

# NEWTOWN NEWS

YOUR COMMUNITY ZINE: FOR NEWTOWN, BY NEWTOWNERS

TŌ KOUTOU MAKAHINI HAPORI: MŌ NEWTOWN, NĀ NGĀ TĀNGATA O NEWTOWN



BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE NEWTOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE  
NĀ TE WHARE HAPORI O NGĀ PUNA WAIORA

Paenga-whāwhā | April 2024

# Kia ora Newtown

Kia ora koutou!

When I think of my daily habits in which I strive to be more eco-friendly, I am often inspired by the happenings and people on the streets of Newtown. Signage and posters for upcoming rallies, events, shows, kai sharing, op shops and used book stores, as well as heaps of people using public transport and cycling/scooting. Thus spawned the idea for an issue this month focused on sustainability! A Newtown local who we've probably all seen on their trike is Urs! Check out my kōrero with them on page 3 as the Notorious Newtowner this month and get inspired to dig in to thinking about ways you can connect with community to make Pōneke, Aotearoa, and the wider world a little more conscious to the climate crisis we are facing.

Mechanical Tempest shares some great updates about their new space and happenings on page 5, and Mel's book review on page 7 is an awesome opportunity to think about all the cool orgs we have locally that can help us connect with the natural world and our food sources. Looking at you Kaicycle and Seeds to Feeds! The collage cover art was inspired by the waste hierarchy (see page 6!). The beautiful flora and fauna are reminders of what's at stake if we all don't take action to protect and nurture Papatūānuku. Remember, there is no "away" when it comes to waste...it all goes somewhere so let's all do our bit to prevent, reduce, reuse, and recycle.

The Op Shop challenge (page 4) was a great way to really be creative and let what we know about our co-worker help drive the gift giving. I think the items selected are unique and special, totally sparkers of joy - while not breaking the bank or adding to landfills. Ka pai Linda and Eryn!

The days are getting shorter, the weather chillier and sometimes we need a little nudge to stay optimistic and energetic this time of year. Retail therapy can be fun, but hard on the wallet and Mother Earth. Who on your birthday list can you do an op shop challenge for? Need some board games or new-to-you music, your next great read, or a fun date night/pals afternoon out idea? Cheers to being creative and mindful kaitiaki of beautiful Aotearoa!

Mā te wā,

Megan - [megan@newtowncommunity.org.nz](mailto:megan@newtowncommunity.org.nz)

Cover art collage, "Prism", by Pippa and Sarah Haag-Fisk.

Thanks for the support of our amazing local businesses! Please support 'em back!



ELYSIUM

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# Notorious Newtowner

Megan caught up with Urs between activities on a chilly Tuesday morning for a kawhe at Baobab. Urs' enthusiasm for all things related to sustainability was so inspiring, as is her trike festooned with the Ace Pride flag and cheeky stickers from local artists.

Originally from Kirikiriroa, with a brief stint in Gizzy, Urs landed in Hataitai with her family in the 70's, and truly feels that Pōneke is home. She's been in Newtown for the last 9 years, and loves it! "It's where things are" and definitely where Urs is meant to be! Residing near the Peoples Coffee Mansfield Street Cafe & Roastery, she has the good fortune of being able to open her windows and catch a whiff of the freshly roasting beans! Urs has a busy roster with their role at Kiwiburn as a depot lead, taking part in workshops organised by Te Toi Mahana, work with Aunty Dana's, and Crop Swap. In all these arenas that Urs inhabits, the theme of sustainability is pervasive throughout and her passion for her interests is palpable and delightfully infectious.

When I first reached out to Urs to shine the spotlight on her for the April 'zine, she was clear that "sustainable fashion is not my forte" as I shared a little bit about what we'd be talking about this issue. My chat with her helped broaden my own thinking around the myriad ways that the Newtown community supports reducing its footprints, encourages reusing and repurposing goods, and creates opportunities for recycling organics and materials. Urs highlighted that op shops are great, and orgs like Crop Swap, EkeRua, and Wellington Timebank have events that create opportunities for folks to meet up and share their knowledge and learn some new skills. She also underscored that Aunty Dana's is the storefront supporting the awesome mahi of Gender Minorities Aoteara - so not only repurposing pre-loved clothes but funding affirming (and life-saving!) services for the trans community. Urs had a full day ahead of her planned, and was looking forward to heading to EkeRua that evening for Shift Happens, the Tuesday night workshop for transgender, female, genderqueer, genderfluid or non-binary folks. What a great way to get involved and support the greener option of cycling for all!



