

THE NEWTOWN COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL CENTRE PRESENTS



NEWTOWN NEWS  
THE LOCAL ELECTIONS EDITION  
WHIRINGA-A-NUKU/OCTOBER 2019

# Kia ora Newtown

Kia ora e te whānau o Omaroro! - hello Newtown fams!

I can't believe Whiringa-ā-Nuku / October is here already, heck. And with it, local elections! We've asked the Paekawakawa / Southern Ward candidates some questions for you - check out the centre pages for their responses.

Voting in local elections is a good way to help shape our community, but I always feel a little disheartened at the idea that our participation in society is over once the elections are done. It's easy to get bogged down in feeling worried about the future and powerless to make the world that we want. I want to dream big - as SamKate says on the (totes AMAZING) cover for this issue, 'ask for what you want'. I like to imagine the world I want and think about the ara / path to that world. When I have my little daydreams at my desk about about it, I imagine a decolonised Aotearoa (and world), where we live in tune with nature and our society is built around community and sharing. Here are some things I think are on the path to making my vision happen:

- Learn the history of Aotearoa and colonisation, if you're a pākehā like me, be a responsible treaty partner, learn te Reo Māori - start with correct pronunciation!
- Getting active - we need to make the changes we want to see in the world happen. Join or start a protest group or a community group.
- Get into nature! Join the Kaicycle urban farm on Hospital Road (volunteer sessions are on Sundays, 11-1pm) or Green Fingers for Good (check this out later in the issue). Or go tramping, or swimming or wandering!
- Build community - come along to our Friday Soup Days! 12 - 1pm at the Community Centre. Meet people, kōrero and connect over delish free soup. Or make your own ways to build community - host a Neighbours Day event or just say 'kia ora!'

**I'd love to hear YOUR vision for Aotearoa, or for Newtown. The Whiringa-ā-rangi / November edition is going to be 'Te Ara Mua' / 'the path ahead'. Email me on [ellie@newtowncommunity.org.nz](mailto:ellie@newtowncommunity.org.nz) if you'd like to contribute something, an image, a story, a poem, a manifesto, a comic, whatever!**

Ngā mihi,  
Ellie

**P.S. We loooooove feedback - positive AND constructive! [ellie@newtowncommunity.org.nz](mailto:ellie@newtowncommunity.org.nz)**

AMAZING cover art by SamKate Douglas - artist's statement: '*Ko Timata Tēnei: SamKate Douglas (Te Ati Awa). Thanks to Ruby Jones for permission to use her image. Quotes from the 2019 Candidate Profiles for Paekawakawa / Southern Ward.*'

Thanks also for the ongoing support of our amazing local businesses! Please support them back!



THE  
RAMEN  
SHOP



Baobab Cafe



Nau mai  
haere mai to  
a new  
sponsor!

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# Notorious NEWTowner

*Paul and Ellie kōrero over herbal tea at the Rongotai Electorate office, a bright red, koru-emblazoned space in the centre of Newtown, buzzing with people.*



Our MP Paul Eagle's whakapapa is to Waikato, Tainui, but his connection to Te Whanganui-a-Tara (Wellington) - and in particular Newtown - is very apparent. His dad was a roving Methodist Minister, which meant his family were shifted around a lot – moving down from bustling Tāmaki Makaurau (Auckland) to the quiet seaside suburb of Island Bay in the 80s. “I was scared at first, but I got to love it here quickly...and I soon picked up that Newtown wasn't anything ordinary. It was different.” Paul's activist dad “front lines of the Springbok tour!” and “queen of volunteering” mum inspired his career in politics. 49 years of service to the community from his dad and the caring and charity work of his mum combined to make him who he is today – a politician passionate about people.

Paul's been addicted to the southern suburbs ever since, first representing us as Councillor for Paekawakawa / Southern Ward “I did my apprenticeship as a councillor. That's how I got to know people, I invested time...now people are always inviting me around for all sorts of things – family events, Churches, Cambodian temple, showing me something their kids have painted - this is how it's done. Newtowners love the face to face.” Later Paul 'graduated' from Council to Deputy Mayor to the Beehive, becoming the first Māori male to win a general electorate seat for the Labour Party.

