

NA TE WHARE HAPORI O NEWTOWN /
BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE
NEWTOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE

TŌ KOUTOU MAKAHINI
HAPORI: MŌ NEWTOWN,
NĀ NGĀ TĀNGATA O NEWTOWN

/
YOUR COMMUNITY ZINE:
FOR NEWTOWN, BY NEWTOWNERS

KIA ORA NEWTOWN

Kia ora e hoa mā! Hello friends!

Kei te pēwhea koutou? How are you all? Kei te pirangi ahau ki te kauhoe i roto i tētahi awa! I want to swim in a river! Lucky then that this edition is for world river day on 25th Mahuru / September, and also that I'm going to Taratahi / Mount Holdsworth this weekend for a walk and and an icy river swim. Refreshing! Bracing! (these are words I will be using to convince myself it wasn't too cold afterwards. But it's always worth it anyway!)

I'm also lucky enough to be going to visiting the Whanganui River in November for a multi-day canoeing trip. I'm really excited about this, especially as it's my first time visiting the area since the awa was recognised with legal personhood - meaning it can hopefully be better protected. You can read more about what this change meant to someone from the local iwi here: bit.ly/3KAibIs

The awa I'll be visiting at the weekend in comes straight down from the maunga / mountain, so I feel lucky that the water will be clean and safe to swim - sadly that's no longer the case for much of Aotearoa's waterways waste from dairy farming in particular is a huge culprit in messing up our waterways. We need to find ways to transition from our current way of doing things, to a new, better, cleaner way of living with the taiao / environment.

Mountains To Sea Wellington have a rad article in this edition and have volunteer opportunities locally!

I believe embracing indigenous approaches is totally essential to protecting our Wai Māori / freshwater. Check out this article from Tina Ngāta which goes into the whakapapa of water and Te Ao Māori / the Māori worldview on it: bit.ly/3TyLwql

Then get out and enjoy an awa!

Ngā mihi,

Ellie - ellie@newtowncommunity.org.nz

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



Peoples



Welcome to our awesome

new sponsors Elysium! New to Newtown and opposite the library on

Constable St, Elysium is Wellington's

most magical store. We stock objects of

curiosity and whimsy of all sorts and

sizes - from books to art, from fossils

to odd trinkets. Step through our door into a world of wonder!

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.

Motorious Newsowner

Bronwyn and Anna talked Veronica!

Many will Newtowners know Anna Woolhouse as the friendly face of Veronica, the art and design store on the corner of Mansfield and Rhodes Streets. Veronica is named after Anna's very cute tabby cat, and is situated in the front room of her home. The property, now split into two residences, dates back to early last century, and was originally a bakery, tobaconist and tearooms. Parts of the huge old brick oven can still be seen in the yard. Veronica has also seen life as a drapery and second-hand store. Now it sells pieces from a range of local artists, including Anna's own screenprinted tea-towels, tshirts and art-prints.



Anna has been a textile designer and printer since she took a nightclass at Wellington High School in the early 2000s, and eventually did a degree in fine arts at Massey University. You might have seen her iconic slogans like "Avant Gardener" on clothes around the city, but her favourites are her abstract repeats which range from spots and lines to cats and flowers. Her "I'm a Newtown Kid" t-shirts are popular, and though Anna isn't quite a Newtown Kid, she does have family history here. Anna grew up across town in Karori, and in Lower Hutt, but her great-grandfather was a teacher at Newtown School in 1906, and he had a house on Manly Terrace. Newtown has also been Anna's home for a long time - she flatted in four different houses here before buying the house where she lives with both Veronicas (the cat and the shop).

Alongside her art practice and shop, Anna loves tramping, photography and spending time with her friends and whānau. She's a fan of a good joke and likes to see the lighter side of life. Her ethos is "all things in moderation, including moderation". Her favourite Newtown spots include the veggie market, library, People's Coffee and Moon Bar, and she always enjoys Neighbours Night at the Zoo. Anna loves how "the world has come to Newtown", and how you can hear so many languages spoken on the street here. As she says "you get it all here".

Wander along to Veronica at 26 Mansfield Street (Thursday - Sunday 11am-6pm) to say kia ora and check out some local art and design!

LIFTING THE LID ON URBAN STREAMS

By Liz Gibson of Mountains to Sea Wellington (as pictured in a stream on the next page!)

You're a lot closer to your neighbourhood stream than you might think. There's a massive web of streams beneath our feet, out of sight, but full of life and opportunity. Come explore them with Mountains to Sea Wellington and let's give them some love.

Living in Te Whanganui a Tara, we are no stranger to the steep hills and rugged coastlines. But what we don't see anymore are the streams that once weaved their way down these hills to the sea. These streams aren't gone, they are just hidden under our pathways and streets. Over the last 100 years most of Te Whanganui a Tara's stream network has been piped into stormwater drains and culverts to make way for the city's infrastructure.

Even though they are underground, they still provide homes and a highway for the 16 species of native freshwater fish that live here. Including both the long and short fin eels, along with all 5 species of endemic fish that make up what we call "whitebait", from the tiny īnanga to the giant kōkopu.

But these hidden streams need our help. They're heavily impacted by sediment from construction sites, copper from vehicle brake pads, tyres, metal roofing, and industrial yards, sewerage contamination from overflows, broken pipes, and crossed connections, and rubbish washing down roadside drains. All of these things can be toxic to freshwater species.



