

# NEWTOWN

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE NEWTOWN COMMUNITY & CULTURAL CENTRE



YOUR FREE COMMUNITY ZINE, BY NEWTOWNS, FOR NEWTOWN



## NEWS

### LIFE UNDER LOCKDOWN

PIPIRI / JUNE 2020

# KIA ORA NEWTOWN!

**Content warning for Covid-19 and police brutality in this issue.**

Kia ora e te whānau!

This has been a hard time for many of us, and I hope you're feeling okay and being kind to yourself. It's a scary and strange time and it's totally valid to not feel ok for many reasons - whether you've been personally affected by the pandemic or not. If your brain is not feeling great, please reach out to someone for help or support - a friend, whānau member or the amazing free counsellors you can reach by calling or texting **1737**. We've even got some rad poetry and puzzles in this issue for you, if you just need a distraction :)

As the time of writing, we've had 10 days of no new Covid cases, which makes me feel **VERY** lucky to live here (right now I have my fingers, toes & limbs crossed, PLUS I'm knocking on wood!!). I'm also reminded of how lucky we are every time I talk to friends & whānau in the UK, across Europe and when I see news from the US. The terrible situation overseas makes me feel even more passionately that we need to not be complacent. Keep on physical distancing, keep contact tracing, keep staying home if you're not well. Read more about this from Nurse Agnes McKay, our Notorious Newtowner!

Also top in my mind in news from the US is the violent murders of African American people by a police officer. Remember George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Tony McDade, Breonna Taylor- some of the many lives ended by police just in March 2020. Kia kaha to the Black Lives Matter protesters demanding justice in the US, and to those joining the solidarity protests here.

Here in Aotearoa, we've done a fantastic job **not** following in the footsteps of the US when it comes to our approach to Covid-19. So please let's also not follow in their footsteps when it comes to arming the police more widely, as is currently proposed by the government. Otherwise we can expect to see more deaths at the hands of police, like that of a man in Papatoetoe, which is described in our 'Anonymous Lockdown Diary' later in this issue. Please also take a look at this ActionStation report on Māori and Pasifika response to arming the police: [bit.ly/3exVm78](https://bit.ly/3exVm78)

Ngā mihi, Ellie - ellie@newtowncommunity.org.nz (p.s. we love to hear from you!)

Covert art of MOON Bar by Kate McGuinness - find more about her amazing #100Day project later in the issue or visit [instagram.com/studio.of.kate](https://instagram.com/studio.of.kate)

Thanks for the support of our amazing local businesses, especially at this hard time for everyone! Please support them back if you can!



# Notorious

# NEW Owner

*Agnes and Ellie met on Zoom (of course) and chatted about nursing, equity and climbing mountains!*

Agnes McKay is Fijian, with Scottish heritage, and has been a nurse for over 16 years! She moved to Aotearoa in 2008 and has worked as a Nurse at Wellington Regional Public Hospital in Newtown ever since! Agnes works in the cardiology department, particularly focusing on Māori health. Her passion is making sure that everyone who comes into the hospital has the support they need to have the best outcome. "The foundation of nursing is care and respect for everyone, no matter what walk of life they come from, or how they present to you."

Agnes followed in her mother's footsteps to nursing. "I watched her caring and doing good in the community - it inspired me." Nurses are (as you would expect) VERY busy people – so a lot of Agnes's role is seeing gaps and helping to fill them, through a lens of Cultural Competency (which she wrote her Masters thesis on!). "Culture is more than someone's ethnic background, it's about their way of thinking, lifestyle, diet, habits, beliefs and other aspects of their lives. One size doesn't fit all, so we come up with a plan that suits them so it will actually work!"

Lockdown has been a challenge, personally and professionally. Agnes has been working extra hours, as the Hospital prepared to deal with Covid-19 cases. Every day when she went home, she had to isolate away from her family – with three kids aged 10, 6 and 5, this was a huge challenge "No hugs and kisses. It's hard for them to understand. But at least I could see and talk to my kids – some of my colleagues isolated away from family, so I'm lucky!"

