



# Newtown News

Brought to you by the Newtown Community Centre  
Nā Te Whare Hapori o ngā Puna Waiora

Your community zine: for Newtown, by Newtowners  
Tō koutou makahini hapori: mō Newtown, nā ngā tāngata o Newtown

## Hereturikōkā / August 2023

# *Kia ora Newtown*

Kia ora e te whānau,

You know here at Te Whare Hapori o ngā Puna Waiora / Newtown Community Centre we're always ahead of the curve.... and this month's issue of the Newtown News is no different. With this issue, we're celebrating "Honey-bee day" which is the 19th August.

I know, I know – bee awareness month is in September.... but we've got an election to cover then! Plus, we reckon bees are so great they should be celebrated every single month - so we're here to hype up bee awareness in advance of September!

If you wanna learn more about how you can help our fuzzy little friends thrive, you can check out this aptly titled webpage : [apinz.org.nz/how-can-i-help-bees](http://apinz.org.nz/how-can-i-help-bees)

The Centre has been a HIVE of activity – there's still contractor's ticking along with the odd job, excited community members coming to check out the Whare Tapere (Theatre space) and people picking up kai from our community fridge.

We are busy bees as it is, but we'll be hurried hornets once we're open full time and back to hiring on evenings and weekends – we're super close, just a few things left to finalise. Haven't been in yet and seen the new space? Well you don't even need to leave the comfort of your couch! Last week we had someone in who had a special camera / drone type device – and now we have a 3D walk-through video. Check it out here: [bit.ly/Walk-through-NCC](http://bit.ly/Walk-through-NCC) !

Ngā mihi, Eryn Gribble - [eryn@newtowncommunity.org.nz](mailto:eryn@newtowncommunity.org.nz)

Bee-autiful cover art of a bee hiding from the rain in a sunflower, by Ellie Clayton

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



ELYSIUM

*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

*Bronywn sat down to natter to bookworm Sue Esterman at the community centre room where she does her JP work from!*

Sue Esterman might not be a Newtown resident, but she's definitely a Notorious Newtowner. It's thanks to Sue that we have a roster of Justices of the Peace (JP) at the Whare Hāpori (Community Centre) here in Newtown. She organises a team of 8 JPs who offer their services verifying documents, witnessing signatures and taking affidavits.

It was Sue's career as a school librarian that led her to become a JP. Students kept asking her if she could verify documents for them, so her principal supported her to apply. It was a bit of a process, needing backing from community groups, the local MP, the Ministry of Justice, and the JP federation. Sue is glad she went through it though. She loves being able to help people out in the community.



She says that people are often surprised it's free, and sometimes try to give her gifts for her help, but she's not allowed to accept them. It's one of the rules that JPs can't profit from their services.

When Sue's not here as a JP, you might find her at Bookhaven on Riddiford Street. She's been part of that scene since she retired from school life, when the former owner, who happened to be a friend, asked her to come work there. It's an awesome little bookshop, and they've got the Freedom Shop in there too now.

In her spare time, Sue's a real bookworm. She's got a mountain of books beside her bed. She's especially into good fiction, well-written memoirs, and biographies. She recently wrapped up Joe Bennett's bio, and can't stop raving about Catherine Chidgey's "Axeman's Carnival". Sue also has some musical chops, having played the accordion for about fourteen years. She's a bit handy on the guitar and piano and recently joined a community choir. She loves a good walk, especially with the two dogs in her life, and catching movies and theatre shows, and she's an usher at Circa.

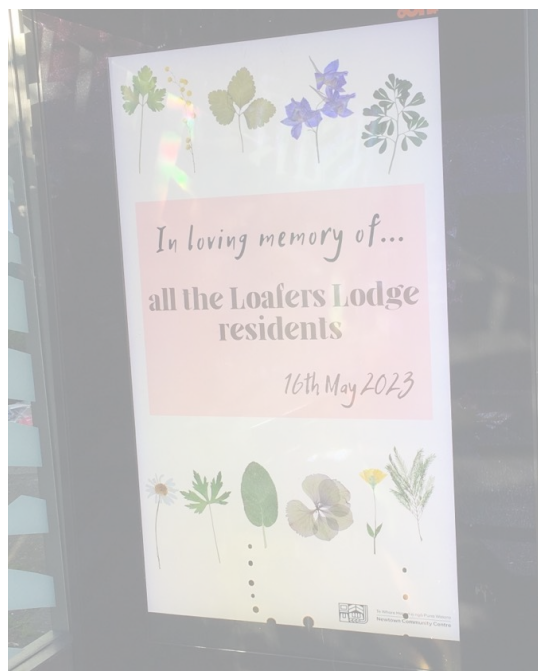
Sue's got a real soft spot for Newtown. Her go-to spots are Black Coffee and Aunty Social. She loves how it's a vibrant suburb with heaps of people coming and going, and the way people look after each other if there are any issues or someone is having a hard time.

