

# Newtown News

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



Hōngongoi / July 2023



# Kia ora Newtown

Kia ora Newtown,

Brrr! This month's issue has the kaupapa of hōtoke / winter . As I type this, my feet are cold – ask any of my colleagues at the Community Centre and they'll tell you I moan about it a fair bit. Power is expensive now, so I don't want to just blast a heater at them all day (*even though, that's what I actually want to do*)! I've been thinking about investing in some "work uggs" – slippers just for work!

Rowena Tun, our wonderful Timebank coordinator, was inspired to move away from moaning about this cold weather and ask community members what they love about this season – check that out on page 7. There's heaps to love really – like soup – come have some with us on Fridays at 1pm, or make your own using Sylvia Lauris' recipe on page four.

As cold as my feet might be, I'm grateful that I have my slightly beat-up (*but sooo comfy and watertight*) Doc Martens, the means to purchase some Merino socks (*which have come recommended*) and a warm(*ish*), dry house.

That's not the reality for many folks this winter as the cost of living makes it hard for many peeps to turn the heater on or get the warm things they need. For some, the reality is living in cars or on the street. I've been reminded recently how we all could be one misstep away from this, one large bill we can't pay.

What can you do to help?

- Say Kia ora, be kind to people you see on the street. Have a chat!
- If you are concerned about the wellbeing of someone who might be rough sleeping call Wellington City Council's contact centre 04 499 4444
- There are many organisations you can donate to that support people experiencing homelessness. Google DCM or Wellington City Mission for more info.

Until next time, hope you stay warm and dry out there.

Ngā mihi,  
Eryn Gribble (she/her)  
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Cover art by Noah Minoura

**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

*Local legend Sarah sits down with Bronwyn for a kōrero about life in Newtown!*

Sarah Shore is probably most notorious in Newtown for her home, the villa previously owned by Fergus Collinson. Fergus was a well-known eccentric local painter, poet and photographer. A prolific artist, his house was jam-packed with paintings and sketch-books, as well as ephemera left by the many other creative types who passed through.

Sarah and her whānau took on the mammoth project of renovating the dilapidated house in 2019. They moved in with mixed emotions: it was a huge job, and every wall needed replacing. She says she spent the first two weeks walking around tearfully with a hammer, banging in rogue nails in an attempt to prevent tetanus-inducing injuries. The family spent a very cold winter in 2020, camping in the renovation site that year. To add to the difficult task, Covid-19 hit Aotearoa two weeks into their build.

Despite the challenges, the builders had finished the interior by December 2020, and the Shores have slowly worked on the exterior, painting bright blocks of colour all over the facade. The community took notice, expressing curiosity and sharing stories. There were even a few negative responses, like hate mail for cutting down a tree, but overall, the neighbourhood's investment in their journey was positive. A painting by Collinson now has pride of place in their cosy, modern lounge.

A sixth-generation New Zealander with German Jewish ancestry, Sarah grew up in Pirinoa, near Lake Ferry on the Wairarapa coast. It was pretty isolated, but school holiday trips to Auckland brought a taste of city life, so she had the best of both worlds. After studying at Teacher's College in Pōneke, she embarked on her OE to Europe, where she met her partner Matthew. In 2010, they returned from Budapest, Hungary, and their family grew to include two awesome kids.

Edi and Dora attend Newtown School, where Sarah used to work as a teacher (she now teaches just down the road at Mt Cook School).

Sarah loves living in Newtown, and finds solace in walking through the town belt, quiet time in the library, and savoring a cuppa at People's Coffee or Black Coffee. She loves that at Jimmy's Dairy down the road the owner knows her daughters by name. Sarah values the friendships she has made, and her neighbours and local book club. She loves that she can cycle just about anywhere, and rarely uses her car during the week.

As for winter activities, Sarah loves swimming at Hataitai Beach. She likes the sheltered bay with its wooden platform (no sandy feet!) and enjoys the company of the little fish and stingrays. She doesn't actually like the cold, but bravely takes a weekly dip throughout the year, swimming out to the boats. It's been her goal to put her face and head under this year, and she's doing well with the aid of a good thermal swimming cap. "It's like pressing the reset button", she says, "the perfect way to start the week".



Find out more about artist Fergus Collinson at <https://www.opportunityarts.org.nz/fergus>

# *Stay warm with Kaicycle farm kai!*

**By Sylvia Lauris, farm manager at Kaicycle**

Hōtoke is well and truly upon us at Kaicycle! Beds are tucked away under their blankets keeping as toasty as they can, winter veg such as sprouting broccoli, leeks, bulbing fennel are in the māra and slowly growing for another season of good eating!