Agnes loves Newtown for "all the different cultures...plus the food from all over the world!" Her fave spot is Newtown Zoo, where she's "looking forward to going as a family". Her advice for all Newtowners is "Don't relax yet. Be safe, keep distancing, take care of hygiene. Stay well hydrated. Do tracing! Stay home." But the Hospital is prepared if we need the support : "We're staying in control here."

Agnes is optimistic about our handling of this pandemic here and is looking to the future: "I'm always trying to renew my skills to become a better nurse tomorrow and the next day." Agnes tells me about climbing a mountain in Taranaki recently. It was hard, but she pushed herself to the top and felt proud to get there! It seems an appropriate metaphor for her life – she's not satisfied to just walk around the bottom of the mountain looking up, she's always reaching for the peak – and supporting others to get there too.



# LOCKDOWN HAIKU BY JUDE DOUGLAS

Day #2

From where I sit now  
I hear tui in the town belt  
I'm still, I breathe in.

Day #20

On the south coast I  
scan for ferries as always.  
Of course there are none.

JUDE WROTE ONE HAIKU FOR EVERY DAY OF LEVEL 4.

Day #11

This feels normal now  
Everyone's distancing nicely  
The graph's still rising.

Day #32

If it's all to be  
worth it five years on from now  
what have we learned then?

CHECK THE REST OUT AT RURUJUDE.WORDPRESS.COM

Day #12

End of the work week  
Fridays used to be special  
they're not any more.

Day #33

Tomorrow the world  
opens again just a bit  
a chink of light shows

# LOCKDOWN IN ITALY

BY MIRELLA MOSCHELLA

Mirella is the Newtown Community Centre's Artist in Residence. We're hoping to have her back with us from Italy soon! Check out her work at [instagram.com/mira\\_a\\_mire](https://instagram.com/mira_a_mire)

It was 6am on a Friday in Wellington when my mom called, so of course I was asleep and didn't pick up the phone. When I woke up, I saw her message: "Your dad is very sick, he is at the hospital right now." I called her right away; the doctors were not optimistic about his situation.

My mom and dad live in Rome. Italy was at the height of the pandemic, two days before their borders closed. I had to make the difficult decision to come to one of the scariest places in the world during Covid-19. I left my partner, not knowing when we could meet again. I left all the things I was starting to build in Wellington and cruised 2 continents to get here, wearing a huge respirator on my face that gave me a Darth Vader vibe.

Thankfully, when I arrived to Italy, my dad was already up from a three day long coma. They had predicted a 70% probability of him dying but he walked home with us from the hospital!

Being in Italy has been different than you might think - it has actually been really inspirational. One of my top memories happened during my first week here. I went to collect medicine for my dad from a pharmacy nearby and I could hear music all the way there. I was curious about where it was coming from, until suddenly, I realised! There was this guy with two huge speakers, a microphone and a laptop on his balcony. He was playing karaoke with his neighbours.



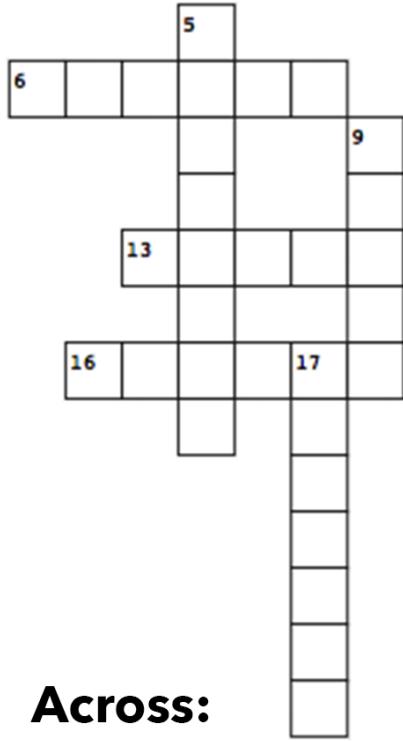
All the people in their windows & balconies were screaming, dancing, singing, clapping. Everyone passing by stopped to watch the scene; I was one of them.

I just felt so happy that I cried. That's the spirit of Italy I take with me after all of this.

It doesn't matter how tough the situation is, they will hang their "Andra tutto bene" (Everything is going to be fine) flags outside their windows.

