

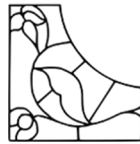
NEWTOWN NEWS

JULY 2016

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE NEWTOWN COMMUNITY AND CULTURE CENTRE.



KIA ORA
NEWTOWN



Dear Newtown,

After all my gloating about going on a fantastic holiday for two months to beautiful, hot, sunny places, I'm now back in Wellington facing the prospect of at least 4 months of cold, dark winter. Boo! But I can't complain really, two months of travelling is a privilege not many in this world get to indulge in, and besides who wouldn't want to come back to this awesome place called Newtown! Woo!

Plus I've arrived back to some exciting news (also more than a little sad for me). The Newtown Community Centre stalwart, Anna Porter has become a living incubator for a tiny human. Which is super exciting! Hooray for babies! The sad part is that she will be leaving the community centre in a couple of months (what will we do without her?!). So, if you fancy yourself a community development pro and would be keen to work alongside me in the centre's office, keep an eye on the Newtown Community Centre website at the end of this month for the job advertisement (please note: drinkers of strong, quality coffee need only apply).

Meanwhile, the Newtown News ploughs on ahead! In this issue Ra-iwi Smith brings to life another super interesting person about Newtown in his latest entry of the Notorious Newtowner. Rose Sealy writes a beautifully sculpted piece on Ramadan, and another on the woes of winter. We have fascinating and informative entries for Newtown History Files and our Gardening Column. Get the low-down on what's happening about town on the back page.

Stay warm everyone!

Ngā mihi nui,

Renee Rushton

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Cover photo Rose Sealy, Design by Olivia Richardson (thanks heaps!)

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WINTER RIVER
BY ROSE SEALY



Last Wellington winter, holding onto a Courtenay Place lamppost, I swore to never Winter again. My jacket collar was brittle against the easterly wail, my merino gloves red against melancholic skies; my body hollowed from cold.

IN THE STORMY EAST-WIND STRAINING,
THE PALE YELLOW WOODS WERE WANING,
THE BROAD STREAM IN HIS BANKS COMPLAINING,
HEAVILY THE LOW SKY RAINING

Letting go of the lamppost, resentful against the cold, I then saw a yellowed Ginko leaf dance before me; tantalizing, promising colour against Winter.

WILLOWS WHITEN, ASPENS SHIVER.
THE SUNBEAM SHOWERS BREAK AND QUIVER
IN THE STREAM THAT RUNNETH EVER

I walked on, lighter in the wind; the Winter stream warming in me. I thought of the dead, recently picked flowers, now withering into warm yellows during the winter cold. The new hues of my room.

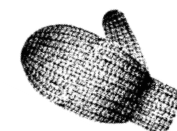
Does Winter silently take from nature, digest it, leaving promise of renewal?

The cold, twisted Pohutakawas flailing shadows of exorcisms, shaking the coat of yesterday; the process the same through all organisms. Winter a mere rapid river shrouding nature with preserving, hibernating needs; cloaking humanity to pause, to consider, to process.

BUT IN HER WEB SHE STILL DELIGHTS
TO WEAVE THE MIRROR'S MAGIC SIGHTS

After all we are all brooding rustic flowers of Winter awaiting the seeds of Spring.

*Poetry inserts from 'The Lady of Shallott' (1832) by Alfred Lord Tennyson





HUMILITY AS MY TABLE

BY ROSE SEALY



"HUMILITY IS MY TABLE,
RESPECT IS MY GARMET,
EMPATHY IS MY FOOD,
AND CURIOSITY IS MY DRINK.
AS FOR LOVE, IT HAS A THOUSAND
NAMES AND IS BY MY SIDE AT EVERY
WINDOW" - TARIQ RAMADAN



It's 5am. The heat is already rising from the dry, deserted earth. An echo starts in the neighborhood; it is the local mosque calling it's revelers to put on their cloaks of humility, to put aside their food and to gather for communal prayer.

Pause. You turn the pages of your national newspaper, ink rubbing on your fingers; the relentless stories about global Islam scarring your mind. You may have heard the word *Ramadhan* in reference to militant Islamic behaviour. You may not, however, have heard about hundreds of Muslims breaking their fast while sharing their *Iftar* (post sunset Ramadhan meal) with other Orlando grievers following the recent mass shooting.

Love has a thousand names, and this is one.

