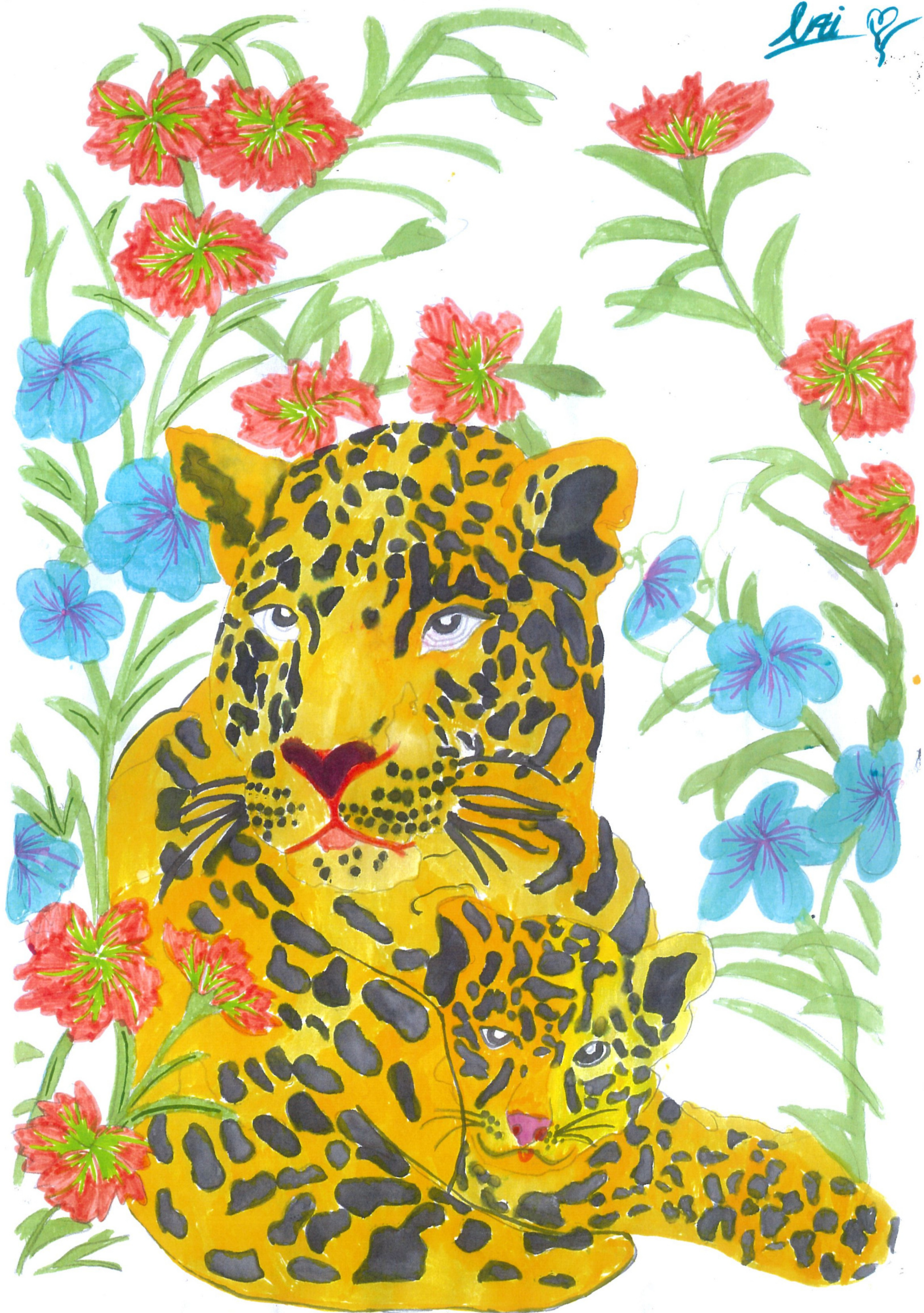


NEWTOWN NEWS

Your community zine: for Newtown, by Newtowners!

WHIRINGA-Ā-RANGI

NOVEMBER 2023



Brought to you by the Newtown Community Centre
Nā Te Whare Hapori of ngā Puna Wairoa

Kia ora Newtown

Kia ora tātou / hey everyone!