I wonder how different Council and Parliamentary politics are – “people think there's a difference – and I suppose there is around formality, but I think I'm keeping it real, in the Newtown spirit. Really all politics is local.” Paul is the life and soul of the electorate office – “I love answering the phone here – people ask to speak to me and get a surprise when they find out they already are! MPs don't always spend much time in their electoral offices, though it helps that I'm a Wellington MP!” Paul generously offers some of his 'Top Tips' for the Councillors being elected this month:

**Face to face time:** “go to where the people are, like the veggie market on a Saturday morning - I'm there at 7am, half of the people are half asleep, half angry, but they see you and engage with you. Being there is everything.”

**Be open:** “Open your ears, and be ready to say 'I don't know'. In this community no one will judge you for that - people here have been my biggest education...Newtown is the orange cone in the middle of the road - just when you think you've got it right, someone in Newtown says 'have you thought of this' and you have to start again – that's how it should be!”

**Don't ruin Newtown:** “My biggest fear is the 'Ponsonby-isation' of Newtown –it's a million dollar suburb now with big, big projects are coming through, and we need to preserve our heritage, our community spaces, our social housing – and particularly our people. Newtown could become a wealth-seeking place, but let's not forget that our biggest wealth IS people.”

**Solve problems yourselves:** “When we have trouble, and the police get involved, we tell the 'bicep boys' – my nickname for the police - 'we do things the Newtown way here, we'll handle this' – nothing is too hard. We sit down, we have a cuppa and we solve it.”

**Push the boundaries:** “Well done to those Councillors who are pushing the boundaries to return to the Te Reo original place names or accept a name gifted by the local iwi! There's pushback but you've got to stand strong.”

Paul now is inspired by his little one - “he's 4 years old and he's teaching ME te reo Māori!” and his wife Miriam, the “undercover greenie” of the family, who's been warning Paul about climate change since “before it was cool.” In his role as an MP, Paul is now looking at the bigger picture and we do a whistlestop tour through a few key issues – **housing** - “Many who come into the office will say that for them the Kiwi dream of house ownership is dead. It's impossible for them to enter the local market. We've got to make it more equitable for everyone!”; **climate change** “it's the biggest challenge we're facing”; **honouring Te Tiriti** “I'm proud this government has instituted NZ history as a core subject but I also think Te Reo Māori should be taught in all schools – it's the language of this land and we should all feel we own it”.

But despite the bigger playing field, Paul's keeping it Newtown all the way. So whether you want to talk climate change, or just have a good old yarn about Newtown – Paul's probably at the electorate office right now, ears open, just waiting for you to call.



# Meet the

We asked the Paekawakawa / Southern Ward candidates three questions:

1. **Climate change** is an urgent issue – what would you do in Council about it?

**On Ihumātao:** I would ensure that any role I played was respectful and appropriate. This would involve listening to understand and I would ensure that Te Tiriti o Waitangi was central to any position or approach that I took on the issue.

**Fleur Fitzsimons,**  
**Labour**

More info: [bit.ly/2ktyvmW](http://bit.ly/2ktyvmW)

**On Mana Whenua:** I would continue to develop relationships with mana whenua and support the implementation of the Te Tauīhu Te Reo Māori policy which requires that the status Te Reo Māori is recognised in Wellington and the whakapapa colonial history of our country and the leadership of our region. I will support the leadership of our Deputy Mayor Jill Day (Ngāti Tūwharetoa) in her work as the leader of Iwi Council relationships and I would play a constructive role locally as a supporter and enabler of mana whenua.

**On Climate Change:** We need to make reducing emissions central to decision-making in all areas where the Council has responsibility or power including waste, construction, transport and of course decisions about investment in transport infrastructure which makes public transport, cycling and walking a central and enduring part of Wellington's transport network. As a city we have relatively low emissions (the lowest of any New Zealand city) but we can do more.



