

Newtown

News

Pipiri

June 2019

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SHOPS TAKEN
Newtown News

Newtown Community & Cultural Centre



Kia Ora Newtown

It's Lenny here! I had the opportunity of jumping into the role at the front desk temporarily last year while Eryn was away and now I'm back again. This time I'm keeping the seat warm for Ellie as she heads to the other side of the earth for a month. She will be sorely missed but we hope she has a fun and relaxing time away enjoying the start of the northern hemisphere summer.

Speaking of seasons, winter is well underway in Newtown, but that hasn't slowed things down here at the Community Centre. The Soup Group has been meeting every Friday from 12-1pm, conjuring up healthy and delicious creations for all to enjoy. Sugarfoot Stomp is also bringing the swing with dance classes on Tuesday evenings, no partner needed, and the first class is free! Why not give it a go?

Also at the front of our minds this month is World Blood Donor Day. Every year, on 14 June, countries around the world celebrate this day, which serves to raise awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products and to thank blood donors for their life-saving gift. Blood is an incredibly important resource, both for planned treatments and urgent interventions. It can help patients suffering from life-threatening conditions live longer and with a better quality of life, and supports complex medical and surgical procedures. By donating blood you are taking an active part in saving another person's life, and that has got to feel pretty rewarding!

Living in the Newtown area means being close to Wellington Hospital which in turn means that a donation centre is easily accessible and right in our neighborhood. There is a quick and easy quiz you can take on the NZ Blood website to find out if you are eligible to give blood, otherwise you can always pop down to a donation centre and ask in person. I just did the quiz and unfortunately my mild tattoo addiction means I have to wait a few more months before I myself can donate...

For more info, check out: <https://www.nzblood.co.nz/> and change someone's life today!

Thanks for having me again and keep warm this winter,

Lenny

Cover art by haroofiroo, design by Lenny, sub-editing by Mhairi McGregor.

Thanks also for the ongoing support of our amazing local businesses! Please support them back!



THE
RAMEN
SHOP



Baobab Cafe

Peoples

The views and opinions expressed in this publication are solely those of the original authors and other contributors. These views and opinions do not necessarily reflect those of the Newtown Community & Cultural Centre.

Notorious Newtowner

Ellie and Alana sip coffee and kōrero anti-capitalism and celebrating all humans for who they are...



Alana is the new Wellington Timebank Coordinator, so she's a familiar face around the Newtown Community Centre. If you've been in recently, you might've heard her chatting away in English and/or Spanish, building links between people in our community. Originally from Taranaki, Alana talks about missing the moana (ocean) and Taranaki maunga (Mt Taranaki) as we kōrero. But part of the lure of Wellington is that it has some of that wild, natural beauty too: "Around the bays is my fav place!" she exclaims.



It's been quite a journey for Alana between Taranaki and Te Whanganui-a-Tara, though. Rather than the classic SH1/SH3 road trip, she chose the scenic route: via Japan, Chile and Scotland. Spending between 6 months and a year in each place, Alana has built her community across the globe. She gives me a whistlestop tour of her travels: Japan = "50 years ahead in technology! Loved the nature and the temples and the spirituality"; Chile = "Liberal and free thinking... lots of social struggles and political activism"; Scotland = "After the other places, it was like being smacked in the face with Western culture!"

From her keen and fluent Spanish speaking, I think it's safe to assume that Chile captured Alana's heart the most: "I immersed myself in the culture, the language, getting into the politics, getting involved in indigenous struggles. I also learned heaps about sustainable living - planting, traditional medicinal herbs, and getting close to the 'tierra' or 'earth'".

It's clear that Alana's passions could be summed up as 'politics, people and community'. She has a background in supporting people with disabilities and is currently studying a Masters in Public Policy (i.e. making people's lives better through policy). Linked to this is her awareness of the growing gap between rich and poor in Aotearoa: "I want to think about how we can close that gap. Once I recognised the inequity in our society,

I felt every action I take in my life - including where I spend my money and how I interact with people - should always aim at reducing the gap. Recognising my white privilege and thinking about how it can be addressed - both policy-wise and in my day to day life - is also extremely useful".

