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**NEWTOWN NEWS**  
**March 2017**

Brought to you by the  
Newtown Cultural and Community Centre

[www.newtowncommunity.org.nz](http://www.newtowncommunity.org.nz)

# KIA ORA NEWTOWN

At the time of writing this my office window is open, my jandals are on, and the sun has stopped being shy and is showing itself! It feels like summer might finally be here - just in time for festival season! Make sure you've got plenty of sunblock (am i too optimistic?) and dancing shoes on for the Newtown Festival which is taking over our lil' neighbourhood on Sunday 5th March.

To celebrate the festival and all things so-awesomely-Newtown we (along with the festival team) have put together a bumper 12 page issue even splashing out on some shiny paper! With this zine in your hot little hands you'll be able to navigate the streets with ease using the map, timetable, handy info and gossip about the stages and the fine folk that'll be on 'em!

I share an office with the wonderful Renee who along with her "Zero Waste" team are busy ensuring we are tidy and responsible Kiwis looking after Papatūānuku. This year they are piloting a "Wash against Waste" station (alongside their usual mammoth recycling efforts). Outside the community centre on Rintoul Street you can pick up some real crockery - instead of buying disposable plastic plates which junk up our landfills. Once you've finished your feed, bring it on back and our team will wash it up for the next person to use! They'll have cups too for those all important cups of coffee. This service is free so there is no reason to not get behind it and give it your support! If you want to go one step further and volunteer for the Zero Waste team - find out how on the page opposite!

Newtown has loads going on this month, make sure you check the "what's the happs" page to hear about all the exciting events we've got going on including "The Great Newtown Garage Sale Day" and come along to our Bicycle Workshops to get ya bike all fixed up! Let the festivities begin!

Ngā Mihi,

Eryn Gribble  
newtowns.newsletter@gmail.com

Cover art and design by Kelly Spencer

Thanks to the support of our amazing local businesses! Please support them back!



# IDEAL PEOPLE NEEDED

The Zero Waste Heroes will be at it again at this year's Newtown Festival on Sunday March 5th and this year they're aiming for the stars! After last year's massive success of diverting 69% of Festival waste from landfill, the team are upping the game again, adding an extra three stations (to a total of 15), aiming to reach 90% diversion in 2017.

## Want to make a big deposit in your karma bank?

To reach their goals, they need an even huger number of waste minimising wizards to help the public put their waste in the right place. This is where you come in...

## There are two ways to volunteer.

1. Sign up individually as a volunteer by emailing [zerowastenewtown@gmail.com](mailto:zerowastenewtown@gmail.com) or calling Renee at the Newtown Community Centre to sign up.
2. Organise a team to manage a waste station on the day! This could be you and your workmates, a group of neighbours on your street, your yoga class, soccer team or book club. We recommend about 8-10 people to stand in front of the waste station throughout the day, so that's 2 people at a time to cover 5 x 2 hour shifts. You'd be in charge of directing the public to use the correct bin to dispose of their Fair Day waste. If you're interested - get in touch and we'll send you the details. There will be prizes for the team with the best diversion rate!!

We have been working hard to get some tasty rewards to thank you (and all your friends ;-)) for your time. THANKS to Peoples Coffee & Ideal Cup for sussing us with a bag of coffee and an ideal cup for every volunteer! Legends! We've also been sponsored by Havana, All Good and Black Coffee - so many great peeps out there!



We've got a new project on the boil that we're excited about. At the Wash Against Waste (WAW) Station you will be able to borrow cutlery and crockery for FREE, so that you can munch your favourite Fair Day snacks right on down and avoid creating waste in the process! Once you're done, simply return the cutlery and crockery to the amazing assistants at the WAW Station - your dishes will be washed and sterilised with flare and style, ready for the next punters to borrow. If you're one of those onto it sorts and you plan to bring your reusable coffee cup on Fair Day, feel free to take it to the WAW Station for a quick wash up. You'll find the WAW Station on the Rintoul Street side of the Newtown Community Centre. There will be tables and chairs so you can sit and enjoy your lunch in style and let your senses be overtaken by the amazing whirl of the Newtown Festival all around. See you there!