**On Climate Change:** I'm standing for a city I want our children to inherit. I believe we can create a low carbon future that cares for people, supports local business and regenerates the environment. We can do this by working towards zero waste, for example by creating a circular food system that builds food security through urban food farms and organic waste collection. I also want to see Council procurement used to drive a low carbon economy.

**On Ihumātao:** If a similar situation was happening in Wellington, I would be asking myself and the Council the following questions: How are we honouring Te Tiriti in this discussion? Is everyone affected by this decision involved in the decision-making? Including different mana whenua groups. If housing is proposed, who is it providing for?

**On Mana Whenua:** I will work as a genuine treaty partner with mana whenua and take a Te Tiriti lens in all decisions. One way to do this is to develop a cultural, social, economic, environmental and carbon impact assessment process to inform all decisions. We should be working with mana whenua and community to install kaitiakitanga principles for all of Wellington's waterways, food and environment. I want to see our use of Te Reo grow and thrive.



**Laurie Foon,**  
**Green Party**

More info: [bit.ly/2IRJLtl](http://bit.ly/2IRJLtl)

# candidates

2. How would you plan to work with and support Wellington's **mana whenua**?
3. If the situation at **Ihumātao** was happening in Wellington, what would you do as a Councillor?

**Humphrey Hanley,**  
**Independent**  
More info: [bit.ly/2kvwQxf](https://bit.ly/2kvwQxf)

**On Mana Whenua:** To me mana whenua and our shared history with this land is incredibly important, we need to ensure we are engaging and consulting with local hapū and iwi on the changes being considered for Wellington. We must respect the need to seek guidance and advice from the people impacted by our decisions as a Council and not make decisions without adequate consultation.

**On Ihumātao:** My first priority as a Councillor in that situation, would be to ensure that what has happened at Ihumātao wouldn't happen here. Such important land should not have been in a position to be sold to developers in the first place. In the event that did happen in Wellington, we would need to do everything within our scope as a Council to respect the heritage and history of the land over the profit.

**On Climate Change:** It's an emergency. I will push WCC to be tough on achieving the targets set in Te Atakura - First to Zero. Our biggest contributing emissions that we can do something about right now is transport. We need to make our roads safe places to share. A street space where people want to be, to encourage everyone to leave the car, walk, cycle, or take public transport because spaces feel inviting.



**Thomas Morgan,**  
**Independent**  
More info: [bit.ly/2k6N5R3](https://bit.ly/2k6N5R3)

**On Mana Whenua:** Council has to be very way of providing favouritism for one group or cultural subset versus any other and there is a vast array of those now in New Zealand. If a specific issue was presented that related to council operations and functions then of course matters could be assessed more directly on that basis. Learning Te Reo is admirable, however languages are not my strong-point so perhaps a futile idea personally!

**On Ihumātao:** Council has limited powers in relation to private land deals and ownership and essentially can't do much about any of it unless some type of permitting or consenting is required or some other legal aspects are relevant. If anyone suggests much more than that then grandstanding is at play and is simply irresponsible. Being a councillor is about being responsible.

**On Climate Change:** Windfarms are one useful way of addressing climate change in a practical fashion so I would support more of those if there was a viable need against any other options such as tidal energy or even hydrogen energy plants. Like all topics I am not a master of any and would need further expert advice.





# Free Climate Change for All

By Peppertree

Local body elections are not something that gets people excited. Mention them at a party and you'll soon be drinking alone. If it weren't for the Great Wellington Bus Debacle, hardly anyone would know that the Regional Council runs public transport. Or that it doesn't. But what else does it do? What other things will the people we are about to elect decide? Surely the candidates know, so I trundled along to a meeting in Newtown.

The audience matched the candidates – overwhelmingly middle class Pākeha over 50. Of the 18 candidates present, four were women. Most had a background in public service or management, or were business owners. In their view that qualifies them for the job. For the rest of us it is one of the reasons why we feel disconnected from them.