Alana has to go back to the Timebank and get on with her mahi (work), so we have a speedy kōrero about what exactly IS Timebanking, and why does Alana do it? "Timebanking aligns with my values. It's about connecting community, building bonds and sharing skills in a way that values everyone's time and contribution in the same way. It's equitable and anti-capitalist. The currency is time rather than money, so one hour of time shared equals one time credit, whatever it is you're sharing. Every person has something awesome to share and to give to communities and society".

So get sharing your wonderful skills, wonderful humans! If you need help defining what your skills are (you've got skills, trust us!), or you want to collaborate on a project, or even if you just have some questions about Timebanking, link up with Alana by emailing: info@wellingtontimebank.org.nz or give 'Wellington Timebank' a like on Facebook.

'KOTAHITANGA, COMMUNITY, DIVERSIDAD' LATIN AMERICAN FLAVOURS IN NEWTOWN

By Katia Guilloff on behalf of The Latin Collective

If you've walked up Riddiford Street in the last month, you've probably seen a beautiful, colourful image emerging on the wall right outside the Wellington City Mission. This is a Latin American mural, a project organised by us, The Latin Collective, an organisation of Latin American Wellingtonians and Wellingtonians who hold Latin America close to their hearts - and want to give visibility to that continent's rich cultural expressions.

Last year, The Latin Collective started knocking on doors and sharing our idea of this mural in Wellington with different organisations. Supported by both the Office of Ethnic Affairs and Wellington City Council, we organised several workshops around Wellington where Latin Americans were invited to share their stories and experiences about being immigrants in Wellington. At the same time, we started talking to a couple of muralists in Chile who were a part of the Brigada Ramona Parra (BRP). The BRP is a muralist brigade which was very active in Chile during Pinochet's military dictatorship. Its members risked their lives to bring hope and light to the streets. One of its founding members, Alfonso Ruiz Pajarito, was keen and available to make his way here.



Pajarito is a muralist with over forty years of community mural experience; he believes in street art as a civil right and responsibility, and a way of bringing people together.

Pajarito's ideals and way of working have resulted in beautiful connections during the last month. If you ask anyone who walks by the mural daily they will tell you about stopping by for a conversation (even without a common language), or just saying hi. The mural itself depicts these connections by drawing from symbols from both Latin America and Aotearoa New Zealand and weaving them together as one.

In the mural you can see a miner and a strong woman; there is corn and wheat, and people sharing a meal. All of these symbols are interwoven with koru and there's also a tūī at the top left next to a condor (the largest bird in Latin America). At the centre of the image there are multi-coloured fists in front of a heart which reads: 'Kotahitanga, Community, Diversidad'. This image is inspired by designs created after the Christchurch attacks, as we wanted to acknowledge the pain suffered, and the stand against racism.

We hope this mural becomes a living wall where the rich vibrancy of Latin American Wellingtonians has visibility, and where coming generations can trace their Latin American roots.

History Files: Newtown Park

By Chris Rabey

Newtown Park, on Mansfield Street near the zoo, was originally formed in the 1860's. Once completed, and after swampy ground had been drained to form the reserve, it was found that a deep, boggy stream was winding its way from Newtown Park to Clyde Quay. The stream followed a sluggish path through a mass of flax, raupō and tussock grass. It was virtually impassable in winter, and a number of horses and cattle fell into its depths, with no hope of rescue. The first surveyors in the area jumped from tussock to tussock, frequently slipping and plunging into mud up to their armpits.

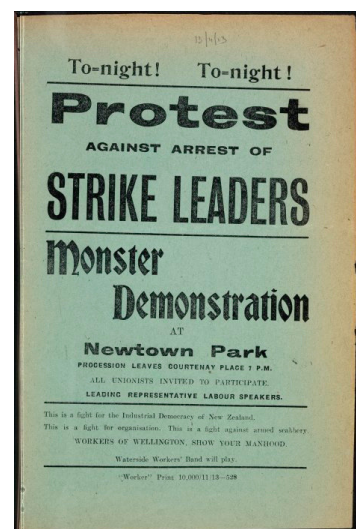


In addition to sporting activities, in 1900 the 2nd and 5th New Zealand Contingents camped at Newtown Park in preparation for leaving Wellington for the South African Boer War. On the 7th and 8th March 1924, hundreds of children from schools around the Wellington region converged on the park to get together in a living Union Jack formation, on the occasion of the Duke and Duchess of York's visit to the city.