## A MESSAGE FROM THE NEWTOWN FESTIVAL ORGANISERS...

Come join us for that one special day of the year when the streets through central Newtown are closed and transformed into a World of Food and Music.

Our vibrant and colourful suburb hosts the biggest annual street fair and free music festival in New Zealand. Our streets are taken over by gourmet foodstalls, craft stalls and amazing performances. Over 75,000 people replace the daily 25,000 vehicles and 420 buses as the heart of Newtown becomes a carefully designed series of outdoor rooms, stages and precincts bringing together bands, buskers, circus performers, local retailers, community groups and stall holders from Wellington and all over New Zealand into an outdoor extravaganza.

This year we celebrate our 21st birthday with 112 acts performing on 14 stages.

ACT FINDER: [newtownfestival.org.nz/programme-time/](http://newtownfestival.org.nz/programme-time/)

The **Fairday programme** page displays a list of the stages and all the performers, parades and buskers. Click on the top of the column to sort by **Performer**, by **Time** or **Where**. You can find acts by name, see your favourite stage's line-up, or check out what is happening at any time of day right across the Festival.

One of the delights of the Fair is exploring, discovering stalls selling all manner of goods and mouth-watering international food, and now you can take a virtual tour of what's on offer.

STALL FINDER: [newtownfestival.org.nz/stalls/](http://newtownfestival.org.nz/stalls/)

The Stalls page lists every stall, what they are selling and their site number. Stalls are grouped in Stall Blocks. Their site number gives you the Block zone where that stall is located. This page also lists the stages and other features for each Block. Search instructions [for phones and PC's] are at the very top of the page. Type in key words and then the page search will find all the matches. This page has the whole Festival – so you can find yummy treats to eat, cool things to buy or a stall (or a stage) by its name.

Use your phone on the day, or go online now and pre-plan your Festival.

This year the Tangata Whenua Stage moves into Riddiford Street at the south end (next to the much loved **free street sports and games** in Arney Street). The Filipino Village is back again at Saint Anne's, but this time with a combined Latino Stage at the end of Emmett Street. The Niceplace Curbside Cabaret has moved into Normanby Street. The Circus Rig with its amazing aerial performances is now in the end of Green Street. In Rintoul Street the stage is further up the road and is accompanied by an outdoor restaurant setting where the food-stalls are joined by public tables and chairs with free clean crockery and cutlery provided for you by the Wash Against Waste team!

*A city is essentially the people who inhabit its buildings, streets, squares and parks. People bring a city alive, when they gather, celebrate and perform together in its streets our city becomes a thriving vibrant community!*

Reclaim the streets, join in the day when we bring the world to Newtown, and showcase unique Newtown to the world!

But wait there's more - Celebrate Newtown ! – To see the other events on in addition to the Festival: [newtownfestival.org.nz/events/](http://newtownfestival.org.nz/events/)

*The Newtown Festival is brought to you by the Newtown Residents' Association Festival Committee.*

# NEWTOWN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION INC

[newtownwellington.org.nz](http://newtownwellington.org.nz)

*Our Association is delighted to be bringing you the wonderful Newtown Festival Street Fair for the 21st time!*

We are also involved in a lot of other community projects and activities, and we welcome anyone who lives, works or plays in Newtown or the surrounding suburbs to join us. We keep in close contact with Wellington City Council, and regularly make submissions on Council policy. We also do 'hands on' activities: we co-ordinate the Keep Newtown Clean mornings and have an ongoing gardening project with St Thomas's. We are about to have our Neighbours Night at Newtown Park, which should be great fun!

At our meetings we discuss what is going on in our community, and listen to guest speakers - this month we heard about the Wellington Water plans for a new reservoir at Prince of Wales Park. We meet on the third Monday of every month from February to November at the Community Hall at 71 Daniell St, at 7.30pm. The next one is on March 20th and everyone is welcome. Perhaps we'll see you there?



This is going to be an exciting year – a new project is beginning to enable the people of Newtown to collectively prioritise Newtown needs. The City Council has \$3 million set aside for developing Newtown's community facilities, and wants to include the whole Newtown Community in a co-design project. The Newtown Residents' Association is helping to co-ordinate this, alongside the Newtown Community and Cultural Centre and Wellington City Council. Look out for lots of opportunities to get involved with workshops and discussions and personal conversations about what is important to you about Newtown and your ideas and hopes for the future.

