

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

Newtown News



ELECTION EDITION MAHURU / SEPTEMBER 2023

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

Kia ora Newtown

Kia ora tātou

In this issue of the Newtown News – we're focusing on the General Election. Voting doesn't start until the 2nd of October, with the General Election being held on the 14th of October – but it pays to start thinking about who will get your vote(s) now!

We've reached out to various local Rongotai candidates and posed a few questions to them – you can check that out inside this issue. I've included all candidates that were registered by printing date (late August), although nominations don't close until 12 noon on Friday 15th September, so there may be a few late entrants putting their hat in the ring! I'm sorry in advance for the small font - it's been a hard issue to squeeze it all in. We'll print some larger copies at the Community Centre for ya'all!

I found it challenging to ask for the opinions of those whose politics I disagree with, knowing that I would be sharing and publishing them. I guess, it's just another thing about the looming election to stress me out – anyone else nervous about this one? Not every party is super upfront with what they stand for, or they have clever ways of saying things, so I reckon it's always a good idea to dig a bit deeper into the policies. Wanting a bit of a quick-fire rundown of various political parties promises? Radio New Zealand has put together this go-to guide for party policy bit.ly/RNZpolicyguide ! I also recommend heading along to a "meet the candidates" evening, they're always informative & often a bit of a laugh, sometimes a bit heated with tension – not boring, that's for sure! Details of our Newtown events on page five.

If you aren't enrolled to vote, then please get onto that! If you need support with this – you can visit our wonderful neighbours (in the office next door) the Citizens Advice Bureau, they'll be able to help you. Or you can contact the Elections crew at 0800 367656 / www.elections.nz .

Remember, every vote counts! This was demonstrated in the 2011 general election when on election night there was an exact tie between Nicky Wagner and incumbent MP Brendon Burns – both after the Christchurch central seat – after the special votes were counted, Nicky Wagner won with a 47 vote majority! Tight race!

Ngā mihi,
Eryn - eryn@newtowncommunity.org.nz

Cover image: Delightful cover image by 'Drawing Heads' - find them on Facebook: bit.ly/DrawingHeads

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 Centre

Notorious Newtowner

Bronwyn and Hanaa kōrero about mahi, migration, delicious food and of course...Newtown!

Hanaa Sadoun is always busy, always working and loves to help people. This makes her the perfect fit for her role as a Community Navigator for the He Whānau Manaaki o Tararua - the Free Kindergarten Association. She works with families who have kids at kindergartens around Pōneke and Porirua, and gives them support when they need a bit of extra help. Being a migrant herself, and speaking Arabic, she supports migrant and refugee families to navigate ECE, social services or other systems that might be challenging. Teachers also call on her to help with communication with parents. At the end of the day, she loves seeing families smile and making a change in people's lives.

Hanaa was forced to leave her home of Baghdad, Iraq in 2005. She spent two years in Malaysia before settling in Whanganui-A-Tara, and knew as soon as she got here that she wanted to work. She worked as a teacher aid, and studied papers at Massey even after her kids came along. Her kids Ali, Musa and Baraa were born here. They sound a bit like their Mum, never sitting still and always on the go with activities like soccer and swimming.

When Baraa was at kindergarten at Whānau Manaaki in Newtown, Hanaa was super involved as a volunteer. She would work on fundraising, help out stressed parents and even teach migrant women how to drive. The kindergarten association took note and eventually she was employed as a navigator. She loves working for them, and says they are super family focused, and feel like whānau to her.

Hanaa loves to cook and we've heard she makes the best falafel and hummus in town. If you're a lucky timebank member you might get to try it sometime, because Hanaa gets called on to cater for Timebank events. She mostly eats at home but for a treat will take the kids to Nandos or a great Syrian restaurant called Dewan in Porirua. While she lives in Lyall Bay, Hanaa will pop into Newtown for the Saturday Markets, and is usually here for the Newtown Festival. She loves the music, food and kids' games, and the atmosphere of so many people in one place.

One day Hanaa would love to get to London to visit friends. It's her fourth dream, after getting to New Zealand, having children and having a job. But she loves it here, and says it's an awesome place for her kids. Her outlook is that life isn't 100% perfect, you'll have good days and bad days, but you always look for the good things, like meeting with friends.

I'm stoked to have met Hanaa and call her a friend now too!



MEET THE CANDIDATES

For this election special of the Newtown News, we wanted to make it easier for you to decide which candidates best represent you! We've rounded up some of the Rongotai candidates (those that replied, and had registered by late September), given them a strict word count and posed the following questions:

1. What's your favourite place in Newtown, and why?!
2. What's a community group, local charity, or community initiative that you're involved in, or support?
3. Our rainbow, queer, trans and takatāpui whānau are facing increasing levels of hatred and violence. What measures would you take to support this community more?
4. According to the 2018 census, around one third of households are renting. What measures would you support or implement to make sure renters are living in healthy, warm and dry homes?
5. How will you play a part in tackling the increasingly huge wealth inequalities in Aotearoa?