One of the great things about Hōtoke is soups. I am of the opinion that all soup is good soup so I'll share one of my favourite recipes. I'll start by saying this (and probably all) soup is a starting point to tailor to your tastes and the contents of your fridge. I'm in the habit of everything-but-the-kitchen-sink soup. But the base of this soup is:

- Orange kūmara, carrots, pumpkin, basically whatever orange veg!
- Onion (white or red)
- Ginger (LOADS!)
- Dried whole chillies
- Orange lentils
- Garlic

Chop all the veggies up small and boil everything with plenty of water, salt and pepper and a couple rogue stock cubes (veggie scrap stock is even better!) When it's all nice and soft blend the bits up. Add it all back into the same pot, add the lentils and cook until they're soft. You can also add anything at this point that will take a while to cook such as cubed potatoes.

When your soup is at a point where everything is nice and tender you can

call it a day here, or go for a forage!

We'd collect kopakopa (plantain), nasturtium leaves, wild parsley, native spinach or whatever greens you'd like. Edible weeds are a great way to get nutrients that you aren't otherwise getting in your diet and a nice little freebie! Make sure you know what you're foraging for to avoid any cases of mistaken identity, there's a number of great books available and even more people you can learn from! It's also worth considering where you're foraging from. A lot of public spaces and parts of the Green Belt are sprayed so it's a good idea to look into that before you chow down. Make sure when foraging that you're only taking what you need and leaving plenty for others and for the plant to continue growing well.

Serve the soup with your foraged greens, some grated cheese (if that's your jam), and anything else you'd like. Fresh broad beans go well and it's a great way to use up leafy greens that have gone limp such as silverbeet or kale. **Kia mākona!**





You know that sinking feeling in your stomach that you get when you've lost something important? These Newtowners certainly do, eeeeeeeek!

Last year (we've had a lot of Newtown Nicenesses saved up!!), this was posted in a local community Facebook group. OMG it is a stressful read – gets worse before it gets better!!

*"I was at New World Newtown this afternoon and got some money out of the money machine and thought I put it all in my wallet before going into the supermarket. As I got to the checkout, I realised I had dropped a large portion of the money. After a major freak out, I realised I had also dropped the card in the supermarket, so I retraced my steps and found the card. When I returned to the Lotto counter I was told to my great relief that a wonderful customer had obviously seen me drop it and handed it in to the staff. If this gentleman is in this group I want to say a MASSIVE THANK YOU for your honesty today. Your gesture has proven that there are good people in this world. Today was the worst I have ever felt."*

And then just last week, someone handed in a lost wallet they had found at a bus stop to the community centre, because they *"knew it was a place it would be safe and hopefully get back to the right person"*.

It warms our lil hearts on these cold winter days to read these Newtown Nicenesses! If you have a nice Newtown story you'd like to share, go ahead and send it to us – **[info@newtowncommunity.org.nz](mailto:info@newtowncommunity.org.nz)**

*"No act of kindness, no matter  
how small, is ever wasted"*

**-Aesop**



# FIND YOUR NEXT READ



WITH TE WHARE PUKAPUKA O OMĀRŌRŌ /  
NEWTOWN LIBRARY



## **The Winterhouse Trilogy by Ben Guterson**

**Library link to the first book:** [bit.ly/Lib-Winterhouse](https://bit.ly/Lib-Winterhouse)

**Review by:** Jessie Bray Sharpin

If mystery, magic and puzzles in an enormous cosy hotel sound like your jam then you'll enjoy the books in Ben Guterson's, Winterhouse Trilogy.

The first book, Winterhouse, sees orphan Elizabeth sent to the Winterhouse Hotel for Christmas by her aunt and uncle, where she discovers a magical book in the hotel's enormous library.

This sends Elizabeth and her new friend Freddy down a path of secret codes, clues hidden in paintings, maps and family secrets set against a backdrop of snowy mountains and a frozen lake, with much sampling of the hotels' very own delicious candy, flurschen.

Elizabeth's puzzle solving and adventure at Winterhouse are continued in the next two books, The Secrets of Winterhouse and The Winterhouse Mysteries. These books are in our Junior Fiction section at Wellington City Libraries, aimed at readers 9 – 12 years old (and adults who love junior fiction, like me!)



