

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. Jez Lowe and Kate Bramley concert, Meow, Thursday 16 February, 7:30 pm



For the last twenty-five years, Jez Lowe has toured the world, building up a formidable reputation and gaining the respect of his peers and his audience alike. Folk supremo Richard Thompson called him "the best songwriter to emerge from the UK in a long time", and his songs are among the most widely sung by folksingers and bands in clubs

and festivals. His 15th album *Northern Echoes* is just out, and the BBC's *Radio Ballads* - to which he contributed twenty-odd songs last year- won a Sony Radio Academy Award.

This year he is touring with fiddler, songwriter and singer Kate Bramley who is fast earning her own reputation on the UK folk scene following her debut solo CD *Little Canaan*. Kate is steeped in the musical traditions of both the UK and America. Through her collaborations with US-based band Sweetgrass as well as Jez Lowe's Bad Pennies she has created a repertoire of traditional and original songs and tunes that have made her one of the most sought-after young performers on the UK scene.

OPENING ACT: Rupert and Grace



Rupert and Grace are two young musicians from Wellington who were a highlight of the Acoustic Routes New Horizons concert in September last year and they share a love of strong, clear vocal harmony. Their music traverses a range of genres including Appalachian folk songs, contemporary popular music, and African-style vocal arrangements. To further his eclectic musical skills, Rupert is heading to Indonesia in June to study gamelan.

ENTRY \$25 (\$20 Acoustic Routes Members)

2. Emily Smith and Jamie McClennan concert, Meow, Thursday 1 March, 7:30 pm



Award-winning Scottish folk singer Emily Smith and New Zealand-born multi-instrumentalist Jamie McClennan are back to delight audiences with an inspiring mix of original songs and tunes alongside updated settings of traditional material. They have been creating music together since 2002, when Jamie joined Emily's band on fiddle and lead guitar, as well as producing Emily's latest solo album *Traveller's Joy*, nominated for Folk Singer of the Year and Best Traditional Track at the forthcoming

BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards to be announced this month.

Emily grew up in Dumfriesshire, South West Scotland and moved to Glasgow in 1999 to study Scottish Music at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow. Already an accomplished accordion player, it wasn't until commencing her studies that she found her true passion was for song.

In the same year Jamie moved to Scotland to further his musical career. Raised in Hamilton he had grown up immersed in NZ's folk scene and played in several folk, blues and surf bands before making the move. He became a sought-after player on the Glasgow music scene playing ceilidhs and in the award-winning four piece "Quarter Mile".

Emily and Jamie have toured worldwide performing on the main stage of many prestigious festivals including Cambridge Folk Festival, Celtic Connections, Denmark's Tonder Folk Festival and the National Folk Festival in Australia. Performing a beautiful blend of traditional and original folk songs and tunes on vocals, accordion, piano, fiddle and guitar this is an act not to miss!

OPENING ACT: Polytropos



Rennie Pearson and Oscar West are Polytropos, an exciting young multi-instrumental duo who were guest artists at Wellyfest 2011. They have a passion for Scottish and Irish traditional music with a twist (or without).

ENTRY \$25 (\$20 Acoustic Routes Members)

3. Singaround, Meow, Sunday 26 February, 7:30 pm

With such a lot of concerts and other events on offer in February, we thought we would make our regular 4th Sunday of the month an extra opportunity for members to share their own music with each other. 7:30 at Meow.



4. The Prez Sez

Yeah giddy everyone,

Welcome to the first edition of The Balladeer for 20112.

With the year now just about back in full swing, hopefully you have all returned from the break and the various summer festivals with batteries fully recharged, albeit with worn strings and reeds and a few more calluses on the fingers.

Summer is probably a misnomer, with the constantly changing weather we've had and most of us camping out over New Year had a wet time of it. But for Acoustic

Routes, the year has got off to a cracking start with The Chaps concert in Wellington. We were lucky to see them the night after Anniversary Day as they headed north for the Tui folk awards at the Auckland Festival.*

I think we tested the capacity of Meow that night. We got a fantastic turnout and packed the venue and The Chaps responded by turning on a memorable show. An important part of achieving that was the support we got from other clubs and individuals, in helping to get the word out about the concert.

Andrew Bicknell of the Wellington Bluegrass Society generously helped out by promoting the concert at his events earlier in the month, and including details in his Bluegrass newsletter. Kevin Meehan at Mainly Acoustic in Upper Hutt also publicised the Chaps concert in his club newsletter. Gerard Hudson, at an extremely busy time for him, made a special effort to send out his monthly

acoustic email update before the event. Local swing maestro, Andrew London, a self-declared fan of the Chaps, did the same in his own newsletter.

Others within and outside Acoustic Routes also went out of their way to help. What we saw was a lovely example of folkie fellowship at work.

It highlights the mutual support that exists between the various clubs. It's much appreciated and in an increasingly fragmented music scene, it's important to continue this and build on it where we can.

Thank you everyone.

Slainte and good folking - Kevin.

***BREAKING NEWS**

The Tui award for the best folk album has gone to Amiria Grenell, for her album *Three Feathers*. The award was presented by the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand (RIANZ) at the Auckland Folk Festival on Sunday night.