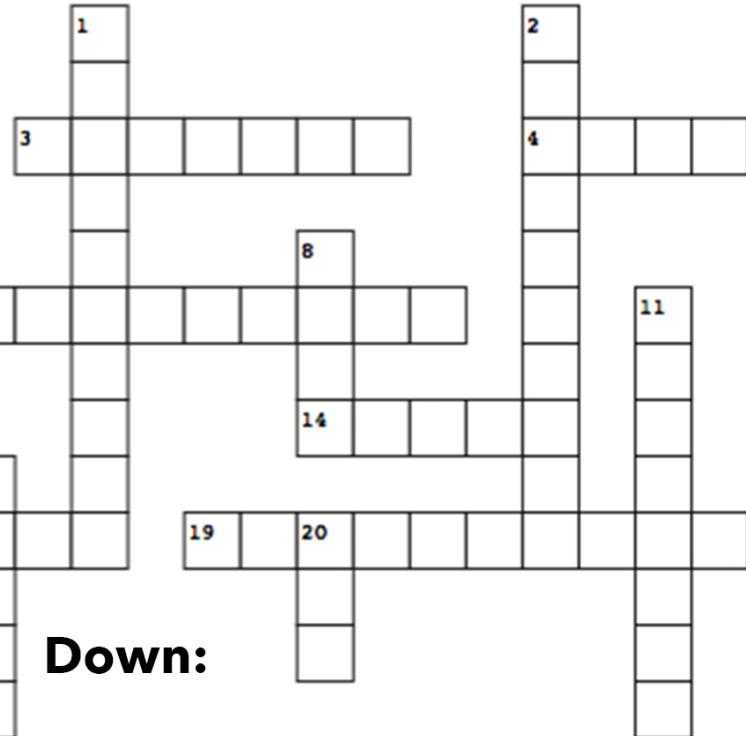
# Crossword

BY ANNA PERSSON



## Across:

3. The fifth planet from the sun
4. What is Japanese sake made from?
6. The Māori name for Aotearoa's tallest mountain
10. The actor who provides the voice for Shrek
13. The number of syllables in a haiku
14. The currency used in India?
16. The continent Toto sing about in their hit song?
18. Alberta is a province in which country?
19. The city that will host the 2028 Summer Olympics?



## Down:

1. The country with the largest population between South Africa, South Korea or South Sudan?
2. The official language of Brazil
5. The capital city of Australia
7. The first river in the world to be granted the same legal rights as a human
8. Bambi is which animal?
9. Fill in the blank: Never \_\_\_\_\_ give you up by Rick Astley
11. In Netflix's Tiger King, what is the name of Carole Baskin's second husband who many believe she fed to tigers?
12. The age of Bart Simpson
15. In which month was the 2020 Newtown Festival held?
17. Newtown Community Centre can be found on the corner of Rintoul and \_\_\_\_\_ Street
20. Amount of legs a weta has

**ANSWERS ON THE  
BACK COVER!**

# REBUS



# RIDDLES & BRAIN TEASERS

Each of the pictures below represents a common phrase.

1

VA DERS

2

12:00T

3

MAN  
BOARD

4

NEAFRIENDED

5

ECNALG

6

give            get  
give            get  
give            get  
give            get

7

w A  
A K L

8

M CE  
M CE  
M CE

9

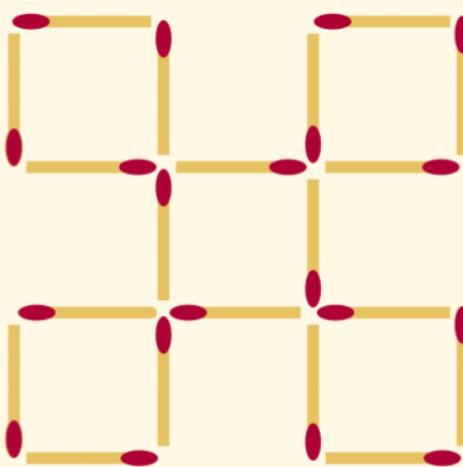
MARY  
+ MARY  
\_\_\_\_\_

1. A boy is walking down the road with a doctor. While the boy is the doctor's son, the doctor is not the boy's father. Then who is the doctor?
2. I have cities but no houses, I have mountains but no trees, I have water but no fish - what am I?
3. What is seen in the middle of March and April that can't be seen at the beginning or end of either month?
4. What English word has three consecutive double letters?
5. In 1990, a person is 15 years old. In 1995, that same person is 10 years old. How can this be?
6. A sundial has the fewest moving parts of any timepiece. Which has the most?