In order to keep themselves on track with their full schedule, Urs relies pretty heavily on her calendar to keep herself sorted. I asked Urs what she does to stay fueled and energised to keep up her momentum to remain connected and engaged? She regularly schedules social events with friends and is keen for a pub quiz with faves the Monday Moon Quiz and the Southern Cross music quiz. And for other hobbies, Urs was psyched to share that she just picked up a new (to her) flute. After playing for over 20 years, her previous flute was nicked during a move, and she's eager to get back to it!

# Op Shop Challenge!!!

NCC staff love a good challenge, and also love celebrating milestones and birthdays. Smart Newtown's Maddy is next on the hoamahi roster of birthdays so we took this chance to see how we can practise some sustainable, affordable, and fun gift giving! Eryn & Linda were selected to embark on a fabulous journey to test the limits of our local op shops to find an amazing \$10 gift for Maddy!

The rules were pretty simple: \$10 limit; Newtown shops only; books, bric-a-brac, jewellery, clothing, etc. were all on the table!; and more importantly, keeping in mind the things Maddy likes: internet culture, Dungeons & Dragons, earrings, sunhats, movies, various games, trans pride merch, Chicago deep-dish "pizza", and more!

## How'd it go?! Take a look and see how our contestants did!



"I found the larger bling chain \$1 (Opportunity for Animals), smaller chain \$3 & hat \$6 (both Salvation Army). I spent a lot of time looking through Coco Chanel books, looking for inspiration from 1920's fashion, which Maddy is drawn to. I didn't find anything that fit the bill, but the shape of the hat made me think of the 20s (maybe the material could be replaced...?), and my dearest mom was partial to a bit of bling

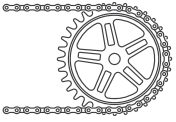
and fun jewellery, so I hoped Maddy might appreciate the necklaces - for dressing up, or down, depending on your perspective! 😊 Happy Birthday Maddy!! xxLinda"

ERYN - MUG \$2. BALLOONS \$1. STICKERS. \$2 (VINNIES): BANGLE \$1 AND EARRINGS \$4 [OPPORTUNITY FOR ANIMALS]. "MADDY LIKES COFFEE [EVEN THOUGH SHE DRINKS IT BEFORE WORK AND I'VE ONLY WITNESSED HER DRINKING IT ONCE! I DON'T KNOW IF SHE'S A WHO-VIAN....BUT IT SEEMS ON BRAND FOR HER, SO I TOOK A GAMBLE! MADDY GOT SUPER EXCITED ABOUT HALLOWEEN AND DECORATED SMART NEWTOWN, UP FOR THE OCCASION - SO HERE'S A HEADSTART FOR 2024. AND MADDY IS GREAT AT MAKEUP, WHY NOT MAKEUP STICKERS? THE BANGLE IS CUTE, TOTAL BARGAIN, A QUALITY ITEM & IN AN AWESOME RAINBOW COLOUR SCHEME AND THE EARRINGS ARE A BIT CLASSIC, VINTAGE & ART DECO LOOKING - MADDY LIKES THAT STYLE!"



**Maddy says "I want to thank my lovely colleagues for their exquisite taste in clothes and jewelry. My cold weather flapper girl look is really coming together."**





# Mechanical Tempest



By Nicole Gaston

Kia ora Newtown! You may remember Mechanical Tempest, the DIY bicycle workshop previously located in the former Caltex station on Mansfield Street. After a few years without a workshop space we have finally found a new home! We are in the process of relocating our workshop to the Central Park Flats in Brooklyn. Big thanks to Te Toi Mahana for offering us a new space to work out of so we can continue to empower people to fix their own bikes and help get folks riding!

In case you haven't heard of Mechanical Tempest before, our aim is to teach people to repair bicycles and reduce waste by making use of donated good quality second-hand bicycles and parts. We are a dedicated group of volunteers with the goal of supporting sustainable transportation options by giving bicycle repair and maintenance guidance in a supportive, inclusive space. We also welcome donations of good quality used bicycles and bike parts. Keep an eye on our website [tempest.nz](http://tempest.nz) and social media @mechanicaltempest to find out about our grand opening in May!

If our workshop sounds like something you'd like to support you are welcome to donate [tempest.nz/koha](http://tempest.nz/koha) or consider volunteering with us! Fill in this form to indicate your interest in volunteering: [forms.gle/Hsh6RTzvdEWk2fnu7](https://forms.gle/Hsh6RTzvdEWk2fnu7)

We will be updating our website at [tempest.nz](http://tempest.nz) and our social media channels so watch this space for news!



Have you seen the fantastic yarn bombing around the neighbourhood?! We love it so much - what an awesome and crafty way to show some Pride this month!! Trans, non-binary, asexual, and more!



