

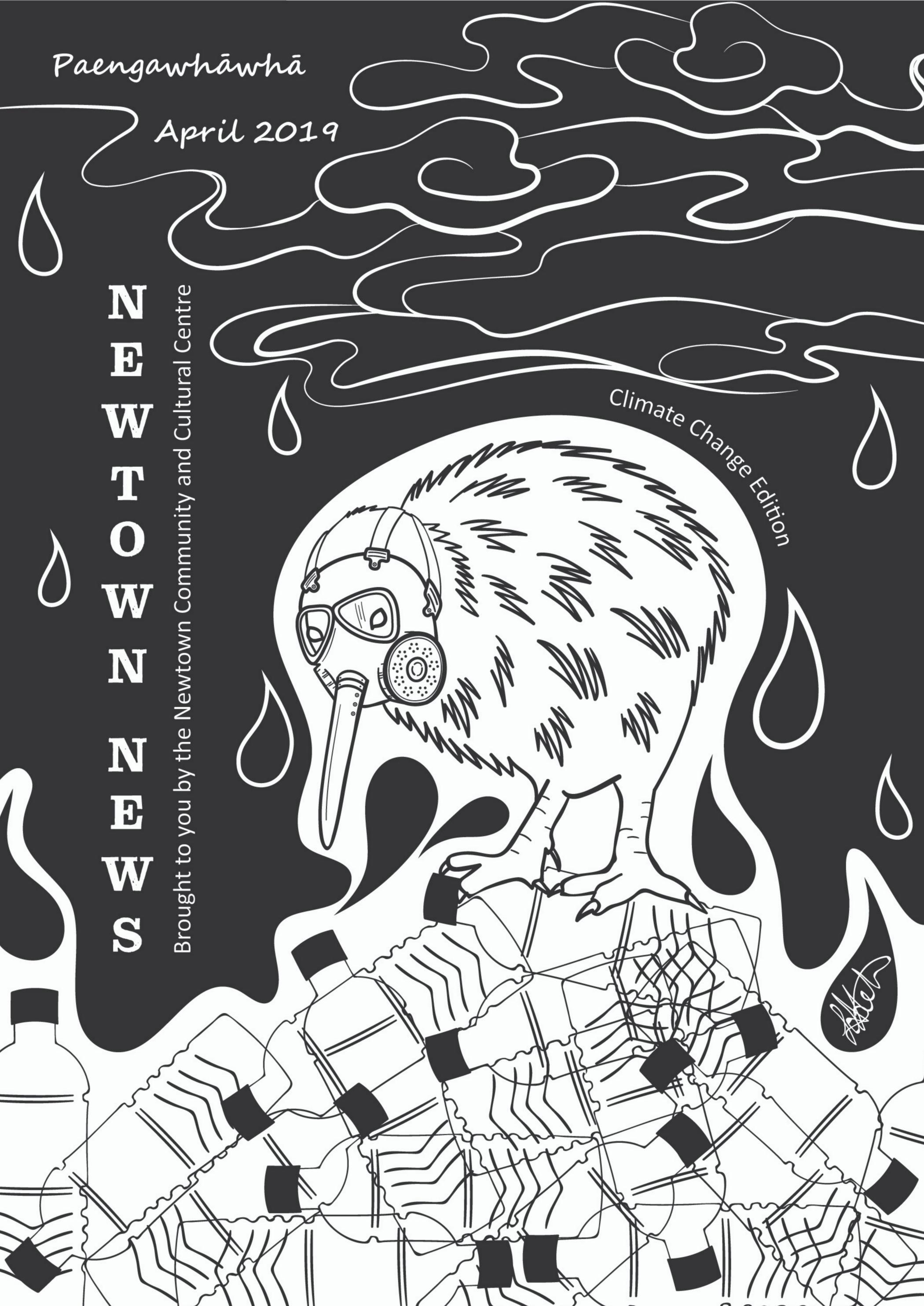
Paengawhāwhā

April 2019

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Brought to you by the Newtown Community and Cultural Centre

Climate Change Edition



# Kia Ora Newtown

Kia ora and a-salaam a'laikum,

Here in Newtown and across Aotearoa, people are still reeling after the horrific attack on Muslim communities on the 15th of March. As Newtown has a large Muslim population, we must stand with them and make sure they know they are welcome in their home here.

What can Pākehā and other white people in Aotearoa do to stamp out racism?