Islam has 'five pillars', their beliefs outlining their 'steps' of devotion, faith and understanding for the religion, and therefore themselves. These 'steps' are **Shahadeh** (recitation of the profession of faith), **Salat** (performing prayers five times a day), **Zakat** (paying alms to the needy), **Sawm** (fasting during Ramadhan), and **Hajj** (Mecca pilgrimage). Ultimately, as Rumi said, these five pillars lead to a place of peace with oneself, and God; a place of nothing and everything -

"KNOCK, AND HE'LL OPEN THE DOOR
VANISH, AND HE'LL MAKE YOU SHINE LIKE THE SUN
FALL, AND HE'LL RAISE YOU TO THE HEAVENS
BECOME NOTHING, AND HE'LL TURN YOU INTO EVERYTHING."

The nothing and everything is tested in the largest and most prominent event in the Islamic calendar of beliefs. Ramadhan, meaning 'scorching' in Arabic, is a time in the northern hemisphere summer of refraining from food, liquids, smoking and 'sinful' behavior; refraining everyday for 30 days from sunrise to sunset. It starts in the 9th month of the Islamic calendar, ending with the sighting of the first crescent moon.

A chapter of scorching all excess, a path paved in to oneself, and therefore a path closer to Allah.

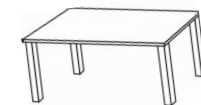
This 'fasting' initially marked the inspiration Allah gave to Mohammed to write the holy Quran in 609 AD. Mohammad's inspiration to write the Holy Book then, now creating the writing of a new chapter; a threatened legacy, carried out by millions worldwide.

So as I sit here, now with the rains painting the garden a new lush green, the local mosque call to prayer eddies through the air, thick with evening devotion. My mind turns to the fasters of the day, still hours ahead till their *Iftar*, their souls still searching amidst the stomach grumbles, dry mouths and sweaty heat.

Pushing through in their devotion; then coming to the table cloaked in humility when the food is finally laid.



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NEWTOWN HISTORY FILES BY CHRIS RABEY

After the great land sale of the majority of land in the Southern part of the North Island in the 1840s, Maori leaders were concerned with retaining traditional clearings, cultivations, pa and sacred areas. As a result, much of the Crown's energy went into preserving these lands for customary title. Of these, by 1929 about 1280 acres were vested in Maori beneficiaries, 500 acres were sold and 227 acres remained held by the Maori Trustee - 191 acres of farm land out near Kaitoke, and 36 acres in Newtown.

A notable period in Newtown's reserve's history was the 1870's, when Wellington first developed into this suburb. Commissioner of Native Reserves, Charles Heaphy, worked throughout the decade to establish a lease of the entire 36 acres to the Colonial Surgeon, Alexander Johnston. The owners of Te Aro lands reserved in customary title, including Wi Tako Ngatata, Mohi Ngaponga, Hemi Parae, opposed this lease, advocating instead using the Newtown lands for housing for themselves and their families. In 1878 a group from Te Aro seized possession of the Newtown ridge, challenging Heaphy to prove his full legal authority over the lands. Unfortunately for the Maori occupiers, Heaphy succeeded and had them forcibly removed.

The convoluted 1896 Native Reserves Act empowered the Public Trustee to enter perpetually renewable leases, at 4% of the unimproved land value, with 21-year review periods. Under these provisions the Public, and Maori Trustees, leased most of the Newtown land to large institutions - Education Department (Wellington South Intermediate School), the Health Department (Wakefield Hospital, Wellington Hospital), Athletic Park, and Wellington City Council (Granville Flats). The Athletic Park development was encouraged by the City Council Empowering Act 1908 which secured facilities in athletic facilities by empowering the Council to take the land "for sporting purposes".

KIA ORA FROM THE NEWTOWN COMMUNITY GARDENS CREW!



Winter can seem a strange time to be getting into the gardens but we've taken it as a good chance to reflect on all the great events and working bees we've had throughout the year, and think about where to next for spring and summer.

We're keen to make Carrara Park a thriving space for anyone to pick fruit and veg and nuts! Currently we're waiting to hear if our application to Council for some new fruit and nut trees is successful, and planning which perennial plants we can put into the existing beds. We're installing a rain water tank to support summer watering.

