston and Robin Brew, Kim Bonnington and Barry Carter and Marion. We made a special effort to give different people from 2009 a go. The Club Showcase Concert concept introduced in 2008 was retained again for a third season in May 2010 with a fine turnout of 7 different groups over two concerts featuring Uncharted Country, Niels Gedge, Parcel, Fireponies, Shawgate, Radha and Bernard Wells, and 10dd.

Opportunities for support acts at concerts have been provided for members and other folkies whenever possible, and these have included: Gracious Deviants (September) John Sullivan (October), Pat Higgins and friends (November), Peter Dyer, Carol Shortis (January), Neil Colquhoun with Roger Steel, Mary Livingston and Robin Brew (Feb), The Fern Frond Boogie Boys (Sarah Duckworth, Don Burnham, Simon Burgess, Richard Klein) in February; Helen Dorothy (March), Gypsy Tango (April), Mary Livingston and Robin Brew, Womansong (June) and Piers Hayman (July). We have tried to provide fresh turnover while also giving club members a go. Almost everyone who has requested a spot has been given one somewhere in the mix. In the previous year, Rob Joass and Jo Muir, Diana Bastion, Julian Ward, Ang Kidd, Catriona McCleod and Alistair Cuthill, Helen Dorothy, Laurie Dameron, Mary Hubble, Celia Briar, Duncan Davidson, Murray Kilpatrick, Sue Rose, Don Franks, Phillippa Boy, and Peter Denee were listed as the floorspotters/support acts, so you can see that we really have given a wide range of groups and individuals the opportunity to be heard over the past 24 months.

Many more individuals have contributed songs and items to blackboard and singaround sessions, and altogether I think there has been a conscious effort from the committee to provide a wide range of opportunities and music experiences to the club members, as well as new folks and travellers.

Giving people a fair go at opportunities to perform has been a high priority for me through this past 3 years and I think that the approach taken has been highly successful. I would also like to note the membership cards and calendars that we have developed over the past 3 years seem to have been well received.

Club member activities

Many of our members are heavily involved in organising significant acoustic music events outside our folk club, or are involved with other folk clubs that 'up the profile' of folk music in the region, and improve the excitement about the whole folk scene, which in turn feeds back positively to the club. These are positive things and I am amazed at how we all find the time!

Examples include: Laftah Festival, Mojo Acoustic, Welsh Dragon, Museum of City and Sea, the Wellington Folk Festival, Strathean, Waiohoanga, House Concerts, the Karori jam, Levin Folk Club, Mayfair Acoustic, Pukerua Bay Folk Club, Bluegrass Soc., Lembas, CD/DVD launch events. I am sure there are more and it is a growing, moveable feast.

Heartfelt thanks

There are many individuals and organisations beyond the Committee who have provided help and direct assistance to the club this year including:

Damien, the owner of Meow for taking us on from out of the blur; John Burnell (our website Manager); David Earle who gallantly took on updating and restructuring our website; Kay and Tony Larsen of Datastream Instant Printing (who are still doing the occasional request for us), Sue Ikin (who continues to help with distribution of material); Jill Brasell (who continued to support us with the e-Balladeer and proofing it); Cathy Dyer for interviewing people for the Balladeer; Anne McGregor, Ruth Birnie and Gerard Hudson for running the

Riverslea retreat last year; Gerard Hudson for continuing to put together the monthly update of events in the region and helping out with end of year accounting; everyone who hosted singarounds, helped out with MC-ing sound or judging at concerts or events, and last but by no means least, Catriona and Alistair Cuthill for providing discounts to members of Acoustic Routes.

A BIG hand for the Committee

This year the bouquets go to: Philippa Boy for taking on the Balladeer with Jaap Jasperse distributing it; Peter Denee for his persistence and drive as Treasurer; Mike Maguire and Monica Cartner as secretaries; and Kevin Ikin, who has taken on publicity and sound master with quiet flare. Every one of us has pulled our weight and worked hard to keep the club vibrant and in touch with its members, develop opportunities for you and keep up with the play. It has been fun working together, and everyone has given a lot of their time and energy in their precious free time to meet the needs of the club. It is important to acknowledge that this is, as always, done on a voluntary basis with no perks at all.