Rhona Carson  
*President*

# Newtown Festival 17

21ST BIRTHDAY!



	<i>Summer City</i> MAIN STREET STAGE	<i>Accent Entertainment</i> LATINO \ FILIPINO STAGE	<i>Pie in the Sky</i> SHAMBLELAND	SONGS FROM THE OLD COUNTRY STAGE	THE CIRCUS HUB STAGE	<i>Death Ray</i> WILSON ST STAGE	<i>New World Newtown</i> COMMUNITY STAGE
	RIDDIFORD ST <small>Thanks to: Wellington City Council</small>	EMMETT ST <small>Thanks to: Barrie Hutton</small>	COLOMBO ST <small>Thanks to: Solid Gold</small>	RINTOUL ST <small>Dedicated to Anthony Sumich</small>	GREEN ST <small>Thanks to: Makers of Entertainment, The Circus Hub</small>	WILSON ST <small>Thanks to: Death Ray Records, Goodnature</small>	RIDDIFORD ST/ CONSTABLE ST CNR <small>Thanks to: New World, Newtown Community &amp; Cultural Centre</small>
	MC: JOE BLOSSOM	MC: ANAYIBI	MC: SERGIO VELCRO & SHABBY SHEIK	MC: OLIVIA SUMICH/NIKITA		MC: HILLSY	MC: RICK SAHAR
9:30AM							Opening 9:30AM
10:00AM	Bazurka 10:00AM			Tui Mamaki 10:00AM			Move It Danceworks 10:00AM
10:30AM		Clube do Choro 10:30AM		Anastasia Dolina & Matias Ceballos 10:40AM			Hawaiian Dance Wellington 10:20AM
11:00AM	Oy Azoy 11:00AM		Opening Ceremony/ Shambleland Radio Show 11:00AM	Greek dance workshop with Jo Mellas 11:20AM	Cirq-ish? 10:30AM	Transistor 10:20AM	Mighty Ukes 10:50AM
11:30AM		So Samba 11:30AM		Tonic & Co Greek musicians 11:25AM	The Junkshop Circus 11:30AM	Joe Blossom 11:20AM	Kubatana and the Moringa Dancers 11:50AM
MIDDAY	Beat Girls 11:50AM		Presentation: Capeira Angola 12:00PM	Bulgarian dance workshop with Lilia de Castro 12:00PM			
12:30PM		Filipino Stage Welcome 12:30PM		Mehana 12:15PM			
1:00PM	Sam Manzanza 12:15PM	Gemma Lipana 12:35PM Nova delia Cruz 12:45PM Kathy Lopez 12:55PM Ella Cabautan 1:00PM Leah & Graham 1:00PM Dinna O'Meara 1:30PM Rondalla 1:45PM Ella Cabautan 2:00PM Leah & Graham 2:00PM	Deejay Dr Vinyl Burns and Guests 1:00PM	Syrian community musicians 1:00PM	Cirq-ish? 12:30PM	Moses 12:20PM	Sendam Rawkustra 12:25PM
1:30PM			Arrival of Shabby Sheik and Dignitaries	Emilio Bertrand and Alexander Gunchenko 1:00PM			Patio Español 1:25PM
2:00PM	Mel Parsons 1:45PM		FOLLOWED BY Second Shambleland Games Opens 2:00PM	Madagascan dance workshop with Lala Simpson 1:50PM	The Boomtown Okrabats 1:45PM	New Age Leper 1:20PM	Melting Faces 2:00PM
2:30PM		Saritah 2:20PM		NEW SONGS FROM THE NOW			
3:00PM	French for Rabbits 3:00PM			Nikita 2:15PM	The Junkshop Circus 2:45PM	Prizegiving 2:20PM	Gypsy Hendrix 3:15PM
3:30PM		Cumbia Bros 3:20PM		Ed Zuccollo 3:15PM	The Boomtown Okrabats 3:45PM	Tigers of the Sea 3:20PM	
4:00PM	Mundi 4:15PM		Brica-Brac Ravers takeover 4:30	Jhan Lindsay 4:15PM		Warwick and the Wankers 4:00PM	
4:30PM		Zamba Flam 4:15PM			Between shows, free hula hooping & juggling workshops will be offered for everyone who would like to give it a go.	Salad Boys 4:20PM	
5:00PM						Freak Magnet 5:00PM	
5:30PM						Womb 5:20PM	
6:00PM						Wolf Witch 6:00PM	
6:30PM						Beatcomber 6:20PM	
7:00PM						Earth Tongue 7:00PM	
7:30PM						Hex 7:20PM	
8:00PM						Secret Show 8:00PM	
8:30PM	BEBEMOS AFTERPARTY	MOON AFTERPARTY	BAOBAB AFTERPARTY				
9:00PM	8:00PM Few & the Far Between	7:45PM DJ Magnet aka Pashjams 9:00PM The Shuffle	8:00PM Ras Judah & the Culture Embassy 9:00PM Zillionz 10:00PM Tawhiri Funk 11:00PM Nation				* Thing-O-Rama One Man Bands: Outside Deathray Records
9:30PM							
10:00PM							
10:30PM							
11:00PM							
11:30PM							

