

# NEWTOWN NEWS

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**Matariki edition**  
**July/Hōngongoi 2019**

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Brought to you by the  
Newtown Community and Cultural Centre

# Kia ora Newtown!

Kia ora e hoa mā - hello friends,

Ngā mihi o te tau hou Māori - happy Māori New year! Kua tae mai ngā whetū o Matariki - the stars of Matariki have arrived. The rising of the 9 stars that make up the constellation Matariki marks the start of the new year in Māori tradition - makes way more sense to me than new year being at the height of summer! Growing up in the northern hemisphere, I knew Matariki as the 'Seven Sisters' and saw it on summer evenings. Around the world, others know it as Pleiades, or Subaru (check out Shomi Yoon's great article about this later in the News!)

In Aotearoa, the rising of Matariki is a time for reflection, connection and planning ahead. Here at the Community Centre, we've been reflecting a lot on the loss of the whare (house) at Tapu Te Ranga Marae over in neighbouring Island Bay, which tragically burnt down a little before Matariki. We send our love and solidarity to the whānau (family) and hapori (community) over there. Tapu Te Ranga is a marae which has done so much for Te Whanganui-a-Tara (Wellington), from its very conception. Late kaumatua Bruce Stewart had the idea to build an urban marae for people of ngā hau e whā ('the four winds' - people from all over Aotearoa and manuhiri (visitors) from the wider world!) in the 70s because he saw the struggles of Māori people in the city who were not able to return to their own whenua (lands) and their own marae, having been forced off their tūrangawaewae (ancestral lands) through the processes of colonisation and urbanisation.

The marae was built out of recycled materials - wooden boxes for transporting cars, glass bottles, scavenged wood and recycled nails. The bush around the marae was regrown. The marae was built by a community of Māori people who had faced homelessness or incarceration, for themselves, and ever since, community and connections have flourished there. The whare may be gone but the community remains and the whānau are already planning ahead to rebuild. If you want to support them to remake the whare, which will serve the whole of Wellington, you can donate at [bit.ly/2J45Xsk](https://bit.ly/2J45Xsk)

In other news, I just got back from a month in the UK rebuilding connections with my friends and whānau over there, it was h\*cking beauuuutiful! Thanks heaps to Lenny for covering me while I was away and doing a rad job on the News and all the other mahi (work) over here at the Centre. Also a huge mihi (acknowledgement) to Mhairi McGregor who has been our amazing sub-editor for the last couple of years but has moved on to exciting new things now.

Ngā mihi - Ellie - [ellie@newtowncommunity.org.nz](mailto:ellie@newtowncommunity.org.nz) (Get in touch about the Newtown News, we love to hear what you think, or if you'd like to contribute!)

Cover art by Gerda Smit [gerdasmitart.blogspot.com](http://gerdasmitart.blogspot.com), cover design by Lenny, design by haroofiroom  
Thanks also for the ongoing support of our amazing local businesses! Please support them back!



THE  
RAMEN  
SHOP



Baobab Cafe

Peoples

# Notorious NewbOwner

*I (Lenny!) sat down for a chat with Tanya, over a couple of black coffees (naturally) at Black Coffee.*

Originally hailing from Tāmaki Makaurau, Tanya's connection to the arts goes back a long way. Having done only a little bit of weaving as a teen, it wasn't until she returned to Aotearoa after spending time overseas, that she really began her weaving journey. Tanya returned at a time when Te Ao Māori was undergoing a societal change. She began by incorporating weaving into wearable art, quickly realising there was still so much she didn't know. This realisation (as well as having children) led her to take a break from academic life, where she had been studying anthropology, and to spend some time learning weaving techniques. 'I thought I was going to learn to just make a kete, and that turned into a four year journey' she tells me.



While most of her weaving studies took place in Whanganui, she also travelled up to learn at the Diggeress Te Kanawa School (Te Kanawa was a kuia, known for the revival of the Māori art of harakeke (flax) weaving) in Te Kuiti. This journey was a lot more than she had originally expected it to be, 'it wasn't just a practical journey, it was also a spiritual and emotional journey' as well as 'a journey of rediscovering who I am, as a Māori woman'. Another surprising realisation happened around this time, when Tanya discovered that her great grandmother had also been a weaver. Being able to bring her family on this journey has also been very important to Tanya, teaching her children to weave, and going with her mother to harvest the harakeke.