If you want to get your green fingers a bit dirty come join us at our fortnightly 10am Saturday working bees - check out our Facebook pages for details, no experience necessary! And if you're getting your fingers dirty at home now is a good time to plant garlic, get your peas and broadbeans in and spring onions in trays.

NOTORIOUS NEWTOWNER

RA-IWI SMITH HAS A CHAT WITH THE LATEST
NOTORIOUS NEWTOWNER, KIRSTY MCKAY.

The sun sears the tar seal on a Mexican highway, traffic's clogging, horns blazing. Kerstie Mackay calmly directs vehicles through whilst ensuring a clear path for a tarantula to cross the road.

It's about Opportunity for animals.

If I'm stepping down Riddiford St and I whisper at my guide dog to "find Opportunity", he's instantly an eager mess to get us to the best smelling second hand bargains in town. Kerstie manages the two city stores of Opportunity for Animals and although she is paid for a 20 hour work week she has no qualms about slapping another 20 on top for a cause she is strongly passionate about. "No regrets, absolutely no regrets" she affirms.

Opportunity for Animals started 10 years ago as a small grass-roots Newtown oppy. It has now grown to the point where it owns 26 acres of land in Otaki that has been transformed into a utopian sanctuary for animals. With an Eden-esque array of animals from pigeons, rats and hedgehogs to pigs, ponies and goats, even geese will call it sanctuary when it is shooting season. No animal is of higher or lesser value. "I just cry with happiness every time I'm there" she expresses. "Just to see this beautiful place and to know it's a refuge and a home for all animals big and small is a heart-warming thing."

From day one Kerstie's been an animal enthusiast. "Growing up we always had animals around." However, a seed of activism was planted one day when discovering that the lump of flesh on her plate used to be the merry 'lil lamb that would skip around the yard. Since then

she's been a fairly active vegetarian and vegan, but admits that due to her kids not being vegan she will crunch the odd cookie.

But her dedication to supporting and advocating for the defenceless underdog is unshakeable. "It's never their fault though is it" she says in defending rats from being experimented on. And you can't really argue with that!

Through Opportunity for Animals she has also helped and supported charities like Rape Crisis and Kids with Blankets, and will fill up bags of clothes for the local homeless. It's a community that needs a cheap op shop and needs to be supported. Everybody deserves to wear decent clothes. And when you're basically buying a bag of bird feed or a bundle of hay and receiving some sweet gears in return, it works out to be a total win.

Kerstie has an encompassing commitment to her work and ideals and the vim to get it done. If I was ever a down and out animal it's nice to know that there's people like Kerstie out there who've got your back.





WHAT'S THE HAPS?



SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

JULY SCHOOL HOLIDAYS ARE JUST AROUND THE CORNER! SEND THE KIDS ALONG TO THE CHEAP-AS-CHIPS NEWTOWN SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME, RUNNING JULY 11 TO 22. COSTS ARE BETWEEN \$10 AND \$25 PER CHILD PER DAY, AND ENROLMENTS NEED TO BE MADE BY JULY 1ST. PICK UP AN ENROLMENT FORM FROM THE NEWTOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE OFFICE, OR FIND ONE AT newtowncommunity.org.nz. THIS PROGRAMME IS A SMALL (BUT AMAZING!) ONE, SO GET IN ASAP TO MAKE SURE YOU DON'T MISS OUT.

Tū MOVE DANCE WORKSHOP

THE NEW ZEALAND SCHOOL OF DANCE (HUTCHINSON ROAD, BEHIND TE WHAEA) ARE RUNNING Tū MOVE, A FREE WORKSHOP FOR 14 - 18 YEAR OLD MAORI AND PACIFIC ISLAND MEN IN STREET DANCE, CONTEMPORARY DANCE AND OTHER DANCE STYLES. TOP TUTORS, LED BY NZSD GRADUATE LUKE HANNA, WILL TEACH AND MENTOR THE PARTICIPANTS. MATERIAL LEARNT ON THE COURSE COULD ALSO BE USEFUL FOR STUDENTS STUDYING NCEA. RUNNING JULY 18 TO 22, AND ENTRY IS FREE! FOR MORE INFO, VISIT nzschooldance.ac.nz/events/tu-move

FRIDAY NIGHTS AT BAOBAB

DON'T LET THE WINTER WEATHER TURN YOU INTO A HERMIT! HEAD DOWN TO BAOBAB ON FRIDAY NIGHTS FOR GOOD FOOD AND EVEN BETTER LIVE MUSIC. 1 JULY, JOE SHEPARD; JULY 8, CARLOS NAVAE TRIO; JULY 15, BILL LAKE; JULY 22, SOLOMON CROOK; JULY 29 LAUREN ARMSTRONG JAZZ DUO.