									2	8
		6								7
			4		1					
	5			9	7			3		
	2		4			8				
	3					4	5			
	1	3			9					
			5	7					9	
			8	3	1	7				

## SUDOKU!

Can you move 4 matchsticks to create 6 squares instead of 5?

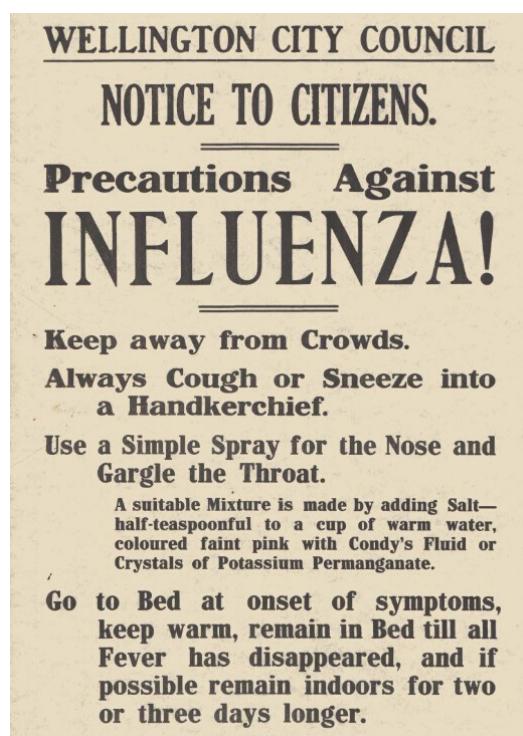


Find the answer here!  
[bit.ly/3gwoDkk](http://bit.ly/3gwoDkk)



# HISTORY FILES BY CHRIS RABEY

*During the Covid-19 lockdown, Chris reflected on pandemics past and their similarities and differences to Covid-19. Newtowners (then & now) are pretty good in a crisis.*



We may have expected a viral epidemic would occur in 2020, as history records them every 100 years: 1720 - Bubonic Plague, 1820 - Cholera Epidemic, 1920 - Spanish Flu, 2020 - Corona Virus epidemic.

The world influenza 'pandemic' of 1918 destroyed 21 million lives, and in the summer of 1918-19 brought death to 6,700 New Zealanders. In Wellington 1406 died. Brought to New Zealand by the passenger ship NIAGARA and eleven other vessels, the epidemic spread rapidly, particularly taking a heavy toll of those people in their early 20s. The epidemic reached Wellington on 1 November 1918, hit its peak on 21 November, however by 30 November the number of influenza cases admitted to Wellington Hospital was back to normal.

Faced with a national emergency the Health Dept required Hospital Board's to undertake the provision of medical care in their districts. The Board in Newtown immediately formed an influenza sub-committee, consisting of leading hospital and city doctors. The sub-committee divided the hospital district into zones, appointed 'group captains' to direct medical, transport and information control in these zones, and organised local voluntary organisations into units able to serve the 'group captains'.

By 3 April 1919 five buildings had been converted into emergency hospitals - Sydney Street School, The Seamen's Mission, Normal School, St Patrick's College and Wellington South Intermediate. The 'new' hospitals allowed an additional 300 beds. It worked well. After the November peak, a two-week course in 'simple nursing' was offered to prepare emergency 'nurses' who might be used if a further wave of influenza followed. Commercial travellers, St John Ambulance, Women's Associations, the churches, and many individual people volunteered their services. Cards were placed in windows by those too weak to summon help from neighbours (*like the red/green cards we've seen in some people's windows in 2020!*). Medicine was dispensed from the hospital to advertised points throughout the city.