A Poneke community workshop showing people learning how to protect our awa / rivers

Mountains to Sea Wellington's scientists and catchment guides are working together with community groups, families and local schools to explore the waterways in Te Whanganui a Tara and take actions to help. These streams are so close to our homes so there is great potential for everyone to reconnect to them and get involved in their protection and regeneration. And at the end of the day it's about more than the water. It's a fun opportunity to get outside, connect with others and feel good knowing you're having a

positive impact.

It's folks like YOU, coming together through community projects and local restoration work who are making all the difference. Mountains to Sea Wellington do a variety of community projects and education programs across the region. Our mahi is all about forging connections between local people and the environment. If getting excited about nature and sharing that love with others sounds like a bit of you...



then contact us at **volunteer@mtsw.org.nz** or find out more at **mountainstoseawellington.org/support-us**

HISTORY FILES

By Chris Rabey

What is now the suburb of Newtown was a broad stream gully at the southern end of an expansive swamp.

Wetlands were valued by Māori as a source of food, such as eels and birds, as well as raupo which was used in the construction of whare.



CREATIVE CORNER

"METEOR WGTN CBD"

POETIC WRITING INSPIRED BY THE METEOR SEEN OVER
WELLINGTON IN JULY 2022
BY DON NEWT MCDONALD

On Thurs 7.7.2022
I was at rats testing and Jessie st
And college st Kent tce median.
Wellington basin res. Nz.
Having sit down chat x 20 mins.
"I am tiny words."

My nghbr looked up and gasped.

He pointed to a trail in grey clouds

Rising roughly over KFC east and stretching

less than a handspan.

He saw a flash and colours. Not hearing a thing.

When he showed me the spot I saw a rectangle trail.

We more or less estimated it could be a daytime bolide or space debris especially metal ions. The trail dissipated in less than a min.

Shall I call who? Police, news, astronomer or 508 accdentyz.

Alfa bet chop suwy.

But things happened that I didn't call anyone.

I had 2 spare lunches to share. A friend on bus or cmnty ctre.

It is a lifetime event.
Widely seen lower north island.

Presently not identified.

Hoping evidence.



We have NUMEROUS Newtown Nicenesses to note in this Newtown News!

Baz, our awesome volunteer soup chef, has recently set up a Newtown garden to grow veggies for our Free Soup Fridays! The first Newtown niceness is that Baz is going to all this effort, and has been cooking nutritious and delicious soups for the whole community for many years. **Thanks Baz!**

The second niceness is that the garden plot is in a back garden, and they've donated it to us to use, yay! **Thanks Rhona and Nev!**

The THIRD niceness is that we reached out to ZooDoo (they make compost from Newtown Zoo's animal poo), to ask if they could help us out with a few bags of compost for the garden, and they did! If you would also like to eat veggies grown in giraffe poo, check out <u>zoodoo.co.nz</u> - **thanks ZooDoo!**

The next niceness **could be you!** We're still working on the garden & we're after donations of more compost, or **heritage seeds or seedlings** (we're only after heritage stuff at the moment as Baz is hoping to create a system

where we can be pretty self-sustaining, growing veggies for the soup in the garden and using their seeds to grow even more veggies. Email info@newtowncommunity.org.nz if you have anything to offer! And, in advance, **THANK YOU!**





WHAT'S THE HAPPS?

AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, 2A GREEN ST

Free Soup Fridays - Fridays 1pm

Everyone in the community is welcome to a free veggie soup lunch each Friday!! Come along to warm up on these wintry days. Any questions? Call 04 389 4786.

NEWTOWN HALL 71 DANIELL STREET

How to Talk to Your Racist Uncle - anti-racism workshop for rangatahi / youth. Sunday 4th September, 2-6pm.

This FREE workshop is for rangatahi / youth aged 11-24 and aims to help us have difficult conversations about racism. Just come along on the day! More info at bit.ly/3R43LCJ

Latin American styles are coming to Everybody Dance! Mondays, 5.30-6.30pm

This fun dance and exercise class is only \$2. Whether you're a beginner or an expert, come along, learn some moves, and have fun in a supportive, friendly atmosphere. From September we have a new teacher Ana Laura who will be teaching dances of Latin America! More details at bit.ly/3Mn56BK

AT SMART NEWTOWN. 9-11 CONSTABLE STREET

Change to opening hours! Smart Newtown is currently open Monday-Thursday, 9am-5pm for free computer access and access to our helpdesk. So head along to get free advice or support on your tech issues! Want more info? Call 04 380 0143 or email smartnewtown@gmail.com

COUNCIL ELECTION EVENTS AROUND NEWTOWN

Local elections - voting between 16th September - 8th October!

It's time to make sure you're enrolled to vote for our Local Elections, to make sure you're represented! Last date to enrol is 7th October. More info at: bit.ly/3Kyxy4j

Meet the Candidates: Paekawakawa / Southern Ward & Te Whanganui-a-Tara Māori Ward - Monday 26th September, 7pm. At Salvation Army Hall, 4 Normanby Street

Organised by the Newtown Residents' Association (NRA), come along to hear from all of the candidates wanting to represent us at Council and figure out who you'd like to vote for! Doors open 6.30pm for a 7pm sharp start. More info here: bit.ly/3cE3RSU

Meet the Candidates: Greater Wellington Regional Council - Tuesday 13th September, 7pm. At Salvation Army Hall, 4 Normanby Street

Another NRA event - come hear from the Greater Wellington Regional Council candidates and why they think we should vote for them. 6.30 opening for 7pm start! More info at bit.ly/3TzXPmH

Multicultural Labour: Meet the Labour Candidates. Friday 16th September, 6pm, Newtown Hall, 71 Daniell Street.

Meet the Labour candidates for elections across the region, as well as local multicultural community leaders!

GET IN TOUCH