- **Challenge Islamophobia and racism everywhere.** Remove racist graffiti or stickers. Call out casual or deliberate racism (yes, this includes your drunk uncle saying iffy stuff). Challenge comments you see on social media.
- **Centre Muslim voices.** This was not an attack on Christchurch or NZ. It was a deliberate attack by a white supremacist on Muslim communities. Muslim communities have reported a rise in Islamophobia and were ignored. We must now listen and accept that racism is on the rise in Aotearoa. Share Muslim voices, and ask what they need.
- **Stand with Muslims, migrants, tangata whenua and any non-white people.** If you witness a racist incident, stand with the person experiencing it and ask if they need you to walk with them. Respect mana whenua. If you're white or pākehā, don't make non-white communities deal with your grief right now. Share it with fellow white people and then stand strong for our Muslim whānau.

The mosque attack happened on the same day as the 'School Strike 4 Climate', an event which is central to this Newtown News edition on climate change. I know that all of our contributors are heartbroken over what happened, but we need to keep fighting for our climate as well as challenging racism. Everyone at the Newtown Community Centre and all of the authors and contributors send their love and solidarity to the Muslim community of Aotearoa and beyond.

Here's some of my original 'Kia Ora Newtown' blurb as context for this issue: Earth Day is our theme for this Paengawhāwhā (April). And nothing is affecting Papatūanuku, the Earth Mother, more than human-induced climate change. Unlike one particularly orange man living in a big white house across from the moana (ocean), we here at the Newtown Community & Cultural Centre know that climate change is real and urgent - but we also have hope and confidence that together, we can turn things around. We're going to need everyone on board for this, both making small personal changes and also pushing for the the big, systematic ones.

Strong community is key to preventing catastrophic climate change and tackling racism is key to a strong community. I'm looking forward to us working together to make this happen.

In hope, love, defiance and solidarity. Ngā mihi mahana,  
Ellie

Awesome cover art by Sharne Teh (instagram: @sharneteh.creative). Sub-editing by Mhairi McGregor.  
Thanks for the support of our amazing local businesses! Please support them back!



Peoples

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# Notorious

# NEWTOWNER

*Amanda and Ellie chatted about how to prevent waking up at 3am in a panic about climate change, and about how the key to saving the world is community. Open your brain-doors and read all about it!*

Newtown Dr Amanda Thomas is working to save the world, both in her day job as a lecturer in Environmental Studies, and as a direct-action climate activist. You may have seen her wandering around Newtown with her plodding dog Flynn, on the telly fighting for climate justice, or speaking out in support of the 'School Strike 4 Climate NZ'.

Amanda's work as a lecturer is about "social justice and inequality of power... understanding environmental issues in new ways by opening new doors in our brains". We agree that climate change is hugely political and caused by the broken systems we have built - capitalism and colonialism in particular - leading to poverty and inequality: "Climate change is going to worst affect those working class people in social housing who are exposed to flooding, sea level rise - those who can't afford to move out of the way of it...and they don't want to! People love where they live and have community there. We need to think about this when we're planning solutions."

Climate change is a feminist issue says Amanda, opening another brain-door: many individual solutions to climate change (e.g. preserving food, using reusable nappies) are really gendered (i.e. women do them). When the problem is this big, the answer can't be individual changes alone - especially if these changes cause a greater gender imbalance.

"But...then...what are the solutions?" I ask (slightly desperately) - a lack of sleep and the impending destruction of the planet are putting me on edge. Amanda calms me: "Solving climate change will be a community endeavour. That's why strong communities like Newtown are so rad - there's already lots of climate conversation, and heaps of activists! Building connections - like you do at the Community Centre - is so important.

We need to care for - and about - each other. Community is power - without it, the fight would be too hard and too lonely....and knowing you're in a group making change means you don't need to wake up at 3am to worry (or at least not so often!)"

Disrupting power structures using people power is how Amanda describes direct action. And it works. Oil and gas companies have heaps more resources and power, but direct action by many different community groups has led to an end to new permits for oil and gas drilling in Aotearoa:

"'School Strike 4 Climate' is direct action... there's so much rubbish about how it shouldn't be on a school day... but it HAS to be! It disrupts how we think young people should behave - society doesn't understand them as citizens, because they can't vote - but history shows us that young people are at the forefront of social change!"

As Amanda grabs her bike helmet (effective individual change, tick!) and stands to leave, she remarks: "If we're going to teach kids about climate change at school, then when they see no one's doing anything about it, we're still going to expect them to sit quietly - then we've failed them. The School Strikers are about to reshape society - get on board."



# If the earth were cool, I'd still be in school

**By Lily-mai Foon Parkin, Newtowner and School Striker**

On the 15th of March 2019, more than a thousand students decided to walk out of school to march in a strike against climate change. I was one of them. I walked down Lambton Quay with my fellow students chanting about the change we want to see for our future. We walked together, as one, from Civic Square to Parliament grounds, where we then listened to youth speakers and government representatives talk about the crisis we are starting to experience in our world. I couldn't help but feel so fantastically unified with those around me, all so in sync with the message we were trying to push.