Of course the candidates know what gets them votes, so literally every one of them made “the bus issue” their number one priority, closely followed by climate change. If you're worried about those two things then I guess it doesn't matter who you vote for, they will all 'drastically improve public transport and reduce CO2 emissions'.

At least no one was promoting more motorways or oil drilling in Owhiro Bay, so that's a good thing. But then it comes back to the question of what is the Regional Council actually responsible for? Motorways and oil rigs are probably central government anyway.

Drinking water quality was mentioned, as was the green belt, but a few times the candidates themselves didn't seem to be too sure, which resulted in the incumbent members politely putting the newcomers in their place.



Mmm, asparagus rolls.

Credit: Food in a minute

Of course at an event like this speaking time is strictly limited, but I would have liked to find out how the Regional Council would go about transforming the economy to zero carbon, given that none of the candidates seemed to think that the profit motive might stand in the way. So after two hours of being assured that we all want the same things, I left none the wiser. But the asparagus rolls were great.

## Creative Corner

### Pohutukawa

By Alana Kane

Sitting in the arms of the Pohutakawa  
I can feel the bark become part of me  
Allowing my sorrows to flow into its branches  
Through the roots  
Into the earth  
The bees buzz, seeking their honey  
Like us  
The fruits of life, waiting to be harvested  
We seek them  
And sometimes we take too much  
Greedy; the wild boar. Kunekune.  
Bellies rumbling, we fill the emptiness  
With the hunger for excessive luxuries.

### Girls of the Garden

By Michael Dunningham

"All of a sudden",  
Said Janice McCrudden,  
"Surely spring will arrive,  
And the rose will start buddin'"

"No, all is forlorn"  
Said Rosemary Thorn,  
"The rain will continue  
Just as you've been warned"

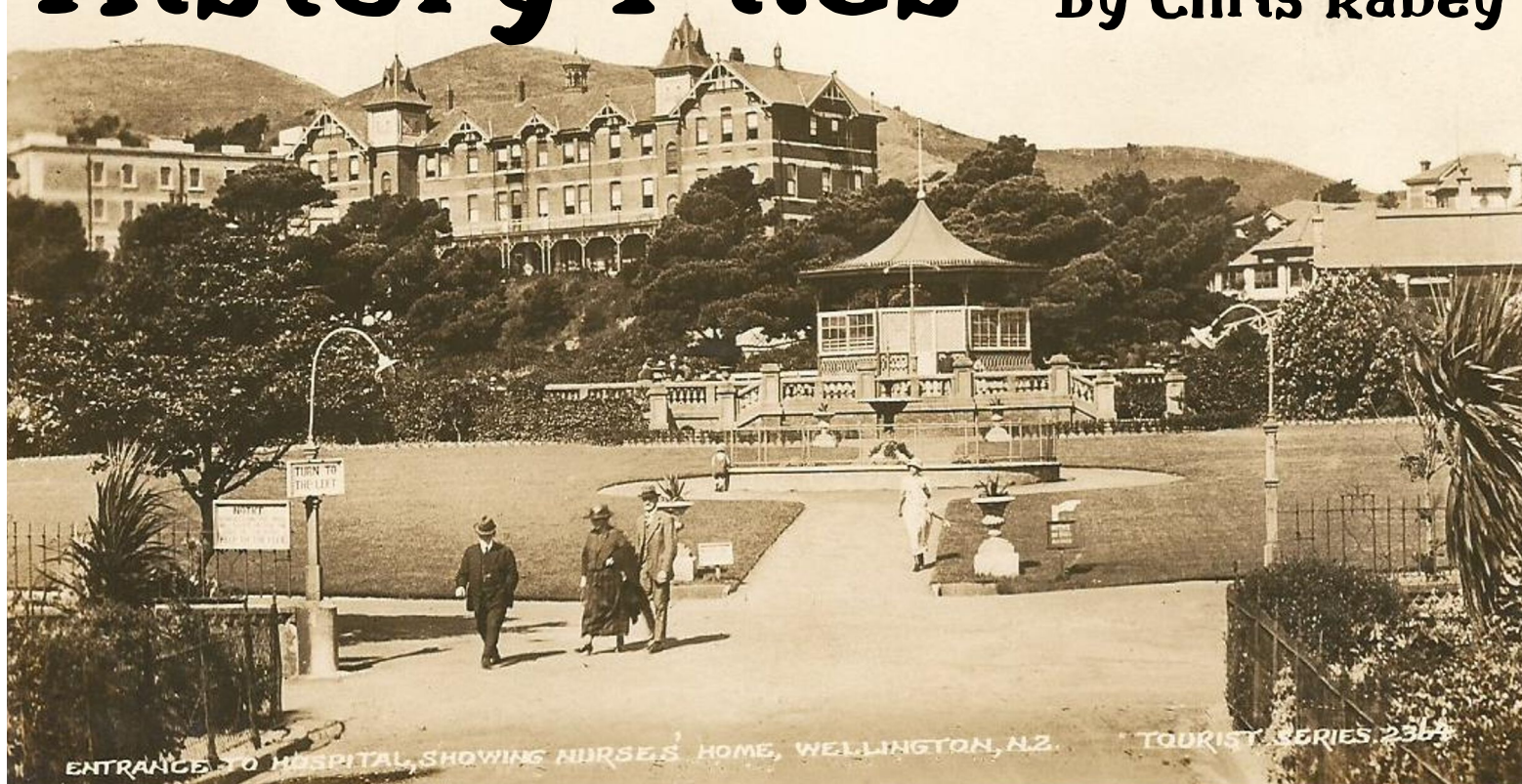
"Just look at the ferns"  
Said shady Ms. Burns,  
"The rain's made them lovely  
So what can be learned?",