To the anonymous yarn bomber - thank you for sharing your talents with the community and supporting all of us in the Rainbow community.

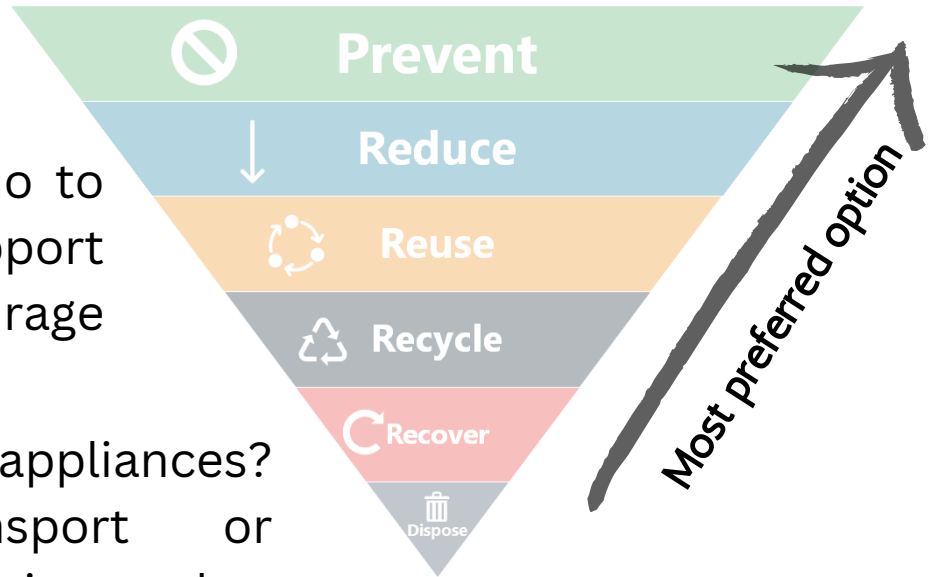


Have you seen some awesome kindness going down? let us know...we'd love to share! Email us at [infor@newtowncommunity.org.nz](mailto:infor@newtowncommunity.org.nz)

# WASTE HIERARCHY

Some ways to engage with more sustainable living!

- Reusable items! Say no to single use plastics. Support businesses that encourage BYO bags/cups, etc.
- Got energy efficient appliances? Take public transport or alternative transportation rather than a car for short trips.
- Can you repurpose an older/used item? Support clean waste getting made into new items!



## TECH TIPS with Maddy



of  smart•newtown

### TAKING TECH OUT TO PASTURE, SUSTAINABLY

At Smart Newtown, a lot of folks stop by with old and issue-ridden devices. Most of the time we can fix them up, but ancient hardware and unsupported software makes them a challenge to use.

Little do people know that these devices are still valuable. Electronics often contain precious materials, like coltan or gold, that can be recycled into new tech. This is key toward enabling sustainability in electronics and reducing demand for new mining around the world.

If you have old electronics (any old electronics), don't throw them away, take them to our city's two signature recycle points.

**The Tip Shop (Landfill Road, Ōwhiro Bay):** Lots of us know about the Tip Shop. They take old junk, clean it up, and sell it on. Most e-waste is free to drop, but for monitors and TVs they charge \$30. [bit.ly/3TpdAO7](http://bit.ly/3TpdAO7)

**The Sustainability Trust (2 Forrester Lane, Te Aro):** Right in the centre of town. They're easier reach but do charge some small fees for various items. The good news is that mobile phones, batteries, and newer laptops with chargers are free to dispose. [bit.ly/3x3LBMB](http://bit.ly/3x3LBMB)



# FutureSteady : Live Like Tomorrow Matters by Jade Miles

A book review by Mel Duff



Not gonna lie, I picked up this book because I liked the front cover. It turns out, as well as being a gorgeous book filled with stunning photos, it's also a fascinating read!

In this volume, we follow Jade and her family through their year on Black Barn Farm in rural Victoria, Australia. Split into six sections following six seasons - Awakening, Alive, High Heat, Harvest, The Turning, and Deep Chill, the reader is guided through a delightful array of gardening tips, recipes, and rituals to celebrate the slow changes throughout the year. Woven in are stark reminders of the realities of living in a place hit hard by climate change: droughts, unpredictable frosts, and preparing to evacuate from the bushfires that plague their corner of Australia.

