

# NEWTOWN NEWS

**HALLOWEEN EDITION!**



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

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

**WHIRINGA-Ā-NUKU**  
**OCTOBER 2023**

# KIA ORA NEWTOWN

Kia ora tātou / hey everyone!

This month's theme is Halloween. I'm a lil' bit goth and since it's October.... I just couldn't help myself! Every year I hear discourse around Halloween and it being an imported holiday - something we don't need in Aotearoa! But I think it's awesome and I embrace its growing popularity.

It brings me joy to see hordes of kids out on the street, knocking on neighbours' doors..... it's more than just costumes and candy, it's a chance for us to strengthen our bonds as a community! Halloween encourages creativity, fosters a sense of togetherness, provides an opportunity for people of all ages to interact and means your neighbour might knock on your door and say hi!

So to celebrate Halloween, this issue is just a bit of fun and it features a bunch of jokes from some rad local rangatahi (complete with awesome spooky art), a chai tea recipe shared by our yoga teacher, Angelica, and a book review from our friends at Newtown Library.

In lieu of an educational article that shares all about the origins of Halloween's history - I can tell you this - Halloween traces back to the Celtic festival of Samhain (side note, also an awesome punk band 🙌), celebrated for over 2,000 years. Samhain marked the end of the harvest season and the thinning of the veil between the living and the dead. Romans and Christians added their influence, resulting in All Hallows' Eve. Irish immigrants brought the tradition to America in the 19th century, where it evolved into the modern celebration of costumes, trick-or-treating, and festive gatherings.

Halloween is now celebrated all around the world with varying customs and traditions. How will it be celebrated in Newtown? Do you partake?

Until next month, stay warm and well!

Ngā mihi,  
Eryn

Cover art is an oil painting by Stu Morris called "Murder the Ghost" . Follow Stu on Instagram at @stuzy\_\_

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 Centre.

# Notorious NEWTowner

*Bronwyn and Tania kōrero about her enthusiasm for growing kai and involvement in awesome community initiatives!*

Many Newtowners will be familiar with Tania Austin. She's often found in the garden or playground at Newtown School wearing her trusty tool belt and carrying a box of seedlings. Tania is the Garden-to-Table co-ordinator at the school, and works with 5 classes each week to build garden beds, prepare compost, raise seeds and grow vegetables. They're currently growing kumara tipu (known in Te Reo Pakeha as "slips") on their classroom windowsills. The kids have been learning about traditional ways of growing, curing and storing kumara. Some of the kumara they are sprouting is 2nd generation at Newtown School, having been grown last year and will be ready for replanting soon. The school whānau are also learning about the practices that go with planting and harvesting traditional crops, like the different karakia that are said for each stage of the process. They're looking forward to planting hue seeds, too. Hue are a type of bulbous gourd that are hollowed out when fully grown and dried to make taonga pūoro (musical instruments) and water storage vessels.

There are a few challenges managing the garden at Newtown School. Sometimes their prized vegetables are taken from the garden overnight, which can be really disappointing for the kids who were looking forward to harvesting their giant cauliflower. Tania has chats with the students about how someone might have really needed those vegetables though, and they're thinking about the potential for a community garden within the school grounds where people can take what they need.

Tania isn't just a garden extraordinaire at Newtown. She also supports a community garden in Wainuomata with Te Puawai Trust, a network which facilitates food growing across Awakairangi, the Hutt Valley. This is an area that she feels connected with, as her Mum and her partner's whakapapa have connections to Awakairangi. The mara kai (good garden) in Wainuomata fills the shelves of the pātaka kai (community pantry), and is also a space of learning. Tania coordinates gardening workshops, but is quick to say she's not the expert - she brings in local and traditional knowledge as much as possible.

When she's not busy working in the community, Tania has her own garden, mini-orchard, chickens, bees and two kids to wrangle. She's also doing a certification in bee-keeping, and is creating some buzz around future projects at Newtown School. In her down-time you might spot her browsing at the Newtown opshops or having coffee at People's or Black Coffee.

