



Kia Ora Newtown

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Welcome to the July issue of the Newtown News! I hope everyone has been keeping warm out there. The winter season has definitely arrived with frosted over car windows, clothes that just won't dry and sniffly noses!

Did you know we have a tool library here at the community centre? That's just what it sounds like - a lending library for tools. It'll only cost you \$30 for one year (or for Timebank members - 2 Time Credits) you can then hire out any tool from our current inventory of over 200 items, at no additional cost. We reckon every human doesn't need to own a drill if they are only going to use it once a year. Let's do what our parents taught us when we were kids and share!

We're celebrating the Newtown Tool Library moving into a bigger space at the centre, meaning we can expand our collection of tools. So this issue is all about DIY and tools.

Tool Library coordinator Ben Phillips explains a little history about how the Newtown Tool Library came to be and shines a spotlight on the sharing economy in his article "sharing is caring" on pages 4 and 5.

On the page opposite, I have a chinwag with Tool Library volunteer and Notorious Newtowner Deepa-Rose Sealy about her fascinating life. Rose is so notorious that you can find her helping out everywhere in Newtown, including helping out this little wee mag with content each month. Rose shares her knowledge about the NZ Native plant Kawakawa on page six.

Later in the month I'll be putting on a painter's smock and hosting a rock painting workshop on the 21st July - yep, it's also pretty self-explanatory and will see people painting rocks! The #rocks movement is nationwide - our mates up the road in Palmerston North started the initiative in New Zealand and it's taking off! #Wellingtonrocks encourages people to be active and creative on the cheap - three wins in my book! Anyone is welcome to pop along - check out this and all the other exciting Newtown events in the "what's the happens?" column on page eight.

Ngā mihi,

Eryn Gribble

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Cover image by Annie Karen Liang , Design by Hania Tarabishy

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Baobab Cafe



THE
RAMEN
SHOP

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Notorious NEWTowner

You might recognise the name of this month's Notorious Newtowner - Deepa-Rose Sealy is a regular contributor for the Newtown News. This month Eryn Gribble turns the tables on Rose and makes this writer the story!

Deepa-Rose Sealy spent her earliest years in an orphanage in the north of India, in a town called Dehra Dun. She has some vague memories of this time but no real information on how she came to be there. At three years of age she was adopted by the famous Anglo-Indian writer Irwin Sealy but to Rose simply 'Dad'. Her adoptive mother Cushla is a talented painter who was always open and honest with Rose about how they came to be a family.

Having connections in both India and New Zealand, Rose and her family would spend years darting in between the two family homes - one in each country. Rose's schooling was a mixture of being 'homeschooled by introverts' (her parents) and attending strict Catholic schools when the family was based in Christchurch. Rose has no siblings and at times was the only child in an adult world. She smiles recalling her childhood with fondness and a reflective understanding of how unique it was,



"I feel blessed. Dad used to give me these books of famous painters - like Leonardo da Vinci along with a magnifying glass. He'd ask me to tell him what I saw in the painting. I loved that they were always so engaged with me" she says.

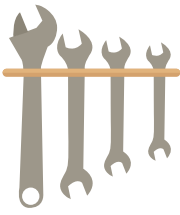
Rose came to Wellington to study landscape architecture 9 years ago and fell in love with the city. "How lucky are we to have the town belt? I live right in the middle of the city - and a two-minute walk from the forest!" she says. Rose is a passionate pacer walking up to three hours per day, "I literally walk everywhere".

Wellington is lucky to have her because Rose is a powerhouse of dedication for her community - a real activist! Devoting on average a week 10 hours to volunteering, some weeks it can be much more. Rose gives her time regularly for The Newtown Tool Library, Kaibosh, The Green Party "Because it's election year", Newtown Community Centre, Mount Vic Hub and the Wellington Timebank. I'm in awe of her efforts and enthusiasm!

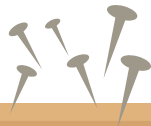
Our time is drawing to an end - but there is so much more I want to hear about. Tidbits have been dropped through our chat like breadcrumbs and leave me wanting to know more. I want all the details of the overland trip that 19 year old Rose and her mother took from India to England. It saw them travelling through Pakistan and Iran, where the political climate made things dangerous. Rose, like her dad, is a writer so I think she better get to work on her memoir as this warm wahine is not short on stories. Ask her to share one the next time you see her at a Newtown community event!