Before going on the strike I viewed a lot of content on how students were ditching school and throwing away a day of learning. I couldn't help but laugh at these comments, because that was the whole point! For people to listen we needed to do something drastic, so we marched in school hours for our future. While our education is greatly needed to succeed in our lives, a healthy earth is more so. For us, as students of Wellington, to "ditch" school as a group sends a message that we will not stand by as the generation in power neglects one of the greatest problems that will face us in years to come. We will not let them leave this mess for us to fix when they are gone.

We walked in unity, we chanted in unison, and we all stood before our government with the message that climate justice is needed and it's needed now. We hope that the government will pursue a change in their policies and push to minimise the climate from rising more than 1.5 degrees. This protest showed that our generation doesn't just care about how many likes we get on Instagram or who our friends on Facebook are; we care about how you treat the world that will soon be ours.

We would much rather be able to focus on our education but instead we have to fight to be heard.

I know that I would rather focus on my education, as my biggest problem at the moment is an essay I forgot to write that is soon due! But instead, I am walking out of school and protesting a problem that has been tossed aside for years. I am fighting for the problems our elders have shrugged off as if they'd think about it later.

Climate change isn't a dilemma we can hide in the closet, it is a crisis that needs to be handled now! That is why we didn't go to school. That is why we marched.



# Tino Rangatiratanga and Climate Action

By Kahu Kutia

I have no qualms about letting you know how desperately I want to taste a kererū.

Wellington kererū are a little skinny, but back home in Te Urewera they are fat and juicy-looking. There was a time where clouds of kererū would fly over the valleys of Te Urewera. Apparently when they descended they sounded like a jet plane flying over the valley. Tūhoe were historically

known to bring preserved kererū as a gift when visiting other iwi. When they were served in our marae, the most delicious part of the breast was fed to the women, and the men got whatever was left over. To us, the kererū are one of our greatest treasures

These memories are what my kuia and koroua speak of when they talk about climate change. They speak of the loss of historical harvesting areas for food and medicine. A changing landscape means that culture and custom changes too. The bird which is kaitiaki to us now needs protecting.

For indigenous peoples, a dying climate is not just a dying climate. Climate change will impact upon our indigenous knowledge, our food sources, our wāhi tapu, our marae, our people. It impacts the mountains and rivers and forests which have been ours to protect for hundreds of years.

For some of our whānau in the Pacific, the imminent cost of climate change is losing their entire island to the moana. This is a scary reality faced by those in nations like Kiribati and Tuvalu. In the coming decades many of them will be forced to migrate to bigger islands, to Aotearoa, and other countries.

Indigenous peoples are often on the frontlines of climate change impact. As indigenous peoples, the idea of living without harm to the environment is not new. It is inherently built into our lives. In Te Reo, the land and the placenta share the same word – whenua. Both are sources of life-giving sustenance. Justice given to indigenous peoples is action in reducing climate change. Maintaining tino rangatiratanga is climate justice. The duty of kaitiakitanga must be taken on by all of us – government included – if we are to create a habitable planet.

*Kahu Kutia is a member of Te Ara Whatu, a small but growing network of indigenous youth from Aotearoa and the Pacific fighting for action on climate change and indigenous sovereignty. They believe these kaupapa are intersectional. You can find out about some of their work on Facebook and Instagram.*