NEWTOWN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

THE NEWTOWN RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION IS A GROUP OF RESIDENTS, BUSINESS OWNERS AND PEOPLE WHO LIVE, WORK, PLAY OR ARE JUST INTERESTED IN ISSUES RELATING TO NEWTOWN AND THE SURROUNDING SUBURBS. THEY RESPOND TO LOCAL ISSUES, MAKING SUBMISSIONS TO WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL AND OTHER BODIES WHEN THESE ARE CALLED FOR AND BEING A HUB FOR COMMUNITY CONSULTATION, PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR MANY LOCAL INITIATIVES. DROP IN TO THEIR NEXT MEETING ON MONDAY 18TH JULY 7.30PM AT NEWTOWN HALL, 71 DANIELL STREET. EVERYONE WELCOME!

OPEN MUSIC JAMS IN NEWTOWN

COME ALONG TO THE NEWTOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE ON MONDAY EVENINGS FROM 8PM TO JUMP ON BOARD (OR JUST SIT AND ENJOY) THE WEEKLY JAZZ JAMS - KOHA ONLY! OR HEAD DOWN TO MOON BAR ON RIDDIFORD STREET WITH AN INSTRUMENT IN HAND TO JOIN IN THEIR FREE JAMS ON TUESDAY NIGHTS, ALSO KICKING OFF AT 8PM.

PLASTIC FREE AND BEYOND - LIVING ZERO WASTE IN WELLINGTON

IN THE SPIRIT OF PLASTIC FREE JULY, HANNAH AND LIAM BRING YOU AN INTERACTIVE EVENING OF INFORMATION ABOUT LIVING ZERO WASTE... WELLINGTON-STYLE. DRAWING ON THEIR OWN RESEARCH, THEY WILL ALSO DELVE INTO HOW A ZERO WASTE LIFESTYLE CAN TRIGGER A POLITICAL PARADIGM SHIFT WELL BEYOND THE RUBBISH BIN, CONNECTING THEORY, PRACTICE, POLICY AND LAW IN UNEXPECTED WAYS. AND OF COURSE, THEY'LL SHARE HANDY TIPS AND SECRETS ON HOW TO SURVIVE WITHOUT PLASTIC! JULY 12 AT 17 TORY STREET, 6.30PM. KOHA APPRECIATED!

RAW CIRCUS - WINTER EDITION

AN EVENING PACKED WITH CREATIVE, IMPRESSIVE, MEMORABLE ACTS PERFORMED BY BEAUTIFUL AND TALENTED PEOPLE IN A WIDE VARIETY OF CIRCUS SKILLS FROM WELLINGTON'S CIRCUS SCHOOL. ON THE MENU OF THE NIGHT: TISSUS, TRAPEZE, CONTORTION, PARTNER ACROBATICS, HULA-HOOP, CHINESE POLE, AERIAL ROPE, MAGIC, AND MORE. A LOVELY, FUN AND MEMORABLE NIGHT! JULY 2, AT THE CIRCUS HUB (11 HUTCHINSON ROAD), NEWTOWN. DOORS OPEN AT 7PM FOR A 7.30PM START. SUGGESTED KOHA OF \$10 - \$20.

TREE PLANTING WITH FRIENDS OF OWHIRO STREAM

FRIENDS OF OWHIRO STREAM ARE HAVING THEIR ANNUAL PLANTING DAY WITH 1,000 TREES TO BE PLANTED ON SATURDAY 9 JULY, 10AM-3PM. FOLKS ARE WELCOME TO POP IN FOR AS MUCH OF THE DAY AS SUITS THEM. THERE WILL BE A BBQ AT LUNCHTIME, AND THE EVENT WILL BE FAMILY-FRIENDLY. THE SITE FOR PLANTING IS BEHIND OWHIRO SCHOOL GROUNDS AND CAN BE ACCESSED AT THE SOUTH END OF HAPPY VALLEY PARK (OPPOSITE 137 HAPPY VALLEY ROAD).