Sharing is Caring

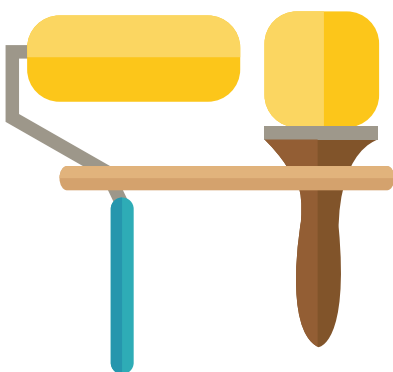
By: Ben Phillips, Coordinator, Newtown Tool Library



When I got wind of this month's Newtown News theme, I quivered with anticipation at the thought of delving into DIY. The do-it-yourself kaupapa is woven into the cultural fabric of Newtown like the piquant aroma of spice around Moshims on Wilson Street. This aspect of Newtownian life is quietly treasured like the punctual rumble of a lion's roar rolling across Newtown Park. From sturdy foundations laid with historic working-class grit to the lofty resilience shown by migrant families, Newtown has been constructed with DIY principles.

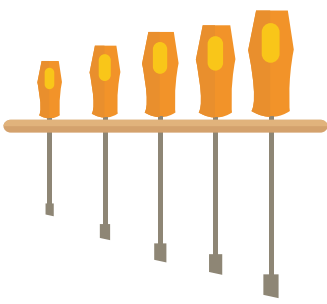


So, what does DIY look like in Newtown in 2017? A good place to start is to follow the gentle tinkles, whirrs, and clinks coming from the Newtown Community and Cultural Centre on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons. This curious symphony is the bucolic melody of tools of all varieties being carefully checked, tagged and loaned by industrious Tool Library volunteers. The Tool Library was started by Natalia Lombardo in October 2016. Broadly inspired by open-source democratic decision making and more specifically global movements towards community self-reliance, our Tool Library is steadily growing in size and reputation.

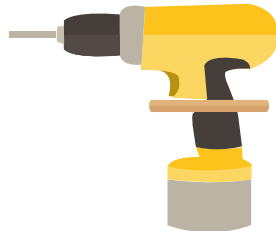


Tool Libraries are popping up worldwide like mushrooms in the Carrara Park community gardens. This blossoming trend is fertilised by both the emergence of new technologies and a simmering resistance to hyper-consumerism. All Tool Libraries aim to facilitate access to the tools people need to improve their standard of living, using online platforms to self-organise. This agenda places us somewhere on the new-tech economy spectrum, but what does sharing really mean today and how will technology shape our community now and in the future?

You might have heard of Zaarly, Lyft or Kidizen. If not, you will have heard of Uber, Kickstarter or Trademe. These peculiar sounding internet entities have more than just quirky names in common. They are all part of the fast emerging network of innovative platforms commonly known as the 'sharing economy'; the Tool Library is part of this. Of course, the sharing economy has existed since the first organised family groups emerged in antiquity. Until now it has survived in garage sales, op-shops and volunteering, but this very human pastime is rapidly moving online. The sharing economy is broadly defined as encompassing any collaborative consumption conducted via online marketplaces. This model of collaborative consumption aims to disrupt traditional forms of commerce and transform 'consumers' into 'obtainers' who obtain and provide resources. With a projected total value of \$335 billion by 2025, there's a lot of sharing going on. This sounds pretty good for collaboration and consumer choice, but what kind of sharing is this?

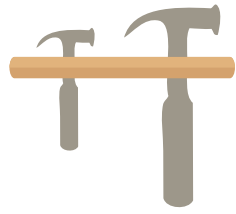


Susie Cagle suggests the sharing economy has characterised itself as a revolution. We're led to believe that using a ride-share app is an act of civil disobedience capable of saving the planet and our souls. The larger players in this space enjoy crafting fluffy taglines such as 'People, Places, Love and Community' (Airbnb) and 'We're your friend with a car' (Lyft). Paraded as enlightened capitalism, Cagle worries it looks more like neoliberal solutionism with a steamroller approach to laws and regulations which protect workers and consumers.



The success of the sharing economy has been linked to an economic recession with sharing companies inviting vulnerable people into more precarious employment.

This adds to growing numbers of 'Precariats' (workers who lack job security), which can ultimately affect a community's material or psychological welfare. Uber's tagline 'Be Your Own Boss' illustrates this strategy perfectly. Unfortunately, 72 percent of Uber drivers surveyed by National Public Radio in the US said they are forced to accept agreements they did not like. In The Harvard Business Review, G. M. Eckhardt suggests consumers desire cost-effectiveness and freedom from the 'social and emotional obligations embedded in ownership and sharing.' She illustrates this by quoting Uber's other (possibly more honest) tagline "Better, faster and cheaper than a taxi."



