

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 also be printed out from a pdf located on the website www.acousticroutes.org.nz/balladeer

1. Acoustic Routes Friday Night Welcome Concert, Wellington Folk Festival, Brookfields, October 21

Thanks to the Festival Organising Committee, Acoustic Routes again has the honour of organising the Welcome Concert for Wellyfest. A different format this year – we have invited clubs from around the region to nominate an act, so look for a diversity of talent from the lower North Island.

And for those of you who just may be feeling a teensy bit torn about missing the rugby, the Festival Committee has bowed to popular demand and the Fletcher Hall will be turned into games territory for Friday and Sunday evenings, with a big screen for the fans. The main concert will also be moved to Saturday night with the ceilidh on Sunday evening.

Check out the festival website for more details.
<http://wellingtonfolkfestival.wordpress.com/>

A reminder that the Festival replaces the usual Acoustic Routes Concert on the fourth Sunday of October.

If you want to catch up with one of the highlights from Wellyfest 2010, Beyondsemble have a CD launch and gig at the Wellington Bluegrass Society in Petone on Sunday the 2nd of October.

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2. The Prez Sez

Hi everyone,

I'm new to the president's job, and I've taken it on with some apprehension because I am well aware of just how much time and energy Mary put into it over three years.

We've had some rare old times in the past year or so: lots of good music, and some great concerts (Eric Bogle was a highlight). But we have had a few trying times as well, especially when we lost both our performance venues, Ruby Lounge and the Katipo Café, in short order and had to quickly find replacements.

Much of the burden of that fell on Mary's shoulders and we owe her a big thank you for steering us through. Mary also initiated a lot of the ideas for concerts and other activities.

Peter has also done a superb job as treasurer, as our healthy financial state shows, and also keeping us up to the mark with our responsibilities as an incorporated society, a task that promises to get more demanding as the rules change.

So, it's a hard act to follow, but we on the new committee will be doing our best to keep the momentum going, and to have some fun doing it.

We have some more top-notch concerts coming up, with Jez Lowe and Kate Bramley and then Emily Smith and Jamie McClennan booked for early next year. We will be aiming to provide as many opportunities as possible for our own members and other local musicians to perform as well, both in concerts and the regular blackboard and singaround events.

If you are keen to perform or have ideas you want us to try, give us a yell.

I hope we can keep reaching out and connecting with the wider acoustic community, too, as we've done with our September New Horizons concert, featuring some of the emerging young acoustic musicians; a follow up to the highly successful Bloomin' Youth concert last year.

As is normal, we won't be running a Sunday concert in October, because we have Welly Fest to look forward to on Labour Weekend

I always come away from the festival feeling exhausted but also energised, the batteries recharged from a weekend of wall-to-wall music. With the lineup for this year's Wellyfest, I'm expecting a repeat experience.

But we've got another blackboard night at Mojo and a singaround to warm ourselves up before the big weekend.

So, stay tuned and good folkling.

Slainte, Kev.

3. Acoustic Routes monthly blackboard sessions, Mojo Invincible, 7 October, 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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4. Monthly singaround, 9 October, 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 will be at Julie Lamb's home, 30 Derwent Street, Island Bay.

Email: jla.julieflamb@gmail.com

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

Here's a song that caught the singaround mood, and the President's ear, at the last one (courtesy of Jill Brasell):

"Why Don't We Do This More Often?"

Why don't we do this more often

Just what we're doing tonight
Gee but it's great to get together again
Why does it only happen now and then
We ought to do this more often
Don't you agree that I'm right
We make each other laugh
We make each other sing
And you can never overdo a good thing, so
Why don't we do this more often
Just what we're doing tonight!

(Music [Allie Wrubeland](#), lyrics [Charles Newman](#), published [1941](#))

Check out this version:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UREa2siHOAY>

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5. Review – New Horizons concert, Meow, 25 September

Grey hair. Sometimes it seemed that's all there was.

We were young when we first fell in love with, sang and played this music. But by the time it came to be labelled "acoustic routes", young people didn't seem to play it any more. Just us.

In the past few years, though, that's changed. And it's wonderful. Not only are fresh faces bringing passion, dedication and skill to the music, they're taking the raw material and moulding it to make it their own. They're giving us old and new in the same music, which is exactly as it should be. This could not have been more clear at the Acoustic Routes' New Horizons concert.