This month's theme is celebrating tamariki and rangatahi, so I trekked over to the Newtown School with Rowena (from Wellington Timebank) to ask a few questions : "What do you think is the coolest thing about being a kid? Turns out, so many things are cool about being a kid. We heard answers of : 'parties', 'having friends', 'getting to do lots of fun things', 'free stuff cos I don't have to buy it', 'playing football'.

I particularly laughed along with one real cheeky 11 year old dude's response 'not being crushed by the overwhelming weight of responsibility by providing for a family' who then followed it up with another banger: 'disrespecting elders' - I don't believe he does that for a second, but the kid knows how to get laughs and got them from us! Future career in comedy?

The inspiration for this theme was World Children's Day, observed on November 20th. It's a global moment to celebrate and advocate for the rights and well-being of children. It commemorates the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989), highlighting the importance of nurturing, protecting, and empowering the youngest members of our society.

Next question in our survey over at the School was, "Why do you think Children should get a special day to celebrate them?" My favourite answer was, "Cos we're beautiful, awesome and swagalicious, we work hard on our learning!"

My pal - a local "Rad Dad" Jamie Hoare - pens an article that shares the idea of a Universal Basic Income for all kids born in Aotearoa, a fascinating idea to ensure all Kiwi kids get a good chance in life!

This issue, we're proud to showcase art from the tamariki at Newtown School - including our stunning cover art, by remarkable talent, Arti Mahato who is 11 years old! Paul Forrest, our Notorious Newtowner for the month, supported this collaboration. Linda has a yarn with Paul about his life on page three.

It's been fantastic recently having so many young folks in the Centre with some of the new classes happening here. Rāpare afternoon is filled with a rush of excited kids as they attend their performing arts class in the theatre. Intrigued to know more about what's going on here? You can check out our list of regular classes/events here: bit.ly/46LvEYg

Ngā mihi, Eryn (she/her)
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The views and opinions expressed in this publication are solely those of the original authors and other contributors. They do not necessarily reflect those of the Newtown Community Centre.

Notorious NEWTowner

Linda sits down to chat with local Paul Forrest who is a visual artist, Newtown Community Centre board member & volunteer for a chat about all that he's got going on!

When you're walking around Newtown, be sure to look up as you might be treated to one of many colourful butterfly artworks hanging on the sides of houses and buildings – all thanks to our Notorious Newtowner, Paul Forrest.

Paul has many strings to his bow – an artist, educator, environmentalist, massage therapist, volunteer, performer – his contribution to our community reaches far and wide, as shown by his role teaching children at Newtown School to draw.

Growing up in quiet, coastal Whakatāne, Paul finished school, moved to Wellington and took a job at a bank. Although he stayed for four years and could have pursued that career, he gave it up, went overseas and sold puppets in the streets of London! And he's never looked back!

One of the highlights of his life was spending six years as an educator on the Real Art Roadshow, travelling all over Aotearoa with a mobile art gallery housed in a semi-trailer truck, reaching 30,000 students annually.



Continuing to work alongside children at Newtown School, and professing to “like weird and kooky”, his students are encouraged to explore their own unique voices and not to copy others. If anyone thinks they are “not creative”, Paul doesn't have time for that and urges them to get on with it – believing “everything is a creative act”, from drawing to planting trees to living sustainably. “Anyone who makes a mark is an artist”, says Paul.

Paul reckons the key challenge teaching kids, is staying ahead of them! He may be the tutor, but he is amazed at what young people teach him, with the topics explored to a degree being student-lead – an empowering approach that produces incredible results. Not underestimating the power of the mahi he is doing, he sees his role as a “seed planter of epiphanies”, marvelling at the dozens of “a-ha” moments his students experience as they develop their skills as artists and creative thinkers.

In addition to young artists, inspiration also comes from the natural environment; the butterflies, birds, ocean, and bush, all play a significant role in Paul's life and art. Devoting time to Volunteer Wellington, he has been heavily involved in organising teams of corporate volunteers in the town belt behind Newtown – working with others to plant 7,500 trees and to eradicate pests such as Old Man's Beard and Ivy. Paul is positively beaming when he shares the joy of now walking UNDER the trees he helped get in the ground!

Loving Newtown for being the most “alive and diverse” neighbourhood in the city, country – and possibly the world! This consummate community member sure walks his talk. When asked for a message to us all, his response comes as no surprise: Be kind and love thy neighbour and environment.