We can all slow the spread

We all need to work together if we want to slow the spread of COVID-19. Unite against the virus now.



Be kind. Check-in on the elderly or vulnerable



Washing and drying your hands kills the virus



Cough or sneeze into your elbow



Stay home if you are sick

Find out more at  
[Covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz)

New Zealand Government

Unite  
against  
COVID-19

**Editor's note:** Diseases are a huge part of colonisation and disproportionately hit indigenous communities. I would like to acknowledge and mourn that Māori were most affected by the influenza pandemic of 1918-19, which was brought here by European colonisers. This is an ongoing issue. Solidarity to those today setting up check-points in their rohe (lands) to protect their communities against Covid-19. Read more: [bit.ly/2XpkKoF](https://bit.ly/2XpkKoF)

# A QUARANTINE PHASE

BY SRI SHI Moudgil

Ages of chasing careers  
And fuelling economies  
One day people were sent  
Back to their homes

A virus surprised  
The Capitalist market  
With its exponential growth  
Burdening health care systems  
Across the globe

While the world was settling in the cabin  
Some played the blame game  
But the real warriors  
Already in the battlefield  
Supporting the core of philosophies  
And fundamentals,  
The human life,  
Dwindling between  
Wage subsidies and medical insurance

Fear heightened like adrenaline  
Filled supermarkets with panic shoppers  
Easter plans blurred

Amidst my dream of a white collar job  
Suddenly I acknowledged  
The rubbish bag picked up this morning  
And the people who patrol my city  
For a safe day and night

Let's be grateful for  
Our homes with water, electricity, and kai  
To share with whānau and hoa  
Supported by our compassionate leaders  
As Nature begins its Haka of repairing itself  
The streets of Aotearoa regaining its soul

It's time to go back to books  
And write letters to  
Every part of our existence  
Remembering the physical distance  
Strengthening the community bonds  
With a smile to that stranger out for a walk

While science brings back answers  
Let's hold onto our faith  
Our sea, sky and Mana Atua  
And be the sunshine!

## PANDEMIC PONDERINGS

BY DON NEWT  
MCDONALD

Don Newt McDonald is a regular at the Newtown Community Centre and helps out at our Free Soup Friday! You may have seen him around Newtown, on the Mayoral candidates list most years or seen his ads in the Dom Post. He submitted these lockdown ads for the Newtown News!

### IF STREET WAS SEA

TARSEAL. So many ways  
they are-traffic.Commerce.  
The shore more interesting social&teem life than  
greatdeeps.Walk lockdown  
10 little tarseal islands  
And tie a knot circle ea.  
Total. Philosophy meditation.Less cars/4. Flites/19

### DON HAIKU.

COVID  
Allows 20 min mile rules  
(Km trudge is fine)  
SKIP 6 street islands?

### POEM MATH

GLOBAL corona virus  
PANDEMIC. APRIL 2020.  
Top 4 countries infected-  
U.S. Spain Italy Germany  
Total cases 6396, 1806  
1651, 1347. Almost Prime  
sextet nos 4x4 hundreds.  
16-digit endg 1671sp, 77,  
81, 83, 87, 89sp. Extreme  
rare ●JOHN Hopkins uni.  
"US Spity Germs:" ●  
Social.distancing\*●4.16.20

# LOCKDOWN DIARY

I have my morning smoke, coffee and catch-up on the news – I read an article that a man has been shot by police in Papatoetoe, he was carrying a machete. I notice that my brow has furrowed and my face curled in on itself – I'm angry at this news. There is no further information at this stage. Questions race through my brain – what else was tried? Was the man offered any other help? How is he dead? Could they have shot his foot or knee? Could they have tasered him instead? Why is he dead? Is he Māori? Pasifika? Will there be a fair and unbiased investigation? I'm pissed off and afraid. I don't want our police armed. A man shouldn't be dead.

I struggle to do much during the day – but I plod along with some work from home – there is a 4pm announcement from the PM about whether lockdown will be extended. I'm not sure what news I want to hear, but there's a tension in the waiting and it's hard to focus.