Tania recommended Happen Films for some cool, local docos about community agriculture. Check out some awesome free short films at [happenfilms.com](http://happenfilms.com)



# HISTORY FILES: THE TRAMS COME TO NEWTOWN

## by Chris Rabey

On July 2, 1877, the sailing ship, Broomhill, arrived in Wellington carrying rails for the tramway. The rails were laid to a gauge of "3 feet 6 inches" on sleepers of totara and rimu, sitting on a gravel bed along the centre of the tramway route. Two large sheds were built at the Adelaide Road terminus to house the carriages and engines.

While constructing the tramway, a pit, half a mile long, was dug up through the centre of the street (identifiable at night by means of a candle in a glass bottle at either end) and with a row of good lamps, men were able to work through the night unhindered.



The most difficult stretch of road to be laid was the bend from Manner Street into Willis Street, however, by September, it was reported good progress had been made and before long, the line was complete from Thorndon to the south end of Newtown.

Image : Scenes at the Adelaide road depot 1878. From the archives of the Queen Elizabeth Park Tramway Museum.

# Yogi tea recipe

Angelica, our awesome Yoga teacher shares this recipe.

It makes two cups. Multiply as desired to make a big batch.

## Ingredients:

- 20 ounces of water (about 2.5 cups)
- 6 whole cloves
- 8 whole green cardamom pods, cracked
- 8 whole black peppercorns
- 1 stick cinnamon
- 4 slices ginger root (about a thumb's worth)

## Optional:

- 2 bags of tea (black or herbal; rooiboos is nice)
- 1/2 cup milk

## Instructions:

Bring water to a boil and add spices. Cover and simmer, 15-20 minutes. If desired, add black tea to steep a few minutes, then add milk and bring back up to a boil (helps you digest the milk). Remove from heat, strain, and maybe sweeten with a little honey.

You can also just pour boiling water over the loose herbs in your cup, and let sit 10+ minutes before adding milk and/or sweetener.





# TECH TIPS *with Matt*

of  smart•newtown

## SING A SONG TO FIND IT!

We've all been there. You know the tune of a song, but not the name, and you can't remember any of the lyrics, so you've got nothing to punch into Youtube or a search engine. Wouldn't it be convenient if you could just hum a few bars and let your device figure it out?

Well, you can, in several different ways. From simplest to most complicated:

**Google App:** Go to the Google app (NOT the Chrome browser app), tap the microphone, then tap "Search for a Song" and start humming. When done, Google will give you a list of matches. This can also work through the Chrome web browser on laptops and desktops, provided you have a microphone.

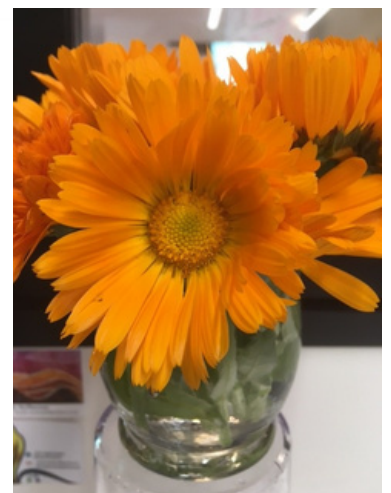
**AI Assistance:** If you're an Android or iPhone user, you can say "Hey Google/Siri?" and then ask the AI "What's this song?" If it's playing, the AI might identify it, but it doesn't work as well with humming.

**Shazam App:** The original app for song-finding, now owned by Apple but still working for Android. Open the app and tap the Shazam button to identify what's playing. It can also work on laptops and desktops with a browser extension. Shazam has lots of neat options, so for more in-depth knowledge check their website at [shazam.com](https://www.shazam.com).



Through the cold, dark winter, we have been lucky enough to have our own special ray of sunshine at the community centre – beautiful flowers delivered to us by one of the regular yoga students.

And as soon as they started to fade, another bunch would arrive! It's amazing how a warm smile and handful of bright blossoms can brighten up even the chilliest of days!



# Interview with some vampires

BY LUCARIO DRAGULAH

I'm what you call a daywalker - child of a vampire and a human. Able to walk amongst people in sunlight, I am gifted with the traits of both my blood and blood-thirsty relatives. Ahead of this Halloween, I interviewed some other local vampires to find out about why Halloween is so bloody important to us.