Also in the 1900's, Newtown Park hosted striking waterfront workers protesting the arrest of some of the strike leaders during the Great Strike of 1913-14. Between 14-16,000 waterfront workers and miners went on strike. More recently, in 2016, Newtown Park was used to host the Special Olympics, with more than one thousand athletes competing in our backyard!

Subsequent earthquakes lifted the land upwards, and so the stream gradually decreased in size. Newtown Park itself forms a considerable part of the Town Belt, and once completed, about 20,000 trees were planted around the park. Near the main entrance, a flat area of about eight acres was laid out for football, cricket and other sports, and nearby a natural amphitheatre was large enough to accommodate spectators for the whole population of the district. Not all of the bog was drained, however, and a large portion of the stream was dammed to form a lake by the park, for the enjoyment of visitors and children to sail their boats.

Images : Chris Rabey Collection



Book Review: The Myth of Passivity by Toby Boraman (2004)

By Sojourn



The 1991 Auckland protest against benefit cuts (from *The Myth of Passivity*).

It was in 1984 that the fourth New Zealand Labour government introduced neoliberalism. Professor Jane Kelsey at the University of Auckland described it as when New Zealand “out-Thatchered Thatcher”. Also referred to as the ‘New Zealand Experiment’ by many, it was when New Zealand adopted “the most thorough-going economic reform”.

There was widespread deregulation and privatisation, unemployment increased and people worked for longer hours under worse conditions. Wages dropped and unions were gutted (some say destroyed). Hospitals, schools and post offices were closed, student fees were introduced: the list goes on and on. ‘Market forces’ became common words, individualism and competition became the norm, and citizens were redefined as consumers.

There is a common belief that most people in this country just let all this happen.

In *The Myth of Passivity*, Toby Boraman exposes that statement for what it is - a myth.

Even simply in terms of numbers, Toby shows that more people protested against neoliberalism than were involved in, for example, the anti-apartheid or nuclear-free Pasifika movements - movements which we hear much more about. Toby believes that this imbalance in recording these histories of resistance is “because of the bias of many people who write off class struggle as outdated and irrelevant”.


Three key points of resistance are covered by Toby Boraman in the booklet: protest against the introduction of the ECA (the Employment Contracts Act 1991) which saw what

Toby describes as the “1991 General Strike that wasn’t”; the movement against the benefit cuts of 1991; and the struggle against the fiscal envelope in the mid-1990’s. He outlines the massive demonstrations, strikes, Māori land re-occupations and community resistance that occurred in New Zealand at this time.


However, Toby also outlines how we were defeated. Despite thousands of people protesting, and despite nearly entire rural communities opposing the cuts and privatisation, it could be said that we were still defeated. For the people who have grown up under neoliberalism, *The Myth of Passivity* is inspiring. Yes, we were defeated - but we did resist. And it’s a time and a lesson we can learn from.

Only a few decades ago we believed in revolution and talked of fighting for the liberation of Aotearoa. Maybe we will do so again soon.

The Myth of Passivity by Toby Boraman is available in the Freedom Shop, the small bookshop at the back of the Opportunity for Animals store in Newtown.



Ways to embrace winter, based on your star sign



By Samantha Summer

Aries (March 21 - April 19) - Slow down. The days are shorter and your winter schedule has gotta reflect that. Give yourself time to rebuild some energy. Embrace rest before you think you need it.

Taurus (April 20- May 20) - Food. Winter is the season of warmth and comfort and absolute excess. Always make and consume slightly more kai than you need, and share it as widely as you can.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20) - A friend a day keeps the loneliness at bay. Invite them over, travel to visit them, and host a potluck every other week.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22) - Redecorate for the new season. This means candles, lamps and lots of gentle but warming light. Try rotating your bed into a new position. Make home a place you want to be.

Leo (July 23 - August 22) - Wear more layers than you think you'll need. Take extra gloves. Being constantly over-prepared means you'll never dread walking outside into the cold.