I take a break to play some scrabble and come to the realisation that....I don't like scrabble. It's not the game for me! Too slow. I potter and do dishes and other things while waiting for others to have their turn – "being patient" would be wayyy too frustrating. Suze is making hot cross buns – complete with orange peel zest – the kitchen smells amazing. The sun is shining through the windows – hitting off all the tiled surfaces in our 1970s kitchen. It's luscious.

I live stream from Newshub at 3.45pm. It feels surreal waiting for such a huge announcement. It feels even more surreal when the familiar yellow imagery of the covid-19 media campaign flashes up on the screen with a series of beeps – reminding us we're in level 4 and the conditions that surround it. Very Orwell. The news comes – lockdown extended for one week then moving to level 3. I feel unsettled. I sit around with my bubble, talking about covid until we're sick of talking about covid. We then move to trying to work out what a thing is we can see in the distance on the hill opposite our house. We place bets and one of the bubble bikes up the hill to find out what it is and reports back – it was a fire extinguisher.

Our communal meal for the evening is an amazing fresh noodle salad – make your own style. Divine, we're blessed to have been eating like queens. We say karakia and dive in. After dinner I get to work on a project from about a year ago – finally getting it crossed off the list. I'm working with old x-rays that I got from a vet clinic closing down (of various animals with various aliments). Listening to a podcast, I patchwork them together. I remove the fabric from a lampshade and use this as a pattern and construct a new lamp shade. It looks amazing with light in it – illuminating the x-rays. I hear the sounds of my bubble singing songs in the kitchen – bangers from the 90s. I retreat upstairs to spend some time with my partner, we watch some telly and play some cards.

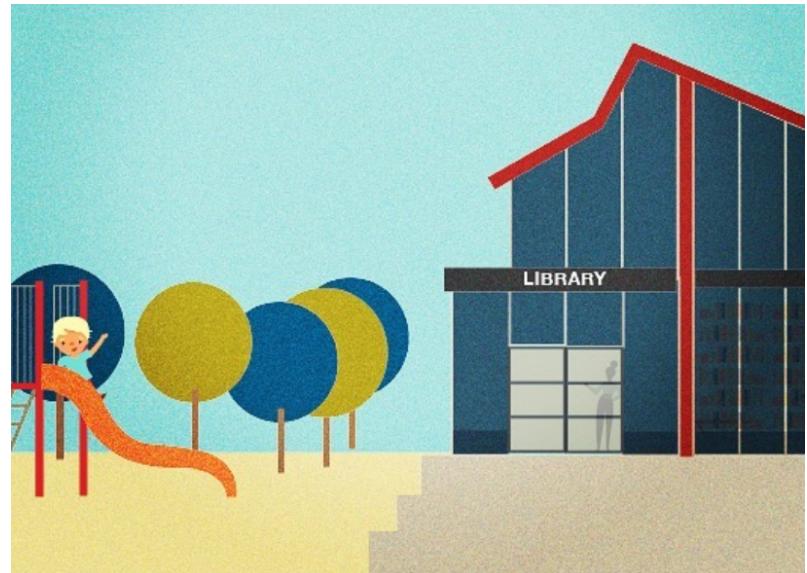
I fall asleep still feeling a bit of that sorrow I woke up with.

# 100 DAYS OF ART!

BY KATE MCGUINNESS

Our Cover Artist Kate McGuinness took part in the '100 Day Project' over lockdown - a global art challenge to do 100 days of work on a theme. The cover is a picture of MOON Bar in Newtown and there's Newtown Library below! Check out pics of your fave Newtown spots and more at [instagram.com/studio.of.kate](https://instagram.com/studio.of.kate)

"My #100DayProject focuses on Wellington people and places. Originally, I was inspired to create a map of Newtown for my son Hugo & illustrate all of our favourite spots - as local cafes, library, grocer, etc. but when I heard the 100-day-project was starting up I decided to extend the concept to all of Wellington. Drawing has been a fun way to keep distracted during lockdown and acknowledge local businesses. We have missed them and it's lovely to see their doors open again!"