Anne Russell started the evening alone and gave a convincing demonstration of power in simplicity: a hallmark of this music. She gave us a taste of the music's broad range as well as of her considerable vocal abilities by taking us all over the map and through a century and a half in the space of 40 minutes or so.

Most impressive vocally was her rendition of Joni Mitchell's "California"--a bear of a song to sing but she pulled it off. We "raging folkies", as she put it, were delighted to help out on a couple of simple and beautiful anthems: Stephen Foster's beautiful "Hard Times" and Florence Reese's "Which Side Are You On". My personal favourites were the rockabilly classic "Endless Sleep" by Jody Reynolds; "Jackson" by Johnny Cash and June Carter and a hilarious history lesson: "The Anglo-Saxons" by the Mountain Goats.

Her guitar and ukulele gave simple but adequate context to this eclectic selection. At the same time one is tempted to consider how her considerable natural musical gifts might be even more effectively brought out with more accompaniment and perhaps a vocal harmony.

Great vocal harmony and superbly skilled accompaniment were the hallmarks of the second act: Rupert and Grace. Frankly, Rupert plays the guitar too damn well for someone so young! Seemingly effortless and self-assured finger-picking and strumming brought context and counterpoint to a shorter but

powerful set, including, among others, Amy Winehouse and Robert Plant/Allison Krauss ("Please Read the Letter").

Like Anne, Rupert and Grace delivered the goods with poise and charm, clearly enjoying themselves, each other and the music. My favourite was another mid 19th century number, the moving hymn "Angel Band": one of a number of songs many of us had been singing over the years and were thrilled to see given new life by the movie "O Brother Where Art Thou". Rupert and Grace knew better than not to invite the raging folkies to sing along with that one.

It's fair to say most who were in the audience that night have tried our hand at learning to play an instrument and at vocal harmonies. That means the combination of skill and hard work that went into Rupert and Grace's instrumentation and singing was not lost on us. These people were preaching to the choir!

Topping off the evening was the largest group: the four piece "Eb & Sparrow" led by gifted singer/songwriter Ebony Lamb. Lamb's smoky, expressive and powerful voice was the focus, and rightly so. But this band showed us what a group of accomplished musicians can do, in terms of instrumentation and arrangements, to really bring out the power, beauty and emotional range of the vocals. The sensitive and melodic guitar flat-picking of Bryn Heveldt along with the expert and restrained bass, drums and backup vocals of Jason Johnson and Nick Brown were a real pleasure.

Ebony kicked it off with her own arrangement of "The Crawdad Song", giving much-needed new life to an old standard. Among the highlights were two originals, and I hope I haven't got the titles wrong: "I Can Hear You Calling, Calling" and "Two wolves"--a dark and haunting song in a minor key.

In a setting like this, somebody was bound to do a Gillian Welch song. Eb & Sparrow chose "Elvis Presley Blues" - a nice way to pay tribute to another gifted songwriter and a man who perhaps influenced our music more than we may be aware.

All of what we heard last night we couldn't have heard without the expert sound engineering of muso/filmmaker Barry Carter.

Old and new music. Old and young enjoying it all together. Let's hope that when these young people are older they will be as lucky as we are now. May the music go on.

Peter Dyer

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6. Text reminders about events

Would you be interested in receiving a text reminder on the day of Acoustic Routes events? If so, please email your cellphone number to the Treasurer Anne McGregor.

treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz

7. 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.')
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 to treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz.
3. Look for membership forms at Wellyfest or at any Acoustic Routes event.

Many thanks

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8. 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

9. 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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10. Acoustic Routes contacts

President: Kevin Ikin president@acousticroutes.org.nz

Correspondence: Monica Cartner secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz

Publicity: publicity@acousticroutes.org.nz

Membership: Anne McGregor treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz

Balladeer: Philippa Boy 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

11. 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: (Mostly) every 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm
Where: Mayfair Cafe, 116 Main Street, Upper Hutt
Contact: Kevin & Sue Meehan (04) 970 4008
For enquiries or newsletter, email harrier@paradise.net.nz

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

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