A BRUSH WITH YOUTH : A SHOWCASE OF ARTWORKS FROM



Te Kura o Ngā Puna Waiora
Newtown School

ARTISTS!

Paul Forrest (our Notorious Newtowner of the month) is an artist in residence at Newtown School. There he runs drawing classes and supports the tamariki to exhibit and show their work in the school grounds exhibition space, 'The Newtown School Exhibition Wall'. Occasionally, professional artists are invited to exhibit there. You're welcome to check it out during the weekly Newtown fruit and veggie market held on the school grounds. Paul has selected three artists to grace the pages of this very zine and asked them to speak about their work. He mysteriously tells us that currently a bunch of Newtown School artists are working on a huge project to be displayed prominently in the community of Newtown....it's all hush hush for now – but watch this space, we will be sure to tell you about it! I am absolutely blown away by the talents of these young folks. – Eryn, editor of the Newtown News.

"These 3 artists whose images I've chosen for the Newtown News were drawing students of mine two years ago and they grasped well the freedom to create their own unique artworks to express their view on the world. They are always surprisingly talented in ways that delight me. They work hard at it too and in their own time which is so nice to see. They see themselves as artists." – Paul Forrest.



"I like weird.
I can even eat a
raw onion
straight."

Moira Schneider
(Age 9)



"I used to like drawing dragons but I started doing a portrait of my friend and I found that the more portraits I did the better at drawing them I became."

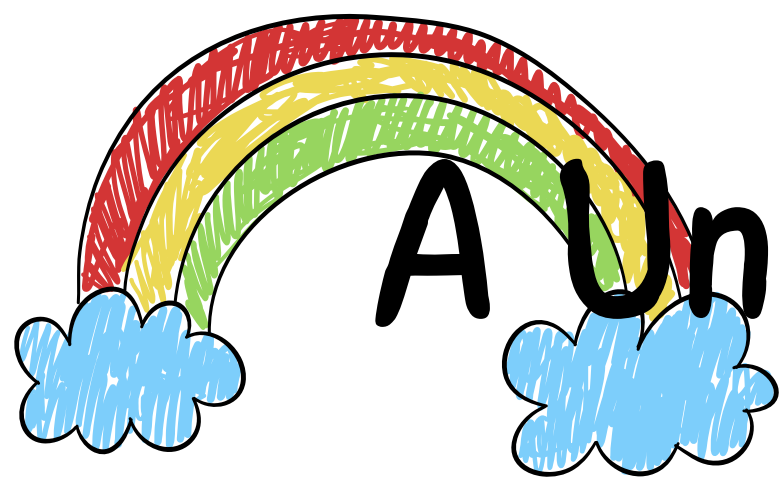
Eva Kennedy
(Age 11)

"Being an artist is my favourite thing to do. It takes me into a calm place."

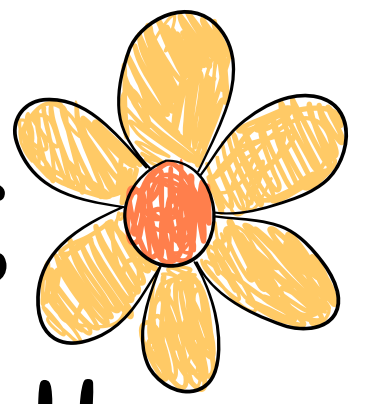
Arti Mahato
(Age 11)

Arti also produced the beautiful tiger artwork on the cover of this issue! To see this in all of its stunning colour visit:
bit.ly/Newtownnews





A Universal Child Payment



By Jamie Hoare

All children deserve the chance to flourish and live healthy, happy, safe lives. It's hard to argue with. It's something we universally agree on across the political spectrum. Yet in Aotearoa we live with the scourge of child poverty. Too many children are raised in circumstances where they are set up to fail. How can we ensure that every family has enough so their child can thrive? It's time we looked at a universal child payment as a mechanism to make New Zealand the best place in the world for raising tamariki.

A universal child payment is an unconditional cash payment given by the state (all of us) to families with children on a per child basis. It's easily compared to our universal pension; paid to those over 65 with no questions asked. It recognises, in cash, our collective responsibility to make sure all whānau have the means to provide for their tamariki.