# PROGRAMME 2017

<i>Antidote for a</i> LIVING WAGE STAGE	<i>VUWSA &amp; Victoria</i> NEWTOWN AVE STAGE	<i>The Hits</i> BUSKERS PITCH	<i>Niceplace</i> CURBSIDE CABARET	<i>Momentum, meelo, Eyes Down, Sonnet</i> RÉNEGADE BASS SOUND SYSTEM	<i>Atiawa Toa FM</i> TANGATA WHENUA SOUTH STAGE	BEBEMOS 88 Riddiford St 12:00-7:00PM The Garden Party: DJ TV DISKO
CONSTABLE ST	NEWTOWN AVE	MCDONALDS CARPARK	NORMANBY ST	DONALD MCLEAN ST	STH RIDDIFORD ST	BLACK COFFEE 133 Riddiford St 10:00AM Emmett Sutherland
Thanks to: Our Performers	Thanks to: VUWSA, Victoria University	Thanks to: The Hits 90.9fm	Thanks to: Niceplace, Meow, Caroline	Thanks to: Newtown Festival	Thanks to: E Tu Whanau	Ruby Solly 12:00PM Gypsy Moon 1:00PM The Gracious Deviants 2:00PM Firm Fram 3:00PM Graham Flaws
MC: BRIAN DAWSON, JO RANDERSON, DANNY MULHERON		MC: MR FUNGUS	MC: MEOW MEOW	MC: MANAIA TOA	MC: ATIWA TOA FM	BAO BAB 152 Riddiford St 10:00AM-6:00PM Nice up the dance. Topknot, Steppa D, Duke Willis and Guests 6:30PM The Fades
Not The Day Job 10:00AM		Slim F. Pickings 10:00AM	Ready Sett 10:00AM	Eyes Down 10:00AM	Karakia 10:00AM AtiawaToa Fm MCs 10:10AM DJ No L 10:30AM TUMA Maori Martial Art 10:50AM	
Black Rainbow and Her Big Band 10:50AM		Vinyl Burns 10:45AM	Zoe Moon 10:55AM	Momentum 11:00AM	Sophie Ani 11:10AM Make Music Aotearoa 11:40AM	
DJ Panda 11:40AM	Mantle 11:00AM	Fraser Hooper 11:30AM	Yayné 11:35AM	Eyes Down 12:00PM	Te Kahu Rolleston 12:20AM Amba Holly 12:40PM Huxx 1:10PM Pacifiesta 1:40PM Kemara Samuel 2:15PM Taikoza Wellington 2:45PM Raw Collective 3:00PM Taikoza Wellington 3:30PM	
Darren Watson 12:30PM	Waterfalls 11:45AM	Pascal Ackermann 12:15PM	Zero Cool 12:15PM	Momentum 1:00PM	Sianne 3:40PM Chocolate Box Deluxe 4:20PM	
Klezmer Rebs 1:20PM	Flo Wilson 12:30PM	Mr Fungus 1:00PM	Lelia Adu 1:10PM	Eyes Down 2:00PM		MOON 167 Riddiford St 12:00PM-8:00PM Tu Crucial Sound System
Tidal Rave 2:10PM	Feng 1:15PM	Slim F. Pickings 1:45PM	Draghound 2:00PM	Momentum 3:00PM		THE SALVATION ARMY 16 Constable Street MC Lachie Marshall 11:00-11:45AM Brass Band 11:45-12:30PM Music Team 12:30-1:15PM Brass Band 1:15-2:00PM Music Team
All Seeing Hand 3:00PM	SoccerPractise 3:30PM	Fraser Hooper 2:30PM	Eva Prowse 2:50PM	Dub fi Dub 4:00PM		STREET PARADES 12:00AM Cumua Sivera 10:00AM Big Girls 2:00PM Big Girls 4:00PM Batucada
Final words from LYNDY	Aw B 2:45PM	Pascal Ackermann 3:15PM	Giriboss 3:45PM			
	Mischancerie 3:30PM	Vinyl Burns 4:00PM	Ida Lune 4:30PM			
	Cave Circles 4:15PM		Emily Fairlight 5:15PM			
	Peach Milk 5:00PM					
	Corin 5:45PM					
	i.yoko 6:30PM					
	New Dawn 7:15PM					

