

Newtown News

HAKIHEA 2022 & KOHITĀTEA 2023 - DECEMBER 2022 & JAN 2023

NĀ TE WHARE HAPORI O NEWTOWN / BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE NEWTOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE



TŌ KOUTOU MAKAHINI HAPORI: MŌ NEWTOWN, NĀ NGĀ TĀNGATA O NEWTOWN / YOUR COMMUNITY ZINE: FOR NEWTOWN, BY NEWTOWNERS

SUMMER EDITION

Kia ora Newtown

Kia ora tātou! This is your summer edition of the Newtown News - there'll be no more newses coming atya until February! I hope you all are gonna have a restful break and get to enjoy some sunshine. I've been looking forward to summer for ages, for the chance to catch up with people outdoors, to reconnect with friends, get some vitamin d AND (hopefully) avoid covid!

Because of that dang 'rona (coronavirus), I've been avoiding hanging out with people, going out to eat and going to shows and gigs for the past year or so - so I'm very much looking forward to the sun being out & facilitating picnics, walks with mates (and maybe even dogs!), sitting outside at cafes and restaurants and hopefully some outdoor music! I actually had covid for the first time in November (slightly ironically I got it on a canoe trip on the Whanganui River) (every time I use the word 'ironic', I'm concerned I'm using it in the Alanis Morissette way and not correctly...am I right here?! or do I just have a spoon instead of a knife?!) and am still getting my energy back at the moment - defs keen to avoid it happening again.

One of the other things I'm really looking forward to over summer is getting out tramping. However, that can be a bit of a challenge because despite being in my mid 30s, I've never learned to drive, oopsy! So unlike many Wellingtonians, I can't just hop in the car and head over to some of the awesome hikes we have basically on our doorstep - like the Tararua or Remutaka ranges. Tramping takes a littttle more planning when ya don't drive - but if you're in the same boat as me (Actually scrap I can't drive a boat either) don't worry, we've got ya sussed - there's a whole section on walking and tramping by public transport in this issue! I would love to hear your other recommendations for public transport if you have any - send them to me at ellie@newtowncommunity.org.nz and I will be forever thankful!

Ngā mihi,
Ellie - ellie@newtowncommunity.org.nz

Woodcut tigers cover art by Stu Morris - check out insta @stuzy__ (that's TWO underscores) to see more of Stu's art!

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



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 & Cultural Centre.

Notorious Newtowner

Matt and Bronwyn had a kōrero about introversion & tech at Smart Newtown, our 'burb's free computer hub where Matt supports the community with their computer-y needs

Matt Brenycz hails from Chicago in the United States. It's a city with a long history for his Mom's family, and the place his Dad's grandparents escaped to from the Ukraine after World War Two. Matt ended up in Newtown after emigrating to New Zealand with a Kiwi partner in 2010. While the two aren't together now, he is happily settled in his flat near Macalister Park, or the "intentional community for introverts" as he call it.



In September this year, Matt took on the role of Administrator and Trainer at Smart Newtown, the community computer space located next to the library on Constable Street. The service offers internet and computer access, and low-cost printing and laminating. They also run training sessions - currently a series of short introduction classes on topics like email, smartphones and social media.

Matt's experience with computers goes way back to the nineties. His dad was an electronic engineer and designed motherboards, so Matt had really early access to the internet. He took advantage of this to look up facts about funny animals, or to help with his homework. Much later in life he did formal training in web development, but he says he would prefer to work in a community setting like Smart Newtown, where he gets to help people out. Matt knows how valuable these services are because he's been a customer himself, at a point when he was unable to afford a smartphone or internet connection. He also reflects that even as a trainer, he's always still learning new things to keep up with technology. He relates to anyone who comes into Smart Newtown with a computer problem, because they're the same kinds of frustrations he has.

When he's not doing tech stuff, Matt can be found watching movies and or reading - his favourite genres are horror and sci-fi. He also does creative writing for tabletop role-playing games, and has run games in the past. You might spot him at Peoples Coffee or Black Coffee, and he loves Macalister Park, particularly the walking track up into the trees. In Matt's opinion, Newtown is "the best little neighbourhood", because it's tolerant of everyone, including an introvert like him.

Smart Newtown - next to the library on Constable Street - is open between 9am-5pm Monday-Thursday. During those hours, you can pop in and say hi to Matt, get some help with your phone, laptop or general tech issues at the free Helpdesk, use the computers or even attend a class - they're offering "Intro to Smart Phones" and "Intro to Social Media" classes in December. Find out more at smartnewtown.org.nz / 04 380 0143 / info@smartnewtown.org.nz

Tramps via

By Lainey Cowan and Ellie Clayton

Heaps of us in Newtown choose not to use cars to get around. Here are some awesome tramps, walks or outdoors areas you can get to by public transport!