Two of the vampires I spoke with are cousins, nightwalkers from Rangitāne o Wairarapa. They too are born from vampire and human parents but unlike myself, cannot stand the light of day. Born in 1713, Miguel Panther, the younger of the vampires, is also of Kāi Tahu descent. He and his cousin, Viktor Gangar (1720 - eternity) descend from a long line on their vampire side - distant relatives of Patupaiarehe.

The other interviewee wished to remain anonymous. This mysterious vampire was born in 1468, at an undisclosed place overseas, somewhere in Europe. In 1484 they were born again... into darkness. They are the last vampire left in their family, the rest of whom have been taken out by a notorious vampire killer known as 'Buffy'. We discussed the issues of our times, at length! Because we're vampires and all so dang old, here is the short version for you mere mortals.

**Lucario Dragulah (interviewer) : Of all the times you have lived through, which has been the most interesting and why?**

Miguel Panther: Me first! -

Mysterious Vampire : (cutting off Miguel) Right now. Because I'm still here. Hahah!

**Lucario Dragulah (interviewer) : Ok... What are the most important issues facing vampires today?**

Viktor Gangar: Nothing. Nothing matters when you've been alive this long. It's all, sunrise, sunset. Sunrise, sunset. And I don't see any of it.

Miguel Panther: Me. Obviously.

Mysterious Vampire: The sun. And Ozone depletion.

**Lucario Dragulah (interviewer) : I thought it was regenerating?**

Mysterious Vampire: It is, but not fast enough for me!

**Lucario Dragulah (interviewer) : How do you feel about Halloween?**

Mysterious Vampire: Hahahahaaaaa great! Buffy cannot find me. She doesn't know where to look!

Viktor Gangar: It could go on for longer. Only one night? Seriously. If I had it my way, every night would be Halloween.

**Lucario Dragulah (interviewer) : Tell me about your best Halloween memory.**

Mysterious Vampire: In 1753. I was in Denmark. Lot's of blood. It was just good eating. Great vintage. But Halloween has gotten so much better over the years. Lots of people are running around, it's so much easier for me to let my hair down. I can really let my fangs hang out.

**Lucario Dragulah (interviewer) : Final question. Who is the most iconic vampire ever, in your view?**

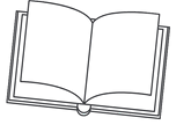
Mysterious Vampire: Dracula. He gave us a real profile.

Miguel Panther: Me. Blah blah blaaah!

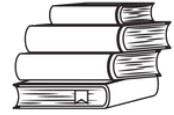
Viktor Gangar: Blade.

No way, he's my cousin! If I have learnt anything from these suckers, it's that I was right all along. Not only is narcissism alive and well in our vampire community, Halloween is the time when we can really live our best eternal lives.

# FIND YOUR NEXT READ



WITH TE WHARE PUKAPUKA O OMĀRŌRŌ /  
NEWTOWN LIBRARY



## The Goosebumps Series

Library link: [bit.ly/3zqsJWf](https://bit.ly/3zqsJWf)

Review by: Jessie Bray-Sharpin



*Reader beware, you're in for a scare!*

Hopefully that sentence isn't trademarked (it probably is), because yes, you guessed it, this month's book review is a celebration of GOOSEBUMPS now that spooky season is upon us. The original Goosebumps books were written between 1992 – 1997, but luckily R.L. Stine continues to spook out the impressionable minds of today with a variety of spin off series that are still being published, like Slappy World (e.g., Diary of a Dummy) and Most Wanted (e.g., Dr Maniac Will See You Now). The OG series are being reprinted as well, although the iconic cover art of the 90s has devastatingly been replaced. If you read Goosebumps as a child, now is the time to take a trip down memory lane (or to Camp Jelly Jam), or you could pass on the recommendation to the kids in your life. Why not send a new generation to bed scared of hearing barking ghost dogs with glowing eyes?

When I was eight, my friends and I started a Goosebumps club, which mainly involved me not being able to sleep without a light on until well into teenagerhood! Even reading the title on the library's catalogue, The Scarecrow Walks at Midnight, still gives me the spooks. But at least now I know that if I ever found myself in a Goosebumps novel, there's a high chance that it is in fact ME that is dead/the werewolf/ turning into a bee. Say cheese and die!