After heading back to Whanganui, Tanya spent a few years involved in the community arts centre there, facilitating and even jumping in to teach a lot of workshops, as well as running the Puanga Festival (Puanga is another star that rises around the same time as Matariki – some iwi celebrate Puanga because the Matariki constellation is not visible in their area). Tanya enjoys being a kaiako (teacher) because it makes her take a look at her own practice, understanding the many varied ways people learn, and exploring the many different ways of communicating with one another. Tanya sees all of this experience adding to her own learning as well, she still considers herself 'a baby weaver' and believes that it is a never-ending journey.

With one child already out of home, and another on their way, she is looking forward to the next chapter of her life. She plans on bringing all her work together, anthropology, weaving and photography, and I for one, can't wait for what she does next.

Check out [facebook.com/TanyaMilneArts](https://facebook.com/TanyaMilneArts) for workshops e.g. Kono & Konae, 6th July 1-5pm (\$30) or FREE Matariki workshop & Crop Swap on 13th July: [bit.ly/2WZhq6h](https://bit.ly/2WZhq6h)

# Matariki – reflection, hope, people

By Sian Smith

Just before the Māori new year, Matariki and her six daughters appear in the sky above Aotearoa New Zealand - each sibling signifies a different aspect of te ao (the world): Waipuna-ā-rangi (rain), Uru-ā-rangi (wind), Tupu-ā-rangi (food from the forest & sky), Tupu-ā-nuku (harvested plants), Waitā (ocean waters) and Waitī (freshwater) surround their whaea (mother). Sometimes, we see two more whetū (stars), Pōhutukawa and Hiwa-i-te-Rangi. Looking to these stars, we may contemplate the wellbeing of the world around us as well as our own.

## Pōhutukawa – the departed

We remember the wharehau at Tapu Te Ranga marae, built by the late kaumatua Bruce Stewart. "Ko te tangata i hanga i te whare, engari ko te tuara o te whare i hanga i te tangata—Those that build the house are also built by the house" - [bit.ly/2ZJt5D7](https://bit.ly/2ZJt5D7)

We remember those who have passed on, and those whose lives were taken too soon. "Mēnā kei te kōrero tātau i te reo, kei te kōrero ahau mō te reo e mōhio ana au, arā, ko te reo i tipu mai ai au i tōku ao." – Te Wharehuia Milroy [bit.ly/2IAdNe6](https://bit.ly/2IAdNe6)

"For our own sense of identity, cultural independence and feeling of nationhood we need our own voice in the form of a film industry." – Geoff Murphy [bit.ly/2FrI79S](https://bit.ly/2FrI79S)

Abdukadir Elmi, Abdul Fattah Qasem, Ahmed Abdel Ghani, Ali Elmadani, Alistair Browning, Amjad Hamid, Ansi Alibava, Anzac Wallace, Ashraf Ali, Ashraf Al-Masri, Ashraf Morsi, Asif Vora, Atta Elayyan, Daoud Nabi, Farhaj Ahsan, Ghulam Husain, Greg Boyed, Hafiz Musa Vali Patel, Hamza Mustafa, Haroon Mehmood, Hosne Ahmed, Hussein al-Umari, Hussein Moustafa, John Cocks, Junaid Ismail, Kamel Mohamad Kamel Darweesh, Karam Bibi, Keith Davis, Khaled Mustafa, Linda Armstrong, Maheboob Khokhar, Matiullah Safi, Mohammed Imran Khan, Omar Faruk, Mohamad Moosid Mohamedhosen, Mohsen Mohammed Al Harbi, Mojammel Hoq, Mounir Suleiman, Mucaad Ibrahim, Muhammad Haziq bin Mohd Tarmizi, Lilik Abdul Hamid, Abdus Samad, Musa Nur Awale, Naeem Rashid, Osama Adnan Abu Kweik, Ozair Kadir, Peter Wells, Pua Magasiva, Peter Posa, Quentin Pongia, Ramiz Vora, Sayyad Milne, Sohail Shahid, Syed Areeb Ahmed, Syed Jahandad Ali, Talha Rashid, Tamaki Heke, Tariq Omar, Yvette Williams, Zakaria Bhuiya, Zekeriya Tuyan, Zeeshan Raza

To those whom we have loved and lost. Moe mai rā, moe mai rā, moe mai i te moenga roa.