"Don't mind the weather"  
Said sensible Heather,  
"You need not let your mind  
Reach the end of its tether".



# History Files

By Chris Rabey



Here is a picture of serene tranquillity at the entrance to Wellington Hospital, a far cry from the hustle and bustle of today. The picture was taken around 1912, and shows the old Nurses Home, which was built in 1904 at a cost of 17,000 pounds. It provided accommodation for 96 nurses and maids.

To the right of the trees was the original Children's Hospital, officially known as King Edward VII Memorial Hospital and in the foreground was a structure resembling a rotunda which was used to provide comfort for patients to sit outdoors in the warmer summer months. This main entrance is in the same location as the entrance is today, with the main hospital to the right of the picture. Looks a bit different now!

## Green Fingers for Good By Raju Badani

**Who are we?** We're Green Fingers for Good! We are a group of volunteers who grow succulents and share them with people and organisations doing good stuff in Wellington.

**What are the plants used for?**

In December 2018, the Cancer Society started giving our plants to newly diagnosed patients! Mary Potter Hospice sold 200 plants at Newtown Festival, fundraising \$1000 for their awesome mahi.

**Why plants?**

We want to serve the community and the people, with an attitude of service and love. Our motto is to keep growing plants with love! And help the environment at the same time.

**What can you do?**

There are lots of ways to get involved! You can get your hands in the soil and grow some plants to donate, help us with our community garden set up, or offer some space for plants to be grown or stored. Get in touch - [greenfingersforgood@gmail.com](mailto:greenfingersforgood@gmail.com)

# What's the Happs?

## **At the Newtown Community Centre (corner of Rintoul/ Colombo Streets)**

**Boomerang Bags Newtown - Thursday 3rd and 17th October 5.30-7pm**

Boomerang Bags Newtown is all about getting rid of plastic bags in Newtown by upcycling waste fabric destined for the landfill into reusable shopping bags for everyone. Some hang out and just bring your lovely selves! Stay in touch and find out more at the FB group: [facebook.com/boomerangbagsnewtown](https://facebook.com/boomerangbagsnewtown)

## **Personal Space - CIRCUIT artists cinema commissions - Friday 4th October 6.30pm**

What do we call 'Home'? What are our shared foundations and values? When you think about yours what does it look like, and what will it look like in the future? What does home mean to you? Commissioned by CIRCUIT and curated by Serena Bentley, Personal Space is a collection of five new artist cinema works. Each artist was asked to respond to a series of questions about the idea of home.