If consumers are using these new disruptive technologies to avoid social and emotional obligations, is it really sharing? Ideally sharing should be a not-for-profit social exchange between friends and family and not conflated with the exploitation of workers vulnerabilities. The rapid spread of disruptive technology has opened space for faceless tech employers to offer supposedly DIY work scenarios. But it has also opened spaces for people to truly share resources out of a need to foster trust and social capital. A sharing approach to DIY projects such as Tool Libraries, Timebanks and Repair Cafés sprouts from a need to build resilience and support those who find themselves in the Precariat class.



As the silicon dust settles I see a spectrum of integrity emerging. It spans the sharing economy with the global tech-Goliaths at one end, and tool librarians at the other, picking up stones and issuing the DIY warcry....
Access Before Ownership!



References:

1. Susie Cagle – "The Case Against Sharing.", May 2014, www.medium.com
2. Giana M. Eckhardt – "The Sharing Economy Isn't About Sharing At All", January 2014, www.hbr.org
3. Lucy Gao – "Collaborative.", March 2014, www.collaborativeconsumption.com
4. Cyndi Suarez – "How real is Uber's Be Your Own Boss Tagline?" June 2017, www.nonprofitquarterly.org
5. https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/sharing_economy

Introducing Kawakawa

By Deepa-Rose Sealy

We're still celebrating Matariki so this is the time for our green thumbs to protrude as green and as big as ever! For all of time; immemorial annual agricultural rituals have been determined by the stars and the moon; Matariki is no different.

But what should you plant given winter stunts vegetation growth? How about a citrus tree to bring you juicy fruit by next winter? Or root vegetables for your end of winter warming roasts? Why not bury some organic garlic cloves in your garden bed (or pot)? Or plant something to flourish flowers in Spring?

Then when that's done and you have your feet up, your green thumbs less protruding, it is the perfect time to read up on some advantageous and healing plants often lost in the flurry of urban life.

You could have some Kawakawa leaves gently infuse in your hot cup of water to seep into your body and give you the warm glow of health! Such infusions are a great general tonic's for health but can also more specifically be excellent to relieve pain, bladder problems, chest infections and skin ailments. Win, win I say!

You will have seen Kawakawa around, some in our back gardens, but perhaps for most on native bush walks where they happily thrive in New Zealand's subtropical climate. If you're unsure, Kawakawa leaves have a distinctive set of holes in their broadly rounded, almost heart-shaped leaves and small candle-like fruiting spikes.

So sit back, and smell the Kawakawa!



The 'Our Town Newtown' project Questionnaire is now live! This questionnaire is available for anyone that lives, works or plays in Newtown to fill out! Together with Wellington City Council and Newtown locals we want to develop ideas and identify how to best spend the Wellington City Council allocated funds for community facilities in Newtown.

We're keen to understand where we are starting from : What Newtown is, what Newtown has, what Newtown needs, and how Newtown does things. The questionnaire is designed to collect information about this.

The online version of the questionnaire can be found at:<https://tinyurl.com/jwcmm4g>

Please fill this in and then share wildly! If you or anyone you know would rather be interviewed, instead of filling in a form, please let us know by emailing us at ourtownnewtown@gmail.com.



THIS IS NOT A DRILL....!



Combination Square

By: Sparky O'Toole

BROUGHT TO YOU BY....



This edgy little guy is a trusty fella who's totally on the level and measures up to the highest standards. You'll see a combination square slung on the hip of most carpenters (even the cowboys) and ready for quick draw action in combination with the builder's pencil. As a rule of thumb marking a line across your timber before cutting is essential for a job well done.

Using a square is the quick and easy way to ensure a straight cut. This square gives you perfect 90 or 45-degree angles and even helps in checking the levels with its handy spirit or bubble level.

Millimetres are marked on the square so you can get that accuracy needed when cutting any material from timber, stone or metal.

Hot Tip: The spirit level piece is adjustable so you can accurately measure your material (timber, stone, etc) and then adjust your cutting saw or measure your gap so the material will fit. No need to mess around with measuring tapes. You can also completely remove the level piece and use it to find subtle levels on materials such as tiles or paving stones. So in the spirit of DIY get back to square one and take your carpentry project to the next level with this essential tool.