According to the IRD, it costs an average income family roughly \$300 per week to raise a child from 0 - 18 years old. If the state (all of us) could contribute half of that (\$150 per week), it would ease the burden greatly on families and make sure every child gets the best start in life.

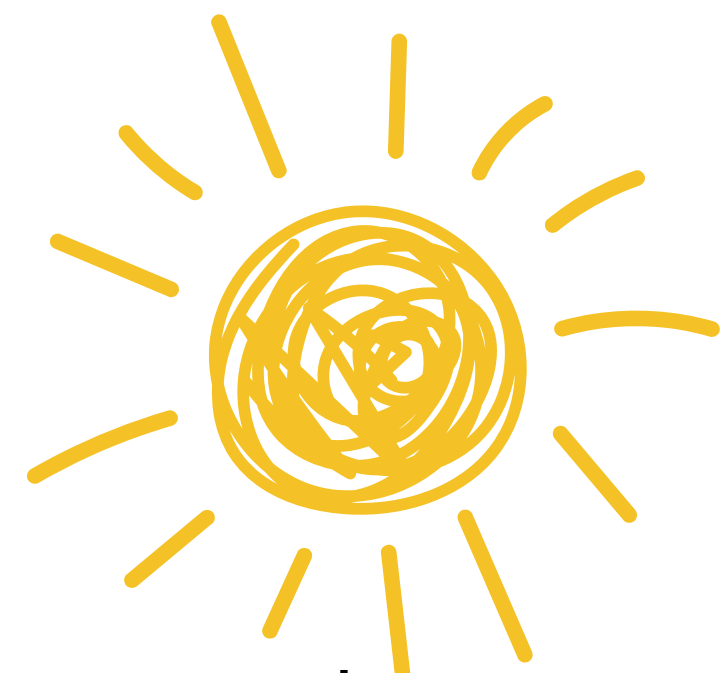
Ok, ka pai, great idea, but tell him he's dreaming, it would be far too expensive to give every family money. Well, we already do this with the Best Start Payment, \$69 per week for the first year of a child's life. Let's increase this to \$150 and apply it until a child turns 18. There are currently around 1 million New Zealanders under 18. This would cost the country around \$7.8 billion per year.

Cost per child

$\$150 \text{ per week} \times 52 = \$7,800 \text{ per year}$

Collective Cost

$\$7,800 \times 1,000,000 = \$7.8 \text{ billion per year}$



This is a lot of money to find. But, to put it in perspective we currently spend \$17.7 billion per year on superannuation. We'd need to contribute more to the collective (i.e tax ourselves) to make this work. At the moment we don't tax land value, inheritance, capital gains (excluding the 10 year bright line test), charities who own profitable businesses, or wealth in New Zealand. Most countries do and we could too.

Some may say, why make it universal and not target payments at those who need it the most? The same argument stands for the pension. Making a child payment universal means nobody needs to jump through hoops to receive it. It removes any stigma that comes with getting handouts, because everyone gets it. It recognises that essentially all people are born equal and deserve the same best start in life.

Others may say, why only apply a universal payment to those under 18 and those over 65? That's a good question. Let's start by providing the means for tamariki to flourish in Aotearoa.



TECH TIPS *with Matt*

of smart•newtown

Security Tips for Kids (and Adults)

We all know that kids can be much tech savvy than the adults around them. We all want young people to be safe online. So, here's an assortment of some low-effort ways to tighten up security that everyone, of every age, can use.

Passwords: Reusing the same password for every account is a good way to get hacked. Think about a password manager. You place all your different passwords in an encrypted list, sealed behind one long and hard-to-guess master password. My recommendation is **Bitwarden**, which you can access through a mobile app or web browser from anywhere. bit.ly/3Qgunmi

Phone Security: Phones are an easy steal, and you're usually logged into everything! Make sure you have a password or a pin on your lock screen. Biometrics (like scanning your thumbprint) are okay to use with modern phones. Don't use a pattern as a password to unlock your phone - it's too easy for someone else to watch and memorize. Put a contact number (not your cellphone) somewhere on your phone case, that way if you lose it and a good Samaritan finds it, they'll be able to get it back to you!