By bus!



Take the no 1 bus to Island Bay - go all the way to the last stop near Shorland Park and take a dip in that chilly ocean if ya feel like it! Then you can start up either the *City to Sea Walkway* bit.ly/3Vksxkh on the west / Owhiro Bay side, or the *Southern Walkway* bit.ly/3ipKW07 on the east /Houghton Bay side, both heading north. You can stop at Newtown, or head even further along either of the walkways!

Walk over the hill to Kilbirnie, or take the no 3 bus there. Then take the no 2 bus to Seatoun and hop off at the shops there. From there, walk along Inglis Street to the start of the Eastern Walkway - Lainey recommends a wander up to the Ataturk memorial and a return along the coast. bit.ly/3gJ5qRm

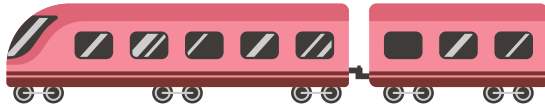
Jump on the no 3 bus to Lyall Bay to have a swim or wander along the beach, spotting surfers and dogs on the western side of the beach!



The Escarpment track with Kāpiti Island visible far left

public transport

By train!



Take the Johnsonville line and jump off at the Simla Crescent in Khandallah. From there, you can get to the Mount Kaukau summit walk! Amazing views. bit.ly/3VkJYrgv

Kāptiti line - get off at Porirua. From there you can walk a chunk of Te Araroa (the walk that covers the whole of Aotearoa) either way! either Arā Harakeke heading northwards or Colonial Knob southwards (zoom into Porirua at this website: www.teararoa.org.nz/the-trail/wellington)

Kāpiti Line: Jump off at either Pukerua Bay or Paekākāriki to do the Escarpment Track which runs between those two stations. Not for those with vertigo, but amazing coastal views! bit.ly/3FdXbq3

Both:

Grab the train to Lower Hutt - Waterloo and then bus 170 from there to Wainuiomata South - Hine Road. Get off at the end of Hine Road and you have access to the popular Ōrongorongo ranges and Catchpool Valley along the Whakanui Track or the McKerrow Track! bit.ly/3UjAyof

Further afield by train:

For walks in the Tongariro National Park, jump on the 'Northern Explorer' train (which goes from Wellington alllll the way to Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland!) and jump off at National Park. From there you will need to book a shuttle bus to Whakapapa (so not 100% public transport, dohh) if you want to do the Tongariro Northern Circuit (a multi-day Great Walk) or the Alpine Crossing - an epic day walk. Amazing to be able to get there on the train! But don't break your leg there like Ellie did haha.



View from near the top of Mount McKerrow in the Ōrongorongo valley



Tunes and trails



Fuhgeddabout spotify wrapped - here's the Newtown Community Centre team's fave summer choons for your ears instead! AND we've paired them with a fave local outdoors spot as well. Spotify schmotify!

Ellie - Kaiwhakahaere / Manager at the Community Centre

Song: 'Dying to Believe' by The Beths just feels like sunshine to me. I love to listen to this while biking around Wellington, and howl along to the 'ah ah, ooh' every time! bit.ly/3gP6xza

Outdoors: I love to snorkel in Tapu Te Ranga Marine Reserve – it's a different world under there.



Rowena - Kaiwhakahaere / Coordinator, Wellington Timebank

Song: Hands, Bella Donna, song is by talented local Wellingtonian singer-songwriter Bella Cook. Such a magical lyrical voice! bit.ly/3VH4njX

Outdoors: Finding kai in nature, inspired by the recent haewai (foraging) sessions through the Timebank and Seeds to Feeds.



Matt - Trainer at Smart Newtown

Song: Eli by Bosnian Rainbows: The lyrics remind me of my relationship with the radioactive oppression of the sun. bit.ly/3F8j4pB

Outdoors: Pariwhero / Red Rocks, Island Bay: It's a good spot to contemplate the terrifying immensity of the sea, surrounded by alien monoliths.



Alana - Kaiwhakahaere, Wellington Timebank

Song: El Amor by KeTeKalles, also a song I listened to a lot last summer, and never fails to get me dancing

Outdoors: A walk up Te Raekaihau Point starting from Princess Bay, such a beautiful walk with amazing views, and constant changes in plants to look at (a great foraging spot too!).