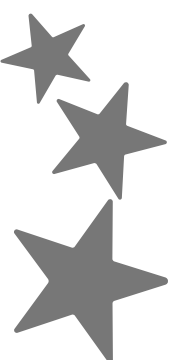
Virgo (August 23 - September 22) - Start putting ginger in literally everything. Did you know you can put ginger in the bath if you're starting to feel sick? No bathtub? Rub it directly onto your body.

Libra (September 23 - October 22) - Visit the library! I know the central library just closed but it turns out Newtown has one too! It's warm in there.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21) - This is a challenging time to try and feel the sun on your skin, so focus on other physical pleasures that make you feel warm and alive. Like, uh, bathing.


Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21) - Catch up on all of the real good art you've been waiting to make time for. Huddle up with a hot chocolate and a copy of 'John Wick' rented from Aro Video.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19) - Schedule some holidays way in advance. Like a road trip to the beach in October, or a weekend off to celebrate Matariki.



Aquarius (January 20 - February 18) - Figure out your life purpose! These long nights are for practical introspection. Make a vision board. Write down some goals. Get your tarot cards read.

Pisces (February 19 - March 20) - Be kind. Tell your friends and colleagues you love them. If you don't love them, tell them you like them a lot.



What's the Happs?

At the Newtown Community & Cultural Centre - Corner Rintoul/Colombo Streets

Quick Kai

Healthy ready to heat and eat meals are available at the Community Centre from our 'Quick Kai' freezer. Come and grab a frozen feed for only \$2. The freezer is open Monday-Friday, 9am-4.30pm. It's always best to call ahead to make sure we're able to stock you up! Vegan also available.

Soup Group - Free Soup Fridays

Building community one bowl of soup at a time! Come and enjoy a free bowl of soup and some lively banter every Friday from 12-1pm here at the Community Centre. Vegan options available.

Swing dancing classes with Sugarfoot Stomp

Tuesdays from 5.45-7pm. Come and learn lindy hop, blues, jazz and more of this fun and energetic style of dance born in the swing era of the 1930s-40s. First class is free for new dancers. \$15 casual / \$55 block, drop-ins welcome, no partner required! Contact hello@sugarfootstomp.co.nz and check them out online at www.sugarfootstomp.co.nz

Lemuria Rising - Voice and Toning Workshop

Nicola Gibbons extends an invitation to an enjoyable afternoon of Sound Healing, Light Language and group Toning and Voice Exploration on Sunday 16 June from 2-5pm. Each human body has its own unique sound or vibration. The intention is to leave with a greater sense of confidence in your own voice and tone - and speaking out. With guided and enjoyable exercises you can feel a greater sense of harmony in your body. BYO pillow and/or mat. \$35 on the door.

Lining up the ducks

None of us live forever. Our kindest gift to whānau, friends and our community is to get things sorted and hand them over in a constructive way when the time comes. Join Mary Potter Hospice on Tuesday 18 June from 6-9pm as they host this free session to get all your ducks lined up! To register email hazel.neser@marypotter.org.nz

Free legal advice with Community Law

Free confidential legal advice. No appointment necessary. Held the first Wednesday of every month (this time Wednesday 5 June) from 11am-12pm.

Boomerang Bags Newtown is back!

Boomerang Bags Newtown is all about getting rid of plastic bags in Newtown by upcycling waste fabric destined for the landfill into reusable shopping bags for everyone. Join us for our fortnightly sewing bee - just bring along your lovely selves, your sewing machines (if you have one), scissors, iron, sweets and some sweet tunes. The next bees are 6 and 29 June, 5.30-7.00pm. Stay in touch and find out more at the FB group:

facebook.com/boomerangbagsnewtown

At Newtown Hall, 71 Daniell Street

Lantern-making workshop

Join Jim Davenport on Sunday 9 June from 2-4pm for a free lantern-making workshop, where you can make your very own paper-mache lantern. Workshop attendees will learn easy, fun and effective ways to create their own unique piece. Big ups to Resene for the sponsorship!

Zine-making workshop

Join Randy Wolf and the Lōemis team on Friday 7 June from 6.30-8.30pm for this free zine-making workshop. Randy will guide attendees through easy folding techniques to make a small zine, and then on filling them with content around Maruaroa o Takurua, the Winter Solstice. Thanks to Resene for making these workshops free to attend.