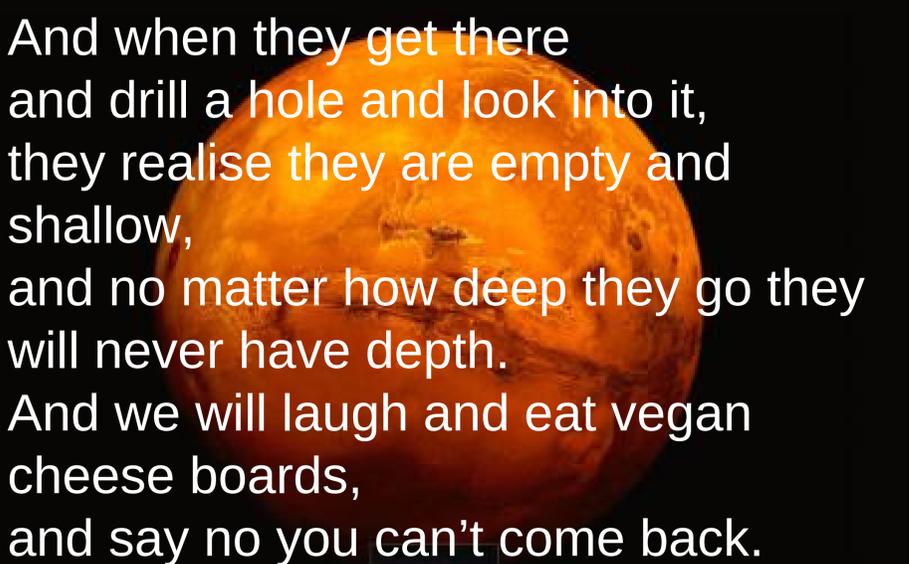


# Creative Corner

## Ticket to Mars

By E Cullen

I can't afford a ticket to Mars,  
although they do say they need brave  
volunteers to start with.  
Well I do like adventure,  
but not that much.  
I would probably just get too anxious  
anyway.  
As soon as there was a gathering of more  
than four,  
I would start to crumble.  
Do martians even want to talk about the  
weather?  
Maybe instead of going to Mars,  
we could focus on vegan cheese.  
If we figured out how to make really good  
vegan cheese,  
and then made it affordable,  
then there would be more vegans.  
Because have you eaten cheese lately?  
It's a game changer.  
Maybe vegan cheese wouldn't quell our  
insatiable appetite to consume,  
but it might take the edge off,  
and leave a smaller environmental  
footprint.  
I hope all the oil industry leaves this  
planet,  
and goes to live on Mars.



And when they get there  
and drill a hole and look into it,  
they realise they are empty and  
shallow,  
and no matter how deep they go they  
will never have depth.  
And we will laugh and eat vegan  
cheese boards,  
and say no you can't come back.

## Tree Existentialism

By Deepa-Rose Sealy

So today I lay under a grandfather Pine  
tree in the Newtown end of the town belt  
in the almost Autumnal evening  
sunshine. There was a shifting in the  
leaves, a flutter of feathers, a golden  
patter of leaves all around me.

And I thought how I would love to be a  
tree lightly swaying in the breeze,  
looking down on urban children from the  
heights; on children taking rest in my  
vast roots, and branches. How I would  
love to see them gaze up at me full of  
curiosity, amazement at my height, eyes  
full of appreciation and love for the  
environment I give; the space I breathe  
out in to. How I am oft the backdrop to  
film, literature, poetry, a lovers' picnic or  
altar, and often mark the dead as an  
eternal reminder of grief. But hardly ever  
the subject in itself. I have seen your  
ancestors, I have seen the landscapes  
change from before your time, and I  
have communed with my cousins also  
here in the Town Belt.

So this Earth Day, and after, please  
remember me and my Native cousins.



# System change not climate change

By **James Barber, Extinction Rebellion:** wellington@extinctionrebellion.nz

**What is being done?** The plastic bag ban is coming. It doesn't affect the useless bags that everything's wrapped in or the resources put into making all the stuff we buy and ship around the world. There is a petrol tax subsidising electric cars but public transport in our major cities is broken, leaving few options for those who can't afford a Nissan Leaf. There is a ban on new offshore oil and gas exploration but drilling is still happening, and so is mining. As "individuals" we could go waste free, brave biking, and eat fewer steaks, but this won't solve the underlying problems behind climate change.

**Who is responsible?** Wellington hosts lots of companies whose business is causing climate change. Todd Energy (next to Post Office Square) is one of the leading companies in fracking gas. One big problem with this "transition fuel" is the warming gas, methane, leaking from almost every operation. Up the road is Bathurst Resources, one of Australia's biggest coal companies. Austrian owned OMV is in the Majestic Centre & Norway's Statoil is right next to Midland Park. Both are exploring for deep sea oil around Aotearoa. Companies like these are pushing against any meaningful action on climate change.

**What can you do?** Get involved with groups organising for the system change necessary for a sustainable and fair future. Extinction Rebellion is pushing for zero emissions by 2025 and democratic People's Assemblies. In Wellington they've held a zombie invasion to protest the Wellington airport extension. Together, we can deal with the root causes of climate change, as well as biking and eating fewer steaks.



## Our Town, Newtown: Update

Unless you've been hiding away and not reading the Newtown News, then you would have heard about community facilities in Newtown getting an upgrade! Whoop! This includes our main centre (corner Rintoul & Colombo Streets), Newtown Hall on Daniell Street and SMART Newtown - our community computing hub. Last year the architects from WSP OPUS received community feedback on designs and tweaked the plans to reflect this.