## Hiwa-i-te-Rangi - aspirations

Matariki and her daughters appear between 25-28 Pipiri (June) in 2019, to help their kuia Papatūānuku to ready for the year ahead. In years gone by, Matariki signals the year to come in her physical appearance. Bright and clear – He kaihaikai te ta - the year will be productive. Shimmering and hazy - He tau tūpuhi - the year will be cold and difficult. Looking to Matariki, we prepare for the year to come. E hiahia ana koe ki te ako tonu? Want to learn more? Check out more details on the pūrakau (legends) of Matariki here: [bit.ly/2xcmEwg](https://bit.ly/2xcmEwg) & here: [bit.ly/2WXYvUv](https://bit.ly/2WXYvUv) & here: [bit.ly/2N7wMB1](https://bit.ly/2N7wMB1)

*Kia tū mai a Matariki kua kore e au te moe, koe moe matatū te tangata*



# Constellations Connecting Cultures

By Shomi Yoon

The constellation that represents Matariki has been noticed and celebrated across the ages by different cultures around the world.

In Japan the Matariki stars are called Subaru - made famous in the Western world owing to the Japanese car maker's six-star logo. For Japan, the understanding of constellations, including the subaru stars, are long and deep dating back to Ancient China. The character 昴 is read subaru in Japanese and Mǎo in Chinese.

This Chinese character 昴 is a combination of two other Chinese characters - “sun” and “rabbit”, which is the fourth animal in the Chinese zodiac system. The characters were derived from the group of stars that point to the zodiac rabbit stars, indicating the direction of the sun. In Chinese tradition, matariki is know as “Hairy Head” and is part of the Twenty-Eight Mansions (the Chinese system of constellations like the Western Zodiac) belived to be protecting the night sky.

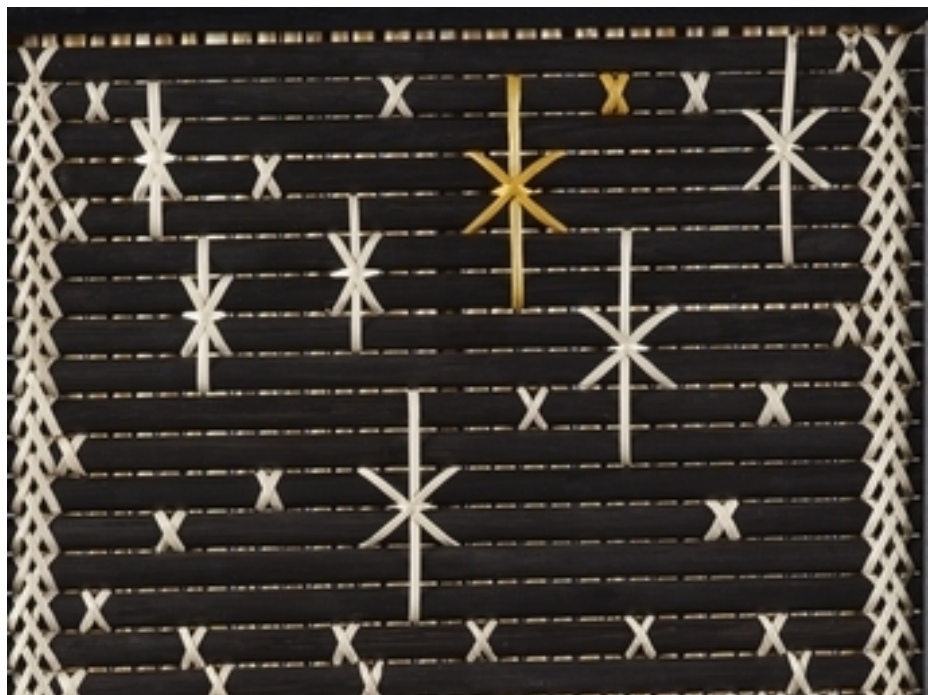
In Japan, Subaru means to unite or to bring things together. It's thought that the constellation was named subaru because the stars appeared to shine brightly united as one. The beauty of the constellation was noted as early as the year 1002. Court lady and poet Sei Shonagon wrote of the stunning subaru-stars looking up at the winter sky (our summer) in the classic *The Pillow Book*.

Today in Japan, the popularity of subaru remains. Subaru has been referred to in songs, novels, video games, films and more. Since the 1990s, Subaru has become

a popular name following a manga series of the same name.

Many thanks to spoken word poet Te Kahu Rolleston who first brought my attention to the connection between Subaru and Matariki - check out his poem about Matariki at [bit.ly/2x1Gw4S](https://bit.ly/2x1Gw4S)

Let us unite to marvel and wonder at the stars of Matariki this winter.