While this book focuses on a more rural lifestyle, Jade sprinkles in plenty of useful tips for translating the ideas to a smaller-scale, urban or suburban context. Some of my favourites included:

- Making a point of spending time outside each day, observing and appreciating the changing of the seasons - even if it's from an apartment balcony or local park.
- Supporting local growers and food producers if you can - snapping up seasonal bargains at the farmer's market is a great opportunity to try out some of the recipes and preserving tips if you don't have the space, time, or inclination to grow your own produce.
- Connecting with your neighbours and community to share resources, ideas, and time.

There are a few little quirks that started to get on my nerves by the end of the book. As someone who appreciates the value of some herbal remedies but is staunch in the belief that there are many times conventional medicine is necessary, the focus on promoting the "healing properties" of every crop started to get a little repetitive. Likewise, while it's definitely understandable that (as an heirloom apple orchardist) Jade has a surplus of apples and therefore a plentiful supply of apple cider vinegar around, proselytising about its seemingly endless uses was becoming grating by the end of the book.

If you're interested in reading this book, head to [wcl.govt.nz](http://wcl.govt.nz) to reserve a copy at the library, or pop into the Ngā Puna Waiora branch to chat to our lovely librarians about what we have in our collection (check out the 635s for more about gardening, and the 640s for other books about sustainable living!)



# WHAT'S THE HAPP'S?

AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE,  
CNR RINTOUL/COLOMBO STS

## **Senior Social Drama for 65+ - Thursdays, 1:30am - 12pm**

Free Social drama for Seniors: stimulate the mind, voice and body with this informal class full of laughter and creativity. Stand up, stand out and make your third age your best age. For more info contact Austin on 0220117217.

## **Free Community Law Clinics - 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of the month, 11am - 12pm**

Free confidential legal advice with a rōia / lawyer from Community Law. No appointment necessary. First and third Wednesday of the month ONLY. For more info: [bit.ly/43wx1Jw](http://bit.ly/43wx1Jw)

## **Death Café – Saturday, 13 April, 1 - 3pm**

Let's normalise our own demise. We are all going to die, let's talk about it.

At a Death Café people, often strangers, gather to eat cake, drink tea and discuss death. Death Café is not a grief support group. This is a place to discuss death without expectations. For more info: [bit.ly/3Vv4guT](http://bit.ly/3Vv4guT)

## **Crop Swap Winter Season - Saturday, 20 April, 10:30am - 12pm**

Crop Swap is a monthly community gathering to share the abundance from our kitchens and gardens. Come and join for kai, korero and People's coffee. They'll meet in the Whare Kanikani | Dance Hall from 10:30am with the Crop Swap underway at 11am. For more info: [bit.ly/4axQEmX](http://bit.ly/4axQEmX)

## **Best on Tap: Happy Hour ANZAC Special - Thursday, 25 April, 7:30pm**

Best on Tap weave your ideas into stories, from the hauntingly real to the joyfully ridiculous. [bestontap.net](http://bestontap.net) for more info and tickets!

## **Mahi Toi: Open Art Club for ALL - Sunday, 28 April, 2 - 4pm**

Neurographic drawing with Ro. Refreshments provided! Material cost:

Timebankers - \$5 plus 2 hours time credits

Non Timebankers - \$8 unwaged/\$16 waged.

Text 0221200355 or email [info@wellingtontimebank.org.nz](mailto:info@wellingtontimebank.org.nz) to book a spot.

## ELSEWHERE IN NEWTOWN

### **Koha Yoga Newtown**

Koha means offering from the heart and yoga means union! Experienced and passionate teachers bring their unique knowledge to share with the community from a place of love, as a koha offering. Classes at Newtown Hall (71 Daniell Street) occur the following days/times. Come and get your stretch on!

Tuesdays, 6 - 7pm; Wednesdays, 7 - 8pm; Thursdays 10 - 11am & 6 - 7pm. Follow Koha Yoga Newtown here to find out more: [bit.ly/3TpJES3](http://bit.ly/3TpJES3)

### **Upcoming Classes at Smart Newtown - 9 Constable Street, Newtown**

Want help navigating the digital world? Classes run Wednesday evenings (5:15 - 7:15pm) and Friday mornings (10am - 12pm). Upcoming topics include setting up email and email essentials, internet safety and security, and RealMe & MyMSD account set up. To register and find out more, visit [bit.ly/44GGRYI](http://bit.ly/44GGRYI)

### **Newtown Tool Library - 9 Constable Street, next to the Newtown Library**

Drop into the new Newtown Tool Library to join up, borrow or return tools.

For more info visit their website [www.newtown-tool-library.com](http://www.newtown-tool-library.com) or contact them here: [newtown.tool.library@gmail.com](mailto:newtown.tool.library@gmail.com)

## GET IN TOUCH

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