## UPGRADE UPDATE!

### NEW TOOL LIBRARY COMPLETE!

We are excited to announce the new space for the Tool Library is now complete! If you're just tuning in, WCC has funded a fantastic new space for the Newtown Tool Library. It's located next to the freshly upgraded public toilets on Constable St (next to Newtown Library). It's a beautiful light bright space and we can't wait to get in there and get cracking! We'll let you know when the Tool Library has moved in and Tools are being loaned from this location. Check out the Tool Library website for info on how to join and borrow tools right now: [newtown-tool-library.com](http://newtown-tool-library.com)

### NCCC UPGRADE ON HOLD

Due to Covid-19 the Community Centre upgrade has been put on hold until further notice. We don't know how long it will be on hold for and are waiting for Wellington City Council to let us know what the next steps are. This means the upgrade will not start in September as per our last updates.

Assuming the Covid-19 situation remains stable, we are now taking bookings for the period June-December 2020. All bookings for this period will be tentative until we have further information and may be required to be cancelled at short notice. Get in touch if you'd like to make a booking and we will try to fit you in.

# WHAT'S THE HAPP'S??!

Please note - as this is a monthly zine, **EVERYTHING PRINTED HERE MIGHT ALREADY BE OUT OF DATE RIGHT NOW WHILE YOU READ THIS! AAAAAAARGH!** Where's the refresh button?? Oh the joys of paper and ink!

Please remember, if in doubt about the general Covid-19 situation, refer to the Government website: **covid19.govt.nz** or helpline **0800 779 997**. If in doubt about anything on this page, email us on **info@newtowncommunity.org.nz** or give us a call on **04 389 4786**, or contact one the services below directly.

- **Citizen's Advice Bureau:** The most up-to-date information on what the CAB Newtown staff and volunteers are doing is at **bit.ly/2ZXe97H** or call **0800 367 222**
- **Justice of the Peace:** The JP is not back at the Centre yet - find your closest one at **www.jp.org.nz**

## ONLINE

Our regular Yoga classes are now on Zoom! Tuesdays 10-11.15 with Penny and Thursdays 10-11.15 with Sarrah. Find the Zoom links here: **bit.ly/2zJzMxw** Some yoga classes might be coming back to the Centre, so feel free to check with us!

## AT THE NEWTOWN COMMUNITY & CULTURAL CENTRE

The Community Centre doors are still closed to the public most of the time, BUT we are starting to get a little closer to normal in some ways!

- **Venue Hires:** If you need a venue, get in touch. We are doing limited private hires.
- **Drop-in-Room:** Our drop-in and free tea and coffee will be open weekday mornings 9.30 - 10.30am from Thursday 4th June.
- **Free Soup Friday:** Our Free Soup Friday will start again on Friday 12th June! Come and have a free kai and a chat.
- **Tool Library:** The Tool Library is back to usual hours at the Community Centre, before the big move to the new space! Wednesday 5-7pm and Saturday 11am-1pm

## PUZZLE ANSWERS

1 - The doctor is the boy's mother! (if you didn't get this one, blame the patriarchy!), 2 - A map, 3 - The letter 'R', 4 - Bookkeeper, 5 - The person was born in 2005 BC, 6 - An hourglass—it has thousands of grains of sand.

Riddle & brain teaser answers!

1 - Space invaders, 2 - Afternoon tea, 3 - Man overboard, 4 - A friend in need, 5 - A backwards glance, 6 - Forgive and forget, 7 - A walk around the block, 8 - Three blind mice (no 'is'), 9 - Summary

Rebus answers

Across: 3-Jupiter, 4-Rice, 6-Aoraki, 10-Mike Myers, 13-Seventeen, 14-Rupene, 16-Africa, 18-Canada, 19-Los Angeles / Down: 1-South Africa, 2-Portuguese, 5-Canberra, 7-Wanganui River, 8-Deer, 9-Gonaa, 11-Don Lewis, 12-Teen, 15-March, 17-Colombia, 20-Six

## Get in touch!

[www.newtowncommunity.org.nz](http://www.newtowncommunity.org.nz)

[www.facebook.com/Newtown.Community.Centre](http://www.facebook.com/Newtown.Community.Centre)

04 389 4786 / [ellie@newtowncommunity.org.nz](mailto:ellie@newtowncommunity.org.nz)