Woven Matariki tukutuku panels - [bit.ly/2WXGVQn](https://bit.ly/2WXGVQn)

# Te Ara Hou Kids Club....

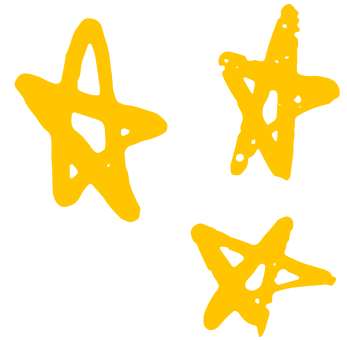
Te Ara Hou Kids Club is an afterschool club run by the Newtown Community and Cultural Centre with the help of a wonderful team of volunteers. With our awesome crew of children we talked about the pūrakau (story) of Matariki as the whaea (mum) of the whānau (family), the rising of her and her six daughters into the sky, marking the Māori new year.





# ...Toi Matariki (Matariki art!)

We talked about how many cultures celebrate the new year differently. We also talked about how the new year is a great time to reflect on things that bring us joy, so we hope you enjoy the artwork! The names of the children who contributed: Aaina, Aria, Madhu, Briseis, Capri, Mamita, Sapna



# Matariki Rising

Jamie Curme

Matariki is a special time of year. In the Northern hemisphere, celebrating the changing of the year in winter makes sense. There's cool crisp air making you awake and alert to new opportunities and if you're lucky, white snow blanketing the ground creating a metaphorical blank canvas. It's appropriate then that the Matariki constellation chooses to rise around the time of the Southern hemisphere's winter solstice, bringing in the Māori new year.

The festivities for Matariki have been culturally significant in Aotearoa for many a generation. The time of year is for celebrating the end of harvest and remembering the lives of lost ones, while also planning for the year ahead. However as the European calendar became more prominent in the 20th century, the public marking of Matariki ceased. It wasn't until the beginning of this century that it began to truly rise again in the eyes of all New Zealanders. Indeed, when Te Rangi Huata held his first Matariki celebrations in Hastings in 2000, only 500 people turned up. A few years later, over 15,000 people were celebrating Matariki with him.

In Pōneke, the start of this Māori new year was celebrated with the Ahi Kā event on the 21st June. This waterfront wonderland, organised by Newtown's own Suzanne Tamaki, is an all encompassing event involving kai, waiata, kapa haka, storytelling aimed at entertaining and educating all ages. It was great to see Ngā Wai Piāta proceeding around the lagoon, with local school children holding glowing creatures aloft, while hundreds of Wellingtonians looked on in wonder. All along the waterfront and around the Whairepo Lagoon you were surrounded by light and fire installations, photographic art projected onto the floating crane and musicians on every corner. This is a special time of year, may it continue to grow ever more so.

A photograph of a fire burning brightly against a dark background, with sparks and embers visible. The text "Ahi Kā - the fire burns on" is overlaid in white.

Ahi Kā -  
the fire  
burns on

**Wellington's Winter**  
**By Michael Dunningham**

Wellington's winter,  
The skies are grey,  
Hiding the sun's  
Delightful rays.

It's winter for sure,  
The rain pours down,  
I don my coat  
And almost frown.

Wellington's winter,  
Southerly blows,  
The gales which chill  
Get up my nose.

It's winter for sure  
The nights are long,  
But I'll survive for I am strong

## Creative Corner!



# Our Town Newtown: Community Update

While it may seem like the Our Town Newtown Community Facilities Upgrade project has gone quiet, a lot has been happening behind the scenes. Here's a wee update on what's been happening and what's about to happen:

## **Preliminary Designs are out for NCCC!**

Our wonderful architects at WSP OPUS have been busy with 'Preliminary Designs'. They are now working on 'Developed Designs', ready for Resource Consent and Tender for Construction. Woo! Getting closer! You can check them out overleaf, or at [bit.ly/OurTownNewtown](http://bit.ly/OurTownNewtown)

The next step involves submitting these designs to a Quantity Surveyor (QS) who will investigate exactly how much it will cost to carry out the planned alterations. If the cost comes back too high, changes will need to be made to ensure the build can be carried out within the budget. Hopefully there won't be any major surprises as cost checks have been carried out throughout the earlier stages of the design process.

We will also be submitting all plans to Wellington City Council so that we can get Resource Consent! If everything goes to plan, this will take around 6 weeks.