A JP is available upstairs at Newtown Community Centre from Monday to Friday 10.30am until 12.30pm. No bookings are required.



Immediately after the Loafers Lodge fire, Eryn from the community centre started getting text messages from loads of people in the community, asking what they could do and how they could help. The community centre has also received so many emails with offers of heaps of practical support. A bit later, we put a call out for a good stereo, from someone who lost theirs in the fire - we got lots of responses. We've also seen the memorial across the road blossoming into a beautiful community space full of flowers, aroha and beautiful notes.

A final bit of niceness was the company who runs the bus stop agreeing to take out the advert in the bus stop and replacing it with a tribute to those lost in the fire. Thanks for all of this Newtown Niceness. Nothing will make this tragedy better, but it's heart-warming to see people coming together to support each other.



## **HISTORY FILES: NEWTOWN INDUSTRIES**

By Chris Rabey

Farming was the first industry in the Newtown area, but as the town became more crowded, a number of secondary industries requiring space and a plentiful water supply for their operations looked towards what was open country beyond the Basin Reserve.

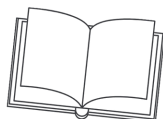
One of the next industries to develop was a currier (someone who 'curries' leather) and leather manufacturer, JGF Blow, who set up business in the early 1870's on the corner of Mein Street, where the hospital car park is now. He bought horse, cattle, goat, pig and dog skins to make leather mill bands and hose pipes, as well as leggings and equipment for the volunteer forces. Despite supplying these items to the Government, the business went bankrupt. The notice of auction, held on 17 May 1875, listed the assets as a four-roomed house, a currier's shop, wool store, stable and sheds, as well as lime and tan pits, and a stream running through the property.



In 1872 Herbert Gaby, an engineer, built the Wellington Soap Works on an acre of land on the eastern side of Riddiford Street (at that time it was called Revans Street), near the junction with Adelaide Road. The factory consisted of a boiler house with drying and packing rooms. A stream and a well, located at the back of the section near the boiler house, provided the steam heat used to boil the vats, a method used to reduce the offensive smell caused when the vats were heated over open fires.

Brickmaking was established in 1875 when Frederick & Herbert Hill opened their works on the corner of Wallace and Hill street (now Rolleston) Streets. A few years later this was followed by Charles Swinley's brickyard in lower Adelaide Road, and the Newtown Brick Works in Mansfield Street.

# FIND YOUR NEXT READ



WITH TE WHARE PUKAPUKA O OMĀRŌRŌ /  
NEWTOWN LIBRARY



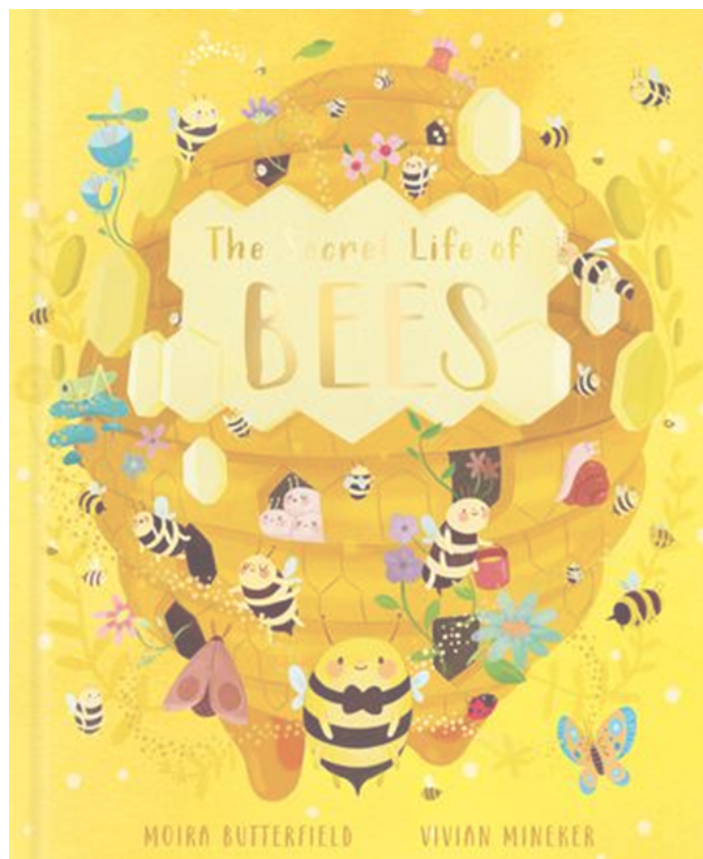
**This month's book:** The Secret Life of Bees