In conclusion

So thanks to all our members for continuing to support Acoustic Routes - and to the many of you who have personally thanked me or expressed appreciation and confidence in my and the Committee's efforts this year. I look forward to seeing how things evolve further over the next 12 months with a new committee.

Here's to the next year for Acoustic Routes.

Mary Livingston, President 2010-11 (21 July 2011)

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4. Riverslea Retreat, Riverslea Lodge, Otaki Gorge Road, 5-7 August



There is still time to register for the Riverslea Retreat, a great opportunity to drive away the winter blues with warm company and wonderful music. Hosted again this year by the lovely Annie McGregor.

Tea, coffee and Milo are provided and there will be a shared meal on the Saturday night. Pillow, pillow case and bottom sheet are provided on the bunks.

Charges are \$45.00 per night and \$25.00 for a day visitor. Please contact Annie to register: annemcgregor@xtra.co.nz

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5. Final note from President Mary



Hi Everyone,

It feels rather strange writing my last 'note' to you all after producing them regularly for the past 3 years. When I look back on what I have learnt and experienced in this time and of all the wonderful help I have received, it is really quite humbling and I want to thank you all for your kindness, help and support over this time. I found it quite challenging at the start, but gradually things moved up to speed and I got into the swing of things. I have given the club my full commitment during this

period and, along with the other committee members, have brought in some changes and ideas to explore what could work or could at least be tried for the club. There have been the critics of course, and not everything has worked out quite as planned, but you never learn anything new unless you give it a go. Nothing is static and I think it is important to try and move with the times and be a little exploratory. Please read my Annual report in this Balladeer. I think you will be surprised at just how many club events and what musical variety we have had in this year just gone, in spite of the challenges we encountered.

I have quite mixed feelings about stepping down from this role and very much wish the new president and committee good luck and good fortune as they evolve into whatever feels right for the next few years. This is of course assuming that there will be a committee. I am not trying to scaremonger but there has been ne'er a whisper of willing nominees as yet. This could simply be because people are giving it some thought and will show up to the AGM on the day. If no-one is nominated, though, it will mean the end of Acoustic Routes. If this is what NOT what you want then please do come to the AGM and vote...or at least share your views on what you think should happen next.

Best wishes, Mary

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6. Acoustic Routes monthly blackboard sessions, Mojo Invincible, 5 August, 7-10 pm



The Acoustic Routes open mic on the first Friday of the month at Mojo Invincible is now a regular feature, so come along and put your name down. It's informal and friendly and a good way to introduce yourself and your songs to a supportive audience.

Format is one item each, followed by a short break. Then a second turn for those who are keen, and/or a jam session depending on the mood on the night.

Mojo Invincible coffee bar, 161 Willis Street.
No charge, but we have a koha jar.

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7. Monthly singaround, 14 August, 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).

For the August singaround, come and try out the acoustics at Philippa's geodesic dome house - 14 Tremaine Place, Camborne.

The easiest way to find it is to turn from State Highway 1 into Pope Street.

- Coming from Wellington, Pope Street is past the Mana shops and the RV dealer, next right just before the Plimmerton traffic lights.
- Coming from the North, Pope Street is the first left after the Plimmerton traffic lights.

Follow Pope Street over the top of the hill, Tremaine Place is 1st left just after the reserve with water tower and cell phone towers. Number 14 is at the bottom of the cul-de-sac.

You are welcome to bring your own beer or wine. No charge, but a koha is requested to cover tea and coffee, etc.

Tel: 021 46 46 40

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8. Cloudstreet at Meow, Thursday 18 August, 8 pm

We couldn't let this fabulous duo go by. Ruth Birnie has kindly organised this additional concert in August, with the support of Acoustic Routes: Cloudstreet - hot harmonies & beautiful ballads.