## **Newtown Tool Library & Constable Street Toilets**

Have you ever noticed (or maybe used) the public toilets next to the library on Constable Street? Well coincidentally these toilets were due to get a spruce up by Council and because of their proximity Smart Newtown (and a variety of other reasons), they've been pulled into the project. Attached to the back of the toilets is a storage facility that the Council is going to re-purpose for use by the Newtown Tool Library! WSP Opus and Council architects have been working together designing up a storm so that we get more toilets, with better accessibility, and a re-purposed space, perfect for use by the Tool Library.

We're excited about the potential for the Tool Library to run workshops out the front as well! Great outcome!

We'll be posting floor plans and artists impressions of the plans on our website soon! Check it out here: [bit.ly/OurTownNewtown](http://bit.ly/OurTownNewtown)



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ARCHITECTURE

SHEET NO 005

SCALE 1:50 @ A1

DATE OCTOBER 2018

ORIGINAL SIZE A1

TITLE PROPOSED GROUND FLOOR PLAN

PROJECT 7 COLOMBO ST. NEWTOWN  
NEWTOWN COMMUNITY AND  
CULTURAL CENTRE

Wellington Office

PO Box 12 609  
Wellington 6144  
New Zealand  
+64 4 471 7000

OPUS

Absolutely Positively  
Wellington City Council  
We Take It Personally

CONCEPT

OUR TOWN  
NEWTOWN

NEWTOWN  
RESIDENTS'  
ASSOCIATION  
REFURBISHING  
NEWTOWN

Wellington Community & Cultural Centre (2018 Plan)

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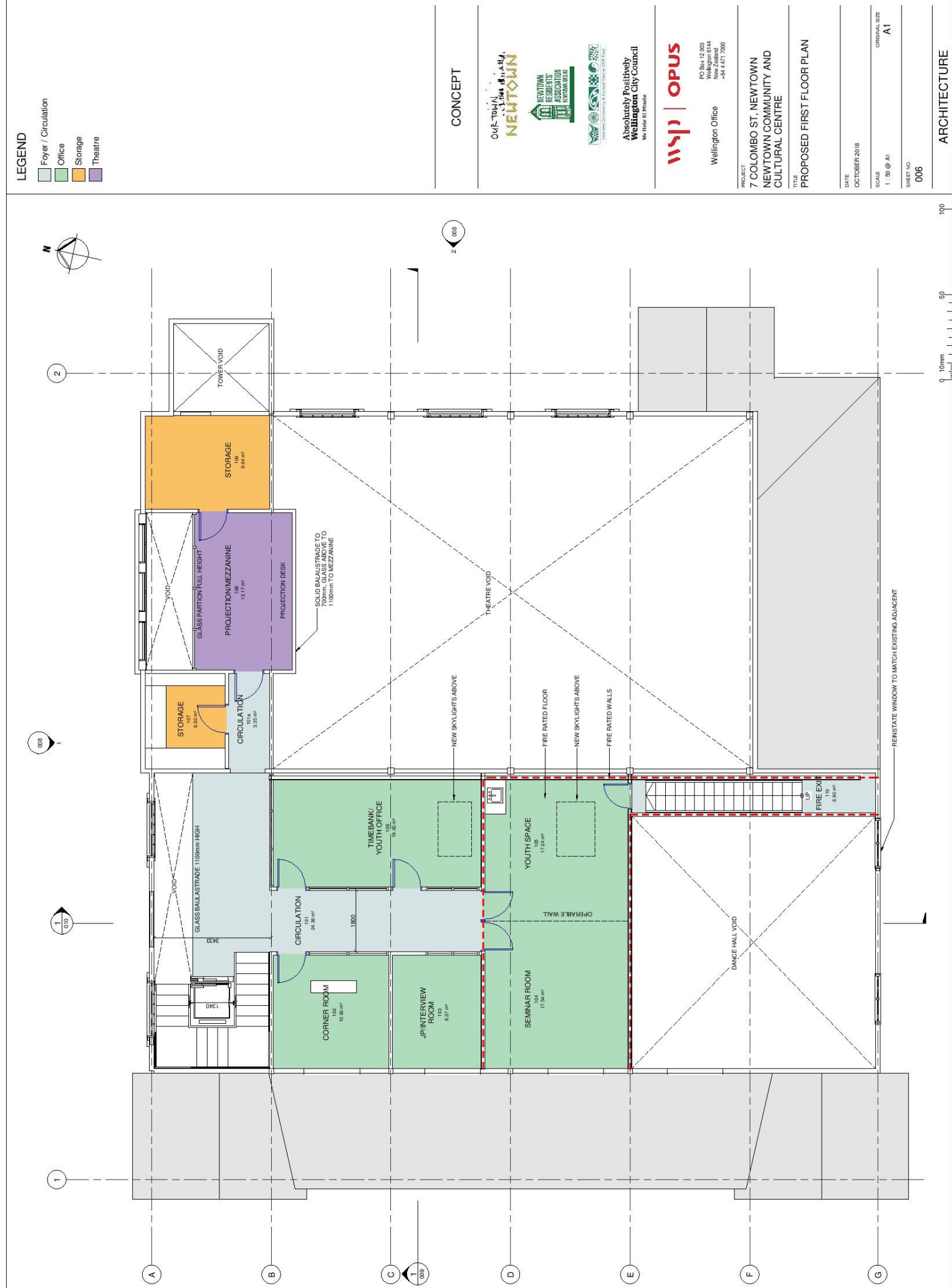
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## ARCHITECTURE