Poetry Corner

The council flat blues - By: Kate Yianakis - Newtown Park Apartments - 21 September 2016

*Livin' by myself in a council flat
Own no dog, no bird, no cat
But I'm not lonely*

*Got the telephone on
Checked the dial tone
But I'm not lonely*

*Son didn't visit
Daughter's busy
But I'm not lonely*

*Grandkids on holidays
They're doin' activities
But I'm not lonely*

*Muh radio is blarin'
Outside people are chattin'
But I'm not lonely*

*Pigeon's lookin' in and bobbin' its head
We're not allowed to give 'em bread
But I'm not lonely*

*I've watched muh TV programs
Now its playin' the infomercials
But I'm not lonely*

*It's early hours of the mornin'
Everyone's wrapped up in bed and sleepin'
What's it gonna take to not be lonely?*

What's the Happs?

Happening at the Newtown Community Centre, Corner Rintoul & Colombo Streets, Newtown



Newtown Rocks - Rock Painting Workshop

We're bringing this national movement to Newtown! The idea is to paint rocks and hide them all over Wellington, then go searching for some new ones of your own - you can keep them, or re-hide them in outdoor locations for others to find. It's a real life treasure hunt that promotes art, creativity and being active with your whanau. **Friday 21st July**, drop-in between **12.30-3.30**, all ages welcome, FREE! Find the 'Wellington Rocks' group on facebook.

Kanga Training Kangatraining is a complete workout during which both cardiovascular endurance/flexibility and muscular capacity/strength are enhanced. Unlike traditional exercise classes, new mums need not worry about finding a babysitter or minding an unsettled baby during class because the babies are worn on them and get to be part of the action! As well as the physical benefits, the opportunity to meet other local mums in a fun, relaxed environment boosts their emotional wellbeing.

Tuesdays 12.30-1.30pm (starts 15th August, 2017).

Repair Cafe

Do you have something that needs fixing but you're not sure how to do it yourself? Bring it down to the next Newtown Tool Library Repair Café! There will be a selection of skilled volunteers on hand to help and show you how to mend, repair, improve, fix tune, glue or re-wire your loved item. Items to bring include, but are not limited to: clothing, jewellery electrical, kitchenware, toys, accessories, furniture and musical instruments. Delicious snacks & coffee/tea will be available from the Koha Kitchen. Contact newtown.tool.library@gmail.com to find out more. **Saturday 8th July, 11am-2pm.**

New Year's Resolutions

This talk presents an opportunity to reflect on the commitments made in 1840 in Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and to consider actions people can take to contribute to a Treaty-honouring society. Facilitated by Jen Margaret of Groundwork: Facilitating Change. **Tuesday 11th July**, Doors open from 6pm, Snacks provided, Talk starts at 6.30pm.

Seen From Bibémus

Colombo Productions present to you, in correspondence with projected images of Mont Sainte-Victoire (and other works), a series of short excerpts from figures in a Cézannian constellation including Gertrude Stein, Kurt Badt and the artist himself, as well as a selection of Lee Posna's devotional prose poems and a selection and performance of musical pieces performed by a string trio. There will also be cake. Join them for a fine evening of visual, aural and gustatory delights **16th July, 5pm.** See you there!

Jungle Drums Kids Show!

Listen! Can you hear the rumble of the drums? You are invited to Jungle Drums Kids Show! an exciting adventure through the African jungle. Jump, clap, dance and sing with Bismark who has come all the way from Africa to Wellington! Please note: Children must be accompanied by an adult for this 50 minute show. Adult: \$15, Child: \$10 (under 5's free), Family Pass (for 4) \$45. Cash on door. See www.jennifermoss.co.nz for more info. **Sunday 9th July, 2-3pm.**

Boomerang Bags in Newtown

Boomerang Bags is a community driven initiative tackling plastic pollution at the grassroots level. We divert textiles and fabric from landfill and upcycle it into readily available reusable bags for everyone! Are you interested in helping Boomerang Bags achieve it's goal? Boomerang Bags in Newtown is an information evening for anyone who is interested in supporting a Newtown 'chapter' of Boomerang Bags. Or if you just want to hear more about Boomerang Bags in general, feel free to come along. **Tuesday 18th June, 6.30-8.30** (doors open at 6pm for snacks).

Happening elsewhere:

Kōhunga Kōrero

Whāngaia tō Tama Toa ki te pānui pukapuka. Pakiwaitara, rotarota, waiata hoki i te reo Māori mō ngā kōhungahunga. Kei ngā whare pukapuka o Omāroro/Newtown, o Korimako/Cummings Park (Ngāio), o Waitohi/Johnsonville, o Motukairangi hoki/Miramar. Kōhunga Kōrero - Get your superhero hooked on stories. Preschool storytimes in te reo Māori. At the Newtown Library, 13 Constable St, **Tuesday 4th July, 10.30-11am.**