John and Nicole's performances are packed with vitality, humour and excitement, as they breathe new life into some of the great songs of the Australian, English and Celtic traditions and carry the tradition forward with original songs and tunes. Driving guitar and Irish flute support their enthralling vocals. Their trademark dazzling harmonies and their impassioned presentation are leavened with humour and great tales from their travels. Cloudstreet makes their audience feel that they are the privileged viewers of something very special. Admission \$15, or \$12 for Acoustic Routes members.

(A 'cloudstreet' is a row of thermals marked by cumulus clouds. When gliders fly from thermal to thermal by following the clouds, they 'fly the cloudstreet', staying aloft for miles.)

More information at <http://www.cloudstreet.org/> Contact ruthbirnie@clear.net.nz

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9. Review of Kristina Olsen concert, Meow, 26 June



The evening started with a set by **Womansong**, a women's singing group lead by Carol Shortis. My overwhelming sense was the joy and fun this group takes in their music, heightened by some of the funky leggings. This in no way detracted from tight harmonies and beautiful voices in a varied repertoire. A good spirited start to the evening.

The second support act was **Mary Livingston** and **Robin Brew**. The set included 'Go away from my window', one of Mary's songs, 'Leaving' and 'Corrina, Corrina', one of my all-time favourites. Robin provided a sensitive counterpoint to Mary's lighter voice in their harmonies - a thoughtful and thought provoking set.

The main act, **Kristina Olsen**, was stunning - superb musicality and original songs we expected and got in full measure. What raised the ante for me was her wonderful stage presence. 'Patter' was not something done half-heartedly while checking on tuning, but a stream of wonderful, funny stories, weaving a web holding the whole act together. I gained some strong impressions; one of a woman confident in her own sexuality, caring of her loved ones and with a strong concern for social justice and an infectious love of life and tango. I felt privileged she could share this so generously and with such a light entertaining touch.

All her songs told stories, mainly relating directly to people and events in her life. She started with a pacey bluesy number. 'Something tells me you'll be good in bed' followed a story about being a best man. I was laughing so much I missed the final punch line - something about a male stripper at the stud party? 'I've never been out of the Ghetto' was about a close friend and her encores included a tribute to a friend. Her slide guitar had been damaged in flight, but this didn't hold her back. She made a point of saying all her songs are freely available from her website: kristina.olsen.net

This was definitely a night for being warm and cosy, in good company, looking forward to the promise of a very special musical treat. The standing-room-only audience was not disappointed; enthusiastic applause, laughter and the buzz in the breaks underscored the enjoyment live music brings and this was in a class of its own. Meow's special ambience came into its own with its funky lampshades and 'take off the layers' heaters. A mention in dispatches to whoever blocked off the

front door entrance. Kevin Ikin did his magic with sound, I could almost hear every word, for which there is no higher praise. Special thanks to Ruth Birnie and everyone else involved for making this happen. A night to treasure.

Monica Cartner

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10. Acoustic Routes membership subs, 1 July 2011– 30 June 2012

\$25 Single

\$40 Double/family (children under 18)

\$15 Student, life member partners, beneficiaries

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 by you
- plus

- 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 Street
 - Voting rights at the AGM or any subsequent SGM

Payment options

1. Post cheque (made out to 'Wellington Folk Centre Inc.') and your 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 .
3. Hand your form plus payment to a committee member at an Acoustic Routes event.

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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

11. Are you ready to perform?



Opportunities are available for support acts for many of our monthly concerts. 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.

Current Acoustic Routes members will be given priority, but we have not excluded

non-members. 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 president@acousticroutes.org.nz

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12. 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 open mic night at Mojo Invincible, 161 Willis Street.

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, email 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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13. 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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14. 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: The Dog and Duck Jazz Bistro, Lindale
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: 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

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, wairarapafolkclub@paradise.net.nz

Wellington Bluegrass Society

When: 3rd Friday of month, 8.00 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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