

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/balladeer

1. New Horizons Concert, Meow, Sunday 25 September 7:30 pm

Last year we were treated to a fabulous "Bloomin' Youth" concert featuring talented young folkies from the Wellington region. This year we are once again in for a special treat with stunning young players who we have heard out and about. Bring your friends and relations and support these wonderful young musicians who can teach all of us a thing or two about what's going down right now.

Anne Russell



Anne has sung in various choirs and musical groups over many years, including the Wellington Youth Choir. She plays guitar and piano and likes tinkering with whatever other musical instruments are lying around. Her voice has the purity of morning dew on a fresh summer's day!

Rupert and Grace

Rupert and Grace are two young musicians from Wellington who share a love of strong and clear vocal harmony. They sing like a two person choir. Their performances include Appalachian folk songs, contemporary popular music, and African-style vocal arrangements.



Matt Pickering

Matt Pickering released his debut full-length album *The Burnside Church* earlier this year. It is part lament, part new season. It is intelligent, personal, honest, and Wellington-centric. Recorded



at the Braeburn Studio with Robbie Duncan. Think finger picking in alternate tunings, stories put to song. Matt will have banjo player, Brendan Schenk, accompanying him.

Eb & Sparrow



Original Americana from soulful songwriter and singer Ebony Lamb, supported by musicians Bryn Heveldt, Jason Johnson Bass. and Nick Brown. A wonderful combination of country, Appalachian, and Spanish influence in a completely original form, not to be missed.

ENTRY public \$15, Acoustic Routes members \$10, friends of performers (age under 25 years) \$5

And a fabulous way to get in the groove for the New Horizons concert - Richard Klein and friends will be having their usual **Americana jam session from 4 to 7 pm also at Meow**. 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. Acoustic Routes monthly blackboard session, Mojo Invincible, Friday 2 September, 7 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.

3. Monthly singaround, Sunday 11 September, 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 that famed folkie venue Anne and Roy's place, 21 Gordon Road Plimmerton. You are welcome to bring your own beer or wine. No charge, but a koha is requested to cover tea, coffee and biscuits.



Tel: 04 233 8567, mobile 027 4599367

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4. Club news: new committee 2011/12

At the AGM on 28 August, a new committee was duly elected. The lucky elected few are: Kevin Ikin (President), Anne McGregor (Treasurer), Monica Cartner (Secretary) and committee members Philippa Boy (Balladeer), Roy McGuinness, and Diana Bastion.

And the J.A. PAN prize for most improved performer of the year was awarded to: Peter Dyer. Congratulations everyone!

5. Review of Kaleidoscope Concert at Meow, 28 August 2011

Advertised as comprising a 'kaleidoscope of Acoustic Routes luminaries who volunteered to get together and create music across a range of colourful genres', this concert followed the club's AGM. My dictionary has several definitions for kaleidoscope: the 'optical toy' we may have known as children; 'a continually shifting pattern' and 'a complicated set of circumstances'. There were four groups arranged by colour, which in some cases dictated their themes, and there was indeed an ever-shifting pattern, but with one constant: a rich feast of delightful music. With Roy McGuinness as compere and Barry Carter on the sound system, the evening flowed smoothly.



First up was 'Purple 5', a duo of Carol Shortis and Nigel Parry. whose brief was traditional folk. Their unaccompanied songs included a delightful version of 'Rosebud in June', and join-in numbers like 'When Jones' ale was new' and 'Rambling in the new-mown hay'. In a final medley they mixed and matched different songs, sliding in and out of canons and coming into the audience to encourage us in two parts of a round. Both singers have powerful voices but they blended delightfully in rich harmonies as well as in unison. Peter Denee joined them with percussion on one number, in an otherwise wholly a cappella set. In rustic garb, garlanded hats, and ale glass in hand, Purple 5 really looked the part for their selection.



The Yellow group 'contemporary folk' (since the 1960s) was another duo, Annie van Herck on vocals and Dave Stringer playing guitar and singing. This group chose songs which are classics of the genre: Goffin and King's 'Will you love me tomorrow', Ralph McTell's 'Streets of London' and a Beatles number, enabling happy audience participation. At the end of their set Dave introduced a couple of novel items, one a ballad he and friends wrote some decades ago about the sad fate of a Mini Cooper, gleaming with tragi-comedy and joyful double-entendres; which required quite a story to introduce it. Annie's singing was accompanied by props - the funniest song of the evening. Their final piece was an upbeat parody, penned by Dave.