## HALLOWEEN HOWLING!



**Sophia, an awesome local rangatahi sourced and shares these favourite Halloween jokes**

- Why don't skeletons like Halloween candy? They don't have the stomach for it!
- Knock, Knock! Who's there? Woo! Woo who? Yeah, I'm excited for Halloween too!
- Knock, Knock! Who's there? Frank! Frank who? Frankenstein.
- Knock, Knock! Who's there? Justin! Justin who? Justin time for Halloween!
- Why did the scarecrow comedian get booed? Because all of his jokes were corny.
- What did the skeleton bring to the Halloween BBQ ? Spare ribs.
- How do you spell candy with only two letters? C and Y.
- What do you call a skeleton who never does his chores? Lazy bones.
- What did one ghost say to the other? Do you believe in humans?
- What does a ghost call a mistake? A boo boo!

# WHAT'S THE HAPPS?

AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE,  
CNR RINTOUL/COLOMBO STS

**Seniors' Week at NCC: Senior Social Drama for ages 65+ showing, Thursday October 5th, 11am – 12pm**

Come see what the crew get up to at Social Drama – they use storytelling and drama to keep the mind alive. For more info see Facebook [bit.ly/3Zsq768](https://bit.ly/3Zsq768).

**Airhorn! Comedy Show – Friday October 6th, 8pm – 9pm**

OH YEAH! It's the inaugural Airhorn! The hottest, coolest, happiest, wildest comedy show in Newtown! On the first Friday of every month. Get details and tickets here: [bit.ly/45a2hgC](https://bit.ly/45a2hgC)

**Best on Tap : Happy Hour - second and forth Thursday of the month, 7.30pm – 8.30pm** An improvised theatre show using audience prompts to create scenes and stories. More details and tickets : [bit.ly/3Fd9K4d](https://bit.ly/3Fd9K4d)

**Know Your Stuff Licensed Drug Checking – Saturday October 7th, 1pm – 3pm**

Know Your Stuff are licensed drug checkers offering free, legal, confidential drug checking. Bring your stuff. No cops, no names, no judgment, just info to help keep you safe. Check the event: [bit.ly/3rnHx7n](https://bit.ly/3rnHx7n)

**Sugarfoot Stomp Swing Dancing – Monday & Tuesday evenings, various times**

Sugarfoot Stomp is all about building community through the joy of dance! Join us to learn partnered Swing Dancing (Lindy Hop, Collegiate Shag, Blues, Solo Jazz, Charleston) - all Black American Cultural Art Forms. Three different classes on offer – so find out more here: [www.sugarfootstomp.co.nz](https://www.sugarfootstomp.co.nz)

**Balfolk Weekly Dancing Class – Each Wednesday from October 25th, 6pm – 7.30pm**

A 'Bal Folk' is a folk and social dance event that brings people of all ages and walks of life together. Dances are simple and easy to learn but also have depth. They're accessible to people with all skill levels. \$10/class or koha for concession. Details here: [bit.ly/3t6Bftc](https://bit.ly/3t6Bftc)

## ELSEWHERE IN NEWTOWN

**Voting Spots in Newtown**

Looking for where to vote? Check out the Electoral Commission's map and schedule: [bit.ly/3PvtGDV](https://bit.ly/3PvtGDV)

**Upcoming Classes at Smart Newtown - 9 Constable Street, Newtown**

Want help navigating the digital world? End-of-year classis run Wednesday evenings (5.15pm – 7.15pm) and Friday mornings (10am – 12 noon), covering topics like: computer and smart phone basics, Zoom, Trade Me; and Google Drive, Docs, and Photos. To register and find out more, visit [bit.ly/462zsnK](https://bit.ly/462zsnK)

**Koha Yoga with Bridget, Newtown Hall, 71 Daniell Street.** Tuesday and Thursday evenings 6pm - 7pm. All ages and levels welcome. Kundalini yoga inspired. Candlelit. [bit.ly/3EWIzvk](https://bit.ly/3EWIzvk)

**Repair Café Survey**

Repair Café is running a survey from September to October to learn more about people's thoughts on repair and experience with repairing items. Survey link here: [bit.ly/3PRGB4J](https://bit.ly/3PRGB4J)

## GET IN TOUCH

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