# First Floor Preliminary Design





# What's The Happs?

**At the Newtown Community Centre -  
Corner Rintoul/Colombo Streets**

**Matariki Weaving & Crop Swap - Saturday  
13th July, 10.15am - 1pm**

Join the Community Centre, the Crop Swap community & weaving teacher Tanya (of Notorious Newtowner fame!) for our free Matariki event. Bring some kai or crafts to share and join a free Matariki star weaving workshop! Find out more about Crop Swaps and the event here: [bit.ly/2WZhq6h](http://bit.ly/2WZhq6h)

**Cosplay Stage Festival - Saturday 27th  
July, 12-4pm**

A community run charity event aiming to showcase the talents of our local cosplay community - where performers dress up as characters from popular culture - usually Japanese manga or anime. There will be performances and skits to watch, raffles, games and more! Price: \$5

All profits will be donated to Evolve Wellington Youth Service! See Cosplay Stage Festival on Instagram and Facebook for more information.

**21st Century Department of Silly Walks -  
Sundays fortnightly, 4-5.30pm: June 23rd,  
July 7th & 21st, August 4th & 18th**

A newly formed group, getting together fortnightly to play, utilising some warm up activities from playback theatre/laughter yoga and the collective talent/knowledge of the group i.e. whatever we make up as we go! Drop ins welcome. To cover cost of meetup hosting and venue hire: \$10 waged / \$5 student/unwaged.

**Workers' Rights Service - Thursdays 5.30-  
7pm**

The Workers' Rights Service is a free advice & advocacy service for low income employees having problems at work (eg bullying, redundancy, or unfair dismissal). They're here to help you. Email [workersrightswellington@gmail.com](mailto:workersrightswellington@gmail.com) a short description of the issue, or just drop in.

**At Newtown Hall, 71 Daniell Street**

**Kono & Konae - small baskets weaving  
workshop - Saturday 6th July, 1-5pm**

Learn to weave small harakeke baskets in a fun and friendly environment in the heart of Newtown. These baskets can be created for many uses and are a great way to learn the basics of flax preparation as a lead in to learning to weaving kete. Classes fill up fast and have limited spaces so get in quick. \$30 or \$20 (concession). For bookings contact [tanya.milne@gmail.com](mailto:tanya.milne@gmail.com)

**DIY Green Cleaning Products - Saturday  
20th July 12.30-2.30pm**

Part of Wellington Timebanks Winter DIY Series. Members \$5 + 1 TimeCredit. Non-members \$15. Learn to make Eco-friendly cleaning projects to minimise plastic in your life and clean in an environmentally friendly way. Take home what you make! Registrations are essential, contact [info@wellingtontimebank.org.nz](mailto:info@wellingtontimebank.org.nz) or see [www.wellingtontimebank.org.nz](http://www.wellingtontimebank.org.nz)

**Elsewhere in Newtown**

**Late Night Thursdays - Thursday 4th  
July, 6-9pm & on the first Thursday of  
each month**

Supporting local and small businesses keeps our community and local economy healthy! On the first Thursday of every month some of our fave Newtown Shops are saying open late so you can get your beverage and retail fix! Pop along to Swell, Duncan Mclean, Sweet Janes and Black Coffee - all on Riddiford Street / Green Street!

**Aunty Dana's Op Shop - Monday -  
Saturday 10 - 6pm, Sundays 10 - 2pm**

Op shoppers of Newtown! It's time to extend your loop to include the new kid on the block - Aunty Dana's. They've moved from 128 Abel Smith Street to 130 Riddiford. All funds go to transgender support and advocacy organisation Gender Minorities Aotearoa. Nau mai haere mai ki Newtown, e te Aunty Dana's whānau!