The Green group, 'Kermit's special friends' was Peter Denee, Mary Livingston and Kevin Ikin. They had the theme of nature and environment, but their first song cut straight to the chase with Kermit's song, 'It's not easy being green' delivered with tender humour by Peter, and notable for Kevin's delicate 'shimmering'. All three played guitars, but Mary also had her banjo, and Kevin his bouzouki, among other instruments. Their songs were mostly serious. Dylan's 'A hard rain's a-gonna fall' is hard to perform because it's wordy and repetitive, but by sharing the lyrics and harmonies around this trio did it justice. A highlight of the evening was Mary's original song on its first outing: 'Tsunami', reflecting on the recent disaster in Japan, in an area Mary knows well. Her banjo sounding like a koto, she sang in both English and Japanese. Their last song, with Peter's hint of whale-song on ocarina, was Bogle's tragic 'Song of the whale'. The group did full justice to these emotional songs with heart-tugging harmonies and instrumental work.



The final group was Blue, with the diverse range of blues, bluegrass and country as their genres. A trains theme united the set of this cleverly-named group: 'Carriage Return'. Frank Boardman kept things on track with his guitar, Julie Lamb took on vocals, percussion and train whistles, and Gordon Chamley contributed vocals and made that harmonica talk, shout and weep. Julie has a fine big blues voice and expression to go with it. She and Gordon sang 'train' and 'letter' blues among others; Frank contributed country numbers including Cash's 'Guess things happen that way'. Marian Carter was a guest harmoniser on one number. The arrangements were tight; this group knew exactly what they were doing. They ensured each member's strengths got to shine, taking turns to lead and to support.

I had the honour, along with Carmel Russell of the Wellington International Ukulele Orchestra, of awarding the 'Bob Cooper-Grundy award for the best-dressed group' to Purple 5. The Linda Sorrenson chocolate fish award for best original work went to Mary Livingston for 'Tsunami', and the Golden Plectrum award for best instrumental break went to Gordon Chamley of 'Carriage Return'. But in the end the winner on the night was folk music.

The August concert has traditionally been the club's 'blind date' concert. The kaleidoscope concert served a similar function in getting self-selected people together to make music with the theme or style already set. From this one experience it looks to work very well. Sadly, there was no 'red group' to showcase political and protest songs, a staple of folk music and deserving of an

outing. Numbers volunteering were small, but the standard was high. The audience seemed engaged and appreciative throughout the evening but it will be good to canvass opinion and consider running a similar session next year.

{by Marie Russell}

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6. 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

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 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.

Occasionally, particularly over summer, we put on additional concerts or events to take advantage of artists passing through the country for festivals. We also hold annual parties on Waitangi Day and before Christmas; and in spring we hold a weekend retreat at Riverslea in Otaki Gorge.

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 membership subs, 1 July 2011 - 30 June 2012

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

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

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9. Acoustic Routes contacts

President: president@acousticroutes.org.nz

Correspondence: secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz

Publicity: publicity@acousticroutes.org.nz

Membership: treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz

Balladeer: 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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10. 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 news letter 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

Welsh Dragon Unaccompanied Singing Session

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

11. And finally... Wellyfest 2011

Registrations are open for the 2011 Wellington Folk Festival - early bird discounts are available until 30 September. If you would like to book a bunk, register early as these often go quickly. Register online at www.wellingtonfolkfestival.org.nz with payment either via e-banking or by deposit to the Festival's bank account.

We have scoured the globe to bring some of the best performers of the folk community to Wainuiomata. Our impressive guest list will feature in the next update email.

There will also be the usual workshop programme – with sessions for kids, dancers, singers and players. Those of you who might be torn between the Festival and the Rugby World Cup, fear not! We will turn the Fletcher Hall into games territory for Friday and Sunday evenings, with a big screen for the fans. We've also adjusted the programme so that the main concert will be on the Saturday night, with the ceilidh on Sunday evening.

So don't wait - go to www.wellingtonfolkfestival.org.nz and register now!