JULIE ANNE GENTER

Green Party



- 1) Tough choice! But I will say the Saturday morning Fruit & Vege market at Newtown School – great community vibe.
- 2) Kaicycle is an amazing local urban farm/composting initiative in Newtown that is deeply committed to sustainability and community.
- 3) As associate minister of health, I removed the cap on the waitlist for gender-affirming care, and got more funding. I will campaign for more funding, including mental health support and always stand up for a more inclusive approach that allows people to be themselves.
- 4) The Green Party's Pledge to Renters includes: a Rental WOF, a cap on the rate of rent increase to 3% a year, large public housing build, and grants/loans for insulation, solar panels, and swapping out gas appliances to electric to reduce power bills and pollution.
- 5) The Green Party's Ending Poverty Together plan would provide a guaranteed minimum income \$385pw, a universal child payment \$140pw under age 3, a tax-free threshold on first \$10k, free universal dental care, a wealth tax, and a new income tax rate of 45% over \$180k.



DON S. MCDONALD

Independent

- 1) The qwik brown fox. Numplates c2l carry rktLab. Digitalinfo isbinarymillion. 2^53product primefactors. 9-quadrln. DonsCampgn nzherald sciencesaturwed. Regionalnewsrongotai. MajorTheirTruth fifiedom liesmediamatters antidemocy.
- 2) Fridaysoup TT ABLES communityfriendly SocialSupport your nghbr. Doorsandlights. Seniorssocialdrama thinkonyour feet. Notcontrolling. SupportWelfed bwhite fotgydoorsandlites missioncmnty lounge. Suppt mothergod watv Webbst. Deafblindheartstrokehearing.
- 3) Whatever usay advocate. R u listeningprophet. Financialliteracyurgent. Hugecalendarsense Simplify appnmnts pillsmonths 10*6*6+6 - 6/8-6/800 100%months Sunday#1st. SyncGregorian 365.2425. Astron. noThurs workingjust 4/6days. GambleStealing banlottosham hedoesntpay addupcoupon \$hundred.
- 4) Wlgtnvery moderate safeclimate18C. toocars. I hvntHeater ordriiving age5075%. Leagu greedy35degr cuberth. Bankprofit trespass24mth.
- 5) Societyissick. Cars alcohcigs sugarmusic sportmoviedrugsvapecrime. Get right with jesu delay. @mcdo newt 0277 845900 callfloormayor7x.



NICOLE MCKEE

ACT

- 1) Royal Tiger Range – it's where two of my sporting disciplines are and encourages family participation.
- 2) I have been a volunteer firearms safety instructor for New Zealand Police and continued their Whakatupato Programme until entering politics.
- 3) Some parties stand for freedom when it's popular. ACT stands for freedom because it's in our DNA. People should be free to speak out on issues important to them, and people are free to disagree peacefully. But when protest leads to violence or intimidation, that is unacceptable.
- 4) If more obligations for landlords was the answer, then every rental would be a palace by now. ACT would make it easier to build houses with our RMA reform policy, and GST-sharing for local infrastructure policy, increasing the supply of homes on the rental market.
- 5) ACT would cut taxes and make it easier to do business. We can't keep dividing a shrinking pie, the next Government needs to raise productivity and wages, make the government's books sustainable, and create a culture where work, savings, investment, and innovation are rewarded.

KARUNĀ MUTHU

National



- 1) People's Café because of the positive vibes from the diversity of customers, and of course, the great coffee!
- 2) I am a member of our local Rotary Club and supporter of Ekta, serving our under-privileged and vulnerable communities.
- 3) As an ethnic Kiwi, I empathise with them as to how discrimination can limit their aspirations and potential. I will listen genuinely to their concerns and be a real voice for them and all minority communities and groups in Rongotai.
- 4) As a renter, I know it is important to have a healthy, warm and dry home. The only way to make sure that renters have it without raising rents is to radically increase rental supply. National would increase rental supply by supercharging the build-to-rent sector, and reducing red-tape on new builds so that renters get a choice.
- 5) Kiwis are working harder, picking up extra shifts, and are still struggling to get ahead. The biggest contributor to growing wealth inequality is Labour's cost-of-living crisis. National would rebuild the economy to reduce the cost-of-living so that everyone can get ahead.