# What's good about winter?

Winter in Wellington can be a challenging time. It's colder and the days are shorter and darker. Rowena our Timebank Coordinator, thinks there's lots to love about winter, so she walked the streets and asked folk what they love about this season, and this is what they had to say:

## Folks from Newtown School :

- "Crisp nights, clear skies to see the stars." - Debbie (Kaiako)
- "I want to find some snow and throw snowballs at my dad." - Sam (Tui Whanau)
- "Matariki and Matariki breakfast at school." - Alfie (Ngāti Kotahitanga)
- "I love a good crunchy frost!" - Lily (Kaiako)
- "Hot chocolate and toasting marshmallows on a fire." - Pete (Harakeke Whanau)
- "Calm still winter days." - Sam (Librarian)



## Kids Breakfast Club crew:

- "Cosy nights in." - Lima
- "Hot coffee at cool cafes." - John
- "Working out at Jetts Gym." - Sandra



## Local businesses and folk on the street:

- "Being under blankets on the couch with the fire blazing." - Mel (Castle Chemists)
- "I am looking forward to Eid al-Adha at Sky Stadium." - Faiza (Community volunteer)
- "Skiing! Fingers crossed Ruapehu is possible this year." - Christian (No Carcargos Courier)
- "Wearing my penguin onesie, listening to LOTR in bed, games at Rainbow Dragon." - Soph (SWIS kid)
- "Growing a thick fluffy winter coat and getting lots of pats." - Cleocatra (local feline)
- "Knitting and mulled wine!" - Anna (local resident)
- "Cycling on clear days when it's cold and not getting hot and sweaty!" - Nik (local resident)

## Newtown Community Centre staff and volunteers:

- "Being around bonfires or even better indoor fires! Spas and baths! Cuddles!" - Eryn (NCC Kaiwhakahaere)
- "Soup and garlic bread at the Friday Soup!" - Rex (Friday Soup volunteer)
- "Dancing til dawn at my mate's annual party. Roasts or curry nights." - Ro (Wellington Timebank Coordinator)
- "My merino possum legwarmers." - Patricia (Advisor, Citizens Advice Bureau)
- "My favourite woolly vest." - Bronwyn (Mahi Toi artist)
- "I like that winter is cold but not so extreme like some other places." - Ishfa (Timebank Volunteer)



## Black Coffee crew:

- "No bugs!" - Niamh
- "Hibernating, slower living." - Jasmin
- "Being able to wear nice clothes like my fav hoodies and jackets." - Nathan

## Wellington Hospital Staff:

- "Getting to 21 June knowing days are starting to get longer again!" - Helen
- "Sunny winter days where you can exercise outdoors and not get too hot." - Kerryn
- "Rugged up, slippers and hot coffee." - Chelsea

# What's the Happs?

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

We're back at the main centre & open Monday - Friday 9am - 4.30pm:

- **Drop-in** during opening hours - free hot drinks, community fridge, wifi & comfy couches
- **Free Soup Fridays** - Fridays 1-2pm, have a bowl of hot soup & connect with community.
- **Citizen's Advice Bureau** - 9am-3pm Mon/Tues/Thurs, 9am-12pm Wed/Friday - get free help and advice!
- **Justice of the Peace** - weekdays, 10.30am - 12.30pm - get your documents certified.
- **Free lawyer** - 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month (5th & 19th July, 11am-12pm. See a Community Law lawyer for free advice.
- **Mahi Toi : Open Art Club for All** - 2nd & 4th Friday of the month 10.30am - 12.30pm. A space to connect and create! Some kai provided and some materials, bring your own project if you have one! [bit.ly/mahi-toi](http://bit.ly/mahi-toi)

- **Theatre reveal : Open Home!**  
Sunday July 23rd, 4pm - 6pm The tech side of our theatre project will be finished! We want to show you the lights/PA/Projector & how you can operate it from a touch pad. Check out the rest of the centre and our reno's while you're here! [bit.ly/theatre-reveal](http://bit.ly/theatre-reveal)

## *Elsewhere in Newtown*

- **Femme n Bass : Boss level!** - Moon, 167 Riddiford Street, Friday July 7th, 9pm - 2am. Femme n Bass has a spectacular line-up of femme producers and DJs for you all. Tickets & info : [bit.ly/femmebass](http://bit.ly/femmebass)
- **Crop Swap** - Newtown Park Apartments Community Room, 320 Mansfield St, Saturday July 15th, 10.30am - 12pm Bring along your excess rhubarb to swap for someone else's silverbeet! Or just bring yourself to share kai & kōrero with this friendly community. [bit.ly/cropswap](http://bit.ly/cropswap)
- **The Circus Hub Open Day** - 11 Hutchison Road, Saturday July 29th, 1 - 4pm Your opportunity to give circus a go, see some special performances and check the space out. Free! [bit.ly/Circushub](http://bit.ly/Circushub)

## *Get in touch*