## **A Moving Image symposium: From Me To You - Saturday, October 5th 9:45 AM – 4 PM**

AURA/CIRCUIT invite you to this one day academic symposium for those working in the medium of moving image. What is the boundary between the personal and the political in artists moving image work? Where does art begin in the diaristic? How can an artist's personal experiences address collective problems? Let's dissect these questions! Admission: \$40 waged, free for unwaged / students with ID REGISTER HERE - <https://from-me-to-you.lilregie.com/>

## **Wellington Conversations - Thursday 17th October 11am-12.30pm**

Wellington Conversations is a free event series that provides a chance to connect with other locals over facilitated conversations about topics that matter to us as Wellingtonians. Each event is a chance to connect with other people you might pass on the street but otherwise never get the chance to meet. Check out [www.wellingtonconversations.nz](http://www.wellingtonconversations.nz) to learn more.

## **Repair Cafe & Tech Support day for Seniors Week - Saturday 26th October, 11am-2pm.**

Do you have something broken at home? Or are you having trouble with your laptop, phone or electronic device? Bring them to our Repair Cafe & Tech Support day! Skilled volunteers will be on hand to show you how to mend your loved items, or support you in using your electronic items. Repairs could include clothing, jewelry, electrical items, furniture and more. Our phones and electronic devices are a huge way of staying connected nowadays, so come along and make sure yours is working for you. Seniors jump the queue, but everyone is welcome. [info@newtowncommunity.org.nz](mailto:info@newtowncommunity.org.nz) or call 04 389 4786 for more information.

## **At Newtown Hall, 71 Daniell Street**

### **Try Japanese Taiko Drumming - Saturday 5th October 10.30-11.30**

Try Japanese ensemble drumming with the Narukami Taiko team! No drumming experience or musicianship needed - it will be a fun hour where you can try it out, learn some simple rhythms, and play alongside the team members. A good number of the Narukami members started with open days just like this! Suitable for anyone who can hold a drumstick. Koha entry. Contact: [narukamitaiko@gmail.com](mailto:narukamitaiko@gmail.com) [www.narukamitaiko.co.nz](http://www.narukamitaiko.co.nz)

## **In Newtown...and Beyond!**

### **Newtown Still Stands Together: Community Dinner - Thursday October 24th 5-7pm**

It's more than 6 months since the March 15th attack and we need to show that Newtown still stands together. Newtowners of all backgrounds are invited to join together to share kai, kōrero and fun times, to make connections and show the Muslim Newtowners amongst us they are welcome and supported. There will be kids activities! Please bring a plate to share (Halal or vegetarian & labelled please) and your own plate/cutlery to eat from to reduce waste. We'll be in the Newtown School playground or in the Newtown School Hall if it's rainy. If you're keen to volunteer, email [info@newtowncommunity.org.nz](mailto:info@newtowncommunity.org.nz) or call 04 389 4786

### **2040: Timebank movie fundraiser - October 9th, 5pm-8.30pm**

Concerned about his young daughter's future, filmmaker Damon Gameau travels the world in search of new approaches and solutions to global warming. Wellington Timebank invites you to come and watch this film with them. Come early for snacks and pre-watching entertainment. At Lighthouse Cuba, 29 Wigan Street St. Tickets are \$25 or \$22 if you buy 3 or more. Find out more here: [bit.ly/2INJ1WF](https://bit.ly/2INJ1WF) or contact [info@wellingtontimebank.org.nz](mailto:info@wellingtontimebank.org.nz)

## **Vote! Before 12th October**

Return your vote in the freepost envelope, or to any Wellington City library! More info: [bit.ly/2nkW1U7](https://bit.ly/2nkW1U7)



**Get in touch!**

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04 389 4786 / [ellie@newtowncommunity.org.nz](mailto:ellie@newtowncommunity.org.nz)