Public Computers: The real danger here is forgetting to log out of accounts before you wander off! Do everything in a private / incognito window, which you can always open with the hotkey Ctrl + Shift + N

Come see the friendly team at Smart Newtown (www.smartnewtown.org.nz) if you have any questions about any of the above security tips. Sign up to the E-newsletter to find out about upcoming classes (perhaps one on internet security) bit.ly/Smart-Newtown !



Huge Shoutout to our amazing neighbour, Lenore, who loves baking and who loves to share! The other day she popped by with some lemon curd cupcakes and lemon blueberry muffins to put in the community fridge - homemade delights! Then the next week it was brownies and apple cinnamon muffins - still warm!

That's a nice segue to remind ya'll about the community fridge and pātaka kai (pantry). Our Community Fridge is stocked with kai donated from local cafes (shout out to Peoples and Baobab!). Our pantry often has dried goods in it, and the wonderful folks from dignitynz.com dropped off a bunch of tampons and pads.

Anyone is welcome to bring in things to share and anyone is welcome to take items. No questions asked! Pop in to the Community Centre during our office hours (Monday - Friday) 9am - 4.30pm to check it out!



What's the Happs?

At Newtown Community Centre - Corner Rintoul/Colombo Streets

Koha Kundalini Yoga Club – Saturday

November 4th, 9.30am – 10.45am

Come practice psychedelic yoga & meditation.
All-levels. BYO mat or towel. Tea served after!
First Saturday of the month.

Airhorn! - Friday November 3rd, 8pm – 9pm

The hottest, coolest, happiest, wildest comedy show in Newtown! First Friday of every month. bit.ly/45a2hgC

Know Your Stuff - Saturday November 4th, 1pm – 3pm

Know your Stuff are licensed drug checkers offering free, legal, confidential drug checking. Bring your stuff. No cops, no judgement, no names, just info to keep people safe. bit.ly/3rnHx7n

Happy hour: an improvised show - Thursday

November 9th & 23rd, 7.30 pm – 8.30pm

Join Best on Tap, an improvised theatre show taking prompts from the audience to create scenes and stories. bit.ly/46LvEYg

Death Café - Saturday November 11th, 1pm - 3pm

Let's normalise our own demise. We are all going to die, let's talk about it. Eat cake, drink tea and discuss death. bit.ly/46DDVNQ

Newtown Toastmasters - Second & Fourth Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm – 9.30pm

Toastmasters is an opportunity to help members develop their Public Speaking and Leadership skills in a friendly and supportive environment. bit.ly/3tCU7jJ

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Kaniere Record Release Party - Saturday November 25th, 7pm

Local band Kaniere debut their 13 song vinyl-only release - by playing the complete album along with an accompanying video for each track.

Every Body's clothes swap: Spring Edition - Saturday

November 25th, 11am – 2pm

Time to replenish, refresh and revive your wardrobe? Don't want to contribute to total ecological collapse, but still wanna look good? Details on how to get involved in the swap here : bit.ly/3FtWJmD

NZSQ Encounters – Free concert by New Zealand String Quartet – Sunday November 26th, 3pm – 4pm

Come and spend a relaxed Sunday afternoon with NZSQ. There'll be light refreshments and music for the whole family and, best of all, it's free! Give classical music a try! bit.ly/3s42gNU

Move your body!

We've got loads of ways to move your body at the Centre - Balfolk, Swing & Lindyhop dancing, Yoga, Taichi and Balancing classes. Check out our timetable for these events and more : bit.ly/3ahAgc9

Mahi Toi, Open Art Club for All - Second & Fourth Friday of the month, 10.30am - 12.30pm

A place to connect and create! Make art and/or craft in our fancy dedicated art room at the Centre. Some kai and materials provided. Bring your own project if you have one. Free! bit.ly/3QcOArK

Free Social Drama for ages 65+ - Thursdays 10.30am - 12noon

A fun group using storytelling and drama to keep the mind active and creative! Sessions are full of play, laughter, and connection. Contact Austin on 0220117217 / austinharrisontheatre@gmail.com

At Smart Newtown 9-11 Constable St.

Free Classes! Smart Newtown aims to support you to feel confident with computers & internet. They have a range of (FREE) workshops on Wednesday evenings or Friday mornings. Topics include : Introduction to apps, Google Drive, Google Sheets, Trade Me, Zoom. To find out more, visit: bit.ly/3YfAU1h or call 04 380 0143.



Get in touch!

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