**Written by:** Moria Butterfield and Vivian Mineker

**Library link:** [bit.ly/secret-life-bees](https://bit.ly/secret-life-bees)

**Review by:** Te Atawhai

Are you buzzing to be a Bee whisperer? To learn more about the Queen Bee? -And I'm not talking about Beyoncé. Fly into Newtown Library and pick up a copy of The Secret Life of Bees, written by Moria Butterfield and Vivian Mineker. This beautiful book explores historical stories from around the world and facts about their cheeky busy buzzy lives making honey through the well-researched and whimsical illustrations throughout. We recommend this pukapuka for all ages, especially for those tamariki who are fascinated by the natural world. This book is just as sweet and as moreish as honey could be!



# TECH TIPS *with Matt* of smart•newtown

## Finding the right fonts / Font Hunting!

Whether it's a flyer for a small business or a poster for a gig, everything benefits from impressive text. The fonts you get out of the box in Windows or Mac can be less impressive. And what do you do if it's embedded in an image!?

The first step is to identify the font. The second is to download and install it (or something close to it). Here are some tips.

**Identification:** There are online tools that can help. The easiest I've found is Font Squirrel. Click on the website, then head over to the Font Identifier and upload the image. It walks you through some steps and tries to match the font to some free options. Similar websites include Font Finder and What the Font?

**Replication:** Once you've found an alternative, you'll need to download and install it. Installing them into your system isn't hard; double click the file to open it, then look for an "Install" button in the upper left. Once added, it will show up as a font option in photo editing tools, Microsoft Word etc.

**But Are They Free?:** Some fonts are paid purchases (blegh). Other fonts are free for personal but not commercial use. You can still use them for public facing stuff as long as you're not making \$\$\$ off it. So a poster for a free gig is up-and-up, but a door charge changes that.

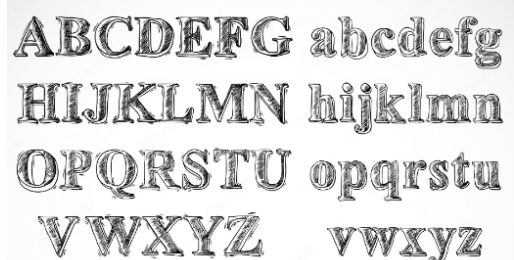
The neat thing about Font Squirrel is that it preferentially suggests ones that are free for all use, making it a one-stop-stop for both finding and acquiring. Links (listed separately for hyperlinking):

**Font Squirrel:** [www.fontsquirrel.com](http://www.fontsquirrel.com)

**What the Font?:** [www.myfonts.com](http://www.myfonts.com)

**Font Finder:** [www.whatfontis.com](http://www.whatfontis.com)

**Smart Newtown:** [www.smartnewtown.org.nz](http://www.smartnewtown.org.nz)



ABCDEFGH abcdefg  
IJKLMNOP hijklmn  
OPQRSTU opqrstu  
VWXYZ vwxyz

# TWENTY-SEVEN

By Kalee

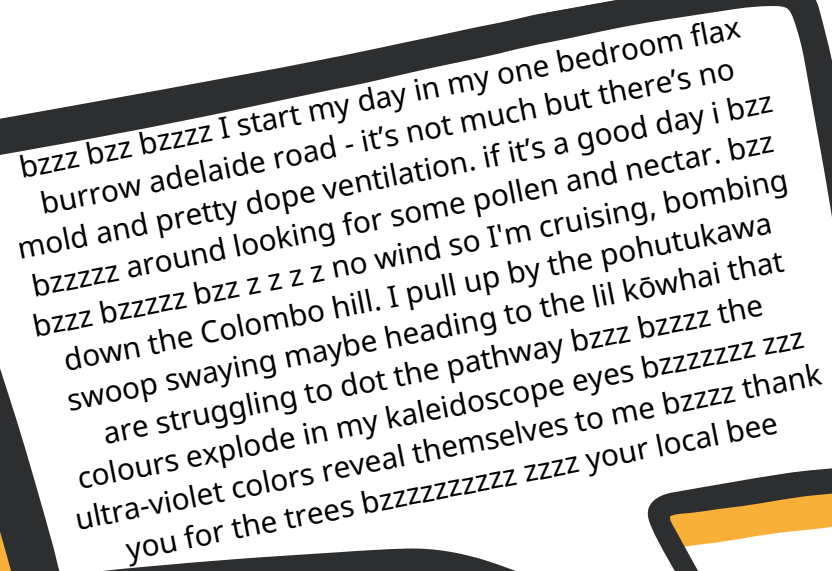
Out of more than 20,000 bee species worldwide, 27 are endemic to Aotearoa New Zealand. Our ngaro huruhuru /native bees do not produce honey and instead of having hives, they burrow beneath the ground or in hollowed out plant stems.