BRUCE WELSH

New Conservatives

- 1) Newtown Library. It has a wonderful atmosphere inside and visiting it brings back great memories.
- 2) I have helped set up a free weekly community meal in Kilbirnie open to everyone. Currently feeding about 80 people.
- 3) Many groups in the community are facing increased hostility. A lot of this stems from talk of restrictions being placed on freedom of speech. We need to encourage debate of differing views, not suppress them and do it respectfully, listening to each other.
- 4) In general most houses provide an acceptable environment for living in. We need to teach people how to operate their house to provide a warm, healthy environment. This includes simple things like opening windows. Houses are environment modifying machines and need understanding to operate effectively.
- 5) The most meaningful way to address inequality is to lift up those at the bottom. This can really only be addressed by better education, giving better skills to access better job choice.

Meet the Candidates Meeting: Rongotai Electorate

7.00pm Monday 25th September
Salvation Army Hall, 4 Normanby St

Who are you going to vote for? The Newtown Residents' Association have organised this meeting so you can come and listen to the candidates and ask them questions before you decide who you want to represent us in Parliament for the next three years!

It's in the Ballot - Rongotai Electorate In- Studio

3:30pm Friday 22nd September
Newtown Community Centre
Corner Rintoul/Colombo Streets

'It's in the Ballot' takes the format of the Kiwi TV classic 'It's in the Bag' game show and puts a political twist to it. You can come see the show LIVE or watch online in a variety of formats. Details below:

bit.ly/intheballot

MEET THE CANDIDATES

CONTINUED...



FLUER FITZSIMMONS

Labour

- 1) I love People's Coffee. It is a living wage employer, has great coffee and even has a mug library.
- 2) I'm proud to have supported the upgrade of the Newtown Community and Cultural Centre as local Councillor alongside Laurie Foon.
- 3) I proudly stand with our rainbow community and against the transphobic hate and violence that they are facing. I will call out homophobia, transphobia and provide a safe space for members of the rainbow community to seek advocacy and support and be a fearless advocate.
- 4) I will actively advocate and support individual renters to enforce their legal right to a warm dry home. I want to see a stronger voice for renters especially those in social housing. I would like to help start a tenants union for these renters.
- 5) Wealth inequality grew in New Zealand at the same time that the power of unions reduced. I'll support our union movement to rebuild their power through fair pay agreements, equal pay and by using their right to bargain collectively for higher wages and better conditions.

MERANIA ROA

Vision New Zealand



- 1) I like McDonalds, New World but have used the Newtown Community Centre and we have hosted our Newtown Legacy group.
- 2) I am the Facilitator for our Miramar, Lyall Bay and Newtown Legacy, a women's support group.
- 3) I have work colleagues and whānau who have not been exposed to these levels of hatred and violence. I would like to invite those exposed to these behaviours to our Legacy support group, we accept all people and have no discrimination.
- 4) As a landlord, we have a responsibility to ensure that our homes meet the minimum Healthy Homes requirements. I would be prepared to expose those Property Managers who are not meeting these requirements.
- 5) Our Family Empowerment policy addresses the poverty cycle. This can be generational, and we will strengthen the family, parents, achievement in schools toward trades, apprenticeships and universities or wānanga. Our priority is to establish Ministry for Families.

E	R	S	C	F	Z	R	Q	K	S	M	Z	V	I	V
N	W	H	T	S	C	Y	C	L	W	I	Z	Y	Y	L
K	T	L	P	P	E	A	A	A	Q	E	H	K	G	I
X	Q	V	O	T	E	N	M	C	B	Q	Y	C	J	A
I	F	L	Y	H	M	N	R	P	K	I	Z	T	D	T
J	E	C	A	U	C	U	S	O	A	J	N	N	A	O
D	L	E	I	P	L	H	V	L	L	I	K	E	T	G
B	E	B	Y	T	H	L	Z	I	I	N	G	M	T	N
S	C	M	E	N	A	Z	J	T	G	S	X	N	N	O
D	T	T	O	O	U	U	O	I	E	Q	Z	R	M	R
P	I	K	K	C	Z	N	B	C	G	W	V	E	N	R
F	O	C	S	M	R	P	S	S	Q	G	A	V	Y	M
K	N	S	E	L	A	A	I	P	U	W	N	O	H	I
M	L	X	R	V	R	F	C	N	A	F	H	G	Y	P
D	Z	D	B	C	I	F	D	Y	J	X	L	H	B	K

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE ON POLITICS!

Can you find all the words listed below in the grid of jumbled letters/words on your left?
Words may be backwards, horizontal, vertical and even diagonal!

RONGOTAI
POLITICS
VOTE
GOVERNMENT
CAUCUS
CABINET
ENROL
DEMOCRACY
ELECTION
CAMPAIGN

TECH TIPS *with Matt*

of smart•newtown

Uncomplicated Ad Blocking

Ads annoy the heck out of me, and I bet they annoy you too. They are especially a problem on streaming sites, like Youtube, where your seamless future-tele experience gets interrupted and it's like you're back on the couch in the disappointing physical world.