<p>21st BIRTHDAY SPONSORS</p>	<p>Absolutely Positively Wellington City Council We Heke Ki Te Huarua</p>	<p>Nice Place! Property Management Ltd</p>	<p>NEW WORLD NEWTOWN</p>	<p>GOLDBEARD</p>	<p>E Tu Whanau Whānau Whānau</p>	<p>phil&amp;teds</p>	<p>Atiawa Toa FM 1989-2017</p>	<p>WELLINGTON CABLE CAR LIMITED</p>
<p>Brought to you by: NEWTOWN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION</p>	<p>RED DESIGN ARCHITECTS HEALING WOUNDS HEATHER HANLEY &amp; JANA HANLEY WELLS</p>	<p>VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON</p>	<p>VUWSA ASSOCIATION YOUR STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION</p>	<p>IDEALCUP</p>	<p>THE BIG PICTURE PRINTING WITHOUT THE FINE PRINT WWW.THEBIGPIC.CO.NZ</p>	<p>PEOPLES COFFEE</p>	<p>RADIOACTIVE.FM88.6</p>	

# BACKSTAGE PASS

*Emma Hall-Phillips gets the lowdown on James Lainchbury, Damian Jones and James Paul - stage managers for Renegade Bass and Niceplace Curbside Cabaret respectively.*

## **JAMES LAINCHBURY - RENEGADE BASS STAGE**

What's the name of your stage and it's vibe?

Renegade Bass. Unity and Niceness vibes..... Bass, Drums and Smiles all round!

This is your first year at Newtown Festival, welcome! What can audiences expect from the Renegade Bass stage?

People can expect to hear Roots dub and modern Dubstep/Bass music from "Eyes Down Sound" and 90's Jungle with a sprinkling of modern jungle styled tunes from the Momentum crew. Anyone new to these sounds will quickly be caught up in high energy nature of the music and immersed in the warmth of bass pressure!

You approached us with the idea of the Renegade Bass stage - what attracted you to Newtown Festival?

I love the Newtown Festival! I have been attending for 7 years now and have seen it grow and grow. I love the community spirit, the randomness and the free attitudes of the organisation, music, food, hosts and punters! There is nothing like what we at Momentum do anywhere else in NZ, and sharing that with the Newtown Festival audience feels right!

If you could have any DJ perform on your stage - who would it be and why?

Local artist would be Aaron. He was a key figure in the scene in Auckland in the mid 90's, and quite possibly one of the best in our history of Jungle/DnB. He has not played in close to 20 years, and I am trying to rebuild the space to coax him out of retirement!

## **DAMIAN JONES & JAMES PAUL- MEOW & CAROLINE PRESENTS: NICE PLACE CURBSIDE CABARET STAGE**

What's the name of your stage and it's vibe?