Here's a few examples:

- The toilets were placed opposite the kitchen, but upon receiving feedback with a te ao Māori perspective, a door has been placed in between the hallway and the entrance to the toilets to align more to tikanga.
- We got a Waste Minimisation Grant (thanks WCC!) to operate a "Community Fridge" and had been searching for a suitable location to install it. This fridge has now been built into the plans, to be housed in a specially-built cubby with access from outside of the building.
- Earlier drawings had a proposed extension to Newtown Hall. Community feedback means that the work at Newtown Hall will now focus on internal upgrades and a covered entry.

What we have now are some awesome designs that we feel strongly reflect the community's wants and needs (including those who currently use our spaces and who would like to in future). Current estimates put the timeline for building to begin at the end of 2019. Get more information on our website [www.newtowncommunity.org.nz/our-town-newtown](http://www.newtowncommunity.org.nz/our-town-newtown) or email [info@newtowncommunity.org.nz](mailto:info@newtowncommunity.org.nz)

# What's the happens?

## **At Newtown Community Centre, corner Rintoul & Colombo st:**

### **Community Law presents: Tenant Rights & Social Housing: A public talk.**

On 24 April, Community Law are hosting a presentation on tenant rights and social housing. From 5.30pm for snacks, 6pm start. Lawyer Digby will discuss: disputes with landlords, flatmates and/or tenants, housing standards, eligibility and transfers in the social housing programme, and the emergency housing process. There will be time to ask tenancy questions.

### **Cool Kids Play Hard**

Have you or your kids ever wanted to learn breakdancing? Bust out some windmills & headspins! This new class is straight after school, Mondays 3.30pm-4.30pm. Newbies & intermediate dancers welcome. \$12 per session. Contact James aka 'Kbiggs' on 0223150526 or kezawardlaw@gmail.com

### **Slow Note: a DIY all ages arts festival**

Slow Note is happening in halls and backyards across Te Upoko o te Ika a Māui on 26-28 April, showcasing a plethora of musicians and poets from across Aotearoa. On Fri 26 April, 6.30pm, epic artists will perform at the Community Centre, including Carb on Carb, i.e Crazy, Mr. Amish, Milk, Fruit Juice Parade, SODA BOYZ & more. Tix at [undertheradar.co.nz](http://undertheradar.co.nz) (\$20 day, \$40 weekend).

## **At Newtown Hall on Daniell Street:**

**Harakeke weaving with Tanya - one day class or 12 week course:** These classes are popular & have LIMITED SPACES - get in fast to reserve your spot: [tanya.milne@gmail.com](mailto:tanya.milne@gmail.com)

**One Day Waikawa:** Sat 6 April, 1-5pm, \$30. Learn to make a wonderful Waikawa basket, large heavy duty baskets for many uses in the home. This is a fun, dynamic and popular workshop.

**Block Classes - Kono to Kete:** Monday evenings 6-9pm, 12 weeks from 29th April, \$180 (ask about timebank spaces/payment plan). These classes will take us from the basics of weaving and flax preparation to more advanced projects as we progress. Starting with kono and konae (small baskets) to basic kete making, and finally a more advanced and patterned kete. The classes will be run in four week blocks, building progressively on what we have learnt. [tanya.milne@gmail.com](mailto:tanya.milne@gmail.com)

### **Newtown Holiday Programme**

The Newtown Community Centre School Holiday Programme runs 15th - 26th April (excluding public holidays). For kids 5-10, it's \$20 per day/ \$10 for CSC holders – cheap as chips! You can find more details and enrolment forms on the website - [newtowncommunity.org.nz/holiday-programme](http://newtowncommunity.org.nz/holiday-programme) - or pop into the Centre. Email [ellie@newtowncommunity.org.nz](mailto:ellie@newtowncommunity.org.nz) if interested!

### **Taiko Drumming**

Try Japanese ensemble drumming with the Narukami Taiko team on 31 March from 1.30pm-2.30pm. 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.

## **Elsewhere in Newtown:**

### **Easter Service at St Tom's**

St Thomas' whānau will be commemorating Christ's death on Fri 19 April, 10am at St Thomas' Chapel, 200 Riddiford St & celebrating his resurrection on Sun 21 April at Newtown School: community breakfast at 9.30am, worship at 10.30am. All welcome.

### **The annual Vinnies Book & Fabric Fair: Sat 27th, 8am-4pm, & Sun 28th, 9am-3pm**

Winter's coming so suss out what you are going to read in front of the fire or heater! Books all \$2 or less. Vinnies REsew is selling loads of fabric and recycled haberdashery, alongside books. All proceeds to St Vincent de Paul's Welfare Programs. St Annes Church Hall, 22 Emmet Street.