Fixing that is easy, but not everyone knows how. You can customize your web browser with add-ons, but that can be fiddly for some. If you want an even simpler and more comprehensive option, here's what I'd recommend:

Use an Ad-blocking Web Browser: Some browsers come with a built-in ad blocking ability. The most popular right now is Brave, which is built off Chromium (an open-source version of Google Chrome), so it looks and runs a lot like the old Google horse.

For desktops and laptops, go to their website (brave.com), download it, and double click the file to install.

For phones and tablets, grab the Brave Browser app from the App Store (iOS) or Play Store (Android). It's ready to block out of the box.

That's pretty much it. Just note that sometimes blocking ads interferes with a website's normal function, so if something's not working you can try turning it off to see. Brave has a little lion-face icon in the top right, next to the address bar. Click to turn it off for just that website (it goes grey), and again to turn it back on. Need help with this (or other tech issues)? Come see the friendly team at Smart Newtown on Constable street.

Contact : matt@smartnewotwn.org.nz / 043894786 / www.smartnewotwn.org.nz



Gifts Galore!



Here at the Community Centre our foyer and hang space can get a bit cold! An awesome local has helped solve this problem by donating some lap blankets - made from classic NZ wool and in matching colours to our retro décor. They fit so well with the couch cushions that another kind person made and donated! Then, just the other day our neighbour called up and asked if we wanted an acoustic guitar for our foyer space, sure! Turns out many of our regular crew are talented muso's, it's a real treat to have the space filled with sound when they decide to have a jam!

We're always grateful for useful donations but please remember to check first as we have limited space and only want to take items that would be used and appreciated!

Image: Volunteer and regular Rex hangs out enjoying a cuppa tea and a warm blanket!

WHAT'S THE HAPP'S?

AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE,
CNR RINTOUL/COLOMBO STS

Free Social Drama for ages 65+, Thursdays 10.30am-12pm A fun group using storytelling and drama to keep the mind active and creative! For more info contact Austin 0220117217

Kani Kani - Dancing in the Dark, first & third Thursday of the month, 6.45pm - 8pm In the amazing new Theatre Space, with an awesome sound setup, and black out curtains - they will provide the DARK - you bring the DANCE! Koha for room rental costs. <https://bit.ly/47QziRA>

Steady As You Go falls prevention exercise class for seniors, Tuesdays 12pm - 1pm Improve your strength, balance and flexibility while making new friends. Falls aren't a natural part of ageing. \$3 donation. Call 04 499 6648 for more info! <https://bit.ly/47UMVzm>

It's all go at NCC! More and more things are coming back to the Newtown Community Centre, a mixed bag of offerings with new things added each week! Check out our timetable here : bit.ly/3ahAgc9

Community showcases - We wanna put our wonderful new theatre to use by having the stage shared by a bunch of different cultural and community groups - then inviting the rest of Newtown to come and watch! Interested in performing, ushering, promoting, working the sound or lights? Get in touch! info@newtowncommunity.org.nz



WWW.NEWTOWNCOMMUNITY.ORG.NZ
FACEBOOK.COM/NEWTOWN.COMMUNITY.CENTRE
INSTAGRAM @NEWTOWN_COMMUNITY_CENTRE
04 389 4786
INFO@NEWTOWNCOMMUNITY.ORG.NZ

AT SMART NEWTOWN,
9-11 CONSTABLE STREET

New Classes at Smart Newtown Want more knowledge of and confidence with the digital world? Classes run Wednesday evenings (5.15 - 7.15pm) and Friday mornings (10am - 12 noon) and cover topics such as : Microsoft word (editing tools), Microsoft Excel, Internet Safety and Security. To register and find out more visit: bit.ly/3SXpNcq

Computer Hub for Hire Smart Newtown is available for hire afterhours and on weekends, complete with their fleet of desktop PCs. Groups that needs a place to teach others or collaborate on projects can reach out, at info@smartnewtown.org.nz ! Check here for hire details: bit.ly/3KmJEyt

ELSEWHERE IN NEWTOWN

Newtown Festival (2024) Performance Applications Open ! Wanna perform at the Newtown Festival?
Apply here: bit.ly/nf2024eoi

Consultations Open for Bike Lanes & Parking Changes WCC is making plans to make changes to transport between Berhampore and Newtown this includes : new bicycle lanes, improvements for pedestrians and bus users, parking changes and some style upgrades to the Berhampore shops area. Consultation open from September 12th bit.ly/3ONqQtE

Remember to Enrol to Vote!
Enrolments are now open for the upcoming October 2023 elections! Follow the link to register online bit.ly/3PcvGIE or pop in and see us if you're having trouble.

Newtown Vintage Arts & Crafts market - Saturday 16th September, 9am-2pm, Newtown School hall, Mein Street
Local crafts, art and other lovely stuff to buy! bit.ly/3Ejz9sp