Dunedin's Chaps with their latest album, *Don't Worry 'bout Your Age*, and Mel Parsons from Westland were the other finalists.

Amiria Grenell, who's based in Lyttelton, recorded *Three Feathers* at the Grenell farm in Whitecliffs. Family links run thick through the recording with brother Redford featuring on drums; and guest appearances from partner Tola and Grenell's father, New Zealand country music legend, John.

5. Acoustic Routes Waitangi Day party, 6 February, 2 pm onwards

This annual get-together at the lovely home of Anne McGregor and Roy McGuinness has become a highlight of the summer.

Please join us at 21 Gordon Road Plimmerton, anytime after 2:00 pm with the barbeque on from 4:30 pm. Bring the usual instruments, food, drink.

6. Acoustic Routes monthly blackboard session, Mojo Invincible, Friday 3 February, 7–10 pm



Time to surprise us and yourself.
Bring a friend – do a duo.
Sing a song– tell a story.
Entertain and be entertained!
Whatever happens, we are there to have fun.

Your host again this month is the inimitable Roy McGuinness.

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

7. Monthly singaround, Sunday 12 February, 7:30 pm

This is a great way to build your confidence as a performer or get to know a few people if you are new to “the scene”. February’s singaround is at Philippa’s geodesic dome house, 14 Tremaine Place Camborne.

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.

Tremaine Place is off Pope Street at the top of the Camborne hill.

- 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 reservoir and cell phone towers. Number 14 is at the bottom of the cul-de-sac.

Coming across the Haywards from the Hutt, follow the northern side of the Pauatahanui Inlet. At the end of the inlet, the road winds up the hill into Camborne (Grays Road). Pope Street is on the left just after Grays Road starts heading down towards SH1. Tremaine Place is on the right just before the water reservoir.

Tel: 021 464640

8. Review of Te Rangi festival, 21–23 January



This was my second Te Rangi, after an absence of some years, and it was lovely to be welcomed again into the sheltered basin where Mary and Peter’s home sits surrounded by hills and trees, and to enjoy the warmth of folky friends and a couple of scorching Hawkes Bay summer days. The venue has been upgraded a lot since I was last there, and the usual wonderful, inclusive mix of music and mayhem took place.

The compulsory blind date groups (under Mary's benign dictatorship) outdid themselves, with the eventual winners led by Wayne Morris in a very creative parody "There's a hole in my hotty, dear Mary, dear Mary" (I guess you had to be there!). A particular fun challenge for me was Janet Muggeridge's workshop on jamming for beginners.

The waterfall and swimming hole in the river and the pool at the house provided welcome respite from the heat and the (celestial) stars on Friday night were of a brightness to take your breath away. Sunday night was a bit cold and damp but by then nothing could take the edge off that magic festival feeling.

I definitely plan to put Te Rangi back on my Wellington Anniversary calendar from here on – anyway, Mary told me that you are only allowed one year off, but I was forgiven because I did not know the rules. Thanks again Mary, Peter and family for all your hard work and a really wonderful little festival.

Philippa Boy

9. Balladeer music classifieds

This is a new feature for Acoustic Routes Members who would like to advertise music-related items – lessons, instruments, band members wanted, etc.

Beginner and intermediate guitar with Don Franks

If you are just getting into the guitar and could use a little help and encouragement, or if you've learned the basics and want to keep progressing, sign up for this evening class at Tawa College Adult and Community Education. Don Franks teaches basic guitar skills in a context of general musicianship and musical enjoyment. Learn to play tunes in a variety of music styles, experience playing with others, and get many practical tips from a seasoned pro. Last year's classes were well received, with several people following on for second and third blocks.

Classes are on Wednesdays from 7-9pm, and run for 8 weeks. Term 1 starts 15 February. Own guitar essential. Enrol now at www.tawacommed.co.nz.

Don is also available for private lessons in guitar, banjo, ukulele, for individuals or groups of up to 6, or piano for individuals. Phone 972 3298.

Womansong Workshop, 31 January, 6:15-8:15 pm

Open workshop for all women interested in joining this singing group based in Newtown and directed by Carol Shortis.

We enjoy singing a variety of songs from all over the world, including Africa, Eastern Europe and the Celtic folk tradition, and would like to invite you to this special evening workshop where you can join in being part of our sound. The workshop is open to women of any ability, you do not need to be able to read music or sound like an opera singer!

Newtown Community Centre, corner of Columbo and Rintoul Streets.
Tuesday 31st January, 6:15-8:15pm. Cost: \$10 for the night.

10. Are you ready to perform?



Diana Bastion is compiling a directory of people who are interested in performing at Acoustic Routes events, including support acts for our monthly concerts.

We don't always know who is keen to have a go, so do please tell us if you want to step up. performers@acousticroutes.org.nz

11. 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

12. Acoustic Routes contacts

President: Kevin Ikin president@acousticroutes.org.nz

Correspondence: Monica Cartner secretary@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

Performance opportunities: Diana Bastion
performers@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

13. 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/