Nice Place Curbside Cabaret.

D: It's all just music, a sample of some of my favourite bands doing great things at the moment.

J: The vibe is underground indie rock/singer songwriter/equal rights/love.

It's really great to see a strong female presence on your lineup, was this something important for you to have?

Yes, it is something we are super conscious about when curating any line up. But at the end of the day the acts are amazing and their music speaks for itself no matter their gender, race, sexual identity.

Which act do people definitely have to make on the day?

Girl boss or Draghound. No, Ida Lune or Eva! No - ya gotta see them all!!!

Most memorable moment at Newtown Festival?

D: Seth Frightening last year.

J: Fis 2k16 on da Newtown Ave stage.



# BACKSTAGE PASS

## NEWTOWN NEW WORLD COMMUNITY STAGE

CORNER OF RIDDIFORD AND CONSTABLE STREETS

*Eryn Gribble chats with Andreas Lepper and gets the low-down on Sendam Rawkustra*

Since 2003 the Newtown Community and Cultural Centre has wrangled up some talented and creative locals and put them on the "Newtown New World Community Stage". There have been many memorable moments over the years - Community Music Junctions 30 strong choir delivered an energetic and joyous performance rocking the stage (literally)! We've had the Wellington Medieval Guild showcasing Medieval instruments and interesting wares from ye time of old! It's always a mixed bag, and this year will be no different.

Percussion based group Sendam Rawkustra have been regular performers - they go with our stage like "Marmite goes with cheese" or "Fleetwood goes with Mac!" So I thought I'd have a yarn to drummer and facilitator of the group Andreas Lepper - a man that has only 9.5 fingers! When asked about his half-missing digit he smiles and replies he once got a bit too cheeky to a Samurai, from the glint in his eye - I'd believe it.

Andreas explains how his friend Kieran 'Mr Sterile Assembly' Monaghan was working as a mental health nurse and approached him with the idea to form a band for consumers of mental health services. The group of unrealised musicians soon to be "Sendam Rawkustra" were spending their time at a day centre The Club House on Horner street. The Club House provided a safe and non-judgemental space for folk who had past or current experiences of mental ill-health. They came up with the name as Sendam is madness - spelled incorrectly and backwards, and you only need to hear this act to understand why they are called a Rawkustra!

The compositions are dynamic improvisations on top of some generally agreed structure, but the music always shifts into an unexpected and often brilliant domain. It's raw, it's fluid and they play the best cover of Riders On The Storm from The Doors that you'll ever hear (and you'll never hear the same way twice!)

Sendam Rawkustra are celebrating their ten year anniversary, a huge achievement - most of all because they have continued to obtain funding (Dre' gives a shout-out to Well Health Trust!) The band has proven their resilience as they have shifted to over 5 different rehearsal venues after the sad closure of The Club House, played loads of gigs, had many lineup changes and even released a studio album "Who's mad?". In 2003 they also lost a long-time band mate and friend, Tim Bell.

I'm not sure if he's trying to butter me up, but when I ask what's the best gig they've ever played Andreas doesn't miss a beat - "Newtown Festival. Every time!"

*"Take your pills. Read if you can. Shower if you must. Smoke all the time, red jersey, green jersey - that is all!"*

*"I am not in physical pain. I have 8 pills a day. I've got some sort of faith. No one has it easy."*

*Excerpts from "Bi-Polar Anthem" by Tim Bell. You are encouraged to sing along on festival day.*



# NOTORIOUS NEWTOWNER

*Rachel Miranda Evans has a chat with this month's Notorious Newtowner - Ray Tuffin.*

I stand at the counter of Baobab deliberating tea flavours when Ray walks in. Our conversation begins, and I let out an internal sigh of relief. My no prepared questions approach feels perfect as this is a man who is clearly passionate about his work.

Ray Tuffin is the new Wellington City Council Community Liaison Advisor for Newtown. The role is the first of its kind and the model may be rolled out across other suburbs. He describes his job as being a connector between the council and the community and about knowing the right people to talk to. It's evident that he does. By the end of our conversation I feel as if I have been walked through a three-dimensional multi-stakeholder diagram that's simple, open, and ready for the kids to colour in!