Eryn - Kaiwahakahaere / Manager at the Community Centre

Song: "Jerry was a Race Car Driver" by Primus is a classic song that has followed me on many summer road trips (don't be like Jerry – drive safe!) bit.ly/3EOoLIZ

Outdoors: I love going to festivals, or making 'mini ones' with my friends – they combine some of my favourite things: people, community, camping, making art, looking at art, music, jamming, playing games, hanging out.





A member of the Wellington Timebank (an awesome community of people who share skills for time credits rather than dollars) recently moved overseas, closing their Wellington Timebank account. They had some timecredits they hadn't used up, so they decided to gift the remainder to an active Timebanker out of the blue, saying to them **"Don't ever change - you're awesome."**

The person who received the timecredits sent this in as a Newtown Niceness, as the Timebank is based out of the Newtown Community Centre! The recipient can now use these timecredits – where one timecredit is equal to one hour of time – for any of the many services offered by community members on the Timebank – taking a quick look at the recent things on offer, that could include a massage, childcare or learning to use a loom!

Wanna get involved in a rad community of people who are not fans of capitalism and love sharing? Check out wellingtontimebank.org.nz to find out more or get in touch info@wellingtontimebank.org.nz - and p.s. we love getting submissions from Newtowners for this section of the Newtown News! Send your niceness to ellie@newtowncommunity.org.nz

Continue the kindness – give to Kaicycle!

Feeling inspired by the Newtown Niceness and wanna continue the kindness? Our very own local urban farm and community composting hub, Kaicycle - on Hospital Road - is doing a shout out for donations, which will fund essential drainage and irrigation systems to protect the farm from climate change.



This winter, half of Kaicycle's farm went under water, washing away healthy soil the team spent years building. With a summer drought predicted, Kaicycle farmers will need to be on site, seven days a week, hand-watering crops as the farm lacks a complete automated irrigation system.

Donate before 8th Hakihea / December to make this little slice of community farming in Newtown possible! givealittle.co.nz/cause/kaicycle

What's the Happs?

AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE,
2A GREEN ST

**FREE legal advice - last for the year,
Weds 7th December, 11-12pm**

Wanna resolve your legal issues before the new year? This is your last chance to see a free lawyer at the community centre in 2022. No appointment needed, just drop in. Any questions? Call 04 389 4786

**Last Free Soup Friday for 2022!
Friday 16th December, 1-2pm**

It's the last chance to get together with your community over a delish bowl of soup for 2022! It'll be a more festive affair, feel free to bring along something to share for dessert. Any questions, call 04 389 4786.

AT SMART NEWTOWN,
9-11 CONSTABLE STREET

FREE computer classes!

Check out these free classes coming up at Smart Newtown, our free computer hub! Registrations necessary - see below for how to sign up!

- **Intro to smartphones:** 7th Dec 6-8pm or 9th Dec 10am-12pm
- **Intro to social media:** 14th Dec 6-8pm or 16th Dec 10am-12pm

To register, or if you'd like more information about these classes, give Smart Newtown a call 04 380 0143. Or you can register online at: bit.ly/3VBecQT

NEWTOWN HALL,
71 DANIELL STREET

**Narcotics Anonymous - Wednesdays
5.30-6.30pm**

NA continues through the summer holidays, so if you're having trouble with addiction issues, head in to a meeting to get some support.

ELSEWHERE

**Berhampore Community Christmas
BBQ - Weds 14th December, 4-6pm**

Head along to the Berhampore Community Centre at 493 Adelaide Road for a community christmas gathering! Bring a plate - more deets at bit.ly/3ORsjPh

**Splendid Bush poetry launch - Book
Haven, 160 Riddiford St, Tues 13th
December, 6.30pm**

Join Left of the Equator Books for a launch of magical queer poetry book by Clare Havell- Shufflebotham! bit.ly/3GWVWfZ

**Labretta Suede & The Motel 6 - MOON
Bar, Weds 4th January**

LS&TM6 are returning to Aotearoa for a whirlwind tour and you can get in on it in Newtown! bit.ly/3gLBHYf

**Summer guided walks - Southern
Walkway! Sat 14th Jan, 10-11am. Meet
at southern end of Coromandel Street.** Wellington City Council are running a guided walk on the town belt - Newtown's backyard! bit.ly/3Fh6HIU

Get in touch

www.newtowncommunity.org.nz / www.facebook.com/Newtown.Community.Centre
04 389 4786 / info@newtowncommunity.org.nz