Tending to live solitary lives, they stay close to their chosen homes, typically venturing no more than 100 meters from their nests when out collecting nectar and pollen to feed their larvae and pollinating plants.

When out searching for food, they appear to find the most joy in mānuka and kānuka, their tongues having evolved smaller than any other bees to adjust to the flower.

Since there's no honey or colony to protect, there's no real need for native bees to sting.

I suggest you read Julia Kaspers article 'New Zealand's native bees – quiet lives of desperation' ( [bit.ly/3rPPBOc](https://bit.ly/3rPPBOc) ) where she states that the biggest threats to bee's are climate change and the changes in the way that land is used – a direct result of human activity. So, it's up to us to bee hero's – I'll leave you with two ideas : plant natives and eat seasonable fruit and veggies!



bzzz bzz bzzzz I start my day in my one bedroom flax  
burrow adelaide road - it's not much but there's no  
mold and pretty dope ventilation. if it's a good day i bzz  
bzzzzz around looking for some pollen and nectar. bzz  
bzzz bzzzzz bzz z z z no wind so I'm cruising, bombing  
down the Colombo hill. I pull up by the pohutukawa  
swoop swaying maybe heading to the lil kōwhai that  
are struggling to dot the pathway bzzz bzzzz the  
colours explode in my kaleidoscope eyes bzzzzzzz zzz  
ultra-violet colors reveal themselves to me bzzzz thank  
you for the trees bzzzzzzzzzz zzzz your local bee

Text from "a Bee in your part of the burb"





# WHAT'S THE HAPPS?

## **Newtown Community Centre (Corner Colombo/Rintoul Streets)**

### **Activity Explosion**

Lots of new things are starting back up again here at the Centre after the reno's - best to check our timetable on the website or Facebook (deets below) and sign up to our e-newsletter! [bit.ly/whats-on-newtown](http://bit.ly/whats-on-newtown)

## **Smart Newtown (9/11 Constable Street)**

### **Free Computer Classes**

From August 9th onward, FREE classes are back on at Smart Newtown! They are running Wednesday evening (5.15pm – 7.15pm) and Friday morning (10am – 12pm) classes are on the following topics: Setting Up Email | Email Essentials | RealMe and MSD | Microsoft Word #1 | Microsoft Word #2, | Microsoft Excel #1 | Microsoft Excel #2 | Internet Safety and Security To get more details see the Facebook event: [bit.ly/3PVWtDp](http://bit.ly/3PVWtDp). Register here: [bit.ly/3YfAU1h](http://bit.ly/3YfAU1h).

## **Happening in Newtown (and beyond!)**

**Free Blood Pressure Check – August 17th, 10am – 12pm, Newtown Library (13 Constable Street)** Keep on top of your health and get your pressure checked at Newtown Library. Med techs will get your gauge and give you the info to help keep you healthy. [bit.ly/3YbGTWr](http://bit.ly/3YbGTWr)

**Crop Swap – August 19th, 10:30am – 12pm, Newtown Park Apartments Community Room (320 Mansfield Street)** Come share your surplus from the kitchen and garden with folks in the community. Bring what you have (most importantly yourself) and take what you need, or just pop by and say hello. [bit.ly/43F9p3Z](http://bit.ly/43F9p3Z)

**New Menu at Moon** The new menu has landed at Moon Bar. Blast off into orbit with some delish kai. [bit.ly/43FNV6O](http://bit.ly/43FNV6O)

**Friday Dance Club – Every 2nd Friday, 7pm – 10pm, Pipe Band Hall (Corner Stoke and Hanson Streets)** Scottish?! Ballroom!? Line and Sequence!? For singles, couples, whoever. [bit.ly/3ryrpPY](http://bit.ly/3ryrpPY)

**Ukelele Tuesdays – Tuesdays 7pm – 8:30pm, The Office Bar and Café (124 Riddiford Street)** Come out of the ukulele closet and join The Mighty Ukes and the Ukulele Revolution. Relax and strum along with us for a fun ukulele jam session. [bit.ly/45fNNMT](http://bit.ly/45fNNMT)

## **GET IN TOUCH**

[www.newtowncommunity.org.nz](http://www.newtowncommunity.org.nz) / [www.facebook.com/Newtown.Community.Centre](https://www.facebook.com/Newtown.Community.Centre)  
04 389 4786 / [info@newtowncommunity.org.nz](mailto:info@newtowncommunity.org.nz)