I ask if he has a vision for Newtown. He replies that it's not about his vision, but that it's about the vision of the community. His work is to consult widely around how to spend the \$3 million that WCC has allocated for community facility upgrades. Issues that are being addressed include rubbish, vegetation and roading, a play area for children, as well as an "Eyes On" project to reduce retail theft. Through the process of consultation he wishes to broaden the scope and produce a 1-3 year community plan that would allow the council to budget for future community needs.

Based at 8 Constable Street, "Kia Ora Newtown" is purposefully not a 'Council building'. Ray welcomes a visit. A few locals have offered to volunteer at the space and he's excited about voices coming from within the community communicating the upgrade project. With an ethos of inclusion, Ray is asking "What do we have here? How can we use it? What's not being seen or understood and how can it be better utilised?"

Ray also speaks in depth of the other project in his life and this is where I see his passion truly light up. He coaches golf and his interest in working with kids with special needs is developing into a grander scheme to create an accessible sports club in Berhampore that would be the first of its kind in New Zealand.

It's almost time for him to depart for a day of back-to-back meetings down at Council HQ so I ask what he's looking forward to about the Newtown Festival. He likes that it's a chance to bring everyone together and witness the multiculturalism of our community. Hoping for a clincher, I ask what band he's most looking to seeing... but he seems as pleasantly overwhelmed about the line-up as I am!

# NEWTOWN COMMUNITY & CULTURAL CENTRE (ruiz)

It's that time of year that we celebrate all things Newtown - including the self-proclaimed jewel in the suburb's crown, the Newtown Community & Cultural Centre. If you don't already know about all the great things that take place here, then a) where have you been?!, and b) get the heck over here already! Or failing that, at least cast your eyes over our little run-down of some of the things running at the centre...

**YOGA AND MORE YOGA (AND OTHER EXERCISE CLASSES):** Love getting your downward facing dog on, but don't really love shelling out 15 bucks a time to do it? Come along to the community centre's community exercise classes, where qualified and experienced tutors lead you through yoga sessions, tai chi classes and step aerobics workouts, all for just \$2 a pop! Classes include: Body Strengthening, Mon 9.30am; Tai chi advanced, Tues 10am; Baby friendly yoga, Tues 10am; Yoga & chai, Thurs 10am; Tai chi beginners, Fri 10am. For yoga enthusiasts, there are additional yoga classes which run for koha on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, as well as on Tuesday mornings. Check out our timetable for details.

**SPACE FOR HIRE:** we manage three different buildings and in total 7 different rooms and halls, all for use by the community! Spaces include a mirrored dance studio, meeting rooms, and a community theatre. If you need a space to host a private function, run a community activity, hold a fundraiser or put on a show, come talk to us! Rates range from \$6 to \$20 an hour. We also accept time credits for some of our rooms.

**RANDOM STUFF:** We've always got random stuff on the go! From gigs and theatre productions, to political seminars and educational workshops (keep your eyes peeled for our upcoming lecture series!), there's often something for everyone going on here! The best way to keep up to date with one-off events is to either like us on facebook (just search for the Newtown Community & Cultural Centre) or sign up for our fortnightly e-newsletter by flicking us an email.

**MUMS, BUBS AND KIDS:** We have a baby friendly yoga class on Tuesdays at 10am, this is open to everyone but is particularly welcoming to parents who need to bring their young babies along. Every school holidays, we run a two week programme for local primary school aged kids, with fees as little as \$10 a day for CSC holders. Our youth programme also runs a mentor programme where local kids are matched up with young adults and hang out together on a weekly basis, providing positive role-modelling and all-round fun times, as well as an art club and a citizenship youth group. We've recently gained African Dance classes and free singing lessons for kids - all on Monday afternoons. Contact us for more details!

**HUB OF HELPFULNESS!:** Our centre is also home to a number of other great community organisations, including the Citizens Advice Bureau (with free lawyer and JP service), the Wellington Timebank (with free smiles), the Newtown Tool Library (with free tool loaning), and NiuHIB Pasifika (with free budgeting advice).

For more details about any of the above, or to find out more about other things taking place at the centre, visit [www.newtowncommunity.org.nz](http://www.newtowncommunity.org.nz). Feel free to also pop by our office (with baked treats and/or fresh coffees in hand) to say hi and have a chat!

Until then... Renee and Eryn.

# WHAT'S THE HAPPYS?

## **NEWTOWN SUMMER BIKE WORKSHOPS**

Been hanging out to get some help to fix your bike? Nows your chance Newtown! Head on down to the Newtown Community Centre (Cnr Rintoul & Colombo Sts) on Sat 25th March from 1-4pm and get some assistance from the experienced mechanics from Mechanical Tempest. OR head down from 5.30pm-7.30pm if you are a woman or from the rainbow community and receive assistance from Wenches with Wrenches in a safe space. FOR FREE! BYO BIKE! Contact Renee for more info: [newtown.community.centre@paradise.net.nz](http://newtown.community.centre@paradise.net.nz) or 3894786.

## **THE GREAT NEWTOWN GARAGE SALE DAY**

It's time to sell all those items you never use and have a good old clear out. Transform your garage or front yard into a stall and make some quick cash! There will be garage sales all over Newtown – and the official map makes it easy for people to find your sale. It's FREE to take part and list your sale. To register contact [garage.newtown@gmail.com](mailto:garage.newtown@gmail.com). Garage Sale day is March 11th, check out the sweet map for directions [www.newtownfestival.org.nz/garagesale](http://www.newtownfestival.org.nz/garagesale).

## **BIKE CREW RODEO**

The amazing ReBicycle crew been building a Bike KREW Rodeo! It will have ramps, jumps and bumps, a see saw, slalom course, rope ladder and 'skinny's' (narrow planks for supreme masters of balance!), safe for children from ages 2 to 12 with 'something for everyone'. ReBicycle will bring along their small library of donated kids bikes, balance bikes, a few spare helmets, but if possible, kids are encouraged to BYO bikes and helmets. At Carrara Park on 12th March, from 10am to 1.00pm. Contact the festival office: [newtownfestival@gmail.com](mailto:newtownfestival@gmail.com).

## **AFRA DANCE**

Heather Grant from Afra Dance is starting a bunch of amazing African Dance classes in Newtown. Explore playful, rhythmic movement inspired by the culturally rich communal dances of Africa. All classes are on Mondays at the Newtown Hall on Daniell Street. 10am: pre-/post-natal mums, dads and babies. 3.30-4.15pm: 3-6 year olds, 4.30-5.30pm: 7-12 year olds & adults: 5.45-7pm. Various prices. Contact Heather Grant on 0272777784 or [heathergrant@afradance.com](mailto:heathergrant@afradance.com) for more info and to enrol.

## **NEWTOWN TOASTMASTERS**

Learn communication, public speaking and leadership skills in a friendly, supportive environment. Demo meeting 7.15pm, Monday 13th March, Newtown Hall on Daniell Street. From then on, meetings will be held every second and fourth Wednesday from 7.30-9.30pm, at the Newtown Community Centre, corner Colombo and Rintoul Streets. Contact Terry at 0220968621.

## **WALKING WELL, FEELING WELL: GENTLE DANCE EXERCISES**

This six week set of classes are designed to help build strength, confidence and self esteem. They will focus on posture, gentle movement to music, and how to feel great about yourself. Partnering up for the lessons will be optional. A cup of tea at the end of class is included. Thursdays, 1.30-2.30pm, commencing 16th Feb 2017 at the Newtown Community Centre (Cnr Rintoul & Colombo Sts). \$5 unwaged, \$7 waged. Contact Ishbel Clark to register: 3891365.

## **NEWTOWN LIBRARY**

Kia ora from the Newtown Library! Aside from our awesome books we have heaps of regular events: Storytime for preschool children every Wednesday morning at 10:30am; family friendly movie screenings the first Friday of each month at 6:00pm, Kōhunga Kōrero – storytimes in te reo Māori the first Tuesday of each month at 10:30am; a social English group – practice speaking English with a friendly group every Wednesday morning at 11:00am. 13 Constable